

In Thy Presence

Encouraging Biblical Young Womanhood



*Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence
is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are
pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:11*

Welcome to *In thy Presence Magazine.*

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In Thy Presence seek to encourage young women to follow in the ways of God, and to walk in his presence. The contents of this magazine reflects the desire to encourage, inspire and strengthen the hearts of readers in their relationship with the Lord.

Publication:

In Thy Presence is compiled by Rachel-Marie McPherson, and is published 4 times a year. My aim is to print these issues on time, but it doesn't always happen.

In thy Presence is a ministry, and therefore the Lord's will take priority, and I do this as he leads.

Contributions:

Please would you help me to encourage others by sending in contributions. Write what the Lord has been teaching you, something you read that has encouraged you, a poem you have written, or anything that would

inspire, bless, challenge or encourage others to walk with the Lord. We would certainly love to hear from older woman as well. You certainly have a large source of wisdom with which you can share from. Please accompany your contributions with your name, addresses and date of birth (older woman excepted☺) You may also send a photo, if you would like to have that printed with any articles you have sent in. (We ask to print these articles at our discretion) The thoughts expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of my family. We do generally try to select articles in which, although maybe not agreeing with everything expressed, the underlying principle is in accordance with our beliefs.

Reprinting and Copies:

You may photocopy articles for yourself or a friend. For all other use, we would appreciate

It if you contacted us first. If you need any extra copies of *In thy Presence* Please let us know and we will try to meet that need. We pray that the Lord will be glorified through this magazine and that you will be both blessed and encouraged.



We look forward to hearing from you!

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♥ Heart to Heart ♥

About the Editress:

My name is Rachel-Marie McPherson, and I am 25 years old. I love to spend time with my Saviour and to grow closer to Him each day. My desire is that you will be encouraged to do the same.

Dear Sisters,

Greetings in the most blessed name of Jesus. How wonderful it is that we can be part of his family and that we can share with others what the Lord has been teaching us and encourage one another to walk closer with the Lord. These last few months have been busy once again as my family and I have been doing a lot of gardening. We are trying to grow a lot more and use our land to its fullest capacity. This has been very challenging, and requiring a lot of work from each one of us in the family. I have been challenged to be a lot more diligent in redeeming the time, and for one that finds it difficult to arise out of bed in the morning at an early hour, have struggled at times to keep going. Yet I am

no less amazed that God supplies me with his strength each day and allows me to get through the required tasks, and achieve my daily goals. The results are very rewarding, and I am amazed how much more I can get done when I get up early in the morning. There is something special about the early morning, and the cool of the day, and I have found it a very pleasant time to water the garden. When the birds are singing, and the sun has not yet appeared from behind the trees, is a perfect time to pray, and spend time alone with God. When I think how fast the time goes, I am reminded of the verse in Ephesians 5:16, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. How important it is for us to not waste time, and be diligent both physically and also spiritually as we know not the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh. . . and we want to be ready for his coming. One thing that God has been teaching me is to trust him, and I want to share with you something from C.H. Spurgeon's morning and evening which encouraged me to trust. . . October 7th

"Now on whom dost thou trust?" Isaiah 36:5

Reader, this is an important question. Listen to the Christian's answer, and see if it is yours. 'On whom dost thou trust?' 'I trust,' says the Christian, 'in a triune God. I trust *the Father*, believing that He has chosen me from before the foundations of the world; I trust Him to provide for me in the providence, to teach me, to guide me, to correct me if need be, and to bring me home to His own house where the many mansions are. I trust *the Son*. Very God of very God is He-the man Christ Jesus. I trust in Him to take away all my sins by His own sacrifice, and to adorn me with His perfect righteousness. I trust Him to be my Intercessor, to present my prayers and desires before His Father's throne, and I trust Him to be my Advocate at the last great day, to plead my cause, and to justify me. I trust Him for what He is, for what He has done, and for what He has promised yet to do. And I trust the Holy Spirit-He has begun to save me from my inbred sins; I trust Him to drive them all out; I trust Him to curb my

