

A hand is shown reaching upwards from the bottom left, with a soft glow and numerous small, shimmering particles floating around it. The background is a dark gradient. At the top, there is a white banner containing a blue feather icon and the word 'BLUEPRINTS' in a large, serif font.

# BLUEPRINTS

Reflecting God's Image Outside of Eden

November 2023

“You Will Prevail, but. . .” (p. 10)

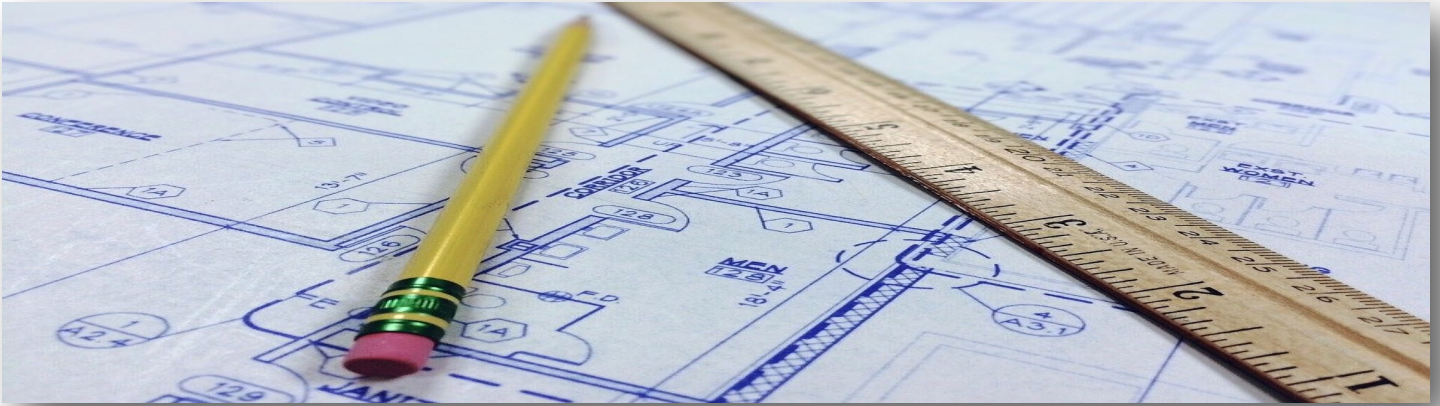
By Ruben Constante, Jr.

“Cry Out to God in Prayer” (p. 14)

by Angel Price

“Occupy Till He Returns” (p. 17)

by Pastor Dennis Spire



# Blueprints

November 2023, Volume 5, Issue 9

*Blueprints* offers a bold message of original intent, which is that plan, purpose, and design God has inscribed into the heart of His men and women.

## **Credits**

President & Managing Editor: Ruben Constante, Jr.

Layout & Design: Ruben Constante, Jr.

Staff Writers: Ruben Constante, Jr., Guillermo Quinones, Jr., Joe Carrillo

Contributing Writers: Jason Cole, Adrian Pasillas, Michelle Regino, Angel Price, Pastor Dennis Spire

*Blueprints for Living Ministries, Inc.*

Ruben Constante, Jr.

P.O. Box 1465

San Marcos, TX 78667

Guillermo Quinones, Jr.

P.O. Box 180642

Dallas, TX 75218

© *Blueprints for Living Ministries, Inc.*

All rights reserved. All scriptural references are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted. Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. was birthed out of a preaching firestorm that occurred in "God's Country" (aka Hondo, TX) in 2011. Led by Jason Cole and Ruben Constante, Jr., this preaching revival stirred hundreds of men to seek God's will and purpose for their lives.

Two years later, Ruben created this ministry's newsletter, called *Blueprints*, which would become its first outreach platform.

By 2015, Ruben finalized this ministry's current curriculum, which is neatly organized into five blueprints. During those four years, God had initiated Ruben through a rigorous testing and refining process, which placed him in several crises of faith. These trial periods became pivotal moments in which he learned to cultivate God's design for his life.

Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. now stands as a clear voice in a world that has erased and redefined God's blueprint for humanity. What began as a few sermons from behind a prison pulpit is now a team of dedicated men who are driven to impart spiritual and secular education that promotes positive change and personal growth and development.

It is a call for a return to original intent.



