



Seeking God

By Nat Swaan

God works in our lives toward our benefit. Romans 4: 17, explains to us: “(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” God sees us as a completed creation. We are God’s sons and daughters, not what we see ourselves to be. He wants us to see that we are in a process, which He has promised to complete. God encourages us, by the continuing work of change in our lives, as we commune with Him.

In the book of Job, we read how Job went through very hard trials. He came to the point of stating he should never have been born. God answered him in Job 38: 4-7: “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” That statement by God, tells us how highly he values us. Earth is only one planet of our solar system in the Milky Way that contains tens of billions of solar systems like ours. The Universe contains 100 to 200 billion galaxies like the Milky Way, according to scientists. When the foundations of this earth were laid, the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Earth is a special place to God.

God loves us so much that as it says in Psalms 113: 5-8: “Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of

the dunghill; That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people.” Through Jesus Christ, God has humbled himself and His Son. He took us in our rebellion and sin, and made us His children, kings and priests unto Him. You cannot imagine what your future holds. We can only see where we are now, not where and what we shall be. Job could only see what had happened to him. God enlightened Job, as he spoke to him. Job replied to God in Job 42: 5-6: “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Psalms 139: 16 (NIV), speaks of God creating each of us: “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” God has ordained a path for us. He wants us to commit to Him and submit to Him. Then He pours out His love to us, and blesses us.

God created this world and us for His purposes. Genesis 1:27 tells us: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” God is a spirit, not a man or a woman. He displays in both man and

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woman, attributes of his nature. A woman looks for love. She wants someone to nurture and cherish her. A man looks for respect. A woman desires wooing, whether courting or married for 50 years; she desires her love to woo her.

God loves us with an unending love. Many scriptures speak of his love for us. Zephaniah 3: 17 states: "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Romans 5: 8 says: "But God commendeth (exhibits, approves) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." 1John 4: 7-8: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

God speaks of his jealousy (the passion of his love) for us. Exodus 34: 14: "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." Man and woman are both in the image of God, and God desires us to woo Him, to communion with Him. He wants love to flow both ways. Jeremiah 29: 13: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." One of the most passionate verses is in the Song of Solomon 2: 10-13 "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear

on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." These verses speak of Christ and the Church.

God gives us a beginning in our salvation, and the gift of his Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1: 13-14 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." God has freely given us the promise, our betrothal, through Jesus Christ, and desires us to seek Him, to desire Him, to woo Him. How God loves us. He wants us to commune with Him. He desires our fellowship. John 14: 23: "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Take time to fellowship with God. He desires intimacy with you. God will bless you and draw you to Himself, as you release yourself in praise and worship in the Spirit, to Him.

A Disciplined Life

By Markus Hansen

"Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to

*Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called **Christians** in Antioch"* (Acts 11:19-26, NKJV).

From this reading we learn that Barnabas was sent to Antioch by the Apostles after hearing that there was a revival happening in Antioch. The name Barnabas is translated from an Aramaic word meaning the "son of an encourager or exhorter." The Apostles sent Barnabas to encourage the new converts and to exhort them to walk in the truths that had recently been revealed to them. After witnessing what was happening in Antioch, Barnabas travelled to Tarsus and found Saul and brought him back to Antioch to help with the work there. Saul, who eventually was renamed Paul, was a great teacher and together with Barnabas they remained in Antioch a whole year to

teach and encourage those who had given their lives to Christ.

The English word Christians used in the 26th verse is translated from the Greek word, Christianos meaning, “little anointed ones.” Those who had accepted Christ as their personal saviour had changed their way of living in such a dramatic way that they became known by their families, neighbours and co-workers as “little anointed ones.” Why? Because they began to emulate the life of Christ, “THE ANOINTED ONE.” They truly, wholeheartedly spoke, behaved, loved, lived, acted and showed forth the attributes of Jesus Christ. And they were not ashamed to share their new found experience. “*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven*” (Matthew 10:32, NKJV). “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes*” (Romans 1:16, NKJV).

To reach Sonship, the goal that God has called us to, we likewise need to emulate Christ and not be afraid to share our hope in Christ. “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*” (I Peter 3:15, KJV). Christ has shown us how we are to become like Him by His example. This is achieved through seeking the Holy Spirit to help us to live a more disciplined, Christ-like life. The Apostle Paul wrote that being a Christian is similar to being an athlete or a soldier in the natural who is known for his sacrifice and discipline. He used words such as: “fight, box, wrestle, work, suffer, endure, put to death, and resist in describing the Christian life.” In the scriptures, you will find again and again verses that indicate that God requires (rewards) hard work, and laziness is considered a sin. “*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done*” (Genesis 2:2, NKJV). (Proverbs 16:11, 19:15, 24:7)

“*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize*” (I Corinthians 9: 24-27, NIV).

