

Experience Is Part Of God's Plan

Grandchildren, we experienced tornado winds. When the sirens went off my five grandchildren ran to me asking what we should do. I went outside to find out what was going on and could see some big branches which had fallen to the ground. Although there was thunder and lightening and a very strong wind, no rocks or pieces of debris were flying through the air. I looked to see if there was a funnel cloud for then we would go downstairs to the basement where we would be "safe." (Safe being a relative term, after all, safety is in the Lord *wherever* one might be in the physical).

Later that day we found out that Stacy III and Amy had a totally different experience. Stacy, while trying to get home, was stuck in freeway traffic which had come to a complete stand still. He wondered if he should get out and lie in a ditch but decided to wait it out in the van even though it was pitching and rocking. Amy, on the other hand, was driving home in her little car when it was blown across three lanes and into oncoming traffic. Whipping into an fast food place she went inside to wait out the storm. (I could not understand *why* she was so upset when she called us to see if we were ok). It turned out that she had to drive around fallen trees and street lights to get home.

Having this experience, I can tell you that a tornado can cause a lot of fear, but even more I can speak of our Father's protection over us. We had no wind damage other than a few broken branches and even the electricity remained on in our home where all over the city it was off for up to 4 days. I am sure this is what life is all about, telling others of HIS wonderful love and the security we experience in His provision for us. *The name of Jehovah is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.* (Pro 18:10)

Sharing Our Experiences

Talking about experiences, we know some are good and some are not so good. I say this because I know people who choose to experience going to church every Sunday and others who rather go to gatherings on a yearly basis. There are some who choose to experience drugs or alcohol and some who experience prison. There are people who are battle addiction and these experience refraining from that which would have power over them or giving into it. There are also those who worry, (now we are getting personal), and how can we tell others that God is trust worthy if we, ourselves, are not resting in that place of perfect trust in his provision? Peace and joy is what we miss when we worry. Of course it is our prayer and desire for none to go through those things which will destroy their lives and the lives of those who love them, but it is *their* choice. Sometimes people want to learn how *we* handled our situations and other times they just want to live their own lives without advice. I find it so easy to tell others how to live and what they should do and sharing *our* life experience is ok, *when* our advice is sought. I have learned that each person *has to choose* what *they want* to experience. The list of those things which cause us to miss what God has in store for our lives can be quite long but let's go on to the positive, this is when we realize we *are* seated at Father's right hand with Christ Jesus. *Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;) And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:* (Eph 2:5-6)

Are We Resting?

This seating with Christ means we can *experience* our Father's perfect love for his creation and view the outcome of all things. *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.* (Col 3:1) It is when we understand God's plan that we also can choose to stand before creation with outstretched arms declaring the Fathers love to those who have become broken and hurt by sin.

Even in Difficult

I am so thankful our Father has chosen to allow us to experience all things in the earth and even better, *if we find ourselves in distress we know we can glory in afflictions also. For afflictions work out patience, and patience works out experience, and experience works out hope. And hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.* (Rom 5:3-5) It is important for us to come to the place where we allow ourselves grace when we seemingly make wrong choices, so that we learn from the experience. Even this is part of God's plan. It is up to each individual *how* they remember each experience. The glass can be viewed as half empty or half full. Half empty people are negative, half full people are positive and happy. We *can* be happy because of this promise, *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.* (Rom 6:14)

Pamla

My Trip Across the U.S.A.

I had so much FUN!!!! WOW, talk about an experience! It took me 3 months and 18 days from start to return and 13,000 miles of driving time. It is safe to say I was a little overwhelmed when I started out. I was going to be traveling alone and I knew that it was going to take a while to make it all the way across the United States. I always used to ask Stacy why, if the U.S.A. is only 3,000 miles wide, did we always put so many extra miles on our vehicles? Wasn't it possible that we could just plan our trip straight across and straight back? Well, now I understand. The fellowship with each member of the Body of Christ is so sweet that I did not wish to miss even one opportunity to worship our Lord together.