### Five Blueprints For Living

1. The Blueprint of God's Image
2. The Blueprint of Gender Design
3. The Blueprint of Marriage
4. The Blueprint of the Church
5. The Blueprint of Discipleship



## PILLARS OF TRUTH

Because Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. is dedicated to standing on and proclaiming God's original intent for life, we center our worldview on the only standard which reveals original intent: the Holy Bible.

Aside from affirming the Nicene and Apostle's creed, we adhere to the Reformed positions of the Christian faith, those doctrines which the reformers believed were central to Christianity. We stand alongside Martin Luther, who boldly refused to recant the clear teachings of Scripture. Therefore, we stand on the Five *Solas* of the Protestant Reformation:

1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"): The Bible is our highest authority.
2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Christ Jesus.
3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.

**The printed version of this publication is sponsored by:**





# From the Desk of Ruben



Justin is always looking to copy me.

His recent question has been, “Can I look like Daddy?” It’s what he asks when he sees me doing something and suddenly wants to do it as well. Whether I’m doing yard work or typing at my desk, he will approach me with that heart-warming question: “Can I look like Daddy?”

What about you? Are you looking to look like your heavenly Father? Do you seek to reflect Him in the little things? Do you want to be like Him?

As image-bearers of the Most High, we have no higher duty than to show the world who our Father is by not just being His hands and feet but by reflecting His character in all that we do.

We are created in His image, not ours; therefore, it is His heart we must seek to reveal to the world.

*Ruben Constantino Jr.*



# God Listens

Michelle Regino



You can talk to God because God listens.

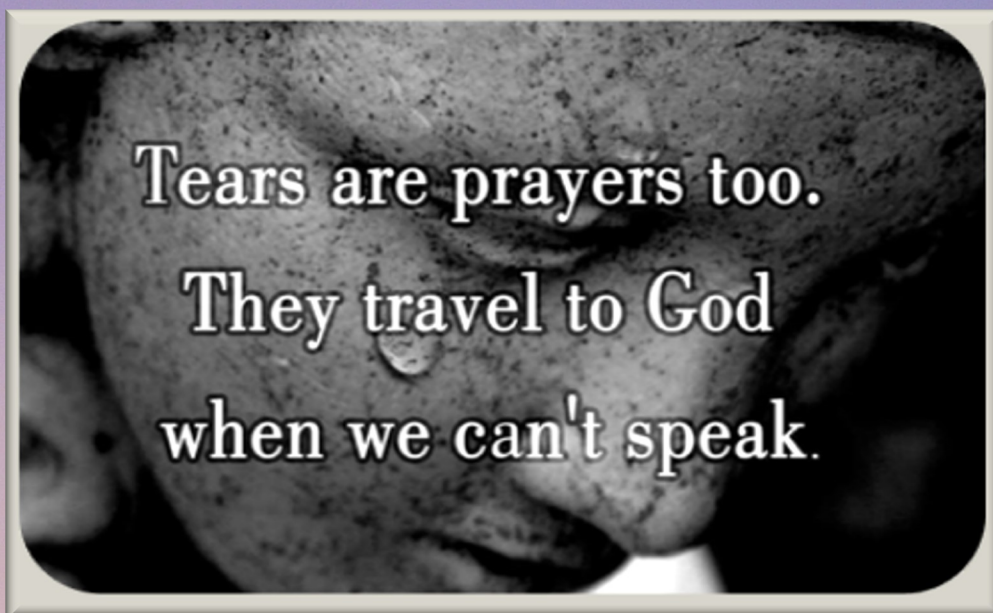
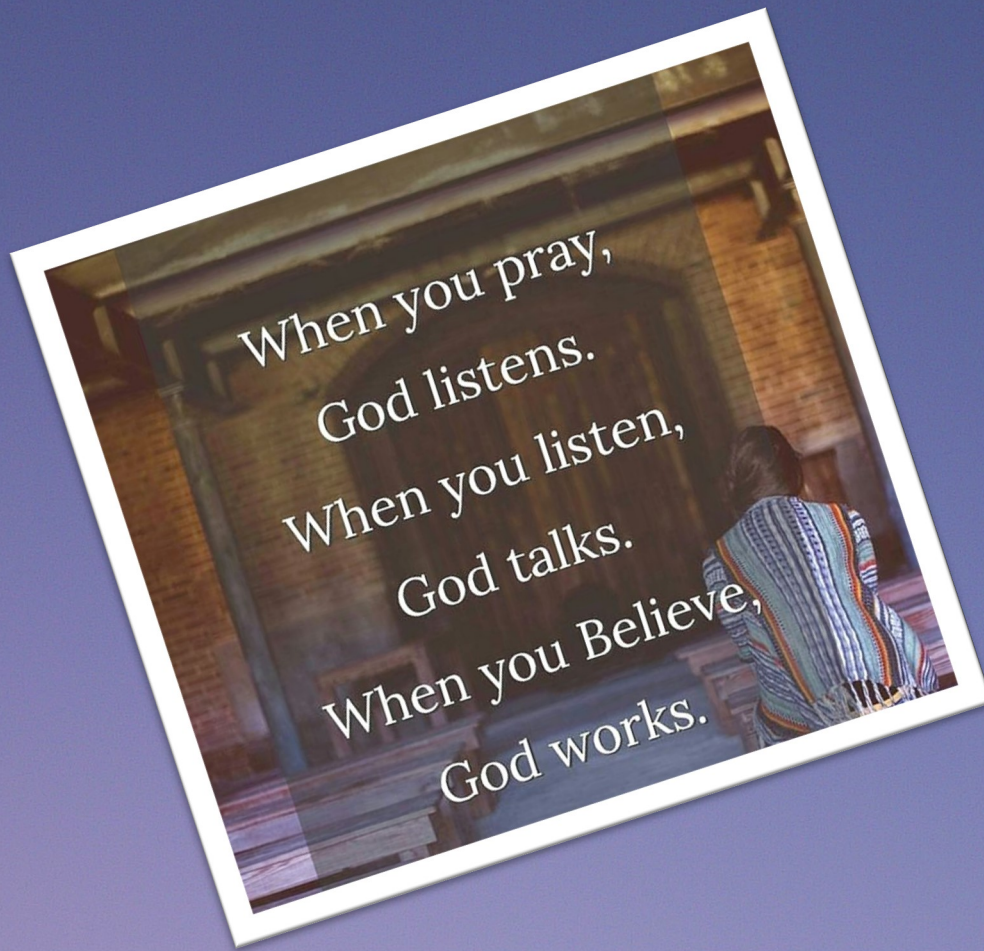
Your voice matters in heaven. He takes you very seriously.