temper, to subdue my will,
to enlighten my
understanding, to check my
passions, to comfort my
despondency, to help my
weakness, to illuminate my
darkness; I trust Him to
dwell in me as my life, to
reign in me as my King, to
sanctify me wholly, spirit,
soul, and body, and then to

take me up to dwell with the
saints in light forever.’
Oh, blessed trust! To trust
Him whose power will never
be exhausted, whose love
will never wane, whose
kindness will never change,
whose faithfulness will never
fail, whose wisdom will
never be nonplussed, and
whose perfect goodness can
never know a diminution!

Happy art thou, reader, if
this trust is thine! So
trusting, thou shalt enjoy
sweet peace now, and glory
hereafter, and the
foundation of thy trust shall
never be moved.
May you be encouraged as I
was to trust in God for
everything.

Only by His Grace

Depths of Mercy

Depths of mercy! Can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear
Me, the chief of sinners spare?

I have long withstood His grace,
Long provoked him to His face,
Would not hearken to his calls,
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.

Now incline me to repent,
Let me now my sins lament;
Now my foul revolt deplore,
Weep, believe, and sin no more.

There for me my Saviour stands,
Holding forth His wounded hands:
God I love! I know, I feel,
Jesus weeps and loves me still.
Charles Wesley

Unspeakable Joy

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1 Peter 1:8 The joy of the Christian passes beyond speech. Deep joy has been compared to a great river flowing along with equable and noiseless motion in contrast to the shallow brook that chatters among its pebbles. It is but a shallow heart that can tell all of its joy.

The Christian's joy is not in need of laughter of word or any outward signs. Mirth is noisy; deep joy is calm, grave, and still. Earthly joys are but light-winged and painted butterflies in the summer skies. In contrast to earthly joy, true Christian joy can be likened to a strong-pinioned eagle soaring in the sunlight as I rise toward God.

Unlike the iridescent bubble that bursts at a touch, true Christian joy is solid and permanent. It expresses itself by sitting calmly at the Master's feet and moves not in its deep restfulness; only the light in the eyes and the holy glow on the still face tell the depth of the blessedness. Earth's joys are as the crackling of thorns; Christian joy burns steadily. It is touched by the glory of that which nourishes it. As Stephen's face glowed like an angel's from the reflected light of the open heavens, so our joy can be touched with heaven's own light. Our common emotion can be transfigured into the likeness of the

lofty hopes and visions on which it is nourished.

Exercising faith in the unseen Christ brings joy. The very attitude of trust breathes calm gladness over the heart. It is always blessed to lean on One whom we love. There is rest in casting our burdens on Him. Anxiety and care darken the face and sadden the soul when we have none, but ourselves, to rely upon. But trust in our Lord makes us glad, as a child safe in its mother's arms or a wife guarded by her loving husband. The joy that results from placing our trust in God is enhanced as we relate to others who also trust in God.

As we trust in Christ, we rely on absolute perfection and permanence and power, making our joy full and abiding. To occupy our mind and heart with Him is joy. As a warm thrill of gladness fills loving souls parted from one another when they think of each other, so a bright light of joy is kindled at our remembrance of Christ as we trust in Him.

The outworking of faith produces joy. Faith brings the yielding of the will, and that produces joy. Faith includes the consciousness of union with His divine love and power, and that is joy. Faith rises to walk in heavenly places, and that is joy. Faith unites the soul with Jesus, and that is joy. Christian joy is contemporaneous with the active exercise of our faith. We can rejoice evermore.

Salvation, which is the consequence of faith, brings joy. Faith and joy will become stronger, and , as they grow, salvation will be more fully possessed. The consciousness of forgiveness and the assurance that all the sky is clear—that nowhere in the universe of things present or future is any cloud or storm that need destroy our rest—that is joy. It is “joy unspeakable and full of glory.”