I started off on April 3rd and returned home July 20th, edifying and being edified. It was so wonderful to reunite with the many membered Body of Christ, (some Stacy had introduced to me to and some I met for the first time). The time of fellowship and sharing was sweet and built me up in the faith. I am thankful to have so many to love and who, in turn, love me.

It was good to be out on the road and it was good to come home. My sister held down the office, paid bills, answered phones and was an all-around administrative assistant. I am so blessed she was here to take care of business.

On the last pages I am including a condensed listing of my stops and hope that some may find fellowship of 'like mind' in *their* area. Let me know if you want a way to make contact.

Terrie's - Just A Thought

THY LIFE FOR A PREY

Today, I received an email scripture from the lord that I have needed for months. As a child from a very young age I loved serving. To be a servant gave me the greatest joy of anything else in this world. The last 8 months of my life have been emotionally, physically, and spiritually so hard that I made life miserable for myself and all those around me. When I say miserable, I mean I have been rude and discourteous to the point that others no longer wanted to be around me. I am normally a good natured, kind hearted, loving, fun, and good spirited person to be around. But for the life of me I could not figure out why things had changed so drastically for me. I have Fibromyalgia, which causes severe physical and emotional pain. Not to mention all the medications the doctors were prescribing me causing another list of conflicting issues. It was very easy for me to use all these items as a way to manipulate those things into my excuses for above mentioned behaviors. Yet the whole time I was earnestly and continuously seeking Gods face for help. However today an email truly enlightened me to the blessing of life that God has gifted to me. I can no longer use the Fibromyalgia and the medications as an excuse for my behaviors. This is the scripture I received: "*But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the Lord: and thou shalt not be given into the hands of the men of whom thou art **afraid**. For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a **prey** unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in Me, saith the Lord.*" (Jer. 39:17-18 KJ)

*"I will deliver thee in that day"- The Lord shall give us the reward of life for trusting in him! but I will rescue you from those you fear so much. Because you trusted me, I will give you your life as a **reward**. I will rescue you and keep you safe. I, the Lord, have spoken!"* (Jer. 39:17-18) NLV

Strong's dictionary describes the word prey in this particular verse as a booty or spoil. "Booty" as in the spoil of war, or any prize or gain. So because of the Israelites change of heart and return to obedience under God they were not only spared their lives but were given the prize of his eternal grace. Plus they were given the reward of what happened under the name of the Lord, meaning the spoil of war.

For me, trust equals fear. Fear of those I come into contact with including some of my loved ones and friends, only in the end, to feel betrayed and left alone. I truly have given the very best of myself to please and serve in every way possible that I could provide within my capabilities. Unfortunately, the most hurtful betrayals come from myself while holding others to my own high expectations. Yet as a servant I should expect *nothing* in return as "Christ" himself exemplified for me. Knowing that each and every person in the body of Christ has been given their own special and unique gift to return, edify, and restore the natural growth of the Fellowship. (I Corinthians 12, *Spiritual gifts, Unity and Diversity in one body*) As I read this, God revealed to me the changes I needed to make, showing me where I needed to be obedient, and gave unto me knowledge the prize of his eternal grace. Needless to say God has so preciously given me back the life of a servant, which deletes the need for personal trust or fear in others that I serve in the name Christ.

We are all much happier now and my joy is full. Who have you served lately, without expectations of reward or praises? Have you been fortunate enough to find that Father gave all the praise you needed...?

....Just a Thought

Terrie

Though others about thee shall stumble and fall,
Ten thousand beside thee enwrapped in death's pall,
Yet verily He promised thy life He would give
When all else is fading, triumphant to live.

(Unknown)

Letters of Encouragement!

Hello, my name is Erin. I am a guest here at Promised Seed Ministries. I have recently relocated from Seattle back to my hometown to be close to family and a Christian support system. And I am very blessed that Pam and Terrie have been here for me during this transition.