When you enter His presence, He turns to you to hear your voice. There is no need to fear that you will be ignored. Even if you stammer or stumble, even if what you have to say impresses no one, it impresses God, and He listens. He listens to the painful plea of the elderly in the rest home. He listens to the gruff confession of the death row inmate. When the alcoholic begs for mercy, when the spouse seeks guidance, when the business man steps off the street into the chapel, God listens.

Intently.

Carefully.









**Coming soon!!!**

*Reflecting Him*

**a Blueprints for Living Ministries podcast**

With so many competing voices that tug at the human heart, tempting each of us to partake of the forbidden fruit that promises to grant us success without submitting to God's word, Blueprints for Living Ministries boldly stands for a return to Original Intent.

With our upcoming podcast "Reflecting Him" we will offer sound teaching on topics that are both dear to parents and offensive to a godless culture.

Our goal is simple—to reflect God in all that we do.

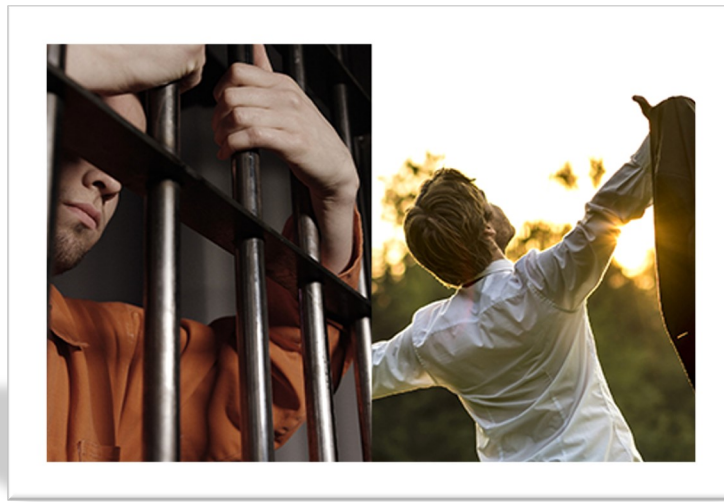
Stay tuned. . . .





Congratulations to our  
7th graduation class!!





## **You will prevail, but. . . .**

Ruben Constante, Jr.

