

**Devotional Thoughts :: Jesus!****Jesus!, on: 2007/11/19 9:30**

Jesus!

(Octavius Winslow, "Evening Thoughts")

What is our path to glory, but the path of tribulation, of suffering, and of death? Our Lord and Master, in the expression of His wisdom and love, forewarns us of this: "In the world you shall have tribulation."

What are all the supports of the believer in seasons of trial, suffering, and bereavement, but so many manifestations of the life of the Lord Jesus? This it is that keeps the soul . . . buoyant amid the billows, strong in faith, joyful in hope, soaring in love.

Thus is Jesus . . .  
the life of every grace,  
the life of every promise,  
the life of every ordinance,  
the life of every blessing.

Yes, of all that is really costly and precious to a child of God, Jesus is . . .  
the substance,  
the glory,  
the sweetness,  
the fragrance,  
yes, the very life itself!

Oh! dark and lonely, desolate and painful indeed would our present pilgrimage be, but for Jesus!

If in the world we have tribulation; in whom do we have peace? In Jesus!

If in the creature we meet with fickleness and change; in whom do we find the Friend who loves at all times? In Jesus!

When adversity comes as a wintry blast, and lays low our comforts; when the cloud is upon our tabernacle; when health, and wealth, and influence, and friends are gone; in whom do we find the covert from the wind, the faithful, tender Brother born for adversity? In Jesus!

When temptation assails,  
when care darkens,

when trial oppresses,  
when bereavement wounds,  
when heart and flesh are failing;  
who throws around us the protecting shield,  
who applies the precious promise,  
who speaks the soothing word,  
who sustains the sinking spirit,  
who heals the sorrow,  
who dries the tear? Jesus!

Where sin struggles in the heart, and guilt  
burdens the conscience, and unbelief beclouds  
the mind; whose grace subdues our iniquities,  
whose blood gives us peace, and whose light  
dispels our darkness? Jesus!

And when the spark of life wanes, and the  
eye grows dim, and the mind wanders, and  
the soul, severing its last fetter, mounts  
and soars away, Jesus, in that awful moment,  
draws near in form unseen, and whispers in  
words unheard by all but the departing one,  
now in close communion with the solemn  
realities of the invisible world, "Fear not;  
I am the resurrection and the life. He who  
believes in Me will live, even though he dies!"

**Re: Jesus!, on: 2007/11/19 21:25**

Just give me Jesus!

(Anne Lotz)

He is enduringly strong.

He is entirely sincere.

He is eternally steadfast.

He is immortally gracious.

He is imperially powerful.

He is impartially merciful.

He is the greatest phenomena that has  
ever crossed the horizon of the globe.

He is God's Son.

He is the sinner's Savior.

He is the captive's ransom.

He is the breath of life.

He is the centerpiece of civilization.

He stands in the solitude of Himself.

He is august, and He is unique.

He is unparalleled, and He is unprecedented.

He is undisputed, and He is undefiled.

He is unsurpassed, and He is unshakable.

He is the loftiest idea in philosophy.

He is the highest personality in psychology.

He is the supreme subject in literature.

He is the fundamental doctrine of theology.

He is the corner-stone, the cap-stone,  
the stumbling-stone of all religion.

He is the miracle of the ages.

Just give me Jesus!

**Re:, on: 2007/11/22 7:10**

Following Jesus

TEXT: Matthew 4:18-22; 1Corinthians 11:1

INTRODUCTION: We sing songs about following Jesus. We read Bible verses about following Jesus (like Luke 9:23). But what does it mean to follow Jesus in our daily lives? The Bible tells us several ways in which we should be like Jesus. Let's look at a few of them.

Follow Him in Love (Ephesians 5:1-2)

The Love of Christ (v.2)

A directed love - "us" -not a general feeling of well being, but a love that is directed toward real people

A giving love - "hath given" -John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave..."

