



# “40 DAYS OF CONSECRATION”

June 29, - August 7, 2015

Pentecostal Temple Church Of God In Christ  
229 S. Danny Thomas Blvd. | Memphis, TN 38126 | Phone: 901-527-9202  
Bishop Charles H. Mason Patterson, Sr. - Pastor



[www.pentecostalcogic.org](http://www.pentecostalcogic.org)



# *Pentecostal Temple*

## *Church Of God In Christ*

**Bishop Charles H. Mason Patterson, Sr., Pastor**  
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June 29 , 2015

## **From the Pastor's Desk...**

Dear Member:

Greetings, in the Matchless Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For the past four years we as members of Pentecostal Temple Church Of God In Christ participated in a 40-day Consecration, which was initially inspired by the loss of our great leader, my father, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr. During this difficult time the Lord placed on my heart to call for a Consecration, and a sense of renewed peace and understanding covered our church, and reminded us that God is with us.

It is my sincerest desire that we live in accordance with His will so that we may be rewarded for our faithfulness and receive all that the Lord has for us. As we consecrate ourselves, *"let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us..."* (Hebrew 12:1). For when we demonstrate our dedication to the Lord, He will fill us with his spirit, love, and knowledge that surpasses all understanding.

I would like for every member to join me as we prepare for the Consecration which begins **Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** and ends **Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**. I am requesting that we fast until 3:00 p.m. daily, unless a member has a medical condition that dictates otherwise. These 40-days of Consecration will be accompanied with a **Pastoral Revival**, which will be led by me, and will be held **July 20-24**, and begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Remember, God is doing GREAT things, and we are expecting Him to do even "Greater Things".

It is my prayer that the spirit of the Lord be with you.

Yours In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. H. Patterson, Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bishop Charles H. Mason Patterson, Sr.

**“Like Never Before I will read God’s word,  
pray, worship, fast, witness, love one another,  
forgive others, and serve God”**

### **OUR PLEDGE**

We pledge to pray for our Pastor and First Lady Patterson, our nation, national and local churches, church clergy, executive leaders, auxiliaries and ministries, and for one another. Effective July 1, 2013, we agree to the following:

1. We will dedicate at least 30 minutes (per day) during the 40 days of consecration to read God’s word
2. We will strive to stop and participate in collective prayer each day at 12 noon, as well as dedicate at least 15 – 30 minutes (per day) during the 40 days of consecration in prayer.
3. We will strive to attend Sunday Night Worship Service at Pentecostal Temple or the church you attend during the 40 days of Consecration.
4. We will strive to attend Wednesday’s Prayer (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) and W.O.W (Worship On Wednesdays) 7:00p.m. at Pentecostal Temple, or Mid-Week Bible Study/Service at the church you attend during the 40 days of Consecration.
5. We will strive to attend Sunday School 8:30 a.m. at Pentecostal Temple or attend Sunday School at the church you attend during the 40 days of consecration.

# DAILY GUIDE

## Monday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: at least one petition for someone else, church leaders, auxiliaries and ministries
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Tuesday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: unemployed will find jobs that meet the needs of their family, and pray for Pastor Patterson and Sis. Patterson, as well as all Pastors and their Wives
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Wednesday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion.
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: salvation for all who are lost, and wisdom and guidance from God
- Fast until 3:00 pm
- Attend Wednesday Prayer 10:00 am – 12:00 noon and/or W.O.W. Service 7:00 pm/ Mid-Week Service at your home church

## Thursday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: youth hear the word of God and accept Jesus as their savior and pray for family members or friends who are lost
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Friday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: national church and leaders, for clergy, missionaries, and evangelist
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Saturday

- Read your daily scriptures
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes - include in your prayer: those suffering from injustice, comfort for those grieving, healing for the sick, and perseverance for persons participating in the 40 days of consecration
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Sunday

- Read your daily scriptures
- Attend Sunday Worship Services (i.e. Sunday School, Morning/Evening Worship, YPWW)
- Pray and include in your prayer: the messenger as they deliver God's word, salvation for the lost, spiritual growth of Pentecostal Temple/ your home church
- Fast until 3:00 pm

# Scriptures of Encouragement

## Fasting and Prayer

Faith needs prayer for its development and full growth, Prayer needs fasting for its development and full growth.

1. Humbling the soul before God (Psalm 35:13)
2. Chastening the soul (Psalm 69:10)
3. Crucifying the appetites (2 Samuel 12:16-23, Matthew 4:1-11)
4. Manifests earnestness before God (1 Corinthians 9:15, Luke 5:33)

## Believers should fast when under:

1. Chastening (2 Samuel 12:16-23)
2. Under Judgment (1 Kings 21:27)
3. When in need (Ezra 8:21)
4. When in danger (Esther 4)
5. When worried (Daniel 6:18)
6. When in trouble (Acts 27:9, 33)
7. When in spiritual conflict (Matthew 4:1-11)
8. When desperate in prayer (Acts 9)

## **“40” Days of Consecration** **Committed to *Live Consecrated Lives* “40” Days and Beyond**

It is said that if one does a particular activity for 21 days it becomes a habit. If we actively commit ourselves to a consecrated life-style for “40”, days we can be well on our way to constant spiritual renewal and spiritual growth. And not just for our own personal spiritual renewal and growth, *but that the **Body of Christ** may be edified; being made strong and mature as it is renewed day by day, growing up to its full stature in Christ.* (Paraphrasing II Cor. 4:16b & Eph.4:12-13)

