



October 2025

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FORGIVENESS

By Patricia Simmons

Jesus DIED ON A CROSS to forgive us of our sins. Every single sin required Jesus to die on the cross. From a little white lie to murder...and everything in between. It doesn't matter. It's all sin, and Jesus went to the cross for every single one! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

In Luke 7:44-48, we read: "... Simon, do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

When you feel, and I mean "truly feel" the forgiveness of God, it is unlike anything else and very difficult to explain. It's a feeling of freedom, of peace, and of love. It is like a weight pressed down on you so hard that is finally lifted away, and the strength that was trapped inside is released. You feel like you can do ANYTHING...anything with God, your best Friend and Heavenly Father beside you.

God forgives. Even when you feel you aren't worthy of forgiveness, God still forgives you, if you

are a child of His and you ask with a repentant and true heart. Like the father of the wayward son in Luke 15, God WANTS to forgive you. He LOOKS for you. He SEARCHES for you. Not only that, He WANTS you to be His!

I've learned over the last few years to ask for forgiveness as well as to give forgiveness. In BOTH instances, it is a BLESSING! The feeling of receiving forgiveness is a heart changer but so is giving forgiveness. If God can forgive us of all of our many sins, how can we not forgive those around us for theirs? "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9); "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

As good as it is to confess our sins and gain forgiveness from God and our church family, and as good as it is to forgive a brother or sister who has sinned against us, it is also very good to learn to forgive ourselves. God forgives and forgets. We also must learn to let go of those "old" sins by asking yourself for forgiveness. That, too, is a heart-changing action that lifts weight off our shoulders and frees us in unbelievable ways.

Forgiveness. Learn to ask for it. Learn to give it.



Camera Ready

By Amanda Stephanus

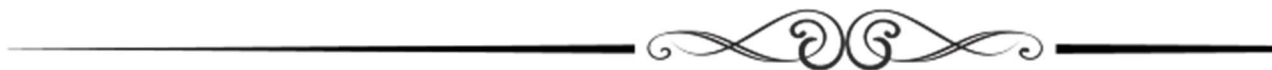
When thinking about the technological world in which we live with phones, tablets, even eyeglasses that record audio/video, it is no wonder we hear stories of people being recorded against their will or pictures being used without permission. We walk into businesses and see

signs warning customers that video surveillance is being used. Every day, new videos go viral, for reasons both good and bad.

There are few places where anyone can go without the possibility of being recorded. In some ways, this can become wearisome, causing someone to feel they must always be “on point” or be cautious of what they say or do. However, there is no need for us as Christians to be concerned about our actions being caught on camera when we are living as God has commanded. We have no need to be concerned because, as Christians, our lights are always shining (Matthew 5:16). Jesus did not say to let our lights shine when we know people are watching, or only when we go to work or when we go shopping. We are to be shining all day, every day, regardless of where we are or who we are around. Our spiritual light is not controlled by a switch that we turn off and on at will. We do not pick and choose when to do good works or when to have our speech seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). Our light is to be steady and constant, always glorifying our Father in Heaven.

The Christian is also not concerned because Christ is our life. When we crucified our old man, we died to self and made Christ our life (Colossians 3:1-4). Christ is not our life some of the time; He is our life ALL the time. There are no time-outs, no days off, no breaks from living the Christian life. When this is our mindset and lifestyle, we have no reason to fear if our words or actions are recorded for the world to see. Peter makes mention of this in 1 Peter 2:12: “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.” The Gentiles were scrutinizing every facet of the Christians’ lives, looking for opportunities to indict them of evildoing. Instead of finding reasons to accuse them of being evildoers, the Christians’ good works led the Gentiles to glorify God.

When we live our lives for Christ, we do not need to be worried about what others say about us. Regardless of what technology is developed, regardless of how people choose to record and share things, if we are faithfully following God and allowing Christ to rule our lives, we will never have to wonder if we are “camera-ready.”



Encouragement
by Elizabeth Turner Beall

Encouragement has always been the purpose of this publication. As Christian women, we must stand beside, build up, serve, and help our Christian sisters however, whenever, and wherever we can. The love we share in Christ is the foundation for the most beautiful relationships anywhere.

