



Trumpet Sounds

Rebecca O'Connor

Editor: Dennis O'Connor

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We All Need The Light

My elder daughter and her husband had a secret surprise to celebrate our 50 wedding anniversary with me and Denny. Now, I must qualify that my elder daughter does not gift us or celebrate things in typical ways adjusted to our personalities. She would rather push us out of our box and into unfamiliar territory stretching us further from our comfort zone. She picks things that we would never think to do or gives things we would never look to get for ourselves. For example, who would have picked their very conservative, Christian parents up in the after-glow of Sunday morning Church service to take us to be locked in a cell by a serial killer and given an hour to escape or die? This was at the Escape House in St. Louis. She kept her surprise secret...why? Because she knows us.

That being said, I made some good mental analogies to take away from the experience, but first I need to share the experience.

We were led into a cell and locked in. This was not at gun point, however, knowing that it was a game we went willingly. We did not even ask ourselves if the guy locking us in was a sane person...we assumed it. Other people had played and come out the other side of the game, so trustingly we took for granted we would too.

The cell was a darkened area where seeing needed a flashlight, which had to be found before we could do much of anything. There were keys, tools and fuses to find throughout a lot of darkness. We found luminous clues detected only by the beam of the flashlight. At first I thought we

would figure our escape and be out in no time, but that proved to be wrong. Once we escaped one room there was another and another so that it seemed we would never be free. I stuck my hands in dirty, dark places I would have never considered before. Then there was the confusion of other people trying to help having no clue whatever...blind leading the blind.

That was just a game, but not for everyone. This plays out in real life for many people.

◆ There is always a start that triggers this life process whether addiction or adulterous moves. *"Plenty of people smoke and they are fine...One drink won't hurt...Every body does it...Besides I can quit any time...married men and women can have close friendships with the opposite sex...We're just friends."*

◆ You are willingly ushered into the cell, but it is okay because many people go in and come out again. You can handle this...you're in control.

◆ It is hard to see or find your way in the darkness. Your life touches places you never would have thought you would touch. Just about the time you escape one dark area, you find yourself in another and another. You do not remember when you lost your control, but you did.

◆ There are plenty of people with advice adding to the confusion yet in the same quandary telling you what you could'a, should'a, would'a, while they are just as clueless. Job's friends are alive and ever ready to

confuse.

There actually are servant's of the Lord out there with the anointing to help, but the only Way, Truth and Life is in Christ Jesus. He is the Light in that dark place.

God has made you and I with ordered steps and it is only Jesus who can get us back on track when we find ourselves derailed.

Even the most lost person in the most difficult situation can be saved through the Light of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Matt 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.

While there are all manner of artificial lights...there is only one natural Light

from the very beginning before anything existed:

Gen 1:3-4 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

It is easier for people to blame God for what we ourselves lack in understanding. Since we are the ones who see through the glass darkly, maybe it is time to face the fear of denial and allow the light to shine on our darkness and change our hearts in that light.

Once I was lost, but now am found...was blind but now I see.

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Rehab

Rehab is defined as the action of restoring something that has been damaged to its former condition.

Recently my husband suffered a stroke leaving his left side compromised. A lengthy stay in rehab worked to restore its function again.

The goal of a stroke rehabilitation program is to help you relearn skills you lost when the stroke affected part of your brain. Stroke rehabilitation can help you regain and improve your quality of life.

This nation has come a long way from its divine purpose. Where was the stroke that compromised its function? I can honestly say that what was compromised was and

has been the church. This is not picking any denomination or fellowship, but Christianity as a whole.

“Turning the other cheek” does not mean that we allow the turning over of our nation to Godless leaders. It couples itself better with not returning evil for evil, but fighting the good fight of faith.

My husband had a choice to lay down and give up or to work, though discouraged at times, to restore what had been damaged.

You have heard it takes a village to raise a child. In that same vein it takes the church to raise a Godly nation. This nation, though imperfect as it is, was destined by God for a purpose and vision. It has been a

leader of nations, until the greed of man tilted her purpose and stole her goods. Off course she was damaged by a stroke of ungodliness, in which the church began to compromise faith with worldliness. The church has been in a wheel chair being pushed away from her destiny by a progressive system and away from Truth with a manmade doctrine.

The church must relearn what it lost through exercising in the Word and returning to the divine order from which we were destined by our Creator.

Jesus said it clearly: **John 5:8**
Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

About The Father's Business

Luke 2:49 *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that **I must be about my Father's business?***

I woke from a sound sleep at 3:15 AM and felt that the Holy Spirit of God would not let me go back to sleep...I tried and then gave it up to get to the computer and write.

The opening Scripture came to me and the Holy Spirit stirred my heart with questions. I used to think all the questions I had were from me, but have learned that it is God's Spirit that provokes questions for me to seek answers. Jesus as a boy was provoking questions in the minds of the church leaders just as the Holy Spirit did to me this morning.

