

JUNE-JULY 2025

# Glory Magazine

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## LIFE, LIBERTY, FREEDOM

BY ANGELA ERRETT

## DELIVERANCE AND THEN HEALING

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BY AL TUCKER



# LIFE, LIBERTY, FREEDOM

But every man is tempted, when he  
is drawn away of his own lust, and  
enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it  
bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is  
finished, bringeth forth death.

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Every good gift and every perfect  
gift is from above, and cometh  
down from the Father of lights, with  
whom is no variableness, neither  
shadow of turning.

Of his own will begat he us with the  
word of truth, that we should be a  
kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James 1:14-18 (KJV)

Spiritual growth requires one to renew one's mind and focus on what the Lord says—on any subject. For many, that is hard because of the physical world around them. Too often, people rely on what is said around them or the data they consume to be the truth. But how radical of an idea is it that our life begins in the physical dimension of time through the doorway of a physical father and mother, yet we were FIRST a spirit? If we only concentrate on what is around us, we lose sight of what resides IN us—the Holy Spirit.

Living a life sensitive to the desires of our Father in Heaven through the person of the Holy Spirit has the benefit of not only a joyous life but also liberty and freedom. His Spirit, being holy, can search God's mind for the correct answers for any situation. And when we are unsure at any point, God gave us His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, written down in Scripture.

Take a look at Matthew 7:11 (KJV), *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"* Our Father gave us the best gift of all, yet many do not ask for it! It seems too complicated for our minds to

comprehend that He DID provide us with supply for all of our needs, according to HIS riches in glory. He is a good, good Father!

He sacrificed to give us that freedom—freedom to choose HIS mindset over what the world says we have or need to do. Jesus gave His life to gift us liberty—liberty to freely accept it without shame or guilt. Jesus, being born of a virgin, did not think it wrong to consider Himself the Son of Man. Why, as God's adopted sons and daughters, do we think it's wrong to believe what Jesus Christ did for us and all of His promises? Our minds must renew to the truth that the ultimate gift of everlasting life, abundance, grace, and mercy has been liberally given to those who accept Christ and are willing to BELIEVE HIS WORD AS TRUTH.

I pray that as we enter summer, our minds awaken to the ultimate power of Christ within us, we bring forth the signs and wonders of an Almighty God, and we see through the mirage of glamorous workings of a fallen spirit working among us. Come out from among them and live in freedom.

Blessings and honor,  
*Angela Errett*



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*That I may publish with the voice  
of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy  
wondrous works. Psalm 26:7*

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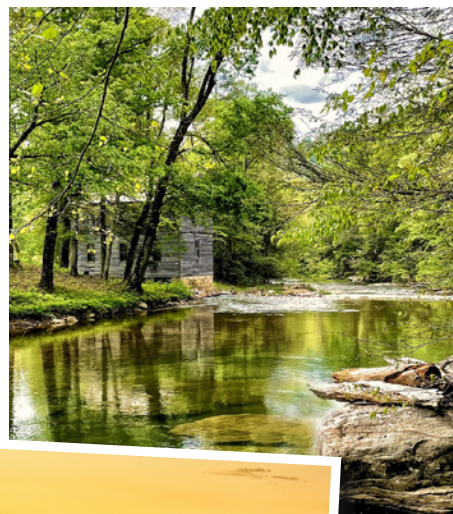
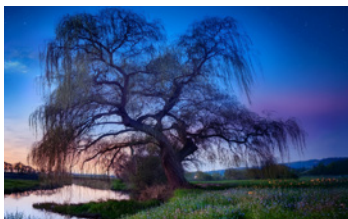
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by Bob Jacobus

# Deliverance *and then* Healing

Often, sustaining miracles happen with a one-two punch. A sustaining miracle is not a one-day wonder, but one that has lasting resilience. Even though a human might extend a miracle through self-initiatives such as discipline in thought, diet, or daily habits; the issue or problem may circle back. The arena of deliverance is one such spiritual phenomenon that sometimes needs an ancillary touch to sustain. Remember, miracles are divine interventions, deposits of God's love, care, and great mercy.

This is not an easy essay to write. The main body is to support and give conciseness to the following simple truth. "Ask God to deliver or save, follow directions, then ask Him to heal."

**"SO I SAY TO YOU: ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU. FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES; THE ONE WHO SEEKS FINDS; AND TO THE ONE WHO KNOCKS, THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED."**

LUKE 11:9-10 (NIV)

Sometimes, God grants a miracle, and it just does not last. Treatment and recovery are universal steps that apply to both the physical realm and the spiritual realm. A soldier who still has a weapon or projectile embedded in their body needs rescue or deliverance. When the problem is alleviated, a wound remains. Healing is necessary to complete the recovery. Sometimes, the wound does not heal, so the victim needs deliverance all over again. The problem is a little different, an infection as opposed to an axe head; however, the principle is the same; a foreign object has entered and must be evicted. Finally, the door must be shut.

Consider infections of a spiritual nature. They can be imaginations and unclean thoughts of hatred, greed, jealousy, or lust. Lies are infectious. These things are foreign to the being that God created. Oh, there are actual demons, too. Often, one's spirit is wounded by abuse or other mistreatment, and the hurt is a foreign object that needs to be dealt with. Demons love to take shelter in the dirt of thoughts, lies, and hurts.



After deliverance without healing:

**"WHEN AN IMPURE SPIRIT COMES OUT OF A PERSON, IT GOES THROUGH ARID PLACES SEEKING REST AND DOES NOT FIND IT. THEN IT SAYS, 'I WILL RETURN TO THE HOUSE I LEFT.' WHEN IT ARRIVES, IT FINDS THE HOUSE SWEEPED CLEAN AND PUT IN ORDER. THEN IT GOES AND TAKES SEVEN OTHER SPIRITS MORE WICKED THAN ITSELF, AND THEY GO IN AND LIVE THERE. AND THE FINAL CONDITION OF THAT PERSON IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST."**

LUKE 11:24-26 (NIV)

Prayer for healing is essential in guarding your house. The thing is that your body, soul, and spirit are components of the mansion God created just for you. With the prayer of healing comes the grace to bring thoughts under control. With the prayer of healing comes the grace to forgive and rebuke bitterness. With the prayer of healing comes the grace to withstand the temptation demons use when knocking at the door of your mind. One needs to identify the messenger at the door, and act accordingly.