God did not create us to live and walk life's road alone. The first indication of needing someone else is found in Genesis 2:18, when God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him." This is, of course, a marriage relationship where the couple works together to build their lives. But, the concept is there that as humans, we need one another, as the 40 +/- "one another" verses show. (See those verses later in this publication.)

The first verse that comes to mind here is Hebrews 10:24-25: "and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (ESV). The NASB says, "...as you see the day drawing near." Notice the capital "D"/Day in the ESV, and also in several other versions, as opposed to the small letter "d"/day, also in several versions. Whether this refers to the Day of the Lord's return to take us Home (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17), or is simply referring to encourage one another to look forward to meeting together to worship God, encouragement is still needed.

For those who see this as the first day of the week assembling, synagogue-ing ourselves together, we should encourage one another to anticipate that fellowship and Communion that will soon take place. Life can be hard from day to day, taking only a breath to make a life-changing situation. No matter if it is a large life-changing event or simply the day-to-day routine,

we should all look forward to that wonderful day of worshiping God, a time to raise our voices in praise to God in song, raise our collective voice in prayer to God, and anticipate what God says to us from His Word. We should encourage one another to be faithful in attendance and in fellowship whenever possible. If one of us is missing, our spiritual family unit is not complete. Our absence is noted, and may be discouraging to some. Let us do all we can do to be the encourager with our faithful attendance, not the discourager.

For those who see this scripture as the Day of the Lord's return---what a great day that will be, a day that we should all look forward to. I don't know how you feel about it, but I am longing greatly to see our Father face-to-face.

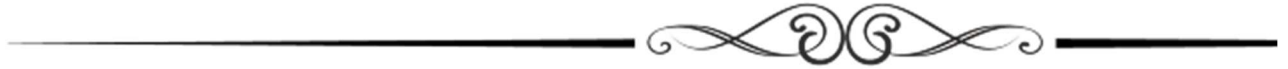
As earlier mentioned, life can be extremely challenging by changing in a heartbeat, or just challenging getting through the mundane, day-to-day routine. Whatever extreme---routine or devastation---or anything in between, we all need encouragement---encouragement to stand firm for truth, for right for God; to ever be alert and ready for Jesus' return (1 Thessalonians 5:2), to keep on keeping on when our hearts, minds, and bodies are so tired, or just faltering a bit.

As Paul said in Romans 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Paul is telling us that Heaven is worth more than anything on earth, and we should always be looking forward and be ready.

To realize and understand the horrendous suffering that Jesus did in His human form for us should make us stop, should send us to our knees in shame, yet should make our hearts overflow with such joy and praise and Thanksgiving because that suffering set us free---IF we choose to obey God's Word---and gives us our hope. That hope, our anticipation for Heaven is like nothing in our short span of years---be they 20 or 100---nothing compared to the unending length of Eternity in Heaven with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Life on earth is our preparation for Eternity. Let's encourage one another as often as we can. That encouragement is motivation to keep going, never quit, never give up. Paul said it best in 1 Corinthians 15:58: "...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

My sisters in Christ, let us keep on keeping on, showing our love for each other with our encouragement. We WILL meet again in Heaven.



“One Another”

Abound in love for one another (I Thessalonians 3:12)

Accept one another (Romans 15:7)

Admonish one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10)

Be hospitable to one another without complaint (I Peter 4:9)

Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Be of the same mind to one another (Romans 12:16)

Be subject to one another (Ephesians 5:21)

Be tender-hearted to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)

Building up of one another (Romans 14:19; I Thessalonians 5:11)

Comfort one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4:18)

Confess your sins to one another (James 5:15)

Consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)

Do not complain against one another (James 5:9)

Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9)

Do not speak against one another (James 4:11)

Encourage one another (I Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13)

Forgive one another (Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32)

Give preference to one another in honor (Romans 12:10)

Greet one another with a holy kiss/kiss of love (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; I Peter 5:14)

Keep fervent in your love for one another (I Peter 4:8)
Let us not become boastful with one another (Galatians 5:26)
Let us not challenge one another (Galatians 5:26)
Let us not envy one another (Galatians 5:26)
Let us not judge one another (Romans 14:13)
Love one another (John 13:35; 15:12, 17; Romans 13:8; I John 3:1,11; 4:7, 11-12)
No one repay another with evil (I Thessalonians 5:15)
Pray for one another (James 5:15)
Pursue things which make peace with one another (Romans 14:19)
Regard one another more important than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
Show tolerance for one another (Ephesians 4:2)
Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
Take care that you are not consumed by one another (Galatians 5:15)
We have fellowship with one another if... (I John 1:7)



Hearers and Doers

by Alice Simmons

To a child, birthdays and Christmas mornings are the most exciting times in their young lives! Opening presents/gifts is received with excitement and eagerness to play with or use those presents! They don't waste a minute! They quickly read the directions, put them to use, and show/teach their friends all about what they've learned so that they, too, can play.