Obviously we should do our very best to adhere

to the Ten Commandments and follow the greatest commandment: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself*” (Luke 10:27 NKJV). However, what are some practical day-to-day disciplines that will help us in our walk with God to press into our calling of entering into sonship and achieving a happy, fulfilled life?

In the writings of the traveling elders that have been published since the beginning of this present move of the Spirit, ten disciplines (practices) seem to stand out to me :

TEN DISCIPLINES TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

1) Have personal devotions every day. “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is” (Psalm 63:1, KJV).

a) Read your Bible everyday. Reading your Bible formats your mind into the mind of Christ. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8, KJV). See also II Timothy 2:15, II Timothy 3:14-17, Hebrews 10:16, Jeremiah 31:33 and Colossians 3:16)

b) Read the Sharon Star. See II Timothy 3:15.

c) Pray and seek God everyday. Your heavenly Father is your friend and He loves to hear from you. “When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek” (Psalm 27:8, KJV). See also Isaiah 40: 30-31, I Thessalonians 5:17 and I Timothy 2:8.

d) Speak in tongues everyday. Speaking in tongues builds you up spiritually and it opens the door to the operation of your spiritual gifts. (I Corinthians 14:2-5 and 14-15).

2. If you have a family, devotions should include family members. See Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Joshua 24:15 and Psalms 78: 5-8.

3. Attend church. You are a particular member of the body of Christ and your attendance is vitally important. See I Corinthians 12:27, I Corinthians 14:26-31 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

4. Attend church prepared to minister according to the gifts prophesied over you and to receive what God has for you. See I Corinthians 12:7-11.

5. Ladies wear a head covering when attending church. “For this reason a woman ought to bear on her head an outward sign of man’s authority for all the angels to see” (1Cor. 11: 10, Phillips Translation).

6. Tithes. Paying your tithes includes God in your financial equation. See Genesis 14:18-20, Deuteronomy 14:22, Proverbs 3:9-10 and Malachi 3:10.

7. Financial Guidance. Pay at least 10% of your gross income in tithes and live on less than you make. Stay away from debt as much as possible. See II Thessalonians 3:10 and I Timothy 5:8.

8. Headship. Honour, obey and come under the covering of your HEAD.

Children and young adults living at home obey your parents, your teachers, employers, and local elders. Those who are mature and have left the covering of their home and father, the local elders are your head. If you are a married woman, your husband is your head. See I Corinthians 11:3 and Ephesians 5:22-24.

9. Regional Camp Attendance. Plan to attend at least one regional church camp gathering each year. See Leviticus 23:42-43 and Nehemiah 8:14-17.

10. Seek advice early when faced with difficult problems. See Proverbs 11:15, Proverbs 12:15, I Thessalonians 5:12-24, Hebrews 13:17 and I Peter 5:1-4.

Putting into practice these ten principles lays a strong and firm foundation for you and your family that Satan will not be able to destroy. They are the keys to allowing God to bring about His purpose in your life and your family. It will be the beginning of God doing a good work in you and will allow God to finish the work, bringing you to a complete, mature and perfect son of God! Philippians 1: 6, NKJV says, “*that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*” Let there be no doubt in our mind, God will not be denied. God has such a desire and longing to finish the work He has begun in us to bring us into perfection that no obstacle can

deter His plan if we will but follow and live according to the truths that God has restored to the Church in these last days.

“But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Stay always within the boundaries where God’s love can reach and bless you. Wait patiently for the eternal life that our Lord Jesus Christ in His mercy is going to give you. Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt. Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren’t pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners.

*And now—all glory to Him who alone is God, who saves us through Jesus Christ our Lord; yes, splendour and majesty, all power and authority are His from the beginning; His they are and His they evermore shall be. And He is able to keep you from slipping and falling away, and to bring you, **sinless and perfect, into his glorious presence with mighty shouts of everlasting joy. Amen**” (Jude 1:20-25, Living Bible).*

It is often asked, “How do I know God’s will for my life?” If you put into practice the ten steps outlined in this writing, God will not only reveal His will for your life but He will also build the Kingdom of God in you! And as a bonus, you will find contentment, fulfillment, happiness and joy that the world will never, ever be able to provide.

In conclusion, “*let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith**” (Hebrew 12:1-2, NKJV).*

Glory to God, AMEN.

Lord, Lead Me - by Ewald. H. Wanagas

Lord, lead me and guide me,
I need you every day.
Lord, lead me and guide me,
Without you I would lose my way.

Lord, lead me and guide me,
Along life's narrow way.
Hold my hand and lead me,
Walk with me, then I cannot stray.