### **Sometimes prayer treats the symptom and does not get to the root.**

Now, this concept will be challenging to follow. Sometimes, a miracle is not sustained because of prayer, especially the sincere and believing prayers of the saints (anyone who has a right standing with God). Ever notice that a person receives a miracle, and then, in time, the issue returns? Maybe this happens in what seems to be a never-ending cycle. This appears to occur more often to ministry leaders than others. **The skinny:** People love these persons and pray fervently for their relief; God answers the prayers, and the afflicted return to what seems normal for a while.

The root of the afflicted person's problem is this person is at odds with the written word of God. In unawareness, the affected person continues in slipups. Because the Word does not return to God void (Isaiah 55:11), the symptoms appear again. The Written Word carries both rewards and penalties. This kind of thing most often happens when there is a near-invisible heart issue involved. Pride, arrogance, inconsiderateness, know-it-all, and self-centeredness are some examples.

To paint the picture for understanding, consider a preacher who had a glitch in one leg—maybe a knee, or maybe a hip. Walking was a favorite pastime; however,

the condition was so painful the minister could not partake. The faithful prayed and agreed in prayer. God intervened, and the person walked again with full motion and no pain. The real root of the problem was the minister was out of step with God. Have you ever noticed that sin's expense parallels the transgression in the Kingdom of God? The preacher had fallen into the trap of trying to build a personal kingdom instead of pursuing God's Kingdom. Other root issues included flawed scripture interpretation, hyper faith (faith in faith, not the faith Giver), and accepting inappropriate adoration from believers. The individual was never able to recognize and identify the narcissistic root issue. The person's body could not withstand to the resulting conflict cycle, and the miracle was unsustainable. God would answer every prayer, but the wagons just kept circling back. **Now, an admonition:** Pray your hearts out for others; however, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit because some prayers can pray a person right out of their deliverance. Sometimes, the Spirit will say be still.

**Another case study:** A young boy has a severe case of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). He was adopted as an infant, so the past is shrouded in darkness. In addition, his new parent is now a single mom. The young man has worn out schools, childcare, and bus drivers with uncontrolled behavior. What's a young mother who is 300 miles from her supporting family to do? At some point, the grandfather started praying pointed prayers for the situation. First, he claimed his authority and the benefits for the boy that are afforded by the promises of adoption in Holy Scripture. Then, with the authority of the head of a household, he spoke directly to the cause of the behavior problems in the name of Jesus. Finally, the grandfather gave thanks to God for healing the boy. Many prayers went up, but the breakthrough did not come until the Holy Ghost spoke to the grandfather to pray for healing and give thanks for it in conjunction with the deliverance. From then on, the boy became better. The key was deliverance and then healing.

You have been presented with a couple of thoughts to use as you pray for and minister to people, maybe even yourself. The general concepts are not exclusive to the case studies presented but rather a starting point to understand other situations. Godly truths have some discretionary crossover. It is most powerful to pray for deliverance and healing in tandem as you walk through the Kingdom of God.





*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

*1 Peter 4:1-2 (KJV)*

*If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

*1 Peter 4:14 (KJV)*

**A**re you consuming what the world has to offer, filling your mind with its knowledge and systems, or eating from the Tree of Life with the word of God and divine operations? And how does this pertain to the mind of Christ? You will find no reference in the Bible where Jesus ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the world's systems and comprehension. He continually spoke of His Kingdom and how it operates through relatable stories, instructions, and parables, only revealing the truth behind some mysteries to those closest to Him and who believed He was the Messiah. He showed His displeasure with the system and man's understanding when He entered the Temple and not only flipped the tables but patiently braided a whip to use, thus revealing how corrupt it had become and His patience. The people were consuming, changing money with the wrong fruit from the wrong tree, and He had had enough of it. To learn what the mind of Christ is, we need to read the Bible and be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the knowledge of the Law unto repentance and the Gospel of Truth, the revelation of Jesus Christ and His works. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, resided in Him, and He completed the Law of Moses. He died to become our Sabbath. He rose again to leave us with the Holy



# Mind of Christ or Mindless Consumer

Spirit to navigate the world's corruption and occupy us until He returns in power and great glory, this time with a sword. He did not die in vain, and those who are found to be mindless consumers of the fallen prince's dainties (delicacies often associated with temptation or indulgence. See Proverbs 23:3, Psalm 141:4, Daniel 1:8), eating from his table and not consuming the body of Christ, will be judged accordingly.

Jesus' first miracle was intimate. It was only shared with those in attendance at the wedding at Cana (see John 2:1-11) when He turned the water into wine. His name became well known as His mission continued, with miracles such as casting out evil spirits, healing and feeding thousands, and providing for the Temple Tax inside the mouth of a fish. The Book of Matthew records many teachings about what the Heavenly system looks like and how it operates. (See pg. 6) Still, even after His fame outgrew the small and intimate settings, He only revealed explanations to His disciples and those closest to Him. However, Jesus also uses the phrase, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" throughout His teachings. In Mark 4:1-20, He spoke to a multitude about the Parable of the Sower. Everyone has ears, so what is meant by this? Everyone may have physical ears, but only those who believe in Him and are filled with the Holy Spirit

