

The Calling

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Intimacy With God...

Love came down at Christmas...our ability to pray cost Christ Jesus much. In order to have a consecrated life, I believe we must have an intimate relationship with God, our Father. In our world it is easy to get religious instead of being godly. God loves it when we are intimate with Him. I desire fulfillment in my walk with God not just talk about it. You know like the saying, "Walk the talk!" I desire for God to have my full attention so that intimacy glows from within me and can be seen by others as a passion that is real.

Philippians 3:10

"For my determined purpose is that I may know Him. That I may progressively become more deeply intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of Him more strongly and more clearly, and that I may in that same way come to know the power out flowing from His resurrection; and that I may share in His sufferings to be continually transformed in

spirit into His likeness even to His death."

I believe a consecrated life is a life of simplicity. I believe we make it way too complicated. In my visits to Africa I learned that simplicity leads to intimacy. It is ironic, the people of Africa are free today, yet in America we are the slaves to our jobs, our possessions and these are robbing us of the joy of life itself and an intimate relationship with God our Father too much of the time. I saw pictures in the newspaper of people rushing to the stores on "black Friday" to shop to get a bargain for Christmas yet I do not see people rushing to pray, to worship, hmmm. Many people are using credit cards to buy gifts they cannot afford and will have to work the next year to pay for those gifts. Yet we do not want to give of ourselves, to develop intimacy even with those we live with daily and most of all with God. We are too busy to pray, too busy to meditate in His word. "NO" to the world translates "YES" to God. What are you say-

ing to God today? My prayer this Christmas Season has been that "God clear the clutter from my life, from my mind, I desire to know you more. Father, do not let the good things in life rob me of the BEST thing that you have for my life. Father I desire to do the work that you have sent me to this earth to do...in Your way and in Your time. My time is in your hands. I love you Father, God and Merry Christmas! Thank you for Jesus...thank you for sending your love to us at Christmas...this Christmas I give my love to you.

In Jesus name I pray,

AMEN

Inside this issue:

<i>God Said NO!</i>	2
<i>The Bell</i>	3
<i>"Not Good If Detached"</i>	4
<i>Prayer List</i>	4

"Prayer changes us and God uses us to change things in our world. The focus of our prayer should be on God...not ourselves. Prayer is to get the life of God in us."

Oswald Chambers

God Said No!

I asked God to take away my habit. God said, "No.

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

He said, 'No, his spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.'

I asked God to give me patience.

*God said, "No, patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted,
it is learned.*

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "I give you blessings, happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

*God said, "No, suffering draws you apart from the worldly cares
and draws you closer to Me."*

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

*God said, "No, you must grow on your own, but I will prune
you and make you fruitful."*

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, "No, I will give you life, that you might enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me.

God said, "Ahhh finally you have the idea."

Come On Ring Those Bells, Light the Christmas Tree,
Jesus Is The King, Born for you and me!

THE BELLS

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor.5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom.8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
who you are?

Keep this bell ringing...pass it on:

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace."

~ author unknown





"NOT Good if Detached"

One of my Christian heroes—Corrie ten boom.

Corrie has gone home to be with Jesus.

Corrie was a prisoner in Germany in the prison camps during world war two and she and her sister Betsie shared the gospel of Jesus to all at risk of losing their lives.

Betsie told corrie, "God, has spoken to me. When we are free, we must do two things. We must open a house for these prisoners around us. Those who come out alive will have a difficult time to find their way through life again. They are morally wounded. God will give us a beautiful big house, and many will be healed there. But we must not stay there. We must travel over the whole world. We have a message for the world. From experience we can now tell that a child of God can never go so deep into darkness that he will not always find beneath him the everlasting arms that uphold him."

Betsie died a week later, but Corrie was released and truly a woman of faith and traveled the world spreading the gospel of Jesus letting his light shine through her life into this dark world. She was "a tramp for the lord." Also, a house was started in Bloemendaal, Germany less than a year after she came out of prison. It is now operated by the ten Boom foundation.

God taught Corrie in her travels and I too have learned this in my travels across the USA, Jamaica and Africa...

"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Connected with Him in His love, I am more than a conqueror; without Him I am nothing. Like some railway tickets, airline tickets, I am "Not good if detached".

REMAIN IN HIM.

Prayer List: Answers to prayer—Mary Alice Kalmbach—no cancer ! Praise God! My Dad's house is being repaired! Praise God.

Please pray for: Paul and Claudette Lunney—Paul has been on kidney dialysis for a couple of years—December 21, Claudette will be giving her husband one of her kidneys. The transplant will take place at U of M.

Forrest in Michigan. He has been in critical care since last Friday. He is extremely weak and fighting double pneumonia that has been caused by a staph bacterial infection. They have also mentioned MRSA bacteria.

Nancy in Wisconsin healing for her lungs, heart and blood system.

Dee in Wisconsin— Deanne is having her heart surgery in St. Paul, MN at Abbot-Northwestern Hospital, it is by reputation the number 1 heart hospital. Dee has so many very serious problems with all her arteries, her carotids, legs, chest and heart. She will need 4 more surgeries following her open heart surgery next week, I am so worried about her, she is loved by everyone who has ever come in contact with her.

David in Wisconsin—healing from cancer.

Ruth in Kentucky—for good health.

Cindy in Wisconsin healing of her heart.

Everyone traveling for Christmas.

Leadership training with City Community Chapel in Chicago in January.

Pray for the Lost to come to Jesus.



As I went on a Christmas Train ride with my family...the conductor said, "ALL ABOARD!" **Jesus is saying..."ALL ABOARD"** for heaven...pray for the lost this Christmas season. Remember just as the tickets for trains and planes are "Not Good If Detached"....we cannot enter heaven with out Jesus.

AN ATTITUDE OF GIVING...

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE. CHRISTMAS IS THE SEASON FOR GIVING...THIS SEASON LET US TRY TO GIVE OURSELVES TO OTHERS IN SERVICE JUST AS JESUS CHRIST SET THE EXAMPLE FOR US. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO DO THIS...TURN OFF THE TELEVISION FOR A FAMILY NIGHT...READ OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST OUT OF THE BIBLE, PLAY GAMES, BUILD A SNOWMAN, BAKE COOKIES TOGETHER AND TAKE THEM TO A SHUT-IN PERSON IN YOUR COMMUNITY. GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS AND GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING. VISIT THOSE IN PRISON AND SHARE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS. IT IS ALL TO EASY TO BUY A GIFT ON CREDIT AND TRULY NOT GIVE OF OURSELVES SO THIS SEASON PUT THOSE CREDIT CARDS AWAY AND GIVE OF YOURSELF. DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING DON'T BE AFRAID TO SAY IT

OUT LOUD, "MERRY CHRISTMAS!" THERE IS ONE ABSOLUTE IN OUR WORLD AND THAT IS THE LIVING WORD OF GOD AND IN THE WORD LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS". GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU...IF YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE YOU HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME, THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE "CHRISTIANS" BY OUR LOVE...GIVE YOURSELF AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!