



News and Views

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New Beginnings

by Pastor Hubbard

It was old and barely a glimmer of the flashy new bike it once was. The paint was faded, chipped, and scratched. The chain and sprockets were stiff and rusty from spending countless rainy nights in the yard on its side where it was carelessly discarded. The tires were worn thin from hours of use and abuse as skidding and power slides were the norm. Everything about the old bike suggested a new one was in order. As a youngster, acquiring a brand new bicycle was definitely an exciting and monumental event, one that typically brought about the resolve to treat the new far better than the old. I remember saying things like; I'm not going to leave this one out in the rain, and I am going to regularly oil the chain and always use the kickstand, etc. It was exciting to have a new bike, and I was determined to keep it that way.

As 2017 joins the ranks with years gone by, and 2018 takes the stage, the resolve to do better kicks in. Perhaps looking back, you can see some things that could be improved upon. For this reason, many find themselves making "New Years Resolutions". It's exciting to think about a fresh start, a new beginning, full of opportunities. This is the reason why crossing over the threshold into the new year is such a celebration. While

this time is significant to us, have you ever wondered what the Lord thinks of the new year?

Mrs. White writes, "Although in one sense the first day of the new year is no more to God than any other day, yet He often puts into the hearts of His children at that time a desire to begin the new year with new resolves,—perhaps with plans to carry out some worthy enterprise,—and with purposes to depart from the wrongs of the old year and to live the new year with new determinations." { AUCR January 5, 1914, par. 1 }

God so desires each one to be saved that He is willing to use any and all opportunities to draw us closer to Him. Praise God for His many rich promises to help us. Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." It's a powerful promise, one that is filled with happiness, peace, joy, and ultimately hope.

God has such amazing plans for our lives, 1 Cor. 2:9 says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

This new year, may we respond very positively to the Holy Spirit's calling on our lives; that we would

order our days in a way that will bring honor and glory to God, claiming His rich promises all along the way. It is this process of cooperating with God's miracle working power in our lives, that ultimately prepares us for the soon coming of Jesus! Perhaps He will come this year. May we dedicate each and every day this new year to our Savior, that we will be ready.

AWESOME THOUGHT

"Some of us have a nervous temperament and are naturally as quick as a flash to think and to act; but let no one think that he cannot learn to be patient. Patience is a plant that will make rapid growth if carefully cultivated. By becoming thoroughly acquainted with ourselves, and then combining with the grace of God a firm determination on our part, we may be conquerors, and become perfect in all things, wanting in nothing." My Live Today p.97

Happy is entirely up to you and always has been.

If you want to be happy, be.



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For What It's Worth

Have you ever read a paragraph in a book by EGW and thought about it sentence by sentence, phrase by phrase, or even word by word? Try it sometime. Here is an example to show how meaningful it can become to you personally.

This paragraph is taken from Steps to Christ page 100 on the topic of prayer.

"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God." So what are your wants? Does this include your needs, like food or housing or a job? I want a new car. I want some new shoes. I want more money. I want to be more loving. I want to be more humble. I want to be more patient with everyone. I want the Holy Spirit to control me.

Did you notice that the first three are quite selfish, but the next three are more about character change? What wants are you keeping before God?

Do you tell God about the joys in your life? Lord, I am so happy about seeing that beautiful cardinal this morning. It was wonderful to have my children home for Christmas this year. It was fantastic to hold my grandchild today. I am so blessed to come home to a warm home every day. Did you ever stop to think that God likes to see you enjoying life and hearing about it

from you? We tell each other of the joys that happen to us. Why not tell God of those joys? It tends to focus your mind in a more positive attitude.

What may be your sorrows? I am sad my child is sick. I am so sad my mother died. I am crying, God, because I feel so rejected. Lord I am so sad that I failed you today and spoke unkindly to my spouse. We all have many sorrows, and we are told here to share them with God. We often find ourselves spilling out sorrows to others perhaps hoping for sympathy. Perhaps it is better to share them with God in our prayer closet. The God who truly reads your heart can truly speak to your soul and say, "I know, my child, but I love you forever. Don't forget that. And in the eternity I have planned for you, there will be no more sorrow."

What are your cares? Have you ever thought about it? Are they things like paying the bills or how to go about paying for repairs for the car? Or could they be cares about your health or getting a plane ticket at a good price? We all have cares. Peter speaks to this when he says, "...casting **all** your care upon Him, for He cares for you." Did you notice those five last words? Think about when your child shared with you some care and concern that they had. Why did they share it with you? Because they know you care about them. So, sharing your cares with your Heavenly Father is the same thing..."for He cares for you." What a wonderful thought.

