

Good News Today

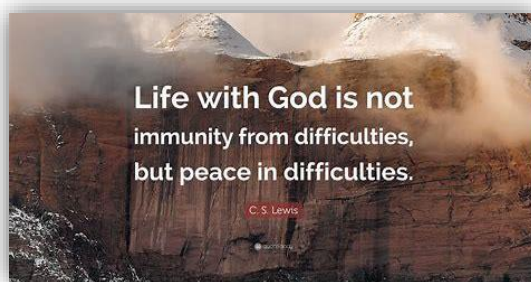
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ALTURAS, CA

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

2 Corinthians 5:17



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness
and Self-Control.*

Galatians 5:22-23

GO ALL THE WAY

*Trust in the Lord with all of your heart
Do not lean on your own smarts
Acknowledge Him in all your ways
He's guaranteed to make your paths straight*

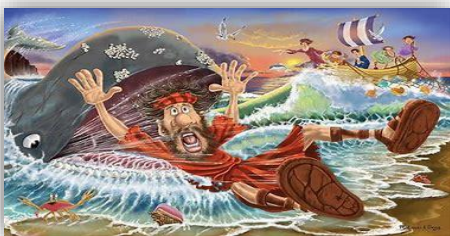
*Take off the old man and put on the new
Forget about the things that you used to do
Open your Bible so it can make sense
It don't feel good when you straddle the fence*

*Poor old Jonah wouldn't listen to the Lord
So, they finally threw him overboard
He cried out from the belly of the fish
Hey, I'll go to Ninevah and not Tarshish*

*So, if you're gonna go... go all the way
Hey, it's fourth down... you know what they say
You better let Jesus call the play
'Cause if you're gonna go... Go all the way*

M. Lewis

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"But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary of doing good."

2 Thessalonians 3:13

A NEW SONG IN MY HEART

On a cold evening in mid-January 1990, I fell asleep on my couch. That night, a vivid dream would change my life forever.

I was inside an old residence in New England. What I saw were rooms my cousin had described in a long-distance call earlier that year. He was in the process of restoring the interior of his 1700's mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut.

On the first floor, I stood in a large, spacious room. It was the grand ballroom. The ceiling rose well over two stories high, and heavy drapery hung on either side of the massive, towering windows.

Walking around the room, I suddenly heard a loud noise coming from behind me. I turned and saw a large drape from one of the windows flying across the empty space toward my legs. When it struck, it coiled around my ankles and continued to wrap me all the way to the top of my shoulders. My neck and head were the only parts left exposed. Feeling like a mummy wrapped and confined in grave clothes, I fell to the marble floor.

The drape tightened with a force I had never experienced. My chest felt as though it was being crushed as I struggled to breathe. In a weak, shaky voice, I managed to cry out, "Lord... help me!" Then, in an almost breathless whisper, I made a promise to God: "I will serve You for the rest of my life." As soon as I finished the commitment, the drape unwrapped from my body and flew back to its place beside the window.

The dream finally ended. I opened my eyes and pushed myself into a semi-sitting position. My chest ached, as I gasped, struggling to fill my lungs. Still lying on the couch, I trembled, knowing that this encounter was unlike any I had ever had before.

In 1987, three years earlier, I had fallen off a roof, making a similar commitment to the one I made the night of my dream.

Leaving the local emergency room, I walked away with only a bruised kidney. A few days later, I returned to my usual, busy ways, never forgetting the promise I had made that night. "I promise to serve You," I said while lying on the ground, thinking I might die. But, just as many times before, it turned out to be another unkept promise—one of many I had made to God throughout my life.

Then, two years later, in 1989, I drove to San Diego with my friend Jim Coles, a PGA Club Pro, to caddy for him in a US Open Qualifier. We went to church the day before the tournament began, and for me, it was the first time I had attended a service in years.

I knew that something was beginning to stir in me as we drove back home. My heart still wasn't fully committed. I began to attend church but only sporadically. God was constantly nudging me to trust Him and give my life to Him. I knew I needed to, but as I later realized, my pride didn't want to let me go.

Finally, on that couch in 1990, the years of my non-committal, foxhole promises to serve God came to an end. I knew I could no longer turn away from or avoid His calling. I accepted His forgiveness, and the void in my heart was filled with His overwhelming love. I was consumed by a passion to reach out and share His forgiveness and grace with others.

This month marks thirty-five years since my breathless encounter, and the time has passed quickly, but in the light of *Eternity*, it's barely a dent.

If you haven't already, why not choose to let Him fill you with His truth—His life—and guide you along the only way to Heaven?

Don't wait for a choking dream to make that choice...there's really no need to.

Blessings,

Serving Jesus because of His love, grace, and a new song in my heart.

