

Stewards of Grace Ministries Monthly Newsletter for August 2017



Seek the things which are above.

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective. Col 3:1-2

Walking in the spirit. How to... 101... Our Jubilee is in August, so I'm going to enlarge our theme: "Seek the things which are above," from Colossians 3:2. It all sounds so "holy" and "religious" to be setting our minds on things in heaven, but our God is a very practical God, and He knows that our physical feet are firmly planted on and in this earth. He also sees us for exactly what we are - bound to earthly thinking because of our mindsets, and unable to "see" God working in our lives because of all the commotion that's happening around us. It takes a good deal of concentration and awareness to be able to see beyond our physical world. This is why I like to call this series "Walking in the Spirit." It should give you more information to be able to move into the spiritual realm, where God works in our lives. In order to accomplish

this, the very first thing you need to do is to purpose; determine; persist; commit and devote your time to the Lord and seek what He has to say about the things you bring before Him in prayer. Again, we have gone through the physical ways you can "get to that place" in Him: #1. Find a quiet place - your favorite armchair will do nicely, #2. Find a quiet time - let everyone know that from XX:00 to XX:30 you do not want to be disturbed and won't take phone calls. Then, if you're like me, #3. Make a list of your prayer projects so you won't be spending a lot of time trying to remember - God already know what you're going to pray about even before you ask.. **Matt 6:6** *But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place... 8"...for your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

Experiencing God -Henry Blackaby: Prayer is not designed for us to inform God of our needs, for He already knows them. Why, then, should we pray? Prayer enables us to experience God more intimately. The more a child experiences the loving provision of a parent, the more convinced he becomes of his parent's unrelenting love. Our heavenly Father knows exactly what we will face today and next week. He is eager for us to experience Him as He provides for us. So to set our minds - and some translations use the word "affections" - on things above is to literally put our concerns into God's hands and trust that He will bring us through whatever is before us. How many times does Jesus look to the heavenlies (spiritually and physically) and call out to His Father in Heaven... and how many times does it read: "Jesus raised his eyes" or "lifted His face" to heaven and prayed, in John 11:41; Luke 9:16; Mark 6:41 and Matt 14:19 and others.

My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers: The Faith to Persevere: “Because you have kept My command to persevere ...” Rev 3:10. Perseverance means more than endurance—more than simply holding on until the end. A saint’s life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, but our Lord continues to stretch, and every once in a while the saint says, “I can’t take any more.” Yet God pays no attention; He goes on stretching until His purpose is in sight, and then He lets the arrow fly. **Entrust yourself to God’s hands.** Is there something in your life for which you need perseverance right now? Maintain your intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the perseverance of faith. Proclaim as Job did, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” Job 13:15. Faith is not some weak and pitiful emotion, but is strong and vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. And even though you cannot see Him right now and cannot understand what He is doing, you know Him. Disaster occurs in your life when you lack the mental composure that comes from establishing yourself on the eternal truth that God is holy love. Faith is the supreme effort of your life—throwing yourself with abandon and total confidence upon God. God ventured His all in Jesus Christ to save us, and now He wants us to venture our all with total abandoned confidence in Him. **There are areas in our lives where that faith has not worked in us as yet—places still untouched by the life of God.** There were none of those places in Jesus Christ’s life, and there are to be none in ours. Jesus prayed, “This is eternal life, that they may know You ...” John 17:3. The real meaning of eternal life is a life that can face anything it has to face without wavering. If we will take this view, life will become one great romance—a glorious opportunity of seeing wonderful things all the time. **God is disciplining us to get us into this central place of power.** In all of the newsletters that we have been putting out the main theme is for us to seek after God, our Father, learn about Him and learn our own purpose in His plan for the area that we are in; and then to activate that knowledge and put into action our beliefs; our knowledge; our wisdom; and begin to BECOME like the Christ we have studied. Too many times, we study for a little while; then get bored or busy or the enemy makes us “too sick” to go and we drop that class or study when we have only touched the surface of all that we need to know. I can’t tell you how fascinating my God is!!! He has more secrets that He reveals to us with every step, each time we spend with Him in prayer and/or study. And it isn't just studying out of the Bible, but finding out what He has been telling and revealing to other Christians. We do not exist in a vacuum! We are A PART of a greater organism called the Body of Christ, and our God is trying to get our attention.... To get us to “LOOK INTO THE HEAVENLIES” to find the information and direction we need to be productive in His Body. Now this does not mean that you need to be a body-builder or be fit enough to be able to run a marathon, but it DOES mean that you have to spend time with your Father and find out exactly what He wants you to share with His other children - especially those who don’t know Him yet. But, again, no one can force you to do what you don’t want to be doing. No one is going to discipline you if you don’t want to do it. **There is one thing that keeps me going, seeking, digging into His Word and listening to and reading what His other children are saying and relaying that information and hope and encouragement to others; then praying for those people and calling heaven down into their lives, and THAT is the fact that when I stand, alone, before Him and He asks me what I did**

with the knowledge; the wisdom; the evidence; the revelation; the insight into peoples' lives and the material He shared with me, I will be able to say to Him, "Master, see, what You have given me, entrusted me with, I have multiplied in others, for Your Glory." So, it comes down to this... you can read what is in your hand; you have the freedom to disagree or throw it away... that is your prerogative. But I have done what my Father has asked me to do, I am walking in His Spirit in the best way I know how, in the day in which I live, and I believe that every Scripture reference I put in this little newsletter will go out.... And NOT come back void or empty, as it says in *Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.* So even if you ignore these little "notes" I share about what God does in my life, and what He wants to do in yours, you will never escape from my Loving Father's long-reaching arms. Quit resisting and just "Say YES!" to Him. You will be blessed beyond measure with His Love, His Peace, His Joy... and many of His other blessings. It is SO MUCH BETTER to surrender and obey Him than to stay stubborn and resist and continually offend your Father and grieve the Holy Spirit, and make Jesus' sacrifice of no account in your life. The road is narrow: **Matt 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. The road that leads to hell is a very easy road. And the gate to hell is very wide. Many people enter through that gate.14 But the gate that opens the way to true life is very small. And the road to true life is very hard. Only a few people find that road.** Keep looking and ask Him to guide you... He will! He loves you that much!