Lord, Lead me and guide me,
I surrender my life to you.
Every moment you are near me,
I can always depend on you.

Lord, lead me the upward way,
That leads to heaven above.
Only you are the truth and the Way,
Only in you I find perfect love.

If Any Man Come After Me

By Mike Greif

“If any man come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it” (Matthew 16:24-25).

As I read this scripture the other day I started asking myself what does this scripture really mean? It starts by saying, “If any man come after Me.” What does it mean to “...come after Him...?” Two other versions put it this way. “Whoever wishes to be my disciple....” or “If any of you wants to be my follower....” So, if we want to be His disciple, follower, and a true Christian, this is what we must do: deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him.

As I meditated on this scripture, some things started coming to my mind. To start with, what does it mean to ‘deny yourself?’ To deny yourself means to deny doing only what you want to do. Each of us thinks about what we want to do personally, concerning our day, our jobs, relationships, tasks, or things that we need to get done. I think what Jesus is saying here is for us to think about the interests of others and of God, doing His will in our lives, and going about His business, as well.

The first scripture that came to mind was Philipians 2:3-8, NAS.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself (of self and His own will-no longer living only to look after His own interests), taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death** (death of His will and of His selfish desires), even the death on a cross.” Jesus became obedient in every area of His life to the leading of the Holy Spirit, desiring to accomplish God’s will. I think this is what He is talking about when He tells us to deny ourselves. He wants us to be servant-slaves motivated by love, to the God of love, led by His Spirit, taking up our crosses, or our ministries and

gifts, that God has given each one of us, and allowing the God of love to work them through us just as we have been taught. These are spiritual gifts that God has specifically given to each one of us, to guide our service to Him! We serve Him by becoming what He wants us to be, serving Him by actively ministering those gifts, as we are following Him, by the leading of His Holy Spirit. Jesus in us is our “...hope of glory” (Col. 1:27), and so we walk with Him, abiding in Him, and He in us, and we follow His leading as He helps us serve Him according to the ministries God has given us! Deny yourself, take up your cross, and let Christ be the best father, mother, grandparent, uncle, aunt, son, daughter, friend, etc., through you, to any in your sphere of influence and ministry. When, for example, as a parent, your children need you and you are doing other ‘more important’ things, hopefully we listen to the Spirit’s guidance as to what is really important for us to do right at that time. Maybe it is to go play baseball with them, or read a book or the comics, or play a game, or to just talk to them and listen to their concerns. Deny yourself, take up your cross, your ministry, and follow Jesus’ leading, and let Christ be the best you, through you. Deny yourself and let Christ be a teacher, businessman, boss, employee, helper, servant, through you. Deny yourself and let Christ be a friend through you. Christ in you, and through you, is the hope of glory, and the hope of you influencing others for Him. Deny yourself and let Christ perform your gifts and ministries through you!

Matt. 16:25, “For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.” What does this mean? If we seek to ‘save our lives’ this means that we are seeking our will, letting our mind run the show, doing those things that we want to do, daily, selfishly taking care of ourselves and our desires for the day, only, and very likely squeezing our ministry out. We certainly have things that we need to do each day, and taking care of ourselves is important. As it says in Philipians 2:4, “...do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others... have this attitude in you which was also in Christ Jesus... who emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient (to God’s will) to the point of death, even the death on a cross.”

We need to look after our own personal interests, our families, our health, our jobs, our friends, our assets, etc., but we also need to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. Jesus took care of His personal needs but He also emptied Himself, denied Himself, took up the form of a servant, and became obedient to God's will. We are our brother's keeper. We must be about our Father's business, which is fulfilling the gifts and callings He has given and entrusted to us. He knows us much better than we know ourselves. We just need to trust Him and let Him bestow His Christ-given gifts through us.

He knows that we have personal needs and desires. His Word says in Matt. 6:33 concerning these needs, "Seek you first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Concerning the desires of our hearts that we may have, things that we think would make us happy, His Word addresses these also. Psalms 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." I have always loved this scripture. God knows much better than we know ourselves what will make us happy. He just wants us to trust Him, to make Him first priority in our lives, and then He will give us those things which will make us truly happy. He created us. He knows what things make humans tick. He is a good God and one who is to be trusted. Matth. 19:29 says, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake (or anything else that we may deny ourselves of), shall receive a hundred-fold as much in return, and shall inherit eternal life." We will never outgive God. The Old Testament concept, or Hebrew word 'hesed,' says 'Even though we deserve nothing, God has given us everything.' What a concept! We deserve nothing, yet, He has given us everything! He wants us to be hesed to the world around us. This is a concept of love, coming from a God of love. He loves us so much that He wants to give us "...every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places..." (Ephesians 1:3). This love started with God sending His only begotten, unique Son to die on the cross, His Cross, for us, to allow us to become part of His plan and purpose for us. The God of love wants that love to reach the world, through us.