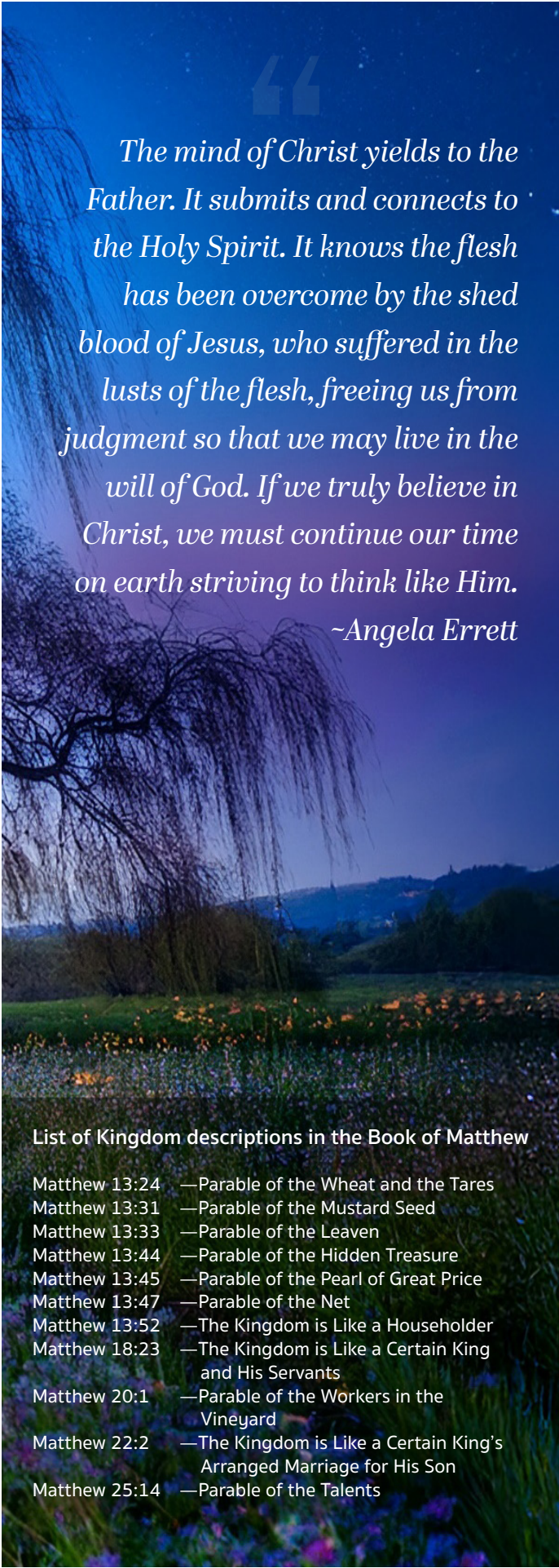
will have "spiritual ears" to understand what is meant. When they were alone, those who followed Him and the twelve disciples asked Him to explain the Parable of the Sower (see Mark 4:10). Those in an intimate setting with Him received, not the multitude. They were eating His Words, His Body, and the Mind of Christ for their nourishment. At the very first miracle at Cana (which means *place of the reeds*), the water of the world was made into the wine of Heaven, symbolizing His blood, brought forth by the Son of Man who would shed it and become the Sabbath for Man (see Mark 2:27).

*Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."*

*John 18:36 (NKJV)*

Did you know that John chapter two begins with the story of the first miracle of water to wine in Cana and proceeds directly into the story of overthrowing the tables in the temple? After the wedding, Jesus, his mother, brothers, and disciples went down to Capernaum for a few days, then went to Jerusalem for the Passover. And





*The mind of Christ yields to the Father. It submits and connects to the Holy Spirit. It knows the flesh has been overcome by the shed blood of Jesus, who suffered in the lusts of the flesh, freeing us from judgment so that we may live in the will of God. If we truly believe in Christ, we must continue our time on earth striving to think like Him.*

*~Angela Errett*

#### List of Kingdom descriptions in the Book of Matthew

Matthew 13:24	—Parable of the Wheat and the Tares
Matthew 13:31	—Parable of the Mustard Seed
Matthew 13:33	—Parable of the Leaven
Matthew 13:44	—Parable of the Hidden Treasure
Matthew 13:45	—Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
Matthew 13:47	—Parable of the Net
Matthew 13:52	—The Kingdom is Like a Householder
Matthew 18:23	—The Kingdom is Like a Certain King and His Servants
Matthew 20:1	—Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
Matthew 22:2	—The Kingdom is Like a Certain King's Arranged Marriage for His Son
Matthew 25:14	—Parable of the Talents

what did He see in the temple? He found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and the money changers were sitting in opposition to His Father's will. Observing them, He made a whip from twisted reeds. He forcefully drove them all out of the temple, scattering the money changers' coins and overturning the tables.

He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away. Don't make my Father's house a house of merchandise." Merchandise is the Greek word *emporion*, where we get the word *emporium*. It means a significant trading center where foreign traders engage in commerce in a country or region. From the original text, we can extract that this statement would be plausible: "Don't be in opposition to the Father and make the house of God a place where foreign traders can engage in commerce. Take these things from this place, from within His house, to a place of rest. Don't make God's dwelling place a place where trade is carried out; it should be a place of rest." What is intriguing is that the word *emporium* is also an obsolete word for the brain, the central hub of a man's spirit. It is the storehouse of spiritual information, such as thoughts, decisions, and memories. It is the central command unit for all processes in the human body, including accessing the Holy Spirit. And we are commanded to renew our mind (see Romans 12:2) and have the Mind of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5). We can without question know and believe that Jesus drove out all of the trespassers from God's temple and made a way for us to benefit by doing the same with those trying to do business in our minds. We are also commanded to cast them down, just as He did (See 2 Corinthians 10:5), having faith in what He did in the temple!