A sacrificial love - "himself...an offering" -compare the widow who gave her two mites (Luke 21:1-4)

A God-pleasing love - "a sweet smelling savour"

The Love of the Christian

An obedient love (v.1; 1John 4:19)

A walk in love (v.2) -it should saturate our daily lives

Follow Him in Forgiveness (Colossians 3:12-13)

The Forgiveness of Christ (v.13)

A personal forgiveness Â– "you"

A completed forgiveness Â– "forgave"; in the past tense

The Forgiveness of the Christian

A characteristic forgiveness (v.12 Â– "put on"); we are to wear it continually

An active forgiveness (v.13)

Forbearing; this involves not taking offense in the first place

Forgiving; see the 70 times 7 forgiveness of Matthew 18:21-22

Follow Him in Humility (Philippians 2:5-8)

The Humility of Christ

A satisfied humility (v.6)

A willing humility (v.7)

A submissive humility (v.8)

The Humility of the Christian (v.5)

A mental humility Â– "Let this mind be in you"

An inward humility Â– "in you"; compare Philippians 2:3-4

Follow Him in Honor (Romans 15:1-3)

The Honor of Christ (v.3)

A selfless honor Â– "pleased not himself"

A suffering honor Â– "reproachesÂ…fell on me"

The Honor of the Christian (see Romans 12:10)

A strengthening honor (v.1)

A building honor (v.2); edification means the process of building up

Follow Him in Suffering (1Peter 2:19-23)

The Suffering of Christ

A sinless suffering (v.22); He did not let His trials rob Him of His spirituality as we often do

A quiet suffering (v.23); He did not brag about how much He was suffering

The Suffering of the Christian

A blameless suffering (v.19); "for conscience toward God"

A patient suffering (v.20)

An obedient suffering (v.21)

**CONCLUSION:** We are to follow Jesus in the way that He lived. We are to be more like Him who died for us. Are you following Jesus in love? In forgiveness? In humility? In honor? In suffering? Would you make a commitment to be more like Jesus?

**Re: - posted by enid, on: 2007/11/22 7:12**

Thanks for sharing this.

**Re:, on: 2007/11/22 21:48**

1. In the Darkness of Despair, There Is the Light of Hope Â– Isaiah 9:2-7
2. In the Darkness of Suffering, There Is the Light of LifeÂ– John 1:1-13
3. In the Darkness of Oppression, There Is the Light of Salvation Â– Luke 2:1-5
4. In the Darkness of Fear, There Is the Light of Joy Â– Luke 2:6-11
5. In the Darkness of Anxiety, There Is the Light of Peace Â– Luke 2:12-17
6. In the Darkness of Uncertainty, There Is the Light of Wonder Â– Luke 2:17-20
7. In the Darkness of Suspicion, There Is the Light of Devotion Â– Matthew 2:1-12

**Re:, on: 2007/11/26 1:11**

Many times we fail to communicate the Gospel to our own family members, because we don't want them to get angry with us.

Many times we fail to communicate the Gospel to our friends because we don't want to lose their friendship.

Many times we fail to communicate the Gospel of Christ because we do not want to open ourselves up to ridicule.

**Re: - posted by enid, on: 2007/11/26 8:25**

Quote: 'Many times...'

How many times, in God's eyes, is too many times?

God bless.

**Re:, on: 2007/11/28 5:34**

God needs men today -

Men who will stand before His face and hear His voice daily,

Men who have no desire in their heart for anyone or anything other than God Himself,

Men who fear Him so greatly that they hate sin in every form and love righteousness and truth in all their ways,

Men who have overcome anger and sexually sinful thoughts, and who would rather die than sin even in thought or attitude,

Men whose daily lifestyle is one of taking up the cross and pressing on to perfection, and who are constantly working out their own salvation with fear and trembling,

Men, full of the Holy Spirit, who are so rooted and grounded in love that nothing can ever move them into an unloving attitude towards another human being, however great the provocation,

Men who are so rooted and grounded in humility that neither human praise nor spiritual growth, neither a divinely endorsed ministry nor anything else will be able to make them lose the awareness of their being less than the least of all the saints,

Men who have an understanding of God's nature and purpose through His word, and who tremble at that word so that they will not disobey even the smallest commandment or neglect to teach it to others,

Men who will proclaim the whole counsel of God and expose religious harlotry and unscriptural human traditions,