As a new Christian I am constantly worrying about what it is I am suppose to be doing and what direction God is sending me. Fearing that I am not listening or cannot hear his voice, or possibly he is not there at all, especially in times of trouble. Then I remember Jesus Walks on Water; *Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus, but when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" (Mathew 14:22-31)* If Peter, a disciple, hadn't had doubts he wouldn't have sank in the sea. So I remind myself to keep my eyes on Jesus no matter how much doubt I may have.

Then the other day God lead me to this scripture; *I cried out, "I am slipping!" but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me. When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer. (Psalms 94:18-19)* This gives me a bounce in my step, as reading the Psalms and Proverbs always do.

Now I have to admit since I have been home I have been a bit side tracked but with God and my 'sisters' help I am getting back on track. I have been looking for work and working diligently to get my life in order. Trying to find a job has been a bear. So the other day I was thinking about some of the people in my past that were successful, each in their own way, and what I had learned from them. They each had what I would call a formula for their happiness and success. What they had done to keep them on track and accomplish their goals. It surprised me for some reason that most of them had God in their formula. It was then that I remembered a scripture from when I was a kid. *"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)* So as I am knocking on doors with my resume, seeking to find the right job, asking God to guide me and I am keeping the faith that he will provide the right words.

.....I HAVE FOUND MY FORMULA!!

I realize that I can't expect God just to answer my prayers and not do any of the work myself. I can ask, but if I do not seek the answers, knock on doors, and have the faith, I am like a ship stuck in dry dock. I am not being used for his good or mine. Since I found my formula the "Lord" has blessed me with two interviews this coming week and many more blessings. And yes even the not so good things are blessings if you learn something from it.

Erin Bowman

I was raised by alcoholic parents, who provided me with a religious education, but were hypocritical, saying ‘do as I say, not as I do.’ They went to church each Sunday and afterwards proceeded to get drunk and then would berate and verbally abuse me. This made me look at religion as weakness and my Dad verbally pound it into me that a man was *never* to show any weakness.

I was saved in 1980, at the a large Oakland Coliseum religious gathering; accepting Christ as my savior, but remaining a layman, an academic. Rev. Pamla Wood, has influenced me into revitalizing my connection to the Lord. She ratified my belief that God has always been looking out for me. God is within each of us, and she made me recognize the blessings he gives each of us. I always knew that my conscience had guided me, but did not realize my conscience is another aspect of God within. I grew up in Oakland, was in Vietnam, and have suffered through illnesses such as diabetes, sleep apnea, renal failure, and asthma, but the Lord has sustained me all these years. Thanks to her influence, I have established a regular line of communication with him. There is nothing more satisfying than a dialectic with God, nobody is more non-judgmental, and understanding that God. His love is all encompassing and gives peace to all people.

Dave Gebhard

PROMISED SEED MINISTRIES - 2008 Itinerary

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| April 7 | Terry & Susie Kashian | Tucson, AZ |
| April 8-9 | Elwin & Margit Roach, | Alamogordo, NM |
| April 10-11 | Jessie & Dianne Price, | NOW in Las Vegas, NV |
| April 12-13 | Charles & Imah Jean Wilson | Lubbock, TX |
| April 15-17 | John & Emily Coughlin | Desoto, TX |
| April 21-23 | Ron & Jan Ash 3201 | Topeka, KS |
| April 19-29 | Our Kids and Grands | Omaha, NE |
| May 14 - 15 | Marvelea Cummins | Reynoldsburg, OH |
| May 16 | Chrissa Schalk | Avon, OH |
| May 17 - 18 | Jeff & Donna Boyer | Mt Pleasant Mills, PA |
| May 20 - 21 | John & Kathy Scarpato | New Cumberland, PA |
| May 22 - 23 | Dennis & Christine Ranck | Duncannon, PA |
| May 24- 26 | Galen & Susan Winebrenner - United Christian Temple | Uniontown, PA |
| May 27 | Anna Nichols | Richmond, VA |
| May 28-6/1 | Gary & Carol Sigler - Sigler Ministries | Winston-Salem, NC |
| June 2 - 4 | Marvin & Norita Smith | New Port Richey, FL |
| June 6 - 7 | Michael & Gayle Inge | Fort Myers, FL |