When we think of being committed, thoughts flood our minds, like; what is this commitment going to cost me. How much of my time, talent, and treasure must be sacrificed to see this commitment through. The truth of the matter is, there is no *real commitment* that does not involve *sacrifice*, and we cannot present or offer ourselves as a living *sacrifice* without the *grace* of God to do so. God’s *grace*, which works through our *faith*, (*which is given by God to all mankind in just the right measure. Rom. 12:3*); are the main ingredients. Grace is not only the undeserved favor of God, but it is also God’s super-natural ability working via the Holy Spirit, in and through our lives giving us the needed power, authority, and ability, to deal with and overcome any obstacles that may stand in the way of our desire to live consecrated committed lives to our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. His grace and power will do in us that which we are unable to do in our own mental, emotional, or physical strength. When we commit ourselves to live the *Word* and do the *Will*, we experience God’s grace in a greater, deeper, and richer measure.

We must *be* the “*salt*” of the earth whose saltiness is powerful enough to preserve us, while checking the corruption that tries daily to invade our sanctified space threatening our effectiveness as disciples while sojourning here in the earth realm. (*Mat. 5:13; Mk 9:50*)

## *His Commitment and Sacrifice for Humanity*

Have you ever really thought about where we would be if Christ the Anointed One was not the “Messiah”, the “Redeemer” sent from God to save us from our sin; to bring us back into oneness with the Father? On the contrary, He is the real and only Messiah and Redeemer who came to seek out and to save that which is lost. (Matt. 18:11). Jesus, to this very day continues to live out His unshakeable commitment and devotion to humanity. Were it not for this all mankind would be destined for damnation. In fact no sinner could be saved; salvation, healing, and deliverance would not be possible, and the Bible would be just like any other fictitious book, a product of the imagination and mental invention. But .....

### *Commitment Became Sacrifice Isaiah Chapters; 52 & 53*

As we review certain verses of scripture in these 2 (two) chapters in the writings of the Prophet Isaiah, he paints a very clear prophetic picture of the commitment, and sacrifice our Savior submitted Himself to because of His love for humanity and obedience to the Father. As he puts his prophetic pen to the canvas of these chapters he opens chapter 53 by asking a very serious question....

#### **Day 1: June 29<sup>th</sup> 2015      Who Has Believed Our Report**

*Vs 1, Who has believed our report, our message, and proclamation. And to whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed?"*

Who has **believed “our” report**. This report was herald from the book of Genesis, to His super-natural birth in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. How He would come, and the reason for His coming. We see complete victory in His life; His sacrificial death, and His over-whelming victorious resurrection. He put death in a choke hold letting death know that it only came into existence because of sin. And because He (Jesus the Christ, the Anointed and God’s Anointing), came and lived in sinful flesh, but defeated sin in the flesh, snatched its power, rendering death powerless over Him.

Death had no choice but to raise its hands in surrender and kneel in humble submission to the all **Powerful Christ** who knew no sin, neither was there guile (deceit) in His mouth. The world, the flesh, and that old serpent the Devil have been duly informed that all mankind through Christ can live, walk and transition victoriously. I use the word transition because with Christ, who is eternal, lives in us. Death has no real power over the believer. Therefore we have eternal life abiding in us as well. And because He *lives*, we shall *live* also!! (*Read and meditate: II Cor. 5:21; Col. 2:6-15; I Peter 2:21-25; I John 5:11-13, John 14:19*).

## Day 2: June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015    The Arm of the Lord Revealed

Who could understand and conceive the unlimited strength and power of the Arm of the Lord to accomplish such a wonderful, marvelous feat? The Messiah, the anointed One of God is indeed the “Arm of the Lord”. He is the saving Arm of God. He alone has the strength, might, and power to save us; to redeem humanity. Only the extreme selfless sacrifice of His sinless Body and Blood could accomplish this.

Let us take a few steps back to Isa. 52:10, 12, 13 &14 as it gives us vivid insight and description of the sacrifice and suffering our Savior endured because of His love without limits.

## Day 3: July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015    The Arm of Work and Warfare

Isa. 52: 10 states, “The Lord has made bare His Holy Arm, in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God”, (which is none other than Jesus Christ our Lord!)

He will reveal and make visible; He will let the proverbial “cat out of the bag”. to whom His Arm is will be made manifest. This scripture also symbolically speaks of Him rolling up His gigantic sleeves in preparation for the active work of salvation, healing, and deliverance, and His victorious Arm of war over sin and Satan. All nations will see, and have the privilege of experiencing victory over sin and Satan that is wrought by His Holy Arm.