Paul M. Weaver

Joy Unspeakable

I have found His grace is all complete,
He supplieth ev'ry need;
While I sit and learn at Jesus' feet,
I am free, yes, free indeed.

I have found the joy no tongue can tell,
How its waves of glory roll!
It is like a great O'erflowing well,
Springing up within my soul.

It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Full of glory, full of glory;
It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Oh, the half has never yet been told.

Joy . . . Joy . . .

What do you see in your clouds?

July 29, My utmost for His Highest

By Oswald Chambers.

Behold, He cometh with clouds. Revelation 1:7

In the Bible clouds are always connected with God. Clouds are those sorrows or sufferings of providences, within or without our personal lives, which seem to dispute the rule of God. It is by those very clouds that the Spirit of God is teaching us how to walk by faith. The clouds are but the dust of our Father's feet. The clouds are a sign that He is there. What a revelation it is to know that sorrow and bereavement and suffering are the clouds that come along with God! God cannot come near without clouds; He does not come in clear shining.

It is not true to say that God wants to teach us something in our trials; through every cloud He brings, He wants us to unlearn something. God's purpose in the cloud is to simplify our belief until our relationship to His is exactly that of a child ~ God and my own soul, other people are shadows. Until other people become shadows, clouds and darkness will be mine every

now and again. Is the relationship between myself and God getting simpler than ever it has been?

There is a connection between the strange providences of God and what we know of Him, and we have to learn to interpret the mysteries of life in the light of our knowledge of God. Unless we can look the darkest blackest fact full in the face without damaging God's character, we do not yet know Him.

"They feared as they entered the cloud. . . "Is there anyone "save Jesus only" in your cloud? If so, it will get darker; you must get to the place where there is "no one any more save Jesus only."

Bible Challenge!

Have fun with your family by seeing how many Bible book names you can find in this unusual paragraph!

Ready for some family fun? We recently came across an unusual puzzle—a paragraph containing the hidden names of 29 Bible books. How many can you and your family find? Print it out so you can underline every Bible book you find. We'll get you started by underlining the name of the first book of the Bible. If you can't get them all or if you want to check your answers, look on page 16

There are 29 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it; she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phil lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 29 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

The God of Me-ism

July 29, The Daily Way

Of all the false gods of this world, the one that is the most dangerous is the god of “me-ism.” When we place our desires above the desires of God, we are yielding to the pressure of “me-ism.”

When we begin to look at a project or a goal and think, “I am in control of this as well as my destiny,” we take another huge step toward bowing down before the god of this world ~ the god of senseless pride whose goal is to entrap us in the lustfulness of “me-ism.”

One of Satan’s greatest desires is to tempt us to doubt God. He loves to twist God’s Word by telling us that we don’t need to rely on the Lord’s wisdom because we have all that we need within us.

The bottom line to faith is being willing to trust God with our lives. He is the One who calls us to live lives of personal sacrifice ~ being willing to give all that we are to Christ to be used for His glory. The enemy of our souls tempts us to stop and think about what our sacrifice will cost us. He tells us we don’t need to make a deep commitment because that would be too costly and embarrassing.

Abraham lived a life of faith. He was not concerned with what his sacrifice would cost him. He was only concerned with his love and devotion to God. Therefore, he learned to follow the Lord, and we can do the same. There will be times when we make wrong turns but God will quickly restore us and direct us back to the place where His blessings are.

Have you been afraid to commit your entire life to the Lord?

You may know Him as Saviour but now you can know Him as your living and eternal Lord.

Prayer: *Father, help me to know how to follow you and not to be drawn aside by the temptations of this world.*

So [Abraham] built an altar. . . to the Lord, who had appeared to Him. (Genesis 12:7)

Sunbeams

The sky is dark with storm clouds,
There’s a gloom hung here and there;
But I can bear the storm the better. . .
‘Cause of the sunbeam in the air!

There’s a Sunbeam, just a small one,
But through the clouds it’s shining down;
There’s a warmth amid the raining,
And a smile with the frown.

