



Food for thought:

Butterflies release a chemical when they're getting out of their chrysalis, a chemical that strengthens their wings. Their movements inside the chrysalis pump fluid into their wings, which help the wings expand.

The timing of their emergence is key; too early and they're doomed because they would not have developed enough and may never fly.

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House of Praise**

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FFMI TENETS OF FAITH

Fresh Fire Ministries International is a prophetic and apostolic Full Gospel Ministry.

We believe that the Bible rightly divides the word of truth and is our rule of faith and practice.

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ – that He was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified and resurrected to justify us of our sins.

We believe in water baptism by immersion in water.

We believe that the Bible was written by inspired men of God and is the revealed word of God to man.

We believe in the Trinity – that there is only one true and living God who has chosen to reveal Himself as Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We believe in the Five Fold Ministry – that the Church should operate and be led by Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

We believe in miracles and divine healing.

We believe in the Millennial Reign of Christ.

We believe in the Final Judgment.



THE WORD IN REVIEW

Time To Break Out of Your “Cocoon”

Sunday August 20, 2023

Numbers 13
Joshua 3

A cocoon is a silky covering that encloses and protects certain types of insects at a specific stage in their life cycle—as they undergo transformation between immature and mature stages. The length of this stage can vary between species. It may look like nothing is going on from the outside but big changes are happening inside.

The Lord deals with us in seasons. Some of us are at present in cocoons. We may feel within our hearts that God has called us to greatness in Him but nothing seems to be happening. The Lord simply has not yet released us. This is our season of training and learning, and we do so by serving, waiting and allowing the Lord to minister to us in what ways He sees fit. A very necessary stage for all of us.

Moses in his heart felt an inner burden to be the deliverer of his Hebrew brethren so he came to his assistance when he saw one of them being beaten. *...He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.* (Ex. 2:11-12)

The Lord did indeed use Moses extraordinarily as the deliverer of the Hebrew people but some forty years later. Moses had to undergo his own cocooning.

The Lord told His people that He would bring them into a promise and though an evil report came, it was silenced (by Caleb; one of only two men who came up out of Egypt who was permitted by God to go into promise land). The plans of the Lord concerning us will come to pass but we must go through our seasons of training.

Joshua, son of Nun, the second of the two men ..served under Moses for many years. During this time he was himself being trained and would have been required to participate in all training exercises; fasting, praying, serving, seeking God...

Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. (Ex. 24:13)

Joshua was at least sixty years old when the Lord released him as Moses' successor.

And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. (Josh. 3:7)

The time is near for the breaking out of cocoons for some of us, but until the Lord releases us, in His own timing, we must serve Him with all humility and with all holiness.

Presented By:
Bishop Jack Drummond Jr

With a mighty hand and
outstretched arm, His
love endures forever.

Psalm 136:12

I decree and declare that
You Lord, art our Father,
we are the clay and thou
our Potter and we are all
the works of thy hand in
Jesus name. Isaiah 64:8

I decree and declare that
as Jabez cried unto you
that you would bless him
and enlarge his border
and keep your hand on
him, lest he fall into evil,
so shall you bless us be-
yond bound and keep
your hand on us in Jesus
name. 1 chronicles 4:10

I decree and declare that
you will stretch out your
hand and touch my
mouth and that you will
put words in my mouth
in Jesus name. Jeremiah 1:9

I decree and declare that
I shall humble myself
under the mighty hand
of God that He may ex-
alt me at a proper time
in Jesus name. 1 Peter 5:6

I decree and declare that
as the hand of the Lord
was heavy upon the peo-
ple of Ashdod and He
destroyed them with tu-
mor, so shall His hand
be heavy upon my ene-
mies in Jesus name.
Amen. 1 Samuel 5:6

By Min. Patricia Wright



Financial Management and The Church (Part 2)

Today we want to focus on 5 principles of Christian Financial Management that we should all embrace:

1. We are above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2 / Titus 1:7)
This requires us to be accountable and transparent. This acknowledges that we are Stewards on behalf of and managing the church's financial affairs. All transactions should have proper documentation and follow financial policies and delegations. Recall Luke 16:10-13
2. We operate in Excellence (1 Peter 2:9)
We must be excellent in all fiscally related matters. This translates to sound principles, procedures, and having a current effective accounting system that produces reports without manipulations. Training is required for persons handling financial affairs.
3. We plan properly (Luke 1:28)
Jesus made it clear that planning is important. Some saints may believe this is not needed especially in smaller churches however the devil is the author of confusion and will use the lack of planning against us once there is a loophole. Budgeting / Planning for events is critical to the financial management of God's accounts.