Men who have the revelation of the Holy Spirit on the secret of godliness, on Christ having come in the flesh and opened

a new and living way through the flesh,  
Men who are diligent and hard-working, but who also have a sense of humour, and know how to relax and play with children and enjoy God's good gifts in nature,  
Men who are not ascetics, but who at the same time live a disciplined life and who are not afraid of hardships,  
Men who have no interest in expensive clothing or sight seeing and who will not waste their time in unprofitable activities or their money in unnecessary purchases,  
Men who have mastered their desire for fancy foods and who are not enslaved to music or sport or any other legitimate activity,  
Men who have been disciplined successfully by God in the fires of affliction, abuse, tribulations, false accusation, physical sickness, financial hardships and opposition from relatives and religious leaders,  
Men full of mercy, who can sympathise with the worst of sinners and the worst of believers, and have hope for them, because they consider themselves to be the foremost of all sinners,  
Men who are so deeply rooted in the security of the love of their Heavenly Father that they are never anxious about anything, or afraid of Satan or evil men or difficult situations or anything,  
Men who have entered into God's rest, believing in the sovereign working of God in all matters for their best and who therefore give thanks always for all men, for all things and in all circumstances,  
Men who find their joy in God alone and who are therefore full of the joy of the Lord, having overcome all bad moods,  
Men of living faith, who have no confidence in themselves or their natural abilities, but complete confidence in God as their unfailing Helper in all situations,  
Men who live, not by the promptings of their own reason, but by the leading of the Holy Spirit,  
Men who have been genuinely baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire by Christ Himself (and not just thrilled by some emotional counterfeit or convinced by some theological argument),  
Men who live constantly under the anointing of the Spirit, endowed with the supernatural gifts that He has given them,  
Men who have revelation of the church as the body of Christ (and not a congregation or a denomination), and who give all their energies, their material wealth and spiritual gifts to build that church,  
Men who have learnt to bridle their tongues through the help of the Holy Spirit and whose tongues are now aflame with the divine Word,  
Men who have forsaken all, who are not attracted any more to money or material things, and who desire no gifts from others,  
Men who can trust God for all their earthly needs and who never hint about their material needs or boast about their labours, either in their conversation or through letters and reports,  
Men who are not stubborn, but gentle, and open to criticism and eager for correction from older and wiser brothers,  
Men who have no desire to dominate or advise others (although ready to give advice, when asked for), and who have no longing to be considered as 'elder' brothers, or leaders, but who only desire to be ordinary brothers and servants of all,  
Men who are easy to get along with, and who are willing to be inconvenienced and taken advantage of by others,  
Men who will make no distinction between the millionaire and the beggar, the white-skinned and the dark-skinned, the intellectual and the idiot, and the cultured and the barbarian, but who will treat them all alike,  
Men who will never be influenced by their wife, children, relatives, friends or other believers to cool off even slightly in their devotion to Christ or their obedience to God's commandments,  
Men who can never be bribed to compromise by any reward that Satan may offer (whether honour or money or whatever),  
Men who are fearless witnesses for Christ, fearing neither religious heads nor secular heads,  
Men who desire to please no human being on the face of the earth, and who are willing to offend all men, if necessary, in order to please God alone,  
Men for whom God's glory, God's will and God's kingdom always take priority over mere human need and their own comfort,  
Men who cannot be pressurised either by others or by their own reason into doing 'dead works' for God, but who are eager and content to do the revealed will of God for their lives alone,  
Men who have the discernment of the Spirit to distinguish between the soulish and the spiritual in Christian work,  
Men who look at things from a heavenly view point and not an earthly one,  
Men who will refuse all earthly honours and titles offered them for their labours for God,  
Men who know how to pray without ceasing, and also how to fast and pray when needed,  
Men who have learned to give generously, cheerfully, secretly and with wisdom,  
Men who are willing to be all things for all men, so that by all means they might save some,  
Men who have a longing to see others not only saved but also made disciples of Christ, and brought to the knowledge of the truth and to obedience to all of God's commandments,  
Men who have a longing to see a pure testimony established for God in every place,  
Men who have a burning passion to see Christ glorified in the church,

Men who do not seek their own in any matter,  
Men with spiritual authority and spiritual dignity,  
Men who will stand alone for God in the world, if need be,  
Men who are totally uncompromising, like the apostles and prophets of old.  
God's work in the world suffers today, because such men are few in number. Determine with all your heart that you will be such a man for God, in the midst of a sinful and adulterous generation and a compromising Christendom. Since there is no partiality with God, it is possible for you too to be such a man, provided you yourself earnestly desire to be one. Since God demands commitment and obedience only in the conscious area of one's life, it is possible for you to be such a man, even though the conscious area of your life may be limited. (That area will keep increasing as you walk in the light and press on to perfection). There is no excuse then why you cannot be such a man. Since nothing good dwells in the flesh, we have to seek for grace from God to have the virtues listed above. Cry out to God daily then, that He will give you grace to be such a man in these, the closing days of the age.

