



A Marred Masterpiece

*The Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what He teaches is true – it is not a lie.
So, just as He has taught you, **remain in fellowship** with Christ.
(1 John 2: 27)*

Good morning, guys!! So glad that the Spirit leads our steps and guides us here every Saturday morning. I think we can hear Him better and are more attuned to His guidance, warnings and directions when we gather together and talk about it. Getting to know Him and pursuing, appreciating and loving our heavenly Father remains our chief delight. Rejoicing in Him daily with Holy hunger and getting to know each other as well, is the delight of our Walk and Kingdom living.

*Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing Love, that we may sing for Joy and be glad all our days.
(Psalm 90: 14)*

Eli's Golden Apple is a place of belonging for us and we are a place of belonging for Father as His Holy Spirit lives in our hearts ([Eph. 3: 17](#)) and we may enjoy fullness of life ([vs. 19](#)). Daily, we have opportunity to grow in our understanding of Father God as we celebrate, appreciate and study His Word. Saturday, we have opportunity to learn His unchanging Truth and celebrate His nearness and revelation, and to realize that even the tough times are fertile ground for Father to shape and grow us spiritually and bless others as well.

*See what great Love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called Children of God!
And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)*

*Excerpt – The Fall of Adam God as a Person is wholly complete and perfect. There is no disconnect between Who He is in His Thoughts and any action or outcome that proceeds from His Sovereign actions. Whoever God is and whatever He does, it is purely expressed in agreement with His Thoughts. There is absolutely no deviation. We, made in His image, were created to exist in exactly that same way, without deviation. The Fall of Adam became possible once he disregarded God’s warning and he turned to a knowledge that threatened to give him opportunity to embrace Thoughts God had commanded against. Embracing these Thoughts and choosing to act on them, Adam became dangerously exposed to deviation. With this Fall, all individuals descending from him would also have the disadvantage of a freedom to deviate. The result today is a world of persons of mixed Thoughts, who have part God-given sensibilities, yet polluted with Thoughts/beliefs/actions that deviate from God. This state of existence begins with the first choice to deviate (to sin), and once entered, each person is condemned. This mixed state of wrong and right Thought, of sin and not, brings our lives misery and threatens our final standing before God. Knowing the right thing to do is challenged by a competing throng of embedded, wrong Thought. God tells us this in a thousand different ways throughout His Word. His goal is to Save us from deviation, and He demands it if we are to make the cut. **Jesus is the culmination of our rescue**; and coming to belong to Him is among the most relevant commands to right Thought. Jesus offers to bring us into a forgiven state, that we would have the Holy Spirit to quicken our ability to further understand and embrace God’s Thoughts; and make way for Father to accept us. All of this is an incredibly costly and gracious effort to see us led back into conformity, into non-deviation in our Thought and action.*

A big problem with our mixed state of Thought is that while we are held responsible to right Thought and action, our Thoughts, deviant to His, can deceive us to believe our wrong Thoughts and actions are right. We are created fully equipped to have opinions and beliefs. Yet, wrong Thoughts and actions that we allow to masquerade as right give us a false assurance of God’s assessment of them. We cannot simply trust our Thoughts but have to always check them for conformance to His Thoughts. We always have to ask if we are fulfilling His expectation of us to live in agreement with His intention, as created in His Image.

These are the notes Mike shared with us; a pretty good overview of how good we had it and what we did with it. The Truth of the Holy Spirit is unchanging, yet we choose to change. We deviate from His perfect Thoughts and fully exercise the *opportunity to embrace* thoughts other than the *God-given sensibilities* offered to us by the Holy Spirit who actually dwells in us! He is deeply embedded in our hearts, yet do we hear *all* of what He has to say? Do we perceive all we hear as the Holy Spirit? Do we perceive *anything* we hear as the Holy Spirit? Do we pay Him any attention at all, or do we merrily make our way steeped in our own misconceived thoughts?

*Therefore, they shall eat the fruit of their way and have their fill of their own devices.
(Proverbs 1: 31)*

We are made in the image of God and then we ‘muddy the waters’ and usher in sin. We choose to love the wrong things or love the right things in the wrong way. *The image of God in us has not been completely lost or erased, but it has been marred and disfigured* (Rankin Wilbourne, *Union with Christ*, p.158). *We are royal masterpieces, yet we are marred. The glorious image of God in us needs to be restored, and it is worth the effort of restoration* (p.160).

Do we see ourselves as worthy as God sees us? Much of Chapters 7 and 8 of *Union with Christ* has to do with seeing our-selves as God does. He thinks enough of us to sacrifice and come to us, *to restore us to our created dignity* (p. 161) and to recover what the first Adam had **squandered** (1 Corinthians 15: 45). We can put on *the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator* (Colossians 3: 10). In His great Love for us, and Mercy, God has *united His life to ours* (p. 161).

God accordingly directs us to, *put on then, as God's chosen ones, Holy and beloved, compassionate hearts* (Colossians 3: 12) and He further directs us to, *put on Love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony* (vs.14). *God, the original master artist, used the material of His existing Creation and at great expense and effort set out to painstakingly restore His ruined masterpiece* (p. 161).

