



2018

A little perspective for each day. "Work as if you were to live 100 Years, Pray as if you were to die Tomorrow." --Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac, 1757

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , AND TO THE REPUBLIC, FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

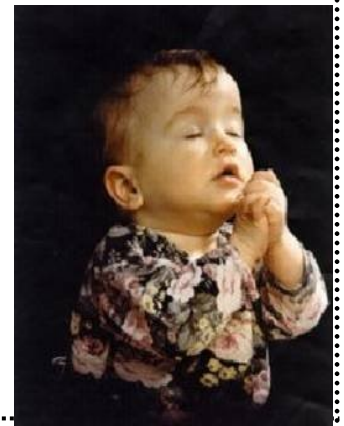
For all of our other military personnel, where ever they may be. Please Support all of the troops defending our Country. And God Bless our Military who are protecting our Country for our Freedom. Thanks to

them, and their sacrifices, we can celebrate the 4th of July. We must never forget who gets the credit for the freedoms we have, of which we should be eternally grateful.

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze. A young Marine saluted it, And then he stood at ease. I looked at him in uniform; so young, so tall, so proud. With hair cut square and eyes alert, he'd stand out in any crowd. I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years. How many died on foreign soil; how many mothers' tears? How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea? How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? NO, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE !

I heard the sound of Taps one night, when everything was still. I listened to the bugler play And felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times That Taps had meant 'Amen.' When a flag had draped a coffin of a brother or a friend. I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives, of fathers, sons and husbands With interrupted lives. I thought about a graveyard At the bottom of the sea. Of unmarked graves in Arlington. NO FREEDOM ISN'T FREE!

Enjoy Your Freedom and God Bless Our Troops. When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our servicemen. Of all the gifts you could give a U.S. Soldier, prayer is the very best one.



Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength ; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they will shall walk, and not faint.



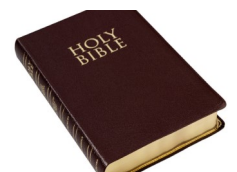
When it rains, most birds head for shelter; the **eagle** is the only bird that, in order to avoid the rain, starts flying above the clouds...

An amazing tidbit about the Eagle's eyesight: The eagle can probably identify a rabbit moving almost a mile away. That means that an eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles from a fixed position.

No wonder God wants us to spread our wings and soar with eagles. There were so many good things about the Eagle our national Bird of the United States. You find some.

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands— One Saviour, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe.

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It's word will "I hide in my heart that I might not sin against God."



Change of Identity (by: Carlissa McSherry)

From: *Women in the Word* (Presented by: Kay Cheser, Women Ministry Leader)

"To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." Revelation 2: 17. *"[God] give life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did."* Romans 4: 17. Even when Sarah laughed at God's promise, she was not forsaken by Him. In His time, He gave this brave pioneer woman a new name, signifying that she would bear a child and would have many descendants- becoming a mother of nations.

Have you ever wished that you could change your name? Or even your identity? Her face turned bright red with embarrassment. With flushed cheeks and a racing heart, she stammered, "I didn't laugh! It wasn't me!" But try as she might, the look on her face left her audience unconvinced. "Oh, but you did," came the gentle reply from a Stranger and His two friends. Sarah hung her head in shame. She really did want to believe it was all true.

