



Trumpet Sounds

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Gifts

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Christmas is associated with gifts in both the secular holiday as well as Christian. Shopping around for the perfect gifts to give to those friends and family take time and foot work. They are purchased, wrapped and hidden until the season of opening.

There is something more priceless than the gifts we shop to purchase, which are the gifts God has placed within each of us.

There are many gifts but one Spirit behind them. They were purchased at great cost by a Savior who gave His life to wrap their promise in flesh and blood containers hidden away until the season of revela-

tion when gifts are opened, used and beneficial to all the body.

Not all gifts are ever realized, so they are never opened or used. They stay wrapped and hidden.

There are also gifts that, when realized and opened, are modified to be used for other gain rather than for the body of Christ. They are used as personal promotion and fame. This success is fleeting and never enough for anything more than instant gratification that is all too soon forgotten.

Now is a season to look inside and open the gifts, just as we learn our identity and why we are here at

this time on earth. We are deliberately and purposely intended by God to be here now.

We have been given spiritual fingerprints that leave their mark on the lives of others. One print on another soul can change everything in that life and the course of a nation.

We see the work of the enemy to tear down the history and pervert the stories of those who have impacted our nation. It will take the gifts within God's people placed here in this particular generation to leave our prints and rebuild what has been torn down in ignorance.

Do not waste your gifts.

Something In The Water?

There is a saying that goes like this: **Say what you mean; mean what you say, but don't say it mean.**

Today's language is a language of violence rather than words. What begins with accusations develops into pushing, hitting, Molotov cocktails and machine gunning innocent lives to make a point without one word being spoken. Is there something in the water that is making

people crazy?

In some of the old westerns you see cowboys drinking from poison wells, yet they were the only ones who died from what they themselves drank. Today we see people who drink poison and expect everyone else to die from it. What is this new poison that twists a new brand of thinking?

Well, let's look and ask our-

selves who glorifies violence and destruction of vehicles, property and human life? What or who would glorify these things in the minds of crooked thinkers? Who would? Holly would. Hollywood is full of gun control advocates, while glorifying guns with heroes taking matters into their own hands.

Is it something in the water?

Yes, it is neglecting the washing of the water by the Word, and immersing in the hypocrisy of Hollywood.

There was a story of a woman at the well who faced her crooked thinking and drank living water to never again drink poison. She had a life change, and it was due to drinking from the Water of the Word. It matters from which well we drink.

Struggle



Many of you know the story of a man who tried to help a butterfly out of its cocoon by slitting the cocoon open. The butterfly that emerged had small, unformed wings, and died soon after. It needed the struggle out of the cocoon to force the fluid into its wings to stretch and open them so that the butterfly could fly. By trying to shortcut the process, the man had instead doomed the creature.

How often do we try to help and in the process the table turns in a way we had not intended.

Special Needs Children

We have a label given to children who are born “different” or lacking in some area making their life a challenge.

I will tell you that every child is challenged who comes to this earth in a pure condition to face all areas of challenge and survive in one piece.

All of our children are born with special needs for them to grow to the challenges they face today. I believe Helen Keller saw those who did not know Christ as their Savior as having more special needs than she. Every child who has Jesus is whole whether the world confirms it or not.

We are all special needs children. We need Jesus eyes so we can see and His ears so we can hear what the Spirit is saying. We need His heart of compassion especially in a world filled with hatred and violence.

Matt 18:3-6 ...Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. 6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a mill-

I recall Sarai helping God by sending Hager, her handmaid, in to her husband to have his child. We are still dealing with Ishmael to this very day.

We remember how Rebekah tried to help Jacob get the birthright by tricking his father Isaac. The results were that Jacob had to flee from a raging Esau, He never saw his mother alive again nor did she see her son before she died, and Jacob the trickster was tricked by his future father-in-law.

These are only two examples of how our good intentions can backfire. We

stone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

I have seen a child with a prosthetic leg and a heart of gold and another who has a prosthetic heart and two good legs running to mischief.

I have seen the beautiful people who undergo surgery over a bump no one can see, yet neglect their soul or liposuction to rid their dimpled thighs, yet neglect the excess sins that darkens their view of thinking.

We are not just a body with a heart but a heart with a body. Our heart condition overcomes our body condition.

Can we see God with our natural eyes or hear His still small voice with our natural ears? It is with our natural eyes and ears that we contradict God's Word with our doubts. Therefore, having eyes that see and ears that hear can handicap our faith.