What is the Father's business? What is **business**? I usually look it up in Hebrew or Greek, but was compelled differently this time Merriam-Webster: *engaged livelihood, enterprise, role, function, mission, objective, matter, maximum effort, purpose*

I then looked it up in the Greek using my usual method, but did not find it under the word business but under the

*“must”...“I MUST be about my Father's business... Dei means a binding. Now the exact translation is difficult to grasp but bare with me: **the Father of me is binding to be me.** That is the literal last part of that Scripture.*

Now maybe this Scripture makes more sense too: **John 14:7, 9-10** *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him...9 Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

Putting this all together we see Jesus' *engaged livelihood, enterprise, role, function, mission, objective, a matter, maximum effort and purpose* was bound to the Father...to become the Father and the Father to become Him...binding together as One.

Another question came to my mind: How does a doctor, nurse, mechanic, builder, etc. become a doctor, nurse, mechanic or builder? It becomes their *engaged livelihood, enterprise, role, function, mission, objective, matter, maximum effort and purpose.* Now Jesus was raised by Joseph and as such he became a carpenter like His dad, yet He was born of His Heavenly Father and became as His Father.

So that last question I feel to ask is this: How is it that you and I are Christians? It came by being born again. Not by our mom and dad, but our binding to the Father and the Father to us through Jesus...the first of many. It becomes our *engaged livelihood, enterprise, role, function, mission, objective, matter, maximum effort and purpose.*

In other words, we are not Christians because mom and dad were or because we go to church, but because we are about the Father's business in all we do whether we are working for an employer or picking something up for supper at Wal Mart or Winn Dixie.

Does your Christianity become you?

Name Brand

Got up, prayed, showered, then grabbed some coffee and sat to listen to Christian Television before starting to get busy. I listened while playing a word scramble on my kindle. I was finding the words that all had to do with name brand as the theme turned out to be. Just as I finished the last word, Joel Osteen was talking about name brands and told about a jersey of Tom Brady's selling online for \$500,000. His comment was that He could buy the very same jersey for \$49. in the store. The difference was that it was Tom Brady's jersey. Being owned by Tom Brady made it costly. Click, click went my brain...was anybody home? "Yes, Holy Spirit, I guess it is time to write. What do you want to tell me?"

From the time I sat down at my laptop this conversation went on:

LORD: "You were fearfully and wonderfully made in secret. Before you breathed the breath of life all your members were written in my Book."

ME: Yes, I know. I'm one of those peculiar people in a chosen generation as was written. They don't come any more pecu-

liar. Titus 2:14 uses the word peculiar as unusual, odd, special in a weird way...a bizarre sort of way. I think you must be somewhat peculiar too, Lord, after all, I'm in your image.

LORD: "I knew you before you were wrapped in flesh and every one of your hairs is numbered by Me."

ME: "Well could you add a few more hairs on the top front 'cause I've noticed it getting a little thin? I'm just kidding. You know I'm grateful that you are ever present and know me so well. It's very comforting to me."

LORD: "I left the 99 to chase after you when you had no thought of me. Every time you needed me I was within your reach. I have given you identity and pedigree through my blood so that you were no orphan but a beneficiary of everything I have."

ME: "I think you're telling me that I'm more costly than Tom Brady's jersey...that I'm a priceless designer original purchased with "God Blood".

Gifts, Talents, flaws, weirdness and all,

yet there is no one that ever has been or will be just like me. Holy Spirit made me feel very special this morning. I have job security with God and no one will ever take my place.

LORD: **Now, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Hab 2:2**

You, Child of God, are not a one size fits all, off the rack or common. You are a unique piece in a collection of individual pieces. Though we are many, each piece adds value to the collection and is diminished with the loss of one piece, therefore the Scripture: Ps 116:15 **Precious (yâqâr-costly) in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**

ME: Okay, Lord, I told them...Is that Your smile I feel? Thank you, Lord...I love you too.



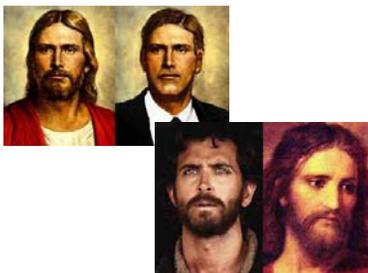
Change Of Clothes

Have you noticed in most of the pictures of Jesus, He is wearing the same clothes generation after generation.



From very white to cream color with a sash variation now and then, but He is always the same.

What might He look like today?



Can you spot Jesus here?



Or what about here?



Or here?



Rom 8:29 For whom he did fore-know, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Jesus has changed His clothes, for now He has wrapped Himself in us no matter the color, shape, size or nationality. We may not always set out to witness, yet we are witnesses living our lives in front of people who, when we least think it so, are noticing. Good to remember.

Our Days Are Numbered

Mankind has a beginning or physical birth and an earthly death or physical ending.

Ps 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Seventy to eighty years is the general vicinity of life but not the exact count. There are many factors of heredity, life events and traumas, diet, exercise, location, temperament and habits.

Two Scriptures give me understanding that we play the biggest part in the number of our days by our choices as

well as the choices of others.

Jesus chose the time of His death and gives His reason: ***John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.***

Paul gives his reason for not passing: ***Phil 1:21-25 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait be-***

twixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith...