## Day 4: July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015    Jesus, the Wisdom and the Wise Move of God

Isa. 52:13 states, “Behold My Servant shall deal **prudently**, He shall be **exalted** and **extolled**. He shall deal **prudently**: He shall walk circumspectly, displaying intelligence and consideration. He will walk in heavenly and earthly **wisdom** , **knowledge** and **discretion**; being skillful in his speech; He will behave Himself wisely; and He will **guide wittingly**. All heaven moved in infinite wisdom in preparation for the coming of the God/Man. He appeared on the scene with most of the world’s eyes wide shut. They beheld Him, but didn’t know Him. They saw His miraculous works, but the question was constantly asked; is this the Messiah? By whose permission and authority does He do these things. The Pharisees nor the Sanhedrin Council authorized or sanctioned His ministry! To some He was a stumbling block and a rock of offence. But to us who are saved, and being saved, He is the wisdom of God; the wise move of God to redeem us from the hand of the Devil, and do it right in his face. (*Read, study and meditate on these scriptures: I Pet. 2:4-8; I Cor. 1:30; 2:6-15.*)



Jesus our Messiah walked this earth as a man displaying the highest regard for His Father's will and limitless love for humanity. Though He being a dignitary from the third heaven, He condescended to men of low estate. He captured the attention of all those who heard Him. From His mouth issued words of wisdom, understanding, and love. Even His words of rebuke were founded on love. His goal was, and is to make us wise unto salvation. He remains our chief advocate and intercessor. For He ever lives to make intercession on our behalf.  
(*Heb. 7:25*)

**Day 5: July 3<sup>th</sup> 2015      He Shall Be Exalted and Extolled**

He shall be **exalted**: In the plan of God **exaltation** always follows **humiliation, suffering, obedience, and conformity to the will of God**. He shall be **extolled**: he shall be highly praised and glorified, He shall be lifted up!

*(Phil 2:9-11, Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name. That in (at) the Name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.)*  
(AMP)

**Day 6: July 4<sup>th</sup> 2015      A Tender Plant**

Isa. 53:2, For He shall grow up before His as *a tender plant, and a root out of dry ground*: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.

The Messiah would grow up as a **tender plant**. Tenderness denotes sensitivity, gentleness, having soft emotions, showing care and consideration, easily touched by the infirmities of other. Infirmities being, deterioration, weakness of mind, body and will, or character; not solid or stable, frail, being diseased; or enduring personal failings. These latter mentioned attributes are the works of our arch enemy Satan.

He (Jesus the Son Of God), was sensitive to His surroundings. Sensitive to why he came; always cognizant of His mission here on earth. He came to do the will of His Father; to lay waste the works of the devil. The sin of mankind, and these infirmities and frailties were the His chief concerns. But... *(for this cause was the Son of God made manifest; brought on the scene, showed up live and in living color; walking in Power and Authority; to undo, loosen, dissolve, and destroy the works of the Devil!!) I John 3:8b (paraphrased)*

**Day 7: July 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**A Root Out of Dry Ground**

**A Root out of Dry ground:** Although a *tender plant* He emerged through the hard rough societal ground of rejection of family and the religious community without losing any of His attributes of tenderness. He came on the scene during a season of spiritual dryness. He was tough enough to deal with the unbelief, hatred, negativity, and slander. Yet tender enough to be thoroughly touched with the feelings of their infirmities; as well as ours.

There was no **form nor comeliness, and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him:** There was no uncommon beauty, nothing extraordinary in His appearance that would cause one to be naturally drawn to Him or desire to know Him. Who He really was and is, is known only by divine revelation.

**Day 8: July 6<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Despised, Rejected, Sorrowful,  
Acquainted with Grief**

Isa. 53:3-4, He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: He is **despised:** He was hated and looked upon with contempt, and regarded as worthless to those he came to save.

He was **rejected:** He was regarded as unacceptable and unfit. To some He was even repulsive. He came to His own, and His own received Him not. (John 1:11)

A man of **Sorrow;** because He carried our sorrows. He Himself had no sin, sickness, pain or suffering. He bore these on our behalf, that He might identify with us in our sin and sufferings taking them upon Himself and bearing them in His own body unto death, even the death of the cross that we might be free from them.

Sorrow therefore became a part of His life due to His sensitivity to the sin, suffering, perverseness, the corruption, sickness and disease as He came in contact with it. All the things He suffered were mockingly dismissed by the society of that day as it is in this day.

**Day 9: July 7<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Acquainted With Grief**

**He was well acquainted with grief:** His Spirit was grieved as He looked on and carried the continued hurts, pains, and injuries of a sin laden society. He understood by being under the load. He himself suffered mocking and rejection from His immediate family and the townspeople of Nazareth. He experienced grief when He by divine decree, stayed additional days in Jerusalem until His friend Lazarus, *whom He loved*, had laid in the tomb 4 days, and was now decomposing and stinking. He grieved deeply with the sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. His heart also grieved deeply because of the unbelief of Mary and Martha and those who stood around.

Though deeply grieved He made it known to Mary, Martha, and the on-lookers His power and authority over death. At the end of the day Lazarus' family, as well as the on-lookers, and most importantly Lazarus himself recognized and understood that Jesus had power over death; and He is the Resurrection and the Life!! For this notable, undeniable miracle the Jewish leaders hated Him all the more and sought an avenue to kill Him by the cruelest means known; crucifixion.

As the Jews did not use crucifixion as a means of executing one found guilty of a crime; they handed Him over to the Romans who were extremely cruel in their tactics, using a method of beating the convicted criminal almost to death, known as "scourging".

### **Day 10: July 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 His Scourging**

Isa. 52:14; states, "As many were **astonied** (astonished) at thee; His **visage** was so **marred**, more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.

Many were stunned and astonished to the point of shock and amazement at His appearance following the scourging and extreme torture; so much so that they hid their faces from the hideous site.