Mike Lewis

No God.....No Peace

Know God.....Know Peace

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. Acts 2:17

ALL THINGS ARE NEW IN HIM Isaiah 43:19

FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED



Elisabeth Elliot (née Howard) was born in Belgium, where her parents served as missionaries. She moved to the U.S. as an infant and would go on to attend Wheaton College. At Wheaton, she to enable her to work in the area of unwritten languages during her future missionary work.

While at Wheaton, she met her future first husband, Jim Elliot. After graduation, and for five years before their engagement, Jim and Elisabeth served in different parts of Ecuador. Elisabeth eventually accepted Jim's marriage proposal and the condition attached to it: to learn the Ecuadorian Quichua language before they got married.

In 1953, Jim and Elisabeth married in Quito, Ecuador and continued their work in that nation. Jim had wanted to enter the territory of an unreached tribe and so chose the Aucas, a fierce group whom no one had succeeded in meeting without being killed. After discovering the location of the tribe, Jim and four other missionaries entered Auca territory. After a friendly contact with three of the tribe, they were speared to death. (That story is told in the book and movie, *End of the Spear*)

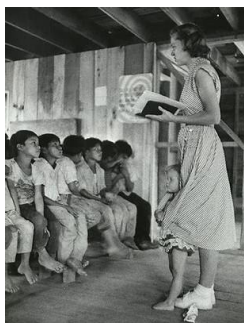
After the death of her husband, and now alone with her 10-month-old daughter, she continued to live among and minister to the Quichua tribe. During this time, she met two Auca women who lived with her and taught her the tribe's language. She then went as a missionary to serve the tribe that had killed her husband. While there, the people gave Elisabeth the tribal name *Gikari*, meaning "Woodpecker."

During her time in Ecuador, Elisabeth wrote *Through Gates of Splendor* (the story of the five men, including her husband, who were killed by the Auca), *Shadow of the Almighty* (a memoir about the life and work of her husband Jim), and *The Savage, My Kinsmen* (about her life among the Aucas). When she returned to the U.S. in 1963 she began a career as a writer and speaker. She would go on to write a total of twenty-four books.



ELISABETH ELLIOT
1926-2015

Christ in Me
Galatians 2:20



WHY IS THE BIBLE A BIG DEAL?

It is truly *Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth*! I am so grateful to the Lord for providing us with a guide book that has the power to literally transform our lives on this side of eternity!

The more we know His Word, the more familiar His voice will become to us. Proverbs 3:5-6 puts it beautifully, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

It's one thing for God's Word to reveal Himself to us through studying it, but it's imperative that we do our part by putting our trust in Him with ALL our heart ... not leaning on our own understanding ... and always submitting to His guidance and direction.

Read Jim's full blog at www.mightywind.org/blog

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I REMEMBER

*Did You say You'd make me new,
If I turned and gave my life to You?
Did You say You'd change me deep within,
And reveal to me the depth of my sin?*

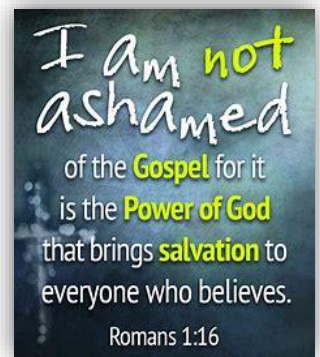
*Did You say You'd cleanse me, pure as snow,
If I carried my cross and swiftly followed?
Did You say You'd lead me 'round winding bends,
To start anew where it never ends?*

How could I forget?

*You took my burdens and made them light,
You forgave my sins and made me right.
You gave me hope and unending love,
A place of Grace where I can always come.*

Oh, How I Remember

M. Lewis
Grace House Publishing



THE SPINAL CONNECTION

After two years of pain in my chest and sternum area, I'm finally getting answers! My ribs have been dislocated this entire time, and I didn't even know it!

I made three ER visits, numerous NP visits, a chiropractor, and no one found the 4 dislocated ribs. I knew something was wrong, but no one seemed to believe me. Finally, a dear friend suggested her chiropractor, and within minutes, he found them.

We're on month three of trying to keep them in, but they're still popping out. Yesterday, I asked Holy Spirit what He's speaking to me through all of this and I heard Him say, "There's a misalignment in the core of My Body. Her structure is dislocated from the Center— disconnected from the spine (Abba), the bind that holds the Body in place." The purpose of the spine in medical terms is...to give the body structure (our purpose), to support the body (our stability), protecting the spinal cord, which holds the nerves to the brain (spiritual sensitivity), and lastly, it allows us to be flexible and move (moving with the Spirit).

It's time for the reconnection to the Center—Abba Father! When the muscles tighten, (trials and circumstances around us) we're not to pop out of the intimacy socket! Remain engaged into the Center, the solid Spine that holds us in place! Abiding in the Vine—that which the branches sprout from. This is the day of direct correlation, direct connection with the Spirit of God. We can't miss it!!

Let's engage with the Most High!

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