Jesus sacrificed His life to give us grace, and we should accept this truth: His death was not meaningless. If we could be saved by keeping Jewish laws, there would have been no need for Him to die (see Galatians 2:21). The Law was given so transgression would increase until the Seed of the Promise arrived. Righteousness can never be achieved through the Law, only through His blood-bought grace. However, we can't be mindless consumers, eating up every little jot and tittle of knowledge from every modality the world offers us. Our lives, especially our minds, have been consumed by endless words cursing us, disguised as life-giving when they only place before us death and the consumption of the wrong tree. Then



there is scrolling our phones, entertainment, and busy work to the point it is overwhelming many. Computers and technology may have started out being promoted as a “time-saver,” “money-saver,” or “money-maker.” Yet, it has become a “time-killer,” “money-taker,” and a table full of the fallen prince’s dainties. It is true that where evil abounds, grace much more abounds, and His mercy will always supersede wickedness, so we better look to what God says about a thing or ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Everything coming at us is not surprising to God, and we must remain stewards while He tarries. But how can we operate in this system? Matthew 6:9-13 gives us the prayer we all need to pray, what we call the “The Lord’s Prayer.” (See inset with notation)

The KJV edition and others use debts and debtors; however, what I learned as a child, and still use today, is the word *trespass*. Historically, the *Tyndale Bible* (1526) used trespass for its translation, as did the 1549 *Book of Common Prayer*. In the context of this article, we must forgive those who are trespassing against us, coming against our minds, and pulling our focus from the Lord so that we may also be forgiven. Renewing our minds daily allows us to grow closer to Him and place a more substantial barrier between us and the world’s illusion of prosperity and what we should consume.

Herein lies the hope of Christ and the infilling of the Holy Spirit—our helper. The renewal of our minds—our storehouses—relies on our relationships with Him and belief in His words and finished works. Are you renewing your mind to His words so that He has your heart, or does someone else?

## CONCLUSION

Which table, The King’s or the fallen prince’s, will you be dining at tonight, and whose wine will you be drinking?

Jesus manifested His glory, and He made known at Cana that His Kingdom system, at His pleasure, could literally take H<sub>2</sub>O, by His glory and words, and change the molecular structure into something that had been planted, grown, harvested, pressed, fermented, aged, clarified, and placed in an earthen vessel, just like Him. He had mastery of all systems because

## The Lord’s Prayer

After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done in earth,  
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts [trespasses],  
as we forgive our debtors [those who  
trespass against us]

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)





*Now we have received,  
not the spirit of the  
world, but the spirit  
which is of God;*

that we might know the things  
that are freely given to us of God.  
Which things also we speak, not  
in the words which man's wisdom  
teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost  
teacheth; comparing spiritual things  
with spiritual. But the natural man  
receiveth not the things of the Spirit  
of God: for they are foolishness  
unto him: neither can he know  
them, because they are spiritually  
discerned. But he that is spiritual  
judgeth all things, yet he himself  
is judged of no man. For who hath  
known the mind of the Lord, that he  
may instruct him? but we have the  
mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 (KJV)



*We are the water pots, carved in stone, filled with the latter  
rain, the Holy Ghost. We are to draw it out from within us  
according to the Mind of Christ. ~Angela Errett*

all things were made by Him (see Colossians 1:16).

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit—God's dwelling place (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17). He lives in you and me; we are no longer our own. The psalmist asked, "Who is man that you are mindful of him? And the son of man, that you visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels (the word Elohim here can also be translated as God), and have crowned him with glory and honor" (see Psalm 8). Who's glory? Who's honor? The LORD'S.

Doesn't that sound exactly like the wedding story at Cana? The servants filled the purified stone vessels with water to overflow, representing the infilling of the Holy Spirit. However, the glory of the Lord, His headship, the Mind of Christ, brought forth the transformative power to change the water in the vessel to wine. That mind is in us under Christ's authority and power. Yet, we must keep it flowing with the ever-living fountain from His Word and the Holy Spirit. Don't be a stone in the middle of the river blocking the flow!

The psalmist continues and declares man has dominion over the works of His hand, placing all things under his feet, including the sheep and oxen, beast of the field, fowls of the air, and fish of the sea. Well, well (pun intended), that sounds an awful lot like what the outcome from Jesus Christ patiently waiting, braiding a whip, and driving out the money changers and trespassers from the Holy Temple would be!

Our minds need to understand that we *are* His handiwork. We *do* house the Spirit of God. We *can* operate in the glory and honor bestowed upon us. We *do* have dominion over our situations. We *can* lean on and trust that His Name, His position, His reputation, and His authority are mighty and above *all* kings, nations, and gods. The Name above all names. We *are* His children, and we *shall* see the glory of the Lord in the land of the living, not someday, *but this day*—the day the Lord has made!







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# Unbridled Freedom



I have been drawn to Western shows since I was a young boy. Whether it was *Gunsmoke*, *The Rifleman*, *Bonanza*, or *The Lone Ranger* – I could watch them all! In many of these episodes, one thing stood out. I noticed how little it took to tie up a cowboy's horse. The rider would simply loop the halter over a hitching post or a small tree branch once or twice, and the horse would stay right there; this always confused me. Even as a child, I would think, "Surely that horse is strong enough to simply back up and walk away; he didn't even tie the strap in a knot."

Later in life, it began to make sense when I heard the story of how baby elephants were tied up with strong chains when little so that as they grow older, it was possible to restrain them with simply a small rope and a tiny stake in the ground. Even though the elephant could easily pull the stake out of the ground, it was conditioned to believe that it didn't possess the strength to loosen itself from its bonds and access its freedom.

Sadly, I believe this accurately represents where many in the body of Christ find themselves today. They've been conditioned to believe they don't possess the power or authority to break free from the things entrapping them and access their freedom. As such, they accept their imprisonment even though Jesus has paid the price for their complete and total freedom.

Did you catch that? Jesus has paid the price for His followers to live in complete and total freedom, and if He is your Lord and Savior, that includes you!

John 8:36 tells us, *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* Look at it from the Amplified Classic Version, *"So if the Son liberates you [makes you free men], then you are really and unquestionably free."*

I love that last part, "If Jesus liberates you, then you are really and unquestionably free!"