*Isa. 53:5, But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the strips [that wounded] him we are healed and made whole. (AMP)*

If you don't mind, take a few moments and think on what you just read. All this was done for us individually as well as collectively. As I think on this, a song comes to mind. "***Just for me, just for me, Jesus came and did it just for me***"

### **Day 11: July 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 His Visage, (His appearance) Was so Marred**

For just a few moments I would like to discuss the method which the Romans used of beating or whipping a victim, known as scourging. All clothing worn by the victim were ripped off, leaving the him naked before all who stood around to watch the gruesome beating. The victim was then chained to a scourging post approximately 2 (two) feet from the ground. A Roman scourge known as a "flagra", a short- handled whip made of thin iron chains with small weights on the end was the instrument of cruelty. This beating could go on until the ones inflicting the beating grew so tired they could not continue. A scourging with this instrument of cruelty was known as the "little death," which preceded the "big death," crucifixion. All parts of the body, including the face was severely beaten, bruised, and grossly disfigured. With each blow the victim's body would be torn by the chains and weights attached to the "flagra" leaving the skin hanging in strips; and the internal organs laid open, exposed and bleeding out. *His body, was so mutilated, disfigured, and ripped apart that His human appearance was almost indistinguishable).*

As I write this, in my mind's eye I see pictures of battered disfigured body of Emmett Till. But even his appearance pales in comparison. For the scriptures clearly state His, (Jesus') appearance was marred and disfigured more than any man, or the form of the sons of man. All this unmistakably points to our suffering (*but victorious*) Savior!! He endured all of this to secure our salvation, healing, deliverance, and eternal life.

**Day 12: July 10<sup>th</sup> 2015      Sheep, Gone Astray**

*Isa. 53:6, All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all. (AMP)*

[I Pet.2:24-25.] *Read and Meditate on...*

*Vs 24, He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.(AMP)*

*Vs 25, For you were going astray like [so many] sheep, but now you have come back to the Shepherd and Guardian (the Bishop of your souls).(AMP)*

We were; and many others continue to be like sheep wandering through life; going our own way, doing our own thing, and thinking we're alright. There is no considering of an appointment with eternity or a different realm of life, or that we won't always occupy these clay houses. Many in our society are convinced we don't need a savior to bear our sins and iniquities and to pay the full price of redemption for our freedom. As a result many continue to rely on the arm of flesh; these flesh houses that are dying even while we occupy them. But only our Savior Jesus the Christ can thoroughly wash our sins and iniquities away with His sinless Blood, making our lives new in Him, giving us access to God the Father.

But for our sake; for the sake of all humanity, the Father has *laid* on Him (Jesus) the sins and iniquities of us all. He lifted them from us, and laid them upon Him with Jesus' full consent!! Therefore when we receive Him, we are declared by the courts of heaven; **NOT GUILTY!!**

**What manner of love has the Father bestowed upon us; His Creation. Given to us freely and without merit. What a price He has paid; just so we could *be* His children... Selah; I John3:1 (paraphrased)**

**Day 13: July 11<sup>th</sup> 2015      The Silence of the Lamb**

Isa. 53:7, He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

What ever it would take to procure; (get possession of, to obtain, to get and make) our salvation, healing, and deliverance available, our Lord was more than willing to do. Though He was innocent, yet He endured the most painful, grueling suffering without rebuffing. He rather chose to suffer in silence that nothing concerning our salvation would be discounted or lost. A serious offer of salvation is made to every soul that would be born into this world through our Lord and Savior, which excludes none that do not exclude themselves. I would like to share with you a wonderful experience I had during one of my missionary trips to South Africa. As it were, we chose to spend our time there living in the small townships with those we came to minister to. Our goal was to bless them and share not only the gospel, but to minister to their personal needs as well.

They showed their gratefulness for our coming by wanting to fix us a special dinner. We didn't know what to expect as they were very poor, living in abject poverty. To our surprise, one of the Elders showed up with a lamb. We looked at the lamb in great wonderment at what would happen next. As we suspected there was going to be a slaughter. We watched as the lamb was escorted to the back of the house where a hole approximately 2 feet deep had been dug in preparation for the slaughter. It was as though the lamb knew he was going to his death, but offered absolutely no resistance. We continued to watch in amazement as the lamb submitted himself to the one who was going to take his life. As his legs were being bound together, and his head hung over the hole of slaughter for his throat to be slit, he was totally silent and non-resistant. Needless to say, tears welled up in my eyes as I observed the knife going deeply across his throat. There was only one small quiver as the knife severed nerves. The lamb's life was sacrificed so that we would enjoy a special meal. Every part of the lamb was used, and I do mean every part. Guess what! Our hostess even cooked us a pot of lamb chitterlings! From his hoofs, tea was made. The body of the lamb was sacrificed for our enjoyment and fulfilment.

Our group named the lamb "Redemption". I have rehearsed this scene in my mind many times over the years. An indelible impression was left in my spirit of Isa. 53:7. Just as our lamb, Redemption's body was sacrificed for our need for physical food, the Lamb of God stood before His accusers and abusers sacrificing Himself, being our Bread of Life, our fulfilment naturally and spiritually. God with His awesome insight and wisdom, showed us the contrasting personalities and spirits of the lamb and a bull. As it happened two (2) days later as we walked through the village we saw some farmers trying to get a bull to the market for slaughter. They had him bound with several thick ropes. Although there were 5 or 6 strong men trying to hold him so he would not break free and hurt someone, it was almost an impossible task. We all ran for cover. It was obvious he was going to fight for his life to the death. He was not willing, to say the least, to give up any part of himself that someone might be fed. Lord help me to be a lamb! Help me to give of myself in ministry and the assignment placed on my life so that others might be fed naturally and spiritually.