As we are in Christ and He is in us, it behooves us to recognize that union, recognize the compassion, and be aware of the Holy Spirit's work in us. He now sets us free from our deviations to be our true selves: *the self you are by Grace, not the self you are by nature* (p.161). Our self-tarnished image of God, our marred masterpiece, is steadily being fully restored; and one day, as we step into eternity, it will be finished.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all Wisdom.

(Colossians 3: 16)

It also behooves us to consider His Word. To examine everything, whether it is what I heard or what I perceived I heard, and to check everything back against His Word, His unchanging Truth. To test every Thought, every kernel of Wisdom, He brings to us, to discern that it is authentic.

It must hold up to the Word!

¹*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* ²*This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,* ³*but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus, is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.* ⁴*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

⁵*They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.*

⁶*We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.* (1 John 4:1-6)

Brothers, don't harden yourselves with sin. And don't, *quench the Spirit* (1 Thessalonians 5: 19). Walking in the Spirit is a thing, an issue, a reality. If you harden your heart, cherish iniquity (Psalm 66: 18), and distract yourself, you will be less attuned, less sensitive to the mighty power and Truth of the Holy Spirit. Seize the day, Brothers, and grasp that power and hold fast to that Truth. Let God be God and restore that marred masterpiece. *In following Christ, we don't become something less than ourselves. Nor do we become something more than human. We become more and more human, more and most ourselves* (p. 164).

³*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

⁴*You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

⁵*Or do you think Scripture says without reason that, He jealously longs for the spirit He has caused to dwell in us?*

⁶*But He gives us more Grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*

⁷*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

⁸*Come near to God and he will come near to you.* (James 4:3-8)

Let's go into prayer.

P.U.S.H. Pray Until Something Happens

Prayer: a passion for the Presence of God!



*Be joyful in Hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer.** (Romans 12: 12)*

*Prayer is more powerful than all your self-efforts. Pray **big** and watch God work.*

When prayer becomes your habit – miracles become your lifestyle.

Thru prayer, we can experience our Union with Christ and recognize His compassion. We can be aware of the Holy Spirit's work in us and love Him in perfect harmony.

Thru prayer, we can feel His compassion and get a sense of His Love, sacrifice and efforts to restore us to our created dignity. We can step up and get back in cadence with Him.

*About some other things in Christianity, young Believers may have a question; but about the Lord's answering prayer, even they cannot entertain a doubt; while, to the old and advanced Believer, who has tested the power of the mercy-seat, and proved it thousands of times, it is a matter about which he never allows a question, for he knows that, as surely as that he himself exists, and that God lives in Heaven, **the prayers of puny but believing man** have power to move the almighty arm of God.*

(Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.

(1 Timothy 2: 1)

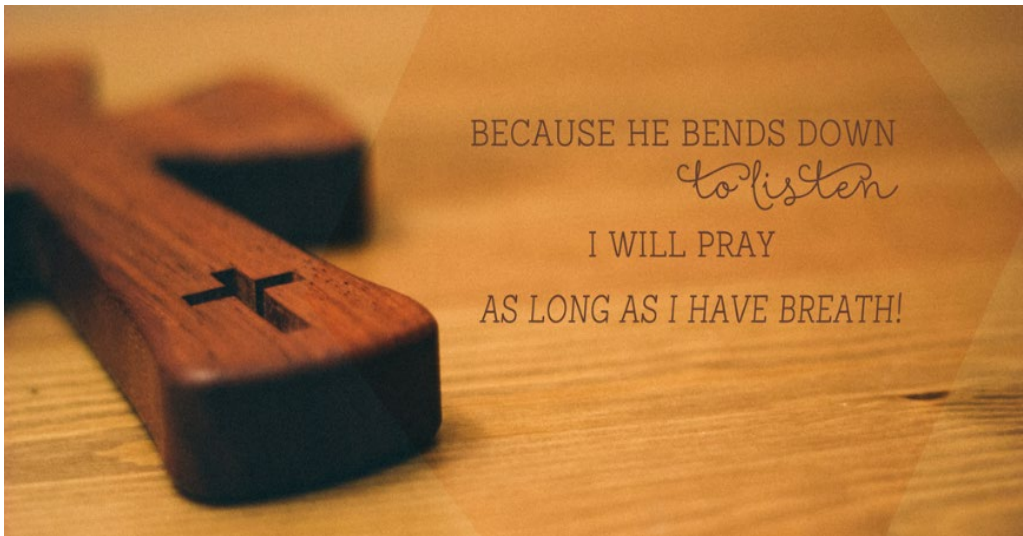


Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. (Luke 18: 1)

Prayer is our powerline.

Let us saturate everything we do in prayer.

Prayer is the intimate, honest expression of the soul's dependence on God.



Who can you pray for today?

Who might God be putting in your path?

Call onto me, and I will answer thee. (Jeremiah 33: 3)

*In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly.*

(Psalm 5: 3)

God Sightings/God Residing

See God thru His amazing creation. Embrace God thru the work He is doing inside you.