1 Cor. Chapter 13, the love chapter, tells what is the most important thing for us to focus on, becoming a servant of, God's own agape love! This agape love is heavenly, spiritual; its origin being from God Himself, His Own Character! The only way that the love of God can be extended to the world is as we deny ourselves and Jesus comes and lives out His

agape love through us. As we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him, He guides us where He wants us to go. He helps us do what He wants us to do and be what He wants us to be in our daily lives. To quote a phrase from Col. 1:27 again, "**Christ in us the hope of glory.**"

In Matt. 16:23-24, what does it mean to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus...to lose your life that you might find it? Phil. 3:7-16 gives a good picture of what this means: "*But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.*"

We're pressing on toward what is really important in our lives, the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, allowing Christ to come and live through us, to be our ministry through us, 'finding our lives' as we allow Him to live out His gifts to us through us.

We all have a choice to make as to whom we will serve, whether ourselves, or our God, our Master, our Creator and Designer! Joshua 24:15 says, "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served (or all of today's modern idols) which were beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Deut. 30:11-20 tells us about this choice that we have before us about living for ourselves or for God. God tells us about the outcome of the choice that we make. It is a choice between true life in Christ, or

in death, living for ourselves. Living for ourselves will result in missing out on the real purpose that is available to us if we live our lives for God. It says, *“For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it. See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”*

He wants us to be led by His Spirit as we follow the instructions in Proverbs 3:5-6 which state:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” As we lean not unto our own understanding, or don’t depend on our own wisdom, trusting in Him with all our hearts and acknowledging Him in all our ways (looking to Him for every decision and committing every aspect of our lives into His care), then He rules from the throne of our hearts and minds, and the scripture in Matt. 16:24-25 is fulfilled.

Col. 3:17 and 23-24 explains it yet from another perspective. “Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father... “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” So, do everything in your life with God

in the driver’s seat of your vehicle. In other words, you are to be led by His Spirit in every aspect of your life. Invite Him to lead every aspect of your life as you go through each day, serving Him in whatever you do. Whatever you do, in your words and in your deeds, acknowledge Him, seek to include Him, ask to be led by His Spirit, desire to take Jesus along with you, and depend upon Him for every aspect and decision that you make.

Jesus’ life is our example. He was God’s servant, by choice. Matt. 20:26-27 explains this very well and gives us another picture of what it means to serve God. It says, “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 23:11 says, “But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.” God wants us to acknowledge who He really is and to humbly choose to be His servant, which is what the pot should be to the Potter.

When asked which was the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If we love God first and foremost, and put Him first, seek Him first, and love our neighbors as ourselves, this is another example of how to fulfill Matthew 16:24-25.

God wants us to please Him in all that we do. Jesus, our example, pleased God in all that He did.

Matthew 3:16-17 says, “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”

John 8:29 says, “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” Paul said in 2 Cor. 5:9, speaking to us, “Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.” Col. 1:10 says, “...so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God....” This message of trying to please God is throughout the New Testament, and if we live for self we cannot please Him.

I believe that all of these scriptures help to give us

a pictures of what it means to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and to follow Him. Life isn't about pleasing ourselves, or selfishly going about our business, only taking care of our needs, but about living for God, and fulfilling the purpose for which He placed us on this earth. True life is about serving the true God and

Creator of all the universe, and following the example of our elder Brother, Jesus, His Son, who came not to do His own will and to glorify Himself, but to do the will of His Father, and to bring glory unto His Father. Our mission should be the same. Jesus, come do it through us!!

Lean Hard

Child of My love, lean hard,
And let Me feel the pressure of thy care;
I know thy burden, child, I shaped it;
Poised it in My own hand, made no proportion
in its weight to thine unaided strength;
For even as I laid it on, I said
I shall be near, and while he leans on Me,
This burden shall be Mine, not his;
So shall I keep My child within the circling

arms of My own love.
Here lay it down, nor fear to impose it on a
shoulder which upholds the government of worlds.
Yet closer come; thou art not near enough;
I would embrace thy care so I might feel My
child reposing on My breast.
Thou lovest Me? I know it. Doubt not then;
But, loving Me, Lean Hard.

— May Prentiss Smith

CALLED HOME



Joe Gabruch, Elder
North Battleford, SK
June 8, 2015



Alvera Wolf
Regina, SK
December 4, 2015



*For a listing of event dates and
contact information visit
www.globalmissionsinc.org*

Called Home will also be available online.

www.thesharonstar.org/called-home

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