## **Day 14: July 12<sup>th</sup> 2015    He Took the Weight**

Isa. 53:8, He was taken from prison and from judgement and who shall declare His generation? For He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken.

Being a former employee of IDOC, (Illinois Dept. of Corrections), I saw many inmates willingly take the weight for crimes they did not commit. What does it really mean to “take the weight”. It means that some one cared enough about you to sit in a courtroom, listen to slanderous statements and lies told about you to your face, which usually ruined ones reputation and life. You’re placed in front of jurors who don’t know anything about you, but because of laws in our society they are given the right to make a major decision concerning your life or your death. With the false information given them, you receive a death sentence. You know you’re not guilty, in fact you know the guilty person or persons. But you take the weight of guilt. You take their place, you receive the lethal injection or the electric chair in their stead. That is exactly what Jesus Christ, our Messiah did for all humanity. He took the weight. The weight of our sin caused His life to be cut off. For nothing and no one else could meet the standard or pay the price to appease the anger of God against sin. No one else’s blood would or could qualify.

## **Day 15: July 13<sup>th</sup> 2015    The Thief (*a sinner*) Who Learned to Invest Wisely**

Isa. 53:9, And they assigned Him a grave with the wicked, and a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.

As He hung between two thieves, wicked career criminal, one mocked Him, while the other honored Him. Having failed in the business of life; as he hung there beside Jesus our Savior, he recognized that he was in the presence salvation and eternal life. He now displayed the wisdom of a good business man. His former life having yielded nothing but destruction had brought him to the place where he now stared death in the face. But he also beheld another face. A face, though beaten so badly it did not resemble a man; yet it reflected a love that he could not resist. He now knew where and in whom to invest his life of prior failings. He now at the last hour made an investment that would yield him a 100% profit. His investment in Jesus had yielded him eternal life, which he would begin with Jesus that very day. (*Luke 23:39-43*)

## **Day 16: July 14<sup>th</sup> 2015    A Temporary Occupant**

Though it was an iron clad decision of the Jews to place the body of our Lord in a tomb with criminals, (as it was the custom of the Jews to bury criminals in a separate place from the others in the Jewish society), but at the last moment after the 11 disciples had fled the scene to go into hiding for fear of the Jews, Joseph a good man, a counsellor, a rich man of Arimathaea, who was also a disciple of Jesus went to Pilate and earnestly entreated to the point of begging, that he might be given the body of Jesus for burial in his own new tomb. Pilate consented,

though Jesus would only need to use it as a temporary stop over; for He had serious business to attend to in the lower parts of the earth. He had to go down and retrieve the keys of death and hell from His arch enemy and ours, Satan himself ; and release those who had fallen asleep in faith looking for and expecting the coming Messiah. After He arose, they arose also and walked the streets of Jerusalem.

But how quickly the disciples had forgotten the Words of the Master. That He must suffer and die; that it was expedient that He go away. But they, like many of us when in the midst of turmoil, testing and trials, forget the great and precious promises of our Lord.

### **Day 17: July 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 The Sin Bearer**

Isa. 53:10, Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; he hath put him to grief, when thou shall make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the lord shall prosper His hand.

It pleased the Father to bruise Him; for each bruise represented the iniquities of humanity being paid for. He substituted Himself to save the souls of mankind. He was smitten of God for our sins. In other words the Father sanctioned and ordained His scourging. His days are prolonged in the earth because He is breathing, walking, talking, and living in each saint of God, in each believer.

### **Day 18: July 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 For the Joy of Salvation**

Isa. 53:11, He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my Righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.

His Body, the church is the labor of His soul. As Eve owed her life and all she was created to be to the first Adam. So it is, the church, owes her very existence and on-going life to the one She issued from; the risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the second Adam.

We the church, the Body of Christ must keep our eyes fastened on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy of obtaining the prize; which was to see the Father's highest form of creation redeemed. Jesus endured the cross despising, but ignoring the shame and humiliation. He died in shame and humiliation, but was raised in victory. He is now the exalted King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **Day 19: July 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**

*Phil. 2:7, But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. (AMP)*

*So I came as one humbled from divine to earthly form. I left the dignities of Heaven which are rightly mine. I disguised Myself in human flesh and became a servant; the equivalence of a slave so I could identify with every level of humanity from the peasant to the palace.*

### **Day 20: July 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**

*Phil. 2:8, And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! (AMP)*

*I came in human form for the sake of identification in every way; living as a man, yet denying my flesh of any and all sin. I learned obedience through the experience of suffering in this flesh house I had taken up residency; denying it the sinful things it craved, that I might understand you, and the struggles you face daily as humans. Doing so further solidified why I had to be scourged, and beaten like no other human; and to die such a painful, shameful, humiliating death; the death on a cross. [a tree].*

*I hung dying, naked and exposed, no longer having resemblance of the human form I took on. The on-lookers, (those I was giving up My life for), jeered and laughed, spewing out slanderous words toward Me. As I looked at the sinful condition of mankind; with loving forgiveness I continued to pour out My life's Blood as the Supreme Sacrifice. For there is no other way or method to totally cleanse from sin and grant forgiveness. Only My Blood would do.*