Earth is not an eternal place as yet. It is therefore not a place we can live eternally yet. One day there will be a new earth without sin because there will be no kingdom conflict. Until that day we live a small time and pass on to the next level, thus the saying that our days are numbered since they do have a beginning and ending, yet not because God has given an exact count.

ABCs

I read a story in one of my devotionals that caught my attention. This is the story: *While walking through the woods one day, I was surprised to hear a child's voice. I followed the sound, trying in vain to hear the child's words. When I spotted the boy perched on a rock, I realized why his words made no sense: he was repeating the alphabet. "Why are you repeating the alphabet so many times?" I asked him. The child replied, "I'm saying my prayers." I couldn't help but laugh. "Prayers? All I hear is the alphabet." patiently the child explained, "Well, I don't know all the words to pray, so I give God all the letters. I let God pick out the right words from what my heart is saying."*

Rom 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

This is not only a precious story but a perfect example of speaking in tongues. *"Tongues are nothing but a bunch of*

gibberish," some will say because it does not make any more sense than praying the alphabet over and over. The expression of the heart does not need to make sense to man; we have language for that. There are secrets of the heart in which even we are not aware. We know what we desire, but sometimes our values and purpose do not match with our immediate desires which can overshadow our destiny. Esau who sold his birthright for mere pottage and momentary satisfaction is a perfect example of that.

There are times in my life that I have not known the best answer for an outcome or a decision to be made that could change everything for the good or cause even greater harm in a situation should I go by my own reasoning. Like that child, I just throw out a bunch of letters and sounds that do not make sense to anyone but God. His Holy Spirit translates the heart and urges me in the right direction and the steps to take or peace to wait and do nothing at all.

These are not the tongues of devils, for no devil can know my heart when my words have not spoken it. I have a covert communication with my Father and only between the two of us is the understanding.

This seems to be the most difficult of spiritual practices first because it is hard to humanly reason its function and secondly because we have a hard time giving up control. We like to direct our prayers because unconsciously or consciously we want to direct God. Yielding to God's desire for us feels like God is doing something in which we may not agree or want.

Man is a silly creature who knows not his future to control but likes to pretend he can regardless, while the Creator of all things in the universe has a greater plan.

A Christian who gives up control to His/her Savior is one who has an intimate relationship with Him, trusting Him beyond reasoning because they have come to know Him personally and do not fear spiritual gifts. They can pray without a safety net to catch them knowing that God will never let them fall.

Only a child can find nothing silly about giving the letters to God, for Him to form the words of the heart that should be spoken...only becoming as a child can we truly enter into God's Kingdom. Matt 18:3-6

Rebecca O'Connor
Editor: Dennis O'Connor

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Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Everyday Things



Believers and Disciples

Believers believe and doubters doubt. Believers have these signs following them: **Mark 16:17-18** *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Believers believe.

Many of you readers know what I am about to say, but for those who may not have known...this is for you.

They shall take up serpents... Believers have the ability *to take up* *airō*: to expiate away with, loose, make to doubt, put away, remove, take (away) **serpents** ophis: sly cunning, an artful malicious people, especially *Satan*

1 Cor 1:27-28 *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

The artful, cunning intellect of the worldly serpent is no match for God even when He chooses the foolish and weak vessels to take them up.

This may be hard for you to swallow,

but look at this: **John 20:21-23** *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

The disciples received the Holy Spirit and were given the authority to omit or retain sin.

The question I put to you is this: Who is a disciple of Jesus? Who qualifies? Christians are those who have received Jesus salvation. Disciples by name are *mathētēs* meaning pupils, learners. Not every Christian is a learner but every disciple is a Christian. Not every Christian is a believer, for I have seen many who doubt God at His Word, yet every believer is a Christian.

So the believers were disciples who received the Holy Spirit of God. Were the disciples Jesus referenced only 12 in number? Jesus reveals this in one of His final prayers for His disciples. The entire prayer is all of John 17 and great insight into Jesus' purpose and destiny in sacrificing Himself for mankind. In that prayer He qualifies whether He is speaking of only those immediate 12 in **John 17:20-21** *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that*

thou hast sent me.

Who is a believer that believes and a disciple who studies to learn...baptized in the salvation of Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God? I suppose it is those whose Christianity is also their *engaged livelihood, enterprise, role, function, mission, objective, matter, maximum effort and purpose*. In other words, they are about their Father's business whether with friends, at work or play, in their home as well as out and about, in good times and difficult places.

I suppose we make Christianity our livelihood and all of those things because we are the foolish, weak base, despised (basket of deplorables). We are ordinary to the world yet extraordinary through Christ. To the world we are a walking contradiction in that we are not super men and women but have super power and authority.

We are uncommonly common. Just when the world thinks they have us figured out and contained in a small box, we resurrect into what was not calculated by all their worldly intellects. We rose out from a the tomb of silence and had a voice. Out of the silence was a thunder that shook the world and the world could not and cannot stop it.

For uncommonly common people we are pretty amazing. We may look like everyone else, but we are believers and disciples and whether in silence or voice we are noticed if one is looking.