She longed to have the child she had always wanted! But how could she? Since childhood, Sarah had eagerly looked forward to the day when she would be a mother. Every little girl dreamt of having children of her own someday, an inheritance that would make her husband proud. Those who could not bear children were seen as having been cursed by God and were even unwanted by their husbands. Surely that legacy wouldn't be hers! Or so she hoped. The years of pain trudged on. Every time she heard the cries of a servant's child, her heart yearned to embrace that precious baby as her own. She longed to make her husband proud and to fulfill his heart's desire, but she couldn't. It seemed the gossiping tongues of others confirmed what she felt in her heart: She was a failure. Twenty-five years earlier, Abraham had excitedly shared with her a message he had received from the Lord: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great." (Genesis 12: 1, 2). Fears about the perilous journey into the unknown or frustration about the challenges of tent dwelling didn't even come to her mind. One thought stood out to her: "I will make you a great nation." Sarah's heart leapt within her as she pondered the question. *Does that mean the hope of being a mother?* Throughout the years, this promise was repeatedly shared with Abraham, reinforcing his faith. But Sarah's own heart eventually grew cold, even to the point of offering Hagar to her husband in her stead. But throughout her pain and sin, Sarah was not forgotten. God knew the desires of her heart, and He planned on fulfilling her longing in a way far greater than she could have ever imagined. Now God reassured Abraham of His promise with Sarah specifically in mind: "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her." (Genesis 17:15). After all these years, even faithful Abraham doubted God's Word, but regardless of their feelings, the Word of God would not fail them. This name change, from Sarai to Sarah, signified that Sarah would "be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." (verse 16). It also revealed a change in Sarah's perspective. No longer was her focus solely about having a child, she began to recognize the promise that the Messiah would come through her lineage! By giving Sarah a new name, the Lord was reasoning her of a new identity. Though it seemed impossible to mortal humans that an elderly woman could bear a child, the promise would nonetheless be fulfilled-because God was the One who had made the promise! Sarah still doubted her new identity at times. But regardless of her doubt, God never gave up on her-and He will never give up on you! Hebrews 11:11 paints a beautiful picture of how God remembered this matriarch of old: "By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised." Our patient God recalled not her doubt nor her sins, but her faith! Before she even became a mother of nations, God could call her such because in Him the greatest of promises would be fulfilled! This is also true in our lives today. God sees things that are not as though they are, because in Him, without a doubt, they indeed will be.

A story record in a BBC article highlighted the lives of children living in rural Zambia. These children are known for their rather unusual names. One little boy, laboring hard under a heavy load, has the name Mulangani, which means "punish me" or "he who must be punished." Others include "bad luck," "I will be eaten," or even "kill him." Amazingly, the village leaders are the ones who often give these horrifying names to these innocent little ones to signify the circumstances of their birth-or sometimes it is simply a curse that the village leaders wish to place upon them. Imagine living day to day with this legacy imprinted upon you! However, something incredible happens to these children if they later decide to become Christians: They get a new name! Instead of being known as a failure or as a worthless individual, these new Christian believers can now choose a new identity! While some choose common biblical names-such as John or Mary-Mulangani, on the other hand has a very special name in mind: Emanuel. He will tell you with a smile, "It means God is with me."

So also, God has promised to give us a new name! (Revelation 2:17) Maybe thus far in your life, you've only know the name Failure, Shame, or Not Enough. Or maybe the years have seemed to pass you by like Sarah; you've doubted your new identity in Him, or you've wandered through the deserts of life questioning your purpose. But as in the lessons learned from Sarah, God promises to give you a new name, a brand-new identity in Him today! That promise, without a doubt, will be fulfilled, 2 Corinthians 5:17 promises us, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Today this new identity can be your reality. Would you like to experience the joy of living this new life in Jesus today?



Conquer Your Weakness

This is a story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident.

The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the Sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the Sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the Sensei intervened. "No," the Sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and Sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the Sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's greatest weakness had become his greatest strength.

And the rest of the story: There are points in your life and mind in which there are breakdowns and we have some innate or cultivated weaknesses that haunt us and can drag us down. These weaknesses manifest themselves psychologically and produce all sorts of neurosis and emotional and mental maladies. Satan endeavors to tempt us at this very point of our weakness. Now here is the hope and help for us all: when we give this weakness to God and Jesus works in us to deliver us, we have breakthroughs at the very point of our breakdowns. It is the "missing arm" experience. Satan is defeated because he tries to get you down at the very point of your victory which used to be your failure. He is conquered through your weakness and you are blessed by God in your weakness which He has given you the victory over. Praise God for deliverance. Look, today for your breakthrough at the point of your deepest breakdown. Do not fear the enemy. He is grabbing for an arm that is no longer there. What appears to be your handicap becomes your success and victory. Remember, today you are more than a conqueror through Christ and Christ alone. God bless you. Contributed to be used in the Newsletter by Elaine Johnson—Thanks Elaine (she gave this to me in 2011, thought it was a good repeat. Hope you enjoy again)

PASTOR'S CORNER

Linda and I had a wonderful day with the church family on our first Sabbath here in Clanton on June 9. We were able to meet so many and enjoyed the fellowship and scrumptious food afterwards. We are looking forward to whatever time that God gives us here in this district. As we prepare for the future let's not forget that Jesus is the sole focus of our faith. He has graciously sent us many messages of hope and courage for these last days.