If we go back to verse 2 in John 8, we see even more evidence that we have access to absolute freedom in Jesus.

*"Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death"*

James 8:2 (NIV)

Those of us who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior and purpose to follow Him have access to freedom for every area of our lives. Yet, Satan is busy trying to convince us otherwise. He roams around trying to convince believers that they aren't good enough, smart enough, consistent enough, or loved enough for God to set them free and they must remain enslaved. But he's a liar and a deceiver! Freedom is not something that has to be earned or even achieved. It's already been freely



given through Jesus by our Heavenly Father. God is not holding back on you. He already provided everything you'll need in this life when He gave His Son Jesus to pay the price for your (mine, and the world's) sins.

I love Romans 8:32 (AMPC), *"He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?"*

Based on this verse, let me ask you one question: When did God freely give us all things? This passage says, *"Will He not also WITH HIM freely and graciously give us all [other] things?"* That means that God has already given us everything when He gave us Jesus! Wow, and praise the Lord!

Come on, say it with me, "God isn't holding back on me!"

Did you know that's scriptural as well? Psalm 84:11 (KJV) says, *"No good thing will He [God] withhold from them that walk uprightly."* Your Heavenly Father isn't in the 'holding back business.' He's in the 'giving and blessing business'...and that includes your freedom! Your Heavenly Father has already freely given us (and Jesus already paid the price for) freedom for every area of our lives.

We have access to freedom from sin, addiction, anger, pain, sickness, poverty, spiritual death, loneliness, depression, anxiety, mental illness, fear, and the list goes on and on, including every other curse the adversary would try to put on us. However, Galatians 3:13 tells us that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, and His sacrifice has paid the price for us to live free. We just have to believe and receive it until we are fully convinced. Our conviction in this area needs to be strong enough to withstand the enemy's attempts when he brings his lies and torment so that we won't be confused, distracted, or lose heart.

An awesome example of this is found in Acts 16 when Paul and Silas were stripped naked, beaten, and imprisoned for casting a spirit of divination out of a little girl entrapped in slavery who was being taken advantage of by her masters. Look at Paul and Silas' responses to being wrongly tortured, chained, and imprisoned.

*"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.' Then he called for a light, ran in, and*

*fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' So, they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household'"* (Acts 16: 25-31 NKJV).

Something stood out to me years ago when I read this; why didn't Paul and Silas run when the Lord removed their shackles and opened their prison doors? Then, the Holy Spirit showed me that the chains and prison bars didn't determine their freedom!

Despite being stripped, beaten, and imprisoned, they prayed and worshipped God. They understood that despite what happened to them in the natural – they were already free in the spirit. Jesus had already set them free! So just because the prison doors were open, they weren't in a hurry to escape because they didn't consider themselves in bondage – WOW!

This is what I call unbridled freedom. Complete and total freedom that is so real and evident to you that no situation or condition can cause you to question your freedom or become upset at what's happening to you. This is the complete opposite of the horse and elephant (and all the children of God), who determine their freedom based on natural evidence.

The Word of God calls us to live by faith, not by sight (or any of our other natural senses). God calls us to believe His Word and live according to how He sees our situation and defines our condition. That's what living by faith requires.

So, as we celebrate our nation's freedom on the 4th of July, I challenge you to seek the Lord about areas of your life where you can enjoy more freedom. Allow Him to show you areas where you have forfeited your freedom and accepted bondage.

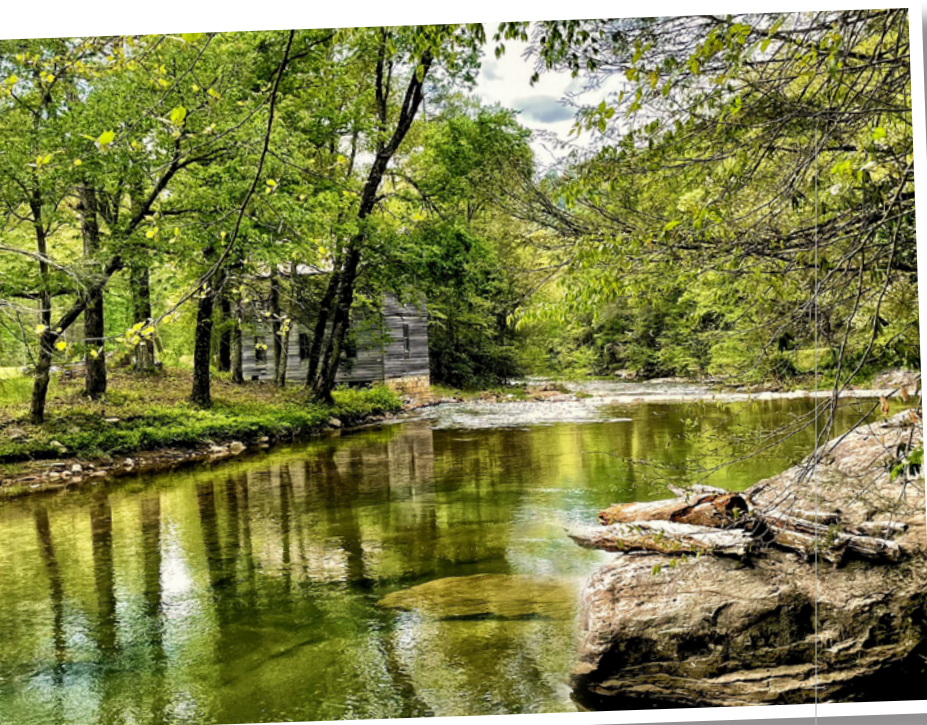
Once He reveals it to you, ask Him to show you in His Word where He deals directly with that specific area of freedom. Then saturate yourself in that Word by reading it, praying it, meditating on it, and allowing the Holy Spirit to cause that Truth to become so real to you that a new conviction rises up inside of you. When that takes place, it's only a matter of time until you experience the peace and joy that comes from total freedom.