### ***Our Commitment and Sacrifice to Him***

### **Day 21: July 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 What Shall I Render Unto God**

*Psalms 116:12, What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?*

*Lord, what can I give up, give back, and yield unto you for your supreme sacrifice in life, in death, and your miraculous resurrection that loosed us from the bonds of sin. For your benefits to humanity that cannot be numbered. For You, Oh Lord, have preserved even the simple and plain, even as I am. At my lowest you were there. You comforted my soul and gave it much needed rest. You have dealt so very bountiful with me.*



## **Day 22: July 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 I Will Take the Cup of Salvation**

Psalms 116:13, I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. Oh Lord help me to love You enough to gladly accept the cup of salvation, no matter what the cup holds. Without your super-natural help I know that I cannot do this. Even as You took the Cup knowing what was in it. Knowing it was filled with agony and suffering. But You did not shrink back from it. Thank You!! You knew the poison of our sins and degradation was in the Cup, yet You drank all that was in it. I'm sure You saw little old me in the Cup. For this I owe You my love and loyalty; more than to anyone else, more than any personal ambition or selfish gain. Help us to know and understand there is no such thing as "cheap Grace," and the anointing You place in our lives is very costly, and as Your disciple I will be under constant scrutiny and much testing...but again, thank You.

## **Day 23: July 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 Our Body-His Life: Part 1**

*Romans 12: I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent ) service and spiritual worship.(AMP)*

The call of God in our lives is always bound to a commitment; and there is no commitment without sacrifice. Something has to be denied, or given up. Some pleasure or comfort; or a way of life that must be abandoned for the sake of living a holy sanctified life. Our *whole self*, our body, our life is now the requirement. We are to present, (be present and accounted for) at the altar of sacrifice and offer up ourselves willing. In other words you and I must willingly take our own bodies to the altar of sacrifice. Stretch out on it and choose to lay there while this flesh is killed daily.

I regret to inform you there are no altar breaks. It is a life time of commitment and sacrifice to the death of flesh by the process of mortification. Mortification means to destroy by self-denial; denying the flesh the strength and vitality it needs to live in sin. The medical term for this word is known as necrosis, which is tissue death due to lack of blood supply, or death to the flesh. (*Read and reflect on Col. 3:5-10*)

**Day 24: July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015**

**Who Is Molding You....  
The World or the Word**

*Romans 12: 2, Do not be conformed to this world (this age); [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. AMP*

Sanctification follows closely on the heels of conversion. We no longer fit the mold the world has fashioned for us. God's Word and His love begins a transforming work in us. We begin to seek after what is acceptable and pleasing to Him. Our hands and feet may not look new, but because of the risen Christ who now lives inside, they have a tendency do new things and go new places that glorify the Savior. Ideals and attitudes come into agreement with the **Will** and the **Word** of God as the Holy Spirit begins a deep work in the secret subterranean, (hidden) places of our lives where only He can go; and only He can fix. He goes into the wounded, battered, and bruised places that we cover with a band aid of a bad attitude or even a fake smile and laughter. He has been commissioned by the Wounded Healer Himself to nurse us back to health and wholeness.

**Day 25: July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 By Beholding Him We Are Changed**

II Cor. 3:18, But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (KJV)

*II Cor. 3:18, And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transformed into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another, [for this comes] from the Lord [who is] the Spirit. (AMP)*

By continually beholding Him in unveiled nakedness, coming just as we are, with every ugly flaw exposed, looking into His Word, and allowing His Word to look into us, we experience healing and deliverance. We can then take on a new mind set, our misguided attitude about our life and the lives of others change. We began to think like the Word. Our faith is increased from one level to another. We take on over-coming power and authority. Those we come in contact with will see the splendor of His glory moving and operating in our lives. We will exude the pleasant fragrance of holiness and sanctification.

## **Day 26: July 24<sup>th</sup> 2015    Changed To Endure**

II Cor. 4:1, Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

Every saint of God is endowed with ministry. To minister really means to serve. Whatever our ministry is be assured that we will have to engage ourselves in spiritual warfare more times often than not. By the mere fact that we now belong to Jesus means war. Satan will always come back, (he leaves only for a short season), to entice us back into our old life styles and habits. Might I add that length of time in salvation is no deterrent to him to back off. He has no regard for whether you are a baby saint or veteran in the Lord. His mission remains the same. "To steal, kill and destroy". (John 10:10a) In spite of Satan, our mission is to hold our ground in God. This is where the suffering comes in. This is when we must fight the *good* fight of faith. In view of His great mercy and faithfulness we must not faint. There will be times in our lives when we become battle weary and feel like throwing in the towel. But we must forge on!

## **Day 27: July 25<sup>th</sup> 2015    Endure with Integrity**

*II Cor. 4:2, We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience. (AMP)*

Men and women of God who bear the yoke of the gospel must be very mindful of our lifestyle and image. Even the thoughts of our hearts and minds must be maintained in integrity. Our words and attitudes must have a Christ-likeness. Our desires, as well as those we minister to must constantly be bathed in prayer. We have to be careful not to use God's Word in trickery to fleece the flock; to live in luxury at the expense of the sheep while they live in abject poverty. The mark of a good shepherd or shepherdess was always seen and known by the fatness and prosperity of the flock. His/her sheep were known for their all around good health and high quality of wool. They always grazed the sheep in the best pasture. Their rams and ewes produced regularly. Their loving care and protection of the flock was obvious to everyone. Because they took remarkable care of the flock, the production of wool and lamb chops saw that the shepherd or shepherdess lacked nothing.