4. We abide in the Law (Romans 13:1-5 / Titus 3:1)
Churches should not overlook the need to be updated with legal and accounting compliance requirements and therefore not adhering to the law of the land. It is a risk for churches to believe that the laws do not apply to them. It is better to seek advice and be compliant than to be disobedient.
5. We value People (Romans 12:10 / Colossians 3:11)
It is critical for church leadership to value its people. This aligns with financial management in that many church duties are performed by volunteers/Helps and need to be valued. Ways to value the people include (1) Training and support and ensuring efficient systems are in place (2) Providing financial or kind incentives as needed (3) Providing paid assistance to reduce the workload on volunteers/Helps (4) Celebrate peoples contribution openly through luncheons, church parties, dinners, etc.

By MIT. Donrossi Simpson



God surrounds us with Favour as a shield. Psalms 5:12

The number five is very significant to me. It reminds me of: The Favor of God; The Grace of God; The Mercy of God. It's unmerited, we don't deserve it, we cannot earn it but He, Our GOD LAVISHLY POURS all three upon us His Children.

Last week we saw His Grace and Mercy as God protected Brother David and Sis Asher. These are just two examples. We all have testimonies of the Goodness, Grace, Favor, Mercy, Protection and Love Our Heavenly Father has for Us. For this reason, we daily offer up praises and thanksgiving to The Most High God. He didn't have to do it. But He Chose To Do It. The following scripture verses are reminders for us to meditate on this coming week.

Psalm 103:8 KJV

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Psalm 35:27 KJV

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Psalm 145:8 KJV

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

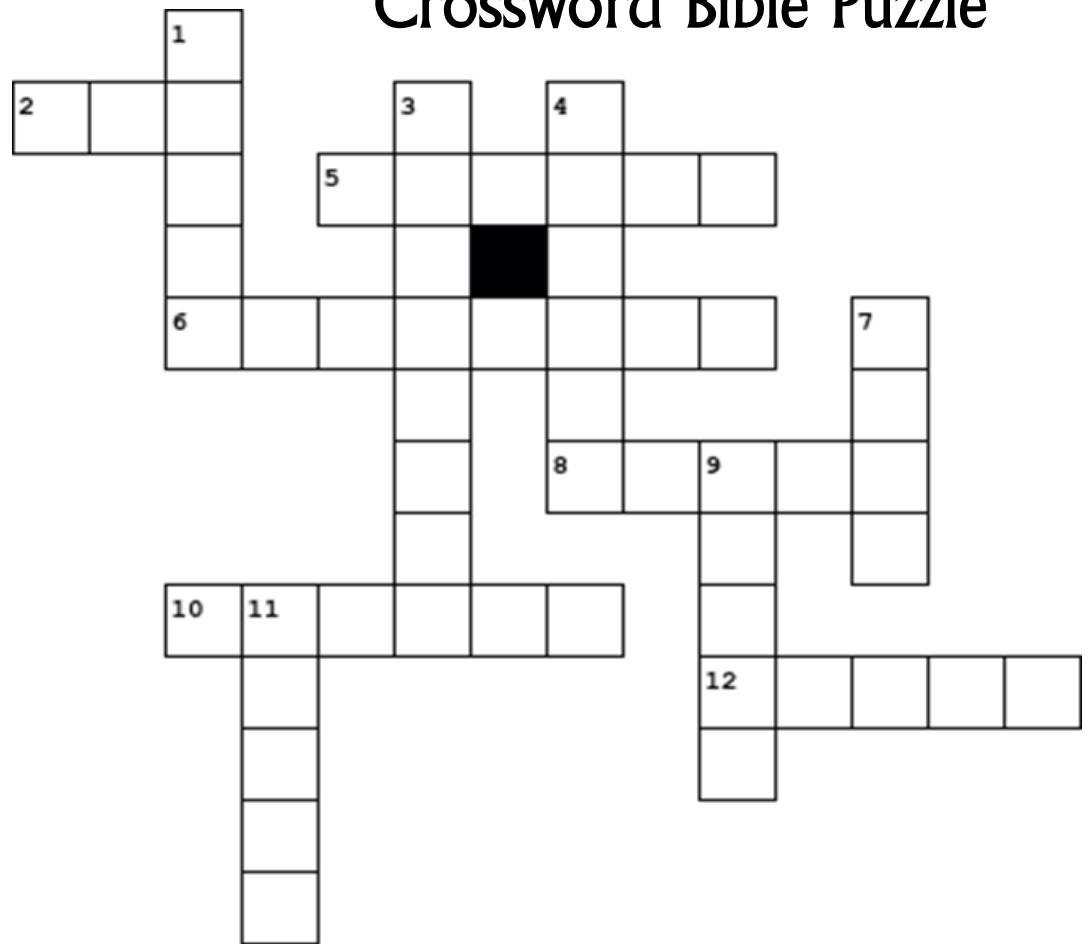
Ephesians 1:7 KJV

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

By Grace Beckett



Crossword Bible Puzzle



Across

2. How many plagues did God send upon the Egyptians?
5. Where did Moses run away to?
6. Who did Moses kill?
8. Whose name means, "drawn from the water"
10. Name of Moses father-in-law
12. What is the name of Moses brother?