Don't accept the conditioning of the enemy and remain imprisoned any longer. Through Jesus, your freedom has already been paid for. With Him as your Savior, you are already strong enough to break out of your restraints and walk right into your freedom. Create a battle cry from Philippians 4:13 and John 8:36: "Jesus has absolutely set me free, and I can do **ALL THINGS** through Him because He strengthens me."



# REVEALING God's Glory

by Al Tucker



**N**ot long after I was saved about twelve and a half years ago, I hoped people would come to know that I was a man of God and not the worldly, selfish person I really was at one time. Well, it was much longer than that; seventy years was all about me. Before coming to the cross, I was pretty good at camouflaging who I really was, someone who feigned Christianity while chasing a worldly lifestyle. If you have read some of my previous testimonies, you know I pursued self-interest; first, career success and then my fun-time hobbies like golf, fishing, gardening, traveling, etc. Upon retirement, it was to be nothing but leisure and enjoying the good life, ticking

From top: Blue Ridge Parkway Sunrise, VA; Mollahan's Mill, Webster County



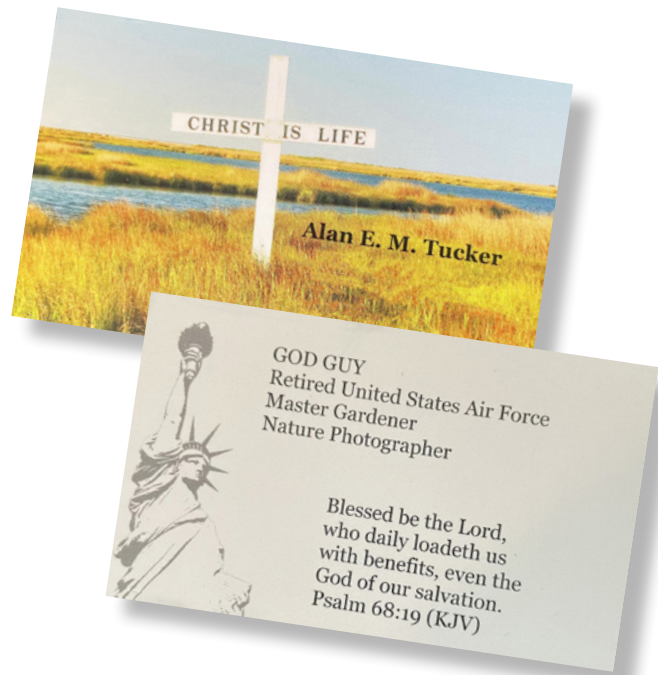
# “BLESSED BE THE LORD, WHO DAILY LOADETH US WITH BENEFITS, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”

*Psalm 68:19 (KJV)*

off those bucket list desires. I was okay with giving God only an hour, two, or maybe three out of the week and sprinkling that with a few volunteer activities to show my compassion. However, volunteering was more for camaraderie and building a network that could enhance my selfish interests than my being considerate of others.

What a fake, or maybe it was ignorance! Either way, I clearly didn't get it when Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" (paraphrased Mark 12:30-31), that He meant it! Foolishly, I also didn't realize when He said we are to "love our neighbors as ourselves (again paraphrased)," He meant that too! Also, it never registered with me that He meant, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments*" (John 14:15 NIV). Oh, I could have my shiny moments, but God knew that wasn't me. The good news is He still wanted me just as I was, and I am so grateful that when He said He would send His Son to save sinners, He meant that, too. Praise God! Before getting saved, I was unable to understand His word. What I do get now is that He is true to His word when He says if you keep my commandments, "*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him*" (John 14:16-17 ESV). So, for 70 years, I was ignorant; I didn't know Him as I was a man of the world, and I could not hear Him. It all changed when I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior.

For people to know that I am a man of God to bring Him glory, I committed to one of my favorite verses: "*to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18 NIV). I have shared many testimonies about my maturing walk with Him and how He has and still is transforming me. At the start of my walk, I wanted a calling card to signify the new me. I designed my card as shown here, except I removed my contact information for this article. I selected one of my photos from Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, as my cover because I wanted to convey that I belong to Jesus. I



Above: Front and back of my calling card with contact info removed

chose the scripture on the back to communicate that my Salvation comes from God's extravagant love, from which I wake up daily with His innumerable blessings.

What an amazing verse this is! There is a beautiful hymn I love to sing called *Blessed Assurance*. This verse captures the essence of that song. Every morning, in this life and the next, I will wake up, and He will be right there for me with His love, mercy, and grace, reassuring me of His love. No wonder the Psalmist praises God in this verse: "Blessed be the Lord." I now try to start each day by saying, "Blessed be the Lord," and thanking Him for all the blessings I will encounter that day. It is a great way to lead into prayer, which can be said anytime during the day.

You might notice I left the word *Selah* off my card. I was starting my walk with Jesus back then, and I didn't know what *Selah* meant. I guess I didn't think it added anything. How wrong I was! I've learned that *Selah* is a Hebrew word meaning *pause for reflection*. As I pause for reflection here, there is another song that Psalm 68:19 reminds me of: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Selah." No, *Selah* isn't in that song; I just added it to illustrate the need to reflect or contemplate more about





what we read or sing occasionally. When we pause to reflect on God's word, it allows us to distill or assimilate His truth within us so it can nourish, enrich, or inspire us as we walk our individual paths. I need to add Selah here again so we can take a moment to think of our need to allow His word to take root within us more often.

As I look back on my walk with Jesus, I realize that whatever I have done or achieved to bring glory to God is not my doing but is only a result of Him working through me. Only His indispensable sustaining grace makes the difference in my ability to carry out His will and be a useful witness for Christ. I am so blessed that His grace continually nourishes me and keeps me focused on serving and pleasing Him. How did that happen? It soon became apparent that I must desire to walk with Jesus daily rather than doing my own thing. It had to be a lifestyle change. The good news is that Jesus keeps His promises. He meant it when He said He would send the Holy Spirit to help us transform. He also meant it when He said He would be an intercessor with His Father for us.