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

I know a young man who has traveled more places and gone farther in a wheel chair than he ever did walking and a woman who can paint and draw without the use of hands better than

seem to think that God cannot get a job done without our plan in action. If God wants our help, He will ask for it, otherwise it is best to leave it in God's hands. ***1 Cor 1:25 ...the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.***

I read once that if you want to make God laugh tell Him your plans.

It is about time to learn from our failed experiences in plans that have gone awry to lean upon God and not our limited understanding.

AMEN?

those who have arms and hands because their gift lies in their heart and not in their hands or legs.

Heroes are not made because of their size or their limbs, but by their heart resolve. There are many people wasting gifts and not filling their hearts with anything but complaints or how unfair life has treated them. When actually it is they who have treated life unfairly and settled for what they have made. They have carved a life out of their choices and their choices have no value.

If money and fame held value then the rich and famous would not take their own lives in bitter despair or the beautiful die from addiction. We are in despair of our misplaced attributes rather than birthed with imperfections.

I may not have the physical strength to open a jar of pickles, yet I can cast a mountain into the sea! I may not be the brightest lightbulb, but the light of my witness can save a soul from darkness. I may not be an eloquent speaker, yet I can say the name of Jesus and every knee must bow in heaven, on earth and beneath it! The only handicap we have is our lack of understanding those things in which we limit ourselves and not recognizing the gifts we have been given.

Ironing Day

While praying in the spirit I saw what I understood to be the Holy Spirit ironing a pair of jeans. The understanding was that He was getting out the wrinkles or sins of the fathers from the children being labeled or saddled with an undeserved reputation.

Ezek 18:2 What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

Many children have faced having to deal with an unfair label of the parent, but God says we are responsible for our own walk and no one else's.

This is what the Holy Spirit was conveying to me...that He was personally

ironing out the sin of the fathers from the genes of the children.

Communities have regarded whole family members by the actions of one bad testimony, and the children have walked under the blemish of unfair or untrue credit. Peer pressure is hard enough without the aid of an addendum to one's character.

Today Christians who represent God's Word and live out the characteristics, in which Jesus admonished, are condemned.

Yet it is just the same for Christians who are to carry the cross and witness of Jesus. Because we do so it irons out our wrinkles: ***Eph 5:26-27 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,***

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Most ironing of wrinkles takes application of water to get them completely out. Even if the world slings mud at our witness our robes stay white in God's eyes and heart.

Gal 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Thank you Holy Spirit for ironing our efforts!

Gun Control

I have wondered about all the hype on gun control. I have a FOID card as well as Conceal Carry card. I had to register for the first and take classes for the second, yet have never used or carried a gun anywhere except for target practice.

What I do not understand is why it is called "Gun Control". My gun has never had to be controlled. It has never gotten out of its case or loaded itself. I have never had to stop a gun from

threatening or trying to scare me or, for that matter, do any of the sharp knives in my kitchen. All potential weapons including a ball bat, hammer, rope, wire, cord, insecticide or ice pick have ever threatened or harmed anyone. I have been furious, frustrated and just plain mad, but still none of these potential weapons have ever taken it upon themselves to retaliate on my behalf. I suppose Hollywood could make a good science fiction flick

on weapons having their own mind and will, but in reality...not so.

There are people who have killed with blunt objects, poisons, gases as well as the items already mentioned. Should we not call it "People Control" rather than bat, knife or gun control etc.? As a matter of fact, some men have even killed without anything other than their bare hands!

Objects have no objectionable behavior or intentions...people do.

*If guns kill people
Then pencils misspell words,
Cars make people drive drunk,
And spoons make people fat!*

Thankfulness

I have really gotten a lesson on what being thankful is all about.

It is very hard to get through an abusive situation, especially if the one being abused is your own child. You slowly but surely become entrenched in anger. With every abuse issued the anger intensifies until you do not recognize it as anger but a justified feeling you have every right to feel. Since we do not recognize it as falling into the home court of Satan, we are robbed of our joy, peace and prosperity. We become as a sieve full of holes in which all blessings leak out. Anger cannot receive blessings.

I have heard ministers tell of a levi-

athan spirit over this nation. I have even bound that spirit of darkness, yet darkness cannot cast out darkness...only light can penetrate through the darkness and shine.

Luke 11:18 If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub.