What are your fears? We all have fears. Fear of the dark, of losing your job, being ridiculed, doing poorly on a test, being rejected by someone, getting up front of people. The list goes on and on. We don't often talk about our fears with just anyone for "fear" of looking silly or whatever. The first fear that was experienced on this earth was the fear of God when Adam hid himself when Jesus came

to talk with him. "Why did you hide from me? Because I was afraid." Over and over in the Bible you will see the calming words of angels and Jesus "Fear not." In the middle of a storm on the lake, Jesus told them not to be afraid for He was in charge and would take care of them. John said "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment." I John 4: 18 Was Jesus ever afraid? No. Do you think Daniel was afraid when he was being dragged to the lion's den. I doubt it. He knew God was in charge of his life. That is the "perfect love" he had for God and the perfect love he knew God had for him. Why not talk to your best friend, Jesus, about what you are afraid about and ask Him to take away your fear? But then, be sure to let that fear go and change it into trust in God.

So why should we "*keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God*"? Now read the reasons why it is such a great idea to keep all those things before God.

"You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children...His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by the utterance of them." Read that again slowly. Notice what it says about the God you serve.

"Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind." It says everything. Everything. Does it say only big things? No, it doesn't. It might be a small thing. But it might also be something that is a huge perplexity to you. But notice...

"Nothing is too great for Him bear..." Why? "for He holds up the worlds. He rules over all the affairs of the universe."

Think about it. That is awesome to think about. Can you see why Jesus walked around with perfect peace and prayed all the time to His Father. He knew that His Father

could handle ANYTHING that was happening here on this little speck of a planet in His entire universe. If He rules over the universe, do you suppose He can handle your concern about problems? That is why Isaiah could say in 26:3 *"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in You."*

There is the key. Are you trusting God when you pray? If you have no trust in God listening to you and caring about you, why do you pray? To get brownie points? Because prayer is something all "good" Christians do? Why do you pray?

"Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice." Nothing too small? Really? She says He notices even those small things we bring to Him in prayer. Our children sometimes bring to us concerns that seem so little and insignificant to us as parents, but you are concerned about soothing them and trying to reassure them and give them peace because you love them. Our Heavenly Father has far more love for us than we have for our children. Reread those words again slowly.

The rest of this paragraph says this. As you read it, stop and think deeply about it one sentence at a time and apply it to your own life. Make it personal by putting "me" and "my" in there.

"There is no chapter in our (my) experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity (I have) too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall (me) the least of His children, no anxiety harass (me) the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the (my) lips of which (my) our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. The relations between God and (me) each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His

beloved Son."

And why is He so open to listening to you and me? Because Jesus died for us. That's it. If you loved someone that much, wouldn't you pay attention to them when they talked with you and shared all their wants, joys, sorrows, cares, and fear with you?

Try breaking down your prayers and talking to God about those five areas. Wants, joys, sorrows, cares, fears. She says to keep them before Him. You can't burden Him. What a wonderful Savior we have.

As the song says, "What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer." A privilege no one can take from you. A wonderful privilege. Take it to the Lord in prayer.



An Old Farmer's Advice

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.



Wisdom has two parts: 1) Having a lot to say. 2) Not saying it.

Good for another smile

A little girl, dressed in her Sabbath best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and

praying, she tripped and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and starting running again. As she ran she once again began to pray. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...but please don't shove me either!"

The wisdom of a child.

One day a six year old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was going to explain evolution and the non-existence of God in the process. The teacher asked a little boy.

"Pete, do you see the tree outside?"

"Yes."

"Do you see the grass outside?"

"Yes"

"Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky.

"Okay, and he returns. "I saw the sky."

"Did you see God?"

"No."

"That's my point." We can't see God because he isn't there. He doesn't exist."

The little girl asked if she could ask Pete some questions. The teacher said she could.

"Pete, do you see the tree?"

"Yes."

"Do you see the grass and the sky?"

"Yes." and he was a little tired of the same questions.

"Do you see the teacher?"

"Yes,."

"Do you see her brain?"

"No."

"Then according to what we were taught today in school, she must not have one."

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

Want to be happy? The answer is found in Prov. 16:20

**“Whoever trusts in the Lord, There you have it.
happy is he.”**