God was and always is willing to do His part. Now, it was time for me to do mine. It's not always easy; the days are just as evil today as they were during the Apostle Paul's time. The devil, who wouldn't have it any

other way, is always there trying to throw a roadblock in one's path. I believe that is why Jesus taught us to pray so as not to be led into temptation. Who knows the devil and his destructive power better than Jesus? He knows that Satan is always trying to find that chink in a believer's armor so he can chip away and turn us into backsliders living for ourselves. One of the keys for me that I found out early in my walk was that I had to pay attention every day. Paul warns us, *"Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise*

*people but as wise"* (Ephesians 5:15 CSB). He continues, *"...do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is"* (5:16). Therein lies everyone's challenge: For you and me, do we try to walk with Jesus to understand and do the Father's will or do we foolishly go our own way?



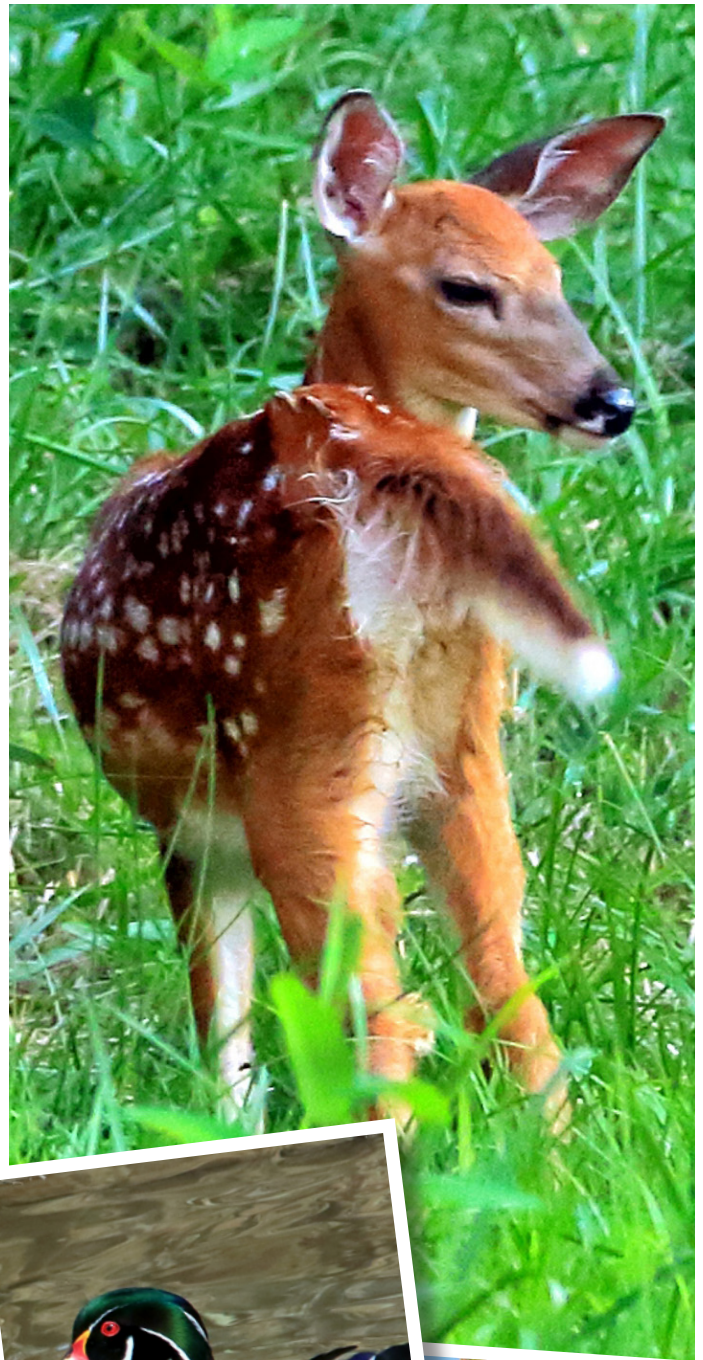
Above: A stroll on the beach, Bunch Beach, FL; a bluebell trail, Fernwood Experimental Forest, Tucker County



**“You will seek me and find me when  
you seek me with all your heart.”  
Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)**

I chose to walk with Jesus because I wanted to grow spiritually and try to understand and pursue His will for me. I also wanted to become an authentic witness for Christ, meaning I live and walk the talk, i.e., I follow God’s Truth, not my own or someone else’s version of it. I trusted that if I sought Him with all my heart, I would find Him. That is the path I chose, and it still is. Years later, I still seek to validate His will to stay on point. As we age and circumstances change around us, we need to revisit them through prayer, meditation, and even conversations with Christian friends. Hence, we make sure we are appropriately focused on how best to serve God. I believe that is our continuing spiritual challenge, understanding God’s purpose for our lives. We all must remind ourselves that if we are not trying to do His will, we are going our way. For seventy years, I focused on achieving career success, trying to play every golf course, hoping to fish every stream and lake possible, amassing as much wealth as possible so we could live comfortably, etc. In some way, all those can be healthy, especially when balanced with an active, spiritual life, which wasn’t me. Sadly, however, those selfish interests were the primary passions in my life, and ‘God’s will’ was not. It’s a simple question to ask ourselves: Whom am I serving, me or God? How would God answer that question?

Before getting saved, I imagine most of us had those self-serving, non-Jesus obsessions. Before going to Damascus, Saul’s (who became the Apostle Paul) sole mission in life was to eliminate as many of Jesus’ followers as he could. After meeting Jesus on that life-changing road, he relentlessly pursued God’s will for the rest of his life after his conversion, much to the amazement of Jesus’ followers, who scattered to hide from his vengeance. While most Christian conversions are not as Damascus-dramatic as Paul’s, our transformations should be just as life-changing in terms of whom we serve and clearly visible to those who know us. I remember one day, someone was talking about my dear friend and mentor, the late Russ Bush, and his love for Jesus. Someone else had known Russ in the past but hadn’t seen him in quite some time. Hearing the conversation, he remarked, “Are you talking about the Russ Bush I know? It can’t be?” We said it was and that no one worked harder for Jesus than



Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker



Above: Early summer visitors -  
fawns, wood ducks, and robins



Russ.” I think, shaking his head; Russ’ old acquaintance mumbled in amazement something like, “I’ll be!”