We adult Christian ladies experience some similar times as we go about our daily chores—responsibilities we share, we hear about new recipes, new shopping sites, time-saving hints, etc., eager to share with our friends because we know they will benefit from the information just as we will.

The most important informative book ever published, however, is the *Bible*. It is God's plan for mankind! It is in that book that we learn how to live eternally in a place called Heaven. God reveals to us through the Holy Spirit not only how to obey Him, but also how to live the life that a Christian must live. He tells us that we must not only read how to, but we must also do what we read (James 1:22).

We also read in God's Word that our heart must be focused on Christ and we, then, are prepared to respond to anyone who asks us about our hope in Him (I Peter 3:15). We also know that the question, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) was asked by those who heard the Apostle Peter's sermon. We also know Peter's answer to "repent and be baptized for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). They heard the Gospel, and they obeyed what they were told to do!

We, too, must not be only hearers/readers/ of the Word of God, but we must be doers of what we are told to be and do, as well.



Questions for discussion and/or meditation:

1. How does encouragement make you feel when you receive it?
2. What is so special about each/Day? (day=Sunday, the 1st day of the week) and (Day=Day of the Lord's return)
3. Why must we be both a hearer and a doer?
4. How do we go about being "Camera-ready" for the Lord's second coming?
5. What three ways of forgiveness affect our lives? How?

Ideas for the application of this topic:

1. Look around you and see who needs encouragement this week. (Write a note. Give a hug. Say a prayer and let them know.)
2. Consider any sin(s) you need to confess, not just to God, but to your church family as well. Also consider anyone you NEED to forgive and set about doing that. Then, consider forgiving yourself, doing what needs to be done to get your life right with God, with yourself, and with your church family.
3. As a hearer, consider what someone else needs to know about God. Make notes with scriptures as well. Then make a list of those with whom you can talk. (If you do not feel confident, consider seeking help in how to talk or open that conversation with someone).

Prayer suggestions:

1. Pray for help in forgiving someone, including yourself.
2. Pray for those around you who know are hurting, discouraged, or facing challenges, then let them know you prayed for them.
3. Ask God to help you be able to talk with those who are lost and tell them about Jesus.
4. Ask God to help you to live always ready and alert for Jesus to come again.

NOTE: My life's motto for years has been this: PLAN LIKE YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER;
LIVE LIKE YOU WILL DIE TONIGHT.

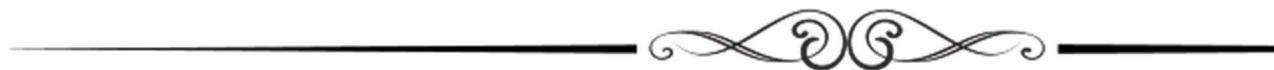


SEARCH

FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW:

ENCOURAGEMENT	STEADFAST	SPIRITUAL
BLESSED	FORGIVE	HEARERS
HEARTS	FAITHFUL	CAMERA
GOSPEL	RECORD	HEAVEN
LIGHTS	OBEY	WORTHY
STAND	VIDEO	DIED
HOPE	SINS	

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TBEXCLIGHTSCCOB
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LIPBTIFORGIVEDE
HEAVENFAUFTTVVO
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NOTE: As of January 1, 2026, WOMEN BUILDING GODLY LIVES will be "under new management." We are passing the torch to our sister Amanda Stephanus. I will be part of her writing staff and do some proofreading. I am excited because she is young, biblically sound, and cares about this work and getting it out to our Christian sisters wherever they are. Please continue with Amanda. I know she will only improve on what we have here.

Also, I want to say a very big THANK YOU to Wilburta Arrowood, co-editor, for her support all these years, her excellent writing, and especially her technological expertise. Without her, not one issue would have gone out.



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