Recently I was studying one of these during my personal study time. The story is found in 2 Chronicles 20. It is the story of Jehoshaphat and the attack by the people of Moab, Ammon, and Mt. Seir. Jehoshaphat feels like he's been betrayed. When Israel came out of Egypt they were told *not* to destroy the people of Moab, Ammon, and Edom (Mt. Seir). Here they are paying back

this blessing by attacking. He says so in verses 10-12, "And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

That's always a good place to start when we feel like we are being backed into a corner. We need to say, "Our eyes are upon You." And then keep our eyes on Jesus and depend on Him to work out our problems. I know that He will. But Jehoshaphat does more than that. He acts in what may seem like a strange way for us. We know about his famous line of encouragement, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." We like to quote it. But do we do what he did. After he said those words he sent the army out a different way. The very next verse says, "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: 'Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.'" It was a strange way to fight a war, but he sent the choir out first. Do we believe the Lord? Do we believe his prophets? Then the next thing we should always do is praise the Lord. Even before we see what He will do. Because we know that he will always reward those who are following him. So let's praise Him this month. We have nothing to fear for the future, unless we forget what God has done in the past. As you know, one of His prophets already said that.

Pastor Dan Thompson



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July Birthdays

5 - Regan Gray

9 - Judy Peck

12 - Phoenix Sanders

21 - Brenda Davis

23 - Dorothy Wilson

Anniversaries

1 - Peter & Elaine Johnson

6 - Steven & Treva Radford

9 - Tom & Jeanne Bates

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. If I don't have your special day, let me know.
Brenda

Speaker Schedule July: 7 - Ricky Woodruff,
14 - Pastor Thompson, 28 - Pastor Thompson

Church Organ Fund: Let's get this new organ paid for. Don't forget to turn monies in, even if it \$10 at a time. Thanks to all that have donated.



Last months reminiscing: Who remembered Elder Peavy & Ethel Blake? I know I went to Academy with Willa Faye their daughter at Echo Valley Academy in Wytheville, VA.

This church member told me I could share her picture, she thinks everyone will know who she is, I wasn't so sure. . Don't forget you can share your memories also. Until next month, Brenda

What a Friend We Have in Jesus—by Joseph Scriven (1819-1886)

Joseph Scriven had wealth, education, and a devoted family in his native Ireland. Then tragedy came uninvited. On the night before his wedding, his fiancée was thrown from her horse into a river and drowned. Scriven decided to begin a new life and emigrated to Canada, where he taught in a school for the Plymouth Brethren in Bewdley, Ontario.

But tragedy struck again. This time his fiancée died from pneumonia after being baptized in an icy lake. Scriven's lifestyle changed. He worked without pay and gave away his possessions—even his clothing—to poor widows and the needy. He became known as "the Good Samaritan."

When his mother became ill in Ireland, he wrote a comforting letter with a poem which became the verses of the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." It was found by a friend beside his dying body. When asked who wrote it, he replied. **"The Lord and I did it between us."**

Peace is seeing a sunset and knowing who to thank. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have. Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to play in the rain including the puddles with your kids or grandkids. The road to success is not straight. There is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Enemies, caution lights called Family, and you will have flats called Jobs. But, if you have a spare called Determination, an engine called Perseverance, insurance called Faith, and a driver called The Almighty God, you will make it to a place called Success.

The Coat Hanger

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her small daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car. She didn't know what to do, so she called home and told the baby sitter what had happened. The baby sitter told her that the fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door." The woman looked around and saw an old rusty coat hanger that had been left on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time had locked their keys in their car. She looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her help.

Within five minutes a beat up old motor cycle pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "Is this what you sent to help me God?" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful. The man got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her.

Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, Thank You So Much! You are a very nice man.."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour." The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, **"Oh, thank you God! You even sent me a Professional!"** **Is GOD GOOD - or what!**

- ◆ Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.
www.stepsupward.org www.egwhiteclassicquotes.org <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>
- ◆ We have a website!! **UPDATED - Church Website:** <https://www.clantonsda.com/> Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so the previous couple years are there also. Remember if you don't want to get the Newsletter, Let me know. Thanks, Brenda

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