One of the things that were difficult for me early in my walk was there was so much I didn’t understand. It made me feel uncomfortable and took me out of my comfort zone. Professing my faith by witnessing in public or raising my hand in worship was quite a challenge. I remember one time I was driving through Tyler County and passed an old restaurant that I thought might make for some interesting photographs. I returned, went inside, and asked the owner, an elderly lady, if I could take some pictures. While she said okay, she also emphasized “not of her.” She was very friendly and talkative, though. We were having a nice chat as I was shooting away, and then she inquisitively remarked, “Are you a pastor?” I’ve often wondered what made her say that. I think I paused and said, “No, I’m just a friend of Jesus.” There was a notable uncomfortable silence before she almost whispered, “I hope I am too.” I wasn’t prepared for her soul-searching response, and I’ve always felt I fumbled my way through whatever I replied. Driving along after that, I felt bad that I had missed an opportunity to witness and had let God down. She gave me an opening, and I didn’t

take it. A few days later, I had some photos printed and mailed them to her with a note of thanks. A few weeks later, I received an envelope from Middlebourne, WV. I wondered, ‘Who did I know in Middlebourne?’ as I opened it. Inside was a beautiful thank you note that said she was glad I had stopped by and that she enjoyed our conversation so much. She also wrote that of all the people who had stopped over the fifty-plus years to take pictures, I was the only person who had ever sent her any. Maybe that was my witness of being a friend of Jesus. She hoped I would stop again. The next time I drove by a year or so later, it was closed, and I eventually learned she had passed away. Even though I thought I had failed to witness very well, I like to believe that God ensured she was blessed by our encounter. I know I was. I also know I’ll never forget her looking directly at me and saying, “Are you a pastor?” Since that time, I have been much less reluctant to witness. I have learned that God provides the words or gestures you need at the time, and He will allow you to reflect so you can grow from such encounters. I now cherish those divine appointments. The next time you feel a little out of your comfort zone, don’t let it dissuade you. Step right up and let the Holy Spirit guide you. You both will be blessed for it.

**“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for  
correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
that the man of God may be complete,  
thoroughly equipped for every good work.”  
2 Timothy 3:16:17 (NKJV)**

One final thought and the MOST important part of my walk with Jesus is that I try to base my life on Scripture with all my being. Earlier, I quoted Paul when





he said to watch how you walk and be wise, not foolish (I paraphrased it here). To be wise is to be obedient to God's words. The Bible emphasizes the importance of Scripture in so many places, for example: *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path"* (Psalm 119:105 NIV), and *"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me"* (John 14:24 NKJV). While many other powerful verses speak to the power of God's word, Paul's exhortation to Timothy really hits home for me when he wrote, 'Scripture is inspired by God.' Other versions, e.g., NIV, use God-Breathed, which means it is God's word, His truth, thereby making it sound doctrine worthy of teaching. How best to follow Him than by paying attention to His word.

I love to read the Bible, and I do so every day. To add to my learning, I use Bible-based devotionals. Currently, I have four that I read. As I have mentioned before, I am also blessed to belong to an inspiring weekly Bible study that we call Fellowship Friday. I cannot overemphasize the importance of Bible study with fellow believers. For almost fourteen years, my brothers and I have explored Scripture and what it means for our lives. We usually use a book to guide us. Right now, we are studying *52 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know*. And just as importantly, I attend two church services on Sunday, where I listen to Bible-based sermons each week. I have learned that you cannot overvalue the importance of Scripture in helping you to get a clear understanding of God's will. Why? I can't say it any better than Paul did in his letter to Timothy, so *"that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV). The bottom line is that each Christian must be **"thoroughly equipped"** with God's word to do His work. That is what I strive for in my walk.

**"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)**

As I close this testimony, I can't help thinking of how I used to view reading the Bible almost as a chore; it was more like reading a book and often out of obligation. Other than a little faded from dust and time, my original couple of Bibles still look remarkably untouched, unlike my current Life Application Bible, which is wrinkled and note-filled throughout with inspired gleanings. Also, my mind wandered for most of my life when the Epistles and Gospels were read in church. Those readings very rarely made an impact. Yes, I have read the Bible a few times before being saved and even found some interesting. But I never really grasped it was **'active and alive'** as described in Hebrews, nor did I have any inkling that God was speaking to me. Thankfully, I now appreciate the richness of what God has to say to me. Hopefully, I have explained in this article, I now find it indispensable in my walk with Jesus. Selah!


If you are not saved and desire to begin a walk with Jesus, all you need to do is ask Him to forgive you of your sins and believe in Him to have everlasting life. Do that with haste and then find a Christian friend or a pastor to ask for their help so you can begin your personal walk with Him. If you do that with a willing heart, you will begin the most amazing journey you can ever imagine. Jesus always means what He says and always keeps His promises. Rest assured, He will send His Holy Spirit to help you to become a child of God and His friend, just as He did for me. I pray that blessing for you.

***Until next time, Godspeed, Al***



Early summer on the farm - horses, sheep & lambs



The background of the image is a close-up of an American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. In the foreground, a rustic wooden frame holds a piece of light-colored fabric with a handwritten message in black ink. The text is written in a cursive, calligraphic style. The frame is made of weathered wood with a reddish-brown stain.

Stand fast therefore  
in the liberty  
wherewith Christ  
hath made us free,  
and be not entangled  
again with the yoke of  
bondage.

*Galatians 5:1 (KJV)*

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