The gloom, the dark, the chill, the rain,
The storm which seemed so drear. . .
Is brighter, for the sunbeam small
Is shining down right here!

It seems a small thing, insignificant sure,
But to me it means much more. . .
‘Cause that sunbeam through the storm
clouds
Means the Sun is still up there!!

God’s with us through the stormy days,
The times of gloom and trial;
The storm may seem to hide His light
But watch for the Sunbeams – His smiles.
J. Popovic

“The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.” Psalm 145:18

What does this world offer us?

“Love not the world neither the things that are in the world, If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
I John 2:15

I used to think that the world had a lot to offer me. Some things out there seemed so exciting and tempting! I his deceitful way the devil can make this world look very exciting.

I am not perfect; the ‘old nature’ is always ‘hungry’ for the wrong things, but this verse comes to mind ~ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. I John 2:16

Our old nature lusts after material things, such as money, excitement, pleasures, ungodly music, and many, many other things. But, none of these things will ever make us very satisfied, content or happy.

The wisest man ever, King Solomon, tried everything that his world

offered him. . . and found nothing.

“I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove tee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

. . . I made me a great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits: I made me pools of water. . . I got me servants and maidens. . . I had great possessions of great and small cattle. . . I gathered me also silver and gold. . . I gat me men singers and women singers. . . musical instruments and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me. . .

And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy. . . then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no

profit under the sun.”
Ecclesiastes 2: 1, 4-11

Dear sisters, when I read that portion of scripture, I really ‘hit home’! There is indeed no profit under the sun in any treasures that we lay up for ourselves down here on the earth.

This world offers no rest or peace and defiantly no joy! It gives just a tempory happiness that does not last ~ “The pleasures of sin for a season” Hebrews 11:25

I have seen a lot of teenagers and young people that have had their ‘fill’ of the pleasures of this world and yet, look so sad and depressed. Their lives are empty because this world has nothing to offer, and they need Jesus. . . I am sure that if teenagers in the world were honest, they would tell us (Christian young people) that we are missing absolutely nothing!

In Proverbs 13:15b the Bible says “the way of transgressors is hard” be everything you want; but none of these things will

ever give you real peace or joy. According to Solomon, outside of God's will, all of this will be vanity and vexation of spirit!

Joy and peace cannot be had by the world, because they are a part of

the fruit of the spirit ~ to be had by a Christian who has yielded their life to the will of God. " But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness,

temperance. . . Galatians 5:22-23a

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. I John 2:17

Tiana Popovic

Day By Day By Grace

Bob Hoekstra

September 17, 2011

Waiting on the Lord, Hoping in the Lord

*. . . I will wait upon the Lord . . . and I will look for Him. . . Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord! . . . Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.
(Isaiah 8:17; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 31:24)*

Living by waiting on the Lord offers a helpful perspective on living by grace. Waiting on the Lord, is the same reality as hoping in the Lord. "I will wait on the Lord. . . and I will look for Him." Waiting on the Lord is not merely about waiting (that is, allowing time to pass). Rather, it is about humbly placing our hope and expectations in the Lord God as time is passing. This is what living by grace comprises (looking to the Lord to work on our behalf and within our hearts).

Waiting on the Lord (hoping in the Lord) is appropriate for every area of our lives. Furthermore, wondrous

consequences result from hoping in our God. "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, wait I say, on the Lord! . . . Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." When we place our hope in the Lord (waiting for him to work in our lives and circumstances), He brings us spiritual courage and spiritual strength within our inner man.