## **Day 28: July 26<sup>th</sup> 2015    Suffering For the Sake of the Gospel**

II Cor. 4:8-9, We are troubled on every side, yet not in distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed.

There are times in the lives of the saints when it seems as though the troubles and cares of life have us surrounded on every side. We may even question our own mental stability. The perplexities of life seek to bring us down in despair. We may feel all alone and forsaken as though we have been thrown away but... here comes the Word. He speaks to us loudly or sometimes faint through the thick fog of mental emotional turmoil that weighs so heavy in our hearts and minds. But we have come to know that familiar voice. He may speak a Word of encouragement through a song, a message or a friend. He causes us to remember how He brought us out of every tough spot and every rough place. We cannot forget, just as our Savior had a cup of suffering to drink from, so do we. Every saint has a cup with their name on it.

### **Day 29: July 27<sup>th</sup> 2015    Our Body – His Life: Part 2**

II Cor. 4:10 – 12, Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our own body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

Just as He died for our sins, our flesh must always be in a state of dying out to sin so that the life of Christ will be made manifest in these bodies. We die out to sin so that others will see the risen Savior in us and desire freedom from sin and death, and receive eternal life as well. John 1:1-4 discusses how the *Word* became *flesh* and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. The Word, (Jesus), was manifested and seen operating in the power and authority of the Godhead. It is now time for our flesh to allow the Word to be *lived* out through *it*. Our flesh is now the vehicle through which the Word is manifested, seen and lived via the Holy Spirit.

### **Day 30: July 28<sup>th</sup> 2015    Pressed Beyond Endurance**

II Cor. 1:8, For we did not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about the affliction and oppressing distress which befell us in [the province of Asia]...that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life. (AMP & KJV) The Apostle Paul writes this letter this 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthian church in this chapter and verse informing them of the tribulations and cruel hardship he and his co-laborers had suffered while ministering in Asia. The pressure was so great they felt it was beyond what they could endure.

Our suffering may not be the same as the apostle and his co-laborers but there are situations in life we find ourselves in that press us to great extremes, that we even despair life. There may be those of you reading this who really don't understand a suicidal person. I do. It happened to me. By no means am I saying Paul and his companions were suicidal. They were experiencing extreme hardships and

tribulations that brought them to the brink of death by their oppressors because of their uncompromising stand to live and preach the gospel.

As a very young saint at the age of 22 yrs old, I encountered very cruel hardships and extreme tribulations in relationships with people I dearly loved because I refused to compromise my stand in holiness. My self-esteem was crushed, day by day I was persecuted and ridiculed. A spirit of self-loathing began to dog my heels every day. I felt unwanted and unloved. I was like an outcast. Though we want to be accepted by most people, and loved by some; if they don't, it's ok. But when it is the hearts of those we are intertwined with reject us or cut us off the pain is almost unbearable. The demon of suicide was circling and coming in for the kill. In my misery and despair I took a bottle of pills; the whole bottle. I, with the encouragement of the Devil had placed a sentence of death on my life. Thank God for Jesus!!

He was waiting at the bottom of the bottle. He refused to let me die. I received strong but loving rebuke from the Holy Spirit. He said to me you, Barbara have witnessed to others of My power to heal and deliver. Now because of this light affliction you want to die. What will the Egyptians, (the unsaved) say. You've been telling them how good and wonderful I am. I won't allow you to go to the ER, You will not miss a day from you job; I will walk you through this season and every other season of your life. You will know and understand the depth of My love in ways beyond your comprehension. It was His love that brought me back to sanity. It raised my self-esteem. I began to love me and began to see myself as a valuable asset to the world and the body of Christ. My trust is in Him alone who is able to raise the dead from any type of death that we may encounter.

**Day 31: July 29<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Pressed**

*Pressed out of measure and pressed to all length;  
Pressed so intensely it seems, beyond strength;  
Pressed in the body and pressed in the soul,  
Pressed in the mind til the dark surges roll.  
Pressed by foes, and a pressure from friends.  
Pressure on pressure, till life nearly ends.*

*Pressed into knowing no helper but God  
Pressed into loving the staff and rod.  
Pressed into liberty where nothing clings;  
Pressed into faith for impossible things.  
Pressed into living a life in the Lord,  
Pressed into living a Christ-life outpoured.*

We all have a personal Gethsemane. The word *Gethsemane* means oil press. It was a garden of olives trees and the place where olives were pressed to obtain the rich virgin olive oil. It was the place of pressing. This is the place where the will of the flesh is pressed into submission (death) so that the life of Christ can live. The pressure is to press us and shape us into what He wants us to be, so that we reflect *His Glory*, and the un-surpassing greatness of His power. Not our pseudo-glory. Praise God!!!

**Day 32: July 30<sup>th</sup> 2015      Light Afflictions**

II Cor. 4:17, For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Light, almost weightless and a slight distress in passing that is abundantly preparing, producing and achieving for us an eternal everlasting weight of glory. He trust these vessels of clay to hold *His Glory!* If we want His Glory revealed in us we must embrace our afflictions though they may be many, remembering they are but for a moment, and is working in us His weight of Glory that is beyond all measure , excessively surpassing all comparisons and calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness that will never cease. (*paraphrased AMP*)

**Day 33: July 31<sup>th</sup> 2015      The Place Where Jesus Takes Over**

Psalms 107:27-28, They reel to and fro, and stagger like drunken men, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and He bringth them out of their distresses.