How can we be forgiven when we do not forgive? How can we have joy with thoughts of hatred? How can we cast leviathan out if we are walking in its kingdom?

This might have been titled Forgiveness, but the thing that turns us around is to start being thankful.

Though I may not be thankful that my child was abused, I am thankful she is alive. I am thankful that she loves the Lord and her name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. I am thankful that she is being healed and strengthened everyday.

God inhabits our praises and being thankful is praise to God. When God inhabits, bad things get flipped for good because light always dispels darkness. Darkness cannot change light, but light changes everything.

I am thankful for Jesus, the Light of the World!!!



Deck The Halls



We sing about decking the halls with boughs of holly, yet in this season we deck the halls, byways and highways with our testimonies.

Testimonies birth the possibilities of a lifeline of hope for people sinking in quicksand to grab and free themselves.

In the testimony, we see something that worked and realize that what one person can do another can do. If it has

been done it is do-able. Life becomes a possibility over death, health over disease, prosperity over lack and so on and so forth. What is possible for one is possible for another. Do you doubt that? Then let me prove it: ***Rom 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.***

No one deserves over another in the promises of God in His Word. All are equal beneficiaries of the promises of God. We are the ones that grab onto

the promises with our faith. Doubt is like grabbing hold of a greased pig or walking a slippery slope wearing skates!

Testimonies tend to boost our faith rather than detract from it. It opens a door leading to the answer. It changes our mind promoting possibilities that fear had all but eliminated.

So feel the freedom to deck the halls this year!

Florence Nightingale

While praying for the nation and seeing the battles for cleansing Old Glory to get her back to her destiny and purpose, I got the words "Florence Nightingale".

Florence Nightingale was nurse also known as "The Lady With A Lamp", which means she had her lamp filled with oil to light the way to the wounded on the battlefield.

The Holy Spirit reminded me that if we are negligent to keep oil in our lamps we will be too busy asking our-

selves why the lamp is not lighting. We do not need to busy ourselves tending the light but tending the wounded by the light we possess.

This nation has many wounded on the battlefield of life, and God is needing every spiritual Florence Nightingale on the field whether it be male or female.

There are many lights going out in the homes of America just as the divisiveness of the nation.

How can we light a nation when we

cannot light our homes?

We are good at praying FOR our children but not so good at praying WITH our children. We may even be good at praying for our neighbor, yet lack praying with them.

Miss Nightingale's lamp did more than shine on an side table in her bedroom; it shined in the battlefield with the fallen who witnessed the light.

Scriptures continued p.5

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*The date of Jesus birth has been
guessed by many and is probably any
date but Dec 25th.*

*That being said, the most important
date of His birth to me is when He was
born in my heart!*

Continued from p. 4

Mat 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Water For Ishmael

News is spreading in the Christian community of Muslim's coming to Jesus. "What's happening nowadays in the Muslim world has never happened before," said Egyptian Coptic priest Father Zakaria Boutros, one of the foremost evangelists to the Muslim world. He says a cross-section of Muslims are accepting Jesus Christ. "Young and old, educated and not educated, males and females, even those who are fanatic." This is clearly understood in the Word. Ishmael was part of Abraham's seed and heir to promises. Ishmael is not a nation of promise but a seed of promise. Isaac is seed and national covenant of promise. That is the difference between the two. Christians are grafted seed through acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Messiah. We are seed of promise like Ishmael.

There is a key in the OT that extends salvation to the Muslims: **Gen 17:19-21** *And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant,*

and with his seed after him.

20 *And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.*

21 *But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.*

Isaac was an everlasting covenant and Ishmael was multiplied in fruitful multiplication of seed throughout nations. Both seed became a nation, yet Isaac received the covenant promise and through Isaac came the Messiah promised.

There is a very pronounced salvation message for Muslims in Genesis 21.

We remember that Hagar and Ishmael were sent away with water and bread into the desert. There Hagar and Ishmael were starving and She left Ishmael to plead with God for his life: **Gen 21:17-19** *And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to*

Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.

18 *Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.*

19 *And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.*

This was the promise of Living Water not just for his immediate situation but for the future of Abraham's seed through Ishmael.

This is a season to pray for the Muslims to receive water from the well that never runs dry. God gave it to the first Muslim child as well as the last Muslim child.

We can neither demote Jews from being the chosen as some have done in a replacement theology nor deny the Messiah to the Muslims. How we pray about this will affect our own children and grandchildren's future.