Stop and consider God's wonders. (Job 37: 14)

***I believe in Christianity as I believe in the rising sun;
not because I see it, but by it, I can see all else. (C.S. Lewis)***

Jim Lindell announces some good news about his health and the Love, well-wishes, congrats and encouragement abound!! Pretty sure I saw God in all that compassion and affection. Then I see on the front porch a package from our bakery out in Colorado!! What a beautiful gift sent in the spirit of Love, generosity and kindness. God attributes all the way on display. The outpouring of Love and encouragement for our new Pastor Josh was heart-warming. And then the standing ovation for Pastor Tony as we said good-bye was heart-wrenching. The Holy Spirit was resounding in this place; it was a good day and a God-moment. So glad I was there.

*Therefore, let all the godly pray to You while there is still time,
that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.
For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.
The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you."
(Psalm 32: 6-8)*



God sightings stir us to worship. And I stand in awe of You.

Have you seen God, lately?

Focus on Faith

Faith is not a cushion for me to fall back upon – it is my working energy. (Helen Keller)

*It's not the strength of your Faith that saves you, but the strength of Him upon whom you rely.
(Charles Spurgeon, Pastor, author, 'Prince of Preachers')*

One of our favorite authors, whom we often quote, is Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He is called the 'Prince of Preachers' and is known for his cheery wit and powerful sermons. But did you know that while he ministered, wrote and preached, he fought a lifelong battle with depression?

At age 22, with twin babies at home to look after, preaching to thousands at Surrey Gardens Music Hall, some pranksters called out: "fire!" Seven were killed and twenty-eight severely injured.

At age 33, Spurgeon suffered from a burning kidney inflammation called Bright's disease, gout, rheumatism, neuritis, overwork and stress.

Thru all of this, his Faith was steadfast and strong. He said,

Those who never have to push through the waves of difficulty never grow in strength and maturity like those who do. Trouble can strengthen and trouble can reveal the work that needs to be done within us. Tears can clear the eye so that we can see with an improved vision and perspective. (Charles Spurgeon)

Faith is the victory and Faith is the strength to persevere.

¹¹ *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*

¹² *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*

¹³ *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:11-13)*

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the Glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.* ¹³ *But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His Glory is revealed.*

¹⁶ *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that Name. (1 Peter 4: 11-13, 16)*

Faith is: to Hear (Romans 10: 17), to Believe (Hebrews 11: 6), and to Obey (James 1: 22) the Word of God (Matthew 6: 33, 34).

Faith is the currency of God's economy.

Conclusion

How great the chasm that lay between us, how high the mountain I could not climb.

In desperation, I turned to Heaven, and spoke Your Name into the night.

*Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness, **tore through the shadows of my soul.***

The work is finished, the end is written, Jesus Christ, my living Hope.

Our Father's passion, power and purpose never change, and He is always faithful to those who trust in Him. Our self-image, whether a bad one or wrong one, is in His hands and the enemy of self-image, satan, attacks our thoughts, polluting them with notions that deviate from God. The friend of our image, Union with Christ, restores and maintains the masterpiece. Recognize His work in us as He sets us free from self-imposed deviation and makes authentic our narrative.

So, line up with how God sees you, Brother, or, better yet – be a *reflection* of His Truth to the world. And come on down and let us see you! Join our little group of deviants (*delivered* deviants!) and share with us your mountain top experience and the tough times, as well. Let's talk about it; you'll be glad you did. Your Bro. in Christ, Dale.

Therefore, My people will know My name; therefore they will know on that day that I am He who speaks.

Here I am! How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim Peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim Salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'

*Listen! Your watchmen, lift up their voices, together they shout for Joy.
For every eye will see when the Lord returns to Zion. (Isaiah 52: 6-8)*

Breakfast Benediction

May you all be Blessed real good!

*Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen,
and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.
Make them known to your children and your children's children.
(Deuteronomy 4: 9)*

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you Peace.
(Numbers 6:24-26)*

.....and may the dust of your Rabbi's feet cover your clothing.

Just pure, powerful, Praise:

*Anointing, fall on me. Anointing, fall on me.
Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me.
Anointing, fall on me.*

*Touch my hands, my mouth and my heart. Fill my life Lord, every part.
Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me.
Anointing, fall on me.*

*On me, on me, let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me
Anointing, fall on me.*

*I see the Lord, I see the Lord, exalted high upon the worship of the people of the earth.
I see the Lord, my eyes have seen the King, the Lamb upon the throne, Who reigns forevermore.*

*The train of His robe fills the temple, a cloud of heavenly worshipers surrounding His throne.
We join with them now crying, "Holy, holy is the Lamb, the Lamb alone"
Forever and ever, forever and evermore:*

*All honor, all Glory, all power to You.
Holy father we worship you.
Precious Jesus, our Savior,
Holy spirit, we wait on you.
Holy spirit we wait on you, for fire.*

Touch my hands, my mouth and my heart. Fill my life Lord, every part.

*Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me.
Anointing, fall on me.*



*I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. (Psalm 27: 13, 14)*