My fellow brother and sister in white, I often share with you how easy it can be to get sucked into the subculture of prison and how that insidious force can create cycles of self-defeat. The attitudes and beliefs that prison life practically forces you to adopt are never helpful in the long run and will seriously hurt you once you are released.

It's also easy for you to fall prey to materialism and get sucked into the vortex of popularity and shallow sentimentalism. This happens because prison life deprives you of basic human needs and dehumanizes a large part of who you are as a person; therefore, when programs and activities offered to you confer momentary relief from being dehumanized, jumping on the bandwagon is pretty easy to do.

But what happens when the show is over?

You return to the rut. You sink back into attitudes and habits that keep you spiritually dead. The quick fix you enjoyed subsides; the temporary high is gone and now you're crashing hard. The fact is this, your real solution will never be a program, an activity, or a show; it's going to be a repented life that is dedicated to reflecting God's image—and you'll know you're reflecting God's image by the fruit you bear. Not by how much activity you can generate or what effort you produce to advance charitable causes—but by godly fruit. Fruit is what glorifies God, not gift or talent (cf. Jn. 15:8). A life that reflects the image of God is one that is characterized by godly character, not money, fame, accolades, or applause.

As an ex-felon, I know firsthand how much you want to go home. As an ex-felon, I know how badly you want to return to normal. But you must let go of who you were. You must slay the old man. You are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus, but you must surrender your sense of entitle-

ment and your ego to the Cross. You will prevail your Struggle, but you must be reminded of a few things.

*First reminder: You matter.*

Your life and what you value are worth protecting. Yes, you may have been reared in dysfunction and abuse, but you survived. Your resiliency may have led you to criminal activities, but the fact that you were able to live in spite of your hurts and pains is evidence that you can create better opportunities for yourself. Hence why you matter. You are worth the fight. Your voice counts. Your life is priceless and cannot be bought, bargained for, or denied.

*Second reminder: You have a purpose.*

Because you are a man created in the masculine image of God, you have a reason for living. There is hope and meaning for you. Your past can certainly impact how society views you—trust me in this, I know!—but their inability and refusal to appreciate your worth does not diminish it. You have a purpose, my friend. You may not be gifted with eloquence or charm, but you possess purpose. Prison doesn't define you. It simply provides you with an opportunity to readjust your focus. Mindset matters.

*Third reminder: You will prevail.*

Setbacks will occur. I have been out here in society 7 ½ years, and I have encountered several setbacks. Some were my fault, others were not. In each case, I have learned a new lesson. The reason why you must understand that you will prevail is because your setbacks will become powerful triggers to relapse. You must be very careful when setbacks arrive at the doorstep of your heart. They will tempt you to go back to what is familiar, but as I've told you before, what's familiar is often based on a *lie*. But you don't have to go back to your old ways. You can choose better. You can prevail.



*Fourth reminder: You are not a victim.*

No matter what happens in your life or how badly your circumstances may appear, you have a choice to either succumb to the negativity or overcome it. When you surrender your peace to it, you become bitter and complain about everything. You become a reflection of what you hate. However, if you adjust your focus and protect your peace, you renew your strength and empower yourself to rise above the madness and move ahead with confidence.

*Fifth reminder: You matter, you have purpose, you will prevail, and you are not a victim not because of how powerful you are or how much money you have or how well-connected you are to people in high places, but because you deny yourself and surrender your life to God in Christ Jesus.*

Bottom line: If the source of your change is rooted in what you can do or in who you know,

then your change is shallow and will lead you to relapse and/or death. Trust me, if you haven't lost a wife and kids or had multiple parole setoffs and if you haven't been out here enduring real-world challenges, then you haven't been fully tested. Hence why your true need isn't more information; it's spiritual transformation—and that transformation only occurs when you repent and completely embrace the unvarnished Gospel of Truth. It is then that you will be equipped to survive the setbacks you will encounter outside those prison walls.

\*\*\*\*\*

In conclusion, remember that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). He offers you material things and earthly power (cf. Lk. 4:6), so be careful what you seek. Be careful what is presented to you. Satan will always make you “feel” good and give you things that your flesh likes. He will promise you prosperity, health, and a life with minimal pain and struggle.

But he is a liar and a murderer.

The path of a godly man is not paved with materialism and earthly success but with opposition and pain—with adversity that results from opposing a godless system. Consider the Scriptures:

“I have not come to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword” (Matt. 10:34).

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. . .If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you” (Jn. 15:18-20).

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33).

“For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Phil. 1:29).

“Yes, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:12, 13).

This doesn't mean God