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| June 8 | Gordon & Norma Crofut | Naples, FL |
| June 9 - 14 | Frank & Aggie Derocher | Ellenton, FL |
| June 15 | Jose & Nieves Villalba | Orlando, FL |
| June 16 | Les & Mary Houghton | Apopka, FL |
| June 17 - 18 | John & Becky Conner | Summerfield, FL |
| June 20 - 22 | Douglas & Esther Wood | Chatsworth, GA |
| June 24 - 25 | Gary & Michelle Amirault - Tentmaker | Herman, MO |
| 6/26 - 7/9 | Our Kids and Grands | Omaha, NE |
| July 11 | Bill & Darlene Green | Riverton, UT |
| July 12 | Walt & Carol Riess (Stacy's Cousins) | Nampa, ID |
| July 14 | Mike & Teresa Beck | Sedro Woolley, WA |
| July 15 | Fred & Peggy Himes | Enumclaw, WA |
| July 16 | Judy Mahar & Tom Holmquist | Lake Oswego, OR |

“The Principle of Exchange And Increase.”

One of the fundamentals of life is, “*Nothing is free.*” The apostle Paul taught the “*Principle of Exchange.*” He said, “*Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. **DO NOT BE DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED; FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT HE WILL ALSO REAP.***” (Gal 6:6ff). That is, as one sows into the teaching he will harvest from the teaching.

In equipping his disciples for ministry, Jesus taught a four-fold principle that they needed to put into practice, if they were to fully benefit from what he was teaching. The first axiom of discipleship is **DO NOT DISCRIMINATE** and you will not be discriminated against. Secondly, **DO NOT PRONOUNCE GUILT** and you will not be found guilty. Then, **IF YOU FULLY LIBERATE** you will become fully liberated. Finally, **GIVE AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU**. It is to this final principle that he adds a further thought, by suggesting the value one places on his giving determines the value of the blessing that returns to him. That is, a good measure when giving out, guarantees the return will be poured into the givers lap, packed down, shaken together and overflowing. (Lk. 6:37-38).

The book of Proverbs records *the principle of exchange* that is practiced among teachers and their students in the eastern part of the world to this day. It simply is, to become a true partaker of what the teacher has to give, one must agree to “**BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT.**” (Pr. 23:23). That is, the student, **NOT THE TEACHER**, must put a value on the truth, wisdom, instruction and understanding they receive. Yet, at the same time they need to learn not to merchandise anything they receive. By following this simple principle they show honor to the teacher.

Moreover, the Scripture’s teach that we are to “*Honor the Lord **WITH OUR SUBSTANCE, and WITH THE FIRST FRUITS OF ALL OUR INCREASE. In doing so our barns will become filled with plenty, and our presses will burst out with new wine.***” (Pr. 3:9). “*One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*” (Pr. 11:24).

Thus, we have come to this conclusion.

We DO NOT put a price on God's word. This is in keeping with biblical principles. We also believe God's word is priceless. Moreover, we *cannot* place a set value on the teacher, because this will vary with every individual's relationship and need. Therefore, we are asking you to help us defray the costs of this publication. if you find any value in the word, or the messenger, **WE ASK THAT YOU WILL GIVE "A LOVE OFFERING" TO HELP IN THE SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY.** Remember, it is your continued faithful support that enables us to send these messages to shut-ins, prisoners and missionaries.

We Need Address Updates

We do thank each and everyone of you for your continued prayer and support of this ministry. The months to come promise great things in the Lord. Doors of ministry continue to open into areas of the church through the internet that we never imagined would open. Your prayerful support enables us to continue sharing the Good News of the Happy God, who is Savior of all and condemner of none. We love and pray for you continually. May the Lord's blessing continue to pour forth upon each of you, beyond all you could ask or think. (Eph. 3:20). You're also welcome to add someone else if you believe they would enjoy our materials.