Zac Poonen.

**Re:, on: 2007/11/28 10:30**

You may not know me, but I know everything about you... Psalm 139:1  
I know when you sit down and when you rise up... Psalm 139:2  
I am familiar with all your ways... Psalm 139:3  
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered... Matthew 10:29-31  
For you were made in my image... Genesis 1:27  
In me you live and move and have your being... Acts 17:28  
For you are my offspring... Acts 17:28  
I knew you even before you were conceived... Jeremiah 1:4-5  
I chose you when I planned creation... Ephesians 1: 11-12  
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book... Psalm 139:15-16  
I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live... Acts 17:26  
You are fearfully and wonderfully made... Psalm 139:14  
I knit you together in your mother's womb... Psalm 139:13  
And brought you forth on the day you were born... Psalm 71:6  
I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me... John 8:41-44  
I am not distant and angry, but am the complete \_\_\_expression of love... John 4:16  
And it is my desire to lavish my love on you simply because you are my child  
and I am your Father... 1 John 3:1  
I offer you more than your earthly parents ever could... Matthew 7:11  
For I am the perfect Parent... Matthew 5:48  
Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand... James 1:17  
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs... Matthew 6:31-33  
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope... Jeremiah 29:11  
Because I love you with an everlasting love... Jeremiah 31:3  
My thoughts towards you are countless as the sand on the seashore... Psalm 139:17-18  
And I rejoice over you with singing... Zephaniah 3:17  
I will never stop doing good to you... Jeremiah 32:40  
For you are my treasured possession... Exodus 19:5  
I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul... Jeremiah 32:41  
And I want to show you great and marvelous things... Jeremiah 33:3  
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me... Deuteronomy 4:29  
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart... Psalm 37:4  
For it is I who gave you those desires... Philippians 2:13  
I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine... Ephesians 3:20  
For I am your greatest encourager... 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17  
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles... 2 Corinthians 1:3-4  
When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you... Psalm 34:18  
As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart... Isaiah 40:11  
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes and will take away all  
the pain you have suffered on this earth.... Revelation 21:3-4  
I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus... John 17:23  
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed... John 17:26

He is the exact representation of my being... Hebrews 1:3  
He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you... Romans 8:31  
And to tell you that I am not counting your sins... 2 Corinthians 5:18-19  
Jesus died so that I could be reconciled... 2 Corinthians 5:18-19  
His death was the ultimate \_\_\_expression of my love for you... I John 4:10  
I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love... Romans 8:38-39  
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen... Luke 15:7  
I have always been Father, and will always be Father... Ephesians 3:14-15  
My question is ... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13

I am waiting for you ... Luke 15:11-32

**Re:, on: 2007/11/28 22:12**

God is greater than our heart!

I Jn 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

1. Our God is above all Gods... Living God.

Psm 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

2. Our God is greater than any Church----- Denomination.

Mt 12:6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

3. Our God is greater than Jonah...Preachers.

Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

4. Our God is greater than Solomon...Wisdom.

Matthew 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

5. Our God is greater than Jacob...Israelites.

John 4:12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

6. Our God is greater than Abraham...Father of faith.

John 8:53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the



prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

7. Our God is great in Counsel   Â...Â...Â...Â...Â...Counsel

Jere 32:19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

**Re:, on: 2007/11/29 2:14**

God met Jacob in five places.

1. Bethel..... Gn 28:12-15.....Prayer Life.
2. Mahanaim.....Gn 32:1-2.....Presence of God.
3. Succoth.....Gn 33:17.....Reconciliation Life.
4. Shechem.....Gn 35:4.....Separated Life.
5. Peniel: .....Gn 32:30-31.....Blessed life.