Those who wait on the Lord have a distinctive different destiny than the wicked, than the evildoers. "For evildoers shall be cut off, but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. . .

wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the Land. when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it” Psalm 37:9,34 Evildoers (the wicked, who have no interest in the way of salvation) end up “cut off”. In attempting to develop their personal earthly kingdoms, they lose everything. They think they can take over a portion of this world, which belongs to our Creator God. Instead they lose it all. They are cut off forever from their

achievements, as well as from the God who made them. On the other hand, those who hope in the Lord inherit all of creation, as well as an eternal relationship with their Creator Redeemer. Truly, “The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him. Lamentations 3:25 Therefore, let . . . [us] hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption” Psalm 130:7. Yes, let us “hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever”. Psalm 131:3

Precise Directions

A friend who came to visit our family was dropped off in Toronto by his father. He planned to take the subway to the bus station, then catch a bus to our town in southern Ontario. He knew approximately where the subway station was, but asked someone on the street for directions. “I’ll bring you there,” said the older immigrant who escorted our friend a few blocks to a restaurant. The sign over the door read “Subway” – but it was a submarine sandwich shop! After discreetly getting precise

directions, he found the subway station and continued his journey.

Many believers are on a quest to find relief from besetting sins, dysfunctional relationships, and inner turmoil. They search the Bible, listen to sermons, and read devotional literature, but end up with vague directions at best and contradictory, misguiding instructions at worst. The searching disciple may have caught a glimmer of hope through promises like Galatians 2:20 – “I am crucified with Christ:

nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”. However, many wonder exactly how this quality of life can be experienced today. Those who enjoy this abiding life know it’s real, but often have difficulty explaining to others “how to get there.” The need for precise directions remains.

Consider these three essentials for “life more abundant” in Christ.

First, **know.** What should we know? Romans 6:6 tells us; “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. “This refers to the Holy Spirit illuminating the child of God to grasp his co-death with Christ. We tend to think of Christ’s work on the Cross as “He died for us.” This is wonderfully true (I Peter 3:18). But equally wonderful is the truth that “we died with Him positionally and spiritually. When we are born again, the dead human spirit (the “old man”) is canceled out by Calvary; our regenerated spirit (the “new man”) is united with Christ (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 3:9-10). So we truly are one with Christ (I Corinthians 6:17). He is the vine, we are the branches, He is the head, we are His body (John 15:1-5; I Corinthians 12:27).

A century ago a missionary in India had an unusual dream about the

Cross that impressed on him the reality of his co-crucifixion with Christ. “In this dream, it was not the Saviour’s bleeding form which held his eye. It was an exceedingly ugly thing, an indescribably loathsome thing, the nature of which he could not make out. What was the thing that so horrified him? Later, as he heard the message of identification, and realized that with Christ he had been crucified, the Spirit revealed to him that the loathsome thing that he had seen in his dream was none other than himself.” This worker went on to greatly promote the teaching of the believer’s identification with Christ.

Watchman Nee clarified this step in knowing: “Read them together: ‘Knowing that our old man was crucified,’ . . . ‘reckon ye yourselves to be dead’ (Romans 6:6,11) That is the order. When we know that our old man has been crucified with Christ, then the next step is to reckon it so. Unfortunately, in presenting the truth of

our union with Christ the emphasis has too often been placed upon this second matter of reckoning ourselves to be dead, as though that were the starting point, whereas it should rather be upon knowing ourselves to be dead. . . What, then, is the secret of reckoning? To put it in one word, it is revelation. We need a revelation from God Himself (Matthew 16:17). We need to have our eyes opened to the fact of our union with Christ, and that is something more than knowing it as a doctrine.”

It was to encourage this first step that Paul prayed that our eyes of understanding would be enlightened (Ephesians 1:17-21) How about reading and meditating on that prayer. Make it your own. God delights in illumining His children!

Second, **surrender.** When we receive Christ as Saviour and Lord, we acknowledge the fact that Christ has the right to rule our lives, but how much of our mind, will and affections (soul) have we

truly abandoned to His control? Romans 12:1 exhorts:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect, will of God.”

Notice that God’s will is not adverse to our well-being: it is what we would want if we knew all the facts!