Down

1. Moses' brother's staff became a _____.
3. Give the name of Moses' wife
4. What was the name of Moses sister?
7. Moses saw the _____ bush.
9. What did the people use to make brick in Egypt?
11. Where was Moses born?



Fear not

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

While in transit I was thinking of some troubles that I am experiencing and then I am reminded of the above mentioned verse. To calm myself I kept repeating in my mind “fear not, I will help you, I will strengthen you, be not dismayed”. I wasn’t saying it in the same order as the Bible verse but I got the effect of comfort and peace.

As we go through our valleys, God will strengthen us and pull us out of our struggles placing us on firm foundation. God is faithful, He is love and will not give us more than we can handle. I will not and need not fear because my God is with me, He is with all of us.

As we enter this week, let us press, press and press while we sing in our hearts a verse from the popular hymn, I’m pressing on the upward way:

“Lord, lift me up, and let me stand

By faith on Canaan’s tableland;

A higher plane than I have found,

Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”

By MIT. Charmaine Thomas

Selahn



Greetings



Beauty for Ashes

Knowledge may make us smart, but wisdom from God makes us wise. You represent the Kingdom of God on earth and you're given authority and power from God to rule over creation, situations, and all the earth. Once you start praying the Word of God, it begins to shift your thinking, go down into your heart, take out the old image and put in the new image of the Kingdom of God.

You've got to stop saying what's happening and start saying what's written because that is what God is going to establish in your life. The concept of how you see yourself must line up with what God says you are. Before you can fulfill your purpose, you have to see yourself as God sees you. Have a blessed day

By Min. Loveta Knight



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"You have bad handwriting. I thought 'diet and exercise' said 'beer and pizza'."

Health & Fitness

Salutation beautiful people. I'm back with more fitness tips and bits. Today I have a highly important topic to discuss, so let's get into it.

The topic I wanna discuss today is of great importance, it is probably one of the most important topics I may ever discuss with you. Without further ado, I want to tell you guys that I am proud of you. I want to let you know that you are doing well. I want to tell you that even though you may have fallen off track once or twice you're still doing well.

Don't flip out if you miss your workout once or twice or if you cheated on your diet. As long as you are doing your best, I say it's good enough.

Don't flip out if you mess up, shake it off and keep working at it. I do want to recommend that you get a friend to keep you consistent and true to your diet and exercise. Hold each other accountable, and keep each other motivated. I've found this is the best way to be consistent and maintain longevity.

In the meantime Remember, diet and exercise doesn't have to be hard, it just needs to be done.

By MIT. Dario Dowie



Abraham

Sarah, because she had not borne a child, provided Abraham with a handmaiden. This appears to be a familiar custom in the ancient world. According to this custom, if the wife did not have a child (preferably male) by a certain time in the marriage, she was obligated to provide a substitute (usually a slave-woman) to bear a child to her husband and thereby insure the leadership of the clan. Thus Hagar, the Egyptian maid-servant, had a son by Abraham. The boy was named Ishmael. Although it was understood that Ishmael was not the child that would carry on the line promised to Abraham, he was given a favourable blessing [Gen. 16:10-13; 17:20].

The covenant between God and Abraham extended the promise of the land and descendants to further generations. The covenant required Abraham and the male members of his household to be circumcised as a sign of the agreement [Gen. 17:19-21].

The practice of circumcision during this time was not unique to the ancient Hebrews, but its emphasis as a religious requirement is a unique feature of God's covenant people. It became a visible symbol of the covenant between Abraham and his descendants, and God.

Abraham and Sarah also received their new names here (from Abram and Sarai). The name of the son that God promised that Sarah would bear is designated Isaac.

By Min. Stephanie Ellis

References

Youngblood, Ronald. F. *Nelson's New illustrated Bible Dictionary*. Rev Ed. London: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1995.

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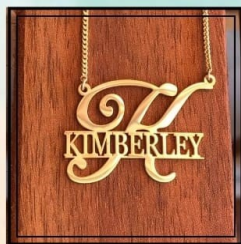
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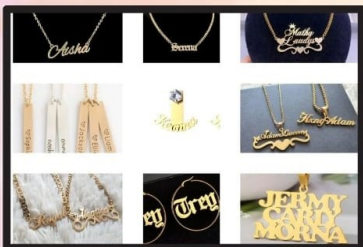
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