We are brought to our wit's end. Our wits end is where a sincere cry unto the Lord is made, and heard. It is where God senses our sincerity of submission and total surrender. We are now ready to obey and do His will.

*Wit's End Corner*

*Are you standing at wit's end corner,  
Christian, with a troubled brow?  
Are you thinking of what is before you,  
And all you are bearing now?  
Does all the world seem against you,  
And you are in the battle alone?  
Remember—at "Wit's End Corner  
Is just where God's power is shown.*

*Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner,"  
Blinded with wearying pain,  
Feeling you cannot endure it,  
You cannot bear the strain,  
Bruised though the constant suffering,  
Dizzy, and dazed, and numb?  
Remember—at "Wit's End Corner"  
Is where Jesus loves to come*

*Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner"?  
Your work before you spread,  
All lying begun, unfinished,  
And pressing on heart and head,  
Longing for strength to do it,  
Stretching out trembling hands?  
Remember—at "Wit's End Corner"  
The burden—bearer stands.*

*Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner"?  
Then you're just in the very spot  
To learn the wondrous resources  
Of Him who faileth not.  
No doubt to a brighter pathway  
Your footsteps will soon be moved,  
But it is only at "Wit's End Corner"  
Is the "God who is able" proved.*

Antoinette Wilson

### **Day 34: August 1<sup>st</sup> 21015 He Maketh the Storms A Calm**

Psalms 107:29-30, Then He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so He bringeth them unto their desired haven.

The Master knows just when to calm the winds and waves of our storms. Sometimes He wants us to ride it out so we can experience His grace in a deeper way. The greater the storm, the greater His grace. I can't speak for anyone else; but there is a desired haven of power and anointing that I desire to walk in. And it is only certain types of storms, and waiting in those storms that will take me there. My part is to trust God to keep me while in the storm until He's ready to bring me out of the storm.

We only learn He's the Master of the seas if we experience the storms on the sea of life. We often glibly remark "I know God can do anything", but when the "*any thing*" touches our lives, that is the acid test of our faith. Those "*any things*" will sometime cause us to abandon the altar of sacrifice and run to a place of comfort. But when we ride out the storm and experience Him calming the wind and the waves at just the right time, we learn by experience that He is indeed the Master of every stormy situation that comes into our lives.

### **Day 35: August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 Lord Make Us Wise Unto Salvation**

Psalms 107:43, Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.

Lord make us wise with Your wisdom, that we see and know, that we will discern and look into your wonderful on-going plan of salvation. To embrace your loving kindness and tender, sensitive mercy. It is our desire to see *You* more clearly and love *You* more dearly.

### **Day 36: August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 My Heart Longs After You**

Psalms 42:1, As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.



O Lord, we your people are longing and thirsting for the more of You. We love You, but have a deep yearning to love you more. What we have for You is just not enough. There is a dryness in our souls; an unquenchable thirst that you alone can fill. Take us down into the deep wells of salvation that we may drink to the full from the depths of Your Word, and feast on the hidden manna of Your Word. We need a new and fresh revelation of who You really are. This alone can take us through the coming days of trials and testings. Only this can strengthen us to stand.

**Day 37: August 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 Longing For the Place Called There.**

Psalms 84:2, My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

It is said that King David penned this psalm when he was ousted from his kingdom by Absalom his beloved son, and was unable to return to Jerusalem the Holy city to worship in the courts of the tabernacle. He was speaking in the physical sense. But we long to bask in His spiritual courts. To bask in the presence of His Glory; to experience intimacy with Him and conceive spiritual conceptions in our spiritual wombs. We become desperate for Him. So we long and search for Him in the secret place.

**Day 38: August 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 The Place Called There**

*Psalms 91:1, He who dwell in the secret place of the most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no foe can withstand]. (AMP)*

There is a secret place in God. A place where the tempter can't break through. This is the dwelling place of quiet rest, thou riding in the midst of a violent storm. This place is like the eye of the storm where there are light breezy winds and clear skies. From this place in God we can even see the back-stabbing strategies and tactic of Satan, but they are unable to defeat or destroy us. It is also a place of deep down praise and worship. This place in God provokes us to give Him glory and honor.

### **Day 39: August 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 I will Bless the Lord**

Psalms 103:1-2, Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless* His Holy Name. Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

I will bless You with my intellect, my passions and desires. All that is within me will bless Your Holy Name. Your unfailing Word cause my soul to remember, and my body to respond in mighty praise and worship. You, Father never forget Your seed. You will never leave nor forsake us.

### **Day 40: August 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 The Divine Caretaker**

Psalms 103:2-5. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*, *so that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Thank You Lord, for your forgiveness of all my sin iniquities; the hidden and the seen. Thank You for keeping my body and soul in a constant state of healing and deliverance. So many times you have saved my life from destruction and death You have placed a crown of lovingkindness and tender mercies over my life. You cause my mouth to be satisfied with only the things that are wholesome good for my over-all wellbeing so that my youth is being constantly renewed.

You have given countless reasons why we should commit our whole self to you. All these acts of your jealous guardianship and love strengthens us for extreme commitment and sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. Again....Thank You Jesus.