In the Christian’s secret of a Happy Life, Hannah W. Smith summarized this condition of surrender: “Consecration. . . abandonment. . . whatever word we use, we mean an entire surrender of the whole being to God; spirit, soul, and body placed under His absolute control, for Him to do with us just what he pleases. We mean that the language of our soul, under all circumstances,

and in view of every act, is to be, “Thy will be done.” We mean the giving up of all liberty of choice. We mean a life of inevitable obedience. To a soul ignorant of God, this may look hard. But to those who know Him, it is the happiest and most restful of lives.”

Fellow believer, will you raise the white flag of surrender and enjoy the victory Christ has won for you?

Third, **trust**. We are aware that our entrance into new life in Christ was through faith; “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 22:8-9) Repeatedly God’s Word affirms that, likewise, the Christian is to live by faith: “For therein [the gospel] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17) Notice the parallel in Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the

Lord, [through faith] so walk ye in him: [by faith].”

Jack Taylor compares “saving faith” with “satisfying faith”

“Many people who are saved are not satisfied. The experience of salvation is not just an event; it is a relationship. Just as faith was needed in the initial event, it is needed in the continuing relationship. Paul in Romans 5:1, speaks of a saving faith by which ‘we have peace with God.’ But in the next verse he adds as ‘also’. As we are saved by an initial act of faith we continue in faith to have ‘access by faith into this grace in which we stand. . .’ (Romans 5:2) It is the ‘much more’ that we find the victory in Christ. Faith is the trusting commitment of self to Jesus Christ. . . It is continued faith that brings us to complete satisfaction in an unceasing relationship with our Lord.” As I John 5:4 says, “And this is the victory that has overcome the world even our faith.”

We need to trust Christ, not only our Saviour and Lord, but also as our Life. “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4) Believer, shout is from the rooftops—Christ is your life!

Therefore, depend on him moment by moment for all your spiritual needs.

Maybe you came to Christ by using a model “sinner’s prayer.” Many have found a “selfer’s prayer” to be a useful guide for appropriating Christ as Life. A sister was perplexed about the way to the abiding life. She said to Hannah Smith; “You all say, ‘Abandon yourself, and trust, abandon yourself, and trust,’ but I do not know how. I wish you would just do it out loud, so that

I may see how you do it.” In her old English style, Hannah replied, “Shall I do it out loud for you? ‘Lord Jesus, I believe that Thou art able and willing to deliver me from all the care, and unrest and bondage of my Christian life, I believe that Thou didst die to set me free, not only in the future, but now and here. I believe Thou art stronger than Satan, nad that Thou canst keep me, even me, in my extreme of weakness, from falling into his snares or yielding obedience to his commands. And Lord, I am absolutely helpless; so now I will trust thee. I will give myself to thee; I keep back no reserves. Body, soul and spirit, I present myself to Thee, a

worthless lump of clay, to be made into anything Thy love and Thy wisdom shall choose. And now, I am thine. I believe Thou dost accept that which I present to Thee; I believe that this poor, weak, foolish heart has been taken possession of by Thee, and Thou hast even at this very moment begun to work in me to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. I trust Thee utterly, and I trust Thee now!

A map doesn’t describe all the features of geography, and these “precise directions” do not cover all the aspects of sanctification. Yet, by Knowing, Surrendering, and trusting, you will experience the joy and peace of abiding in Christ.

John Woodward

Galatians 2:20 - “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”.

Bible Challenge Answers:

There are 29 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it; she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book manes are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phil lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 29 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Praise the Lord:

Several years ago I heard a story about an elderly gentleman who was at a midweek prayer meeting. He began his prayer by saying, "Oh, Lord, we will praise you with an instrument of ten strings!"

People wondered what he meant, until he went on to say, "We will praise you with our two eyes, by looking only to you. We will exalt you with our two ears, by listening only to your voice. We will extol you with our two hands, by working in your service. We will honour you with our two feet, by walking in the way of your statutes. We will magnify you with our tongues, by bearing testimony to your loving kindness. We will worship you with our hearts, by loving only you. We thank you for this instrument, Lord. Keep it in tune. Play upon it as you will, and ring out the melodies of your grace. May its harmonies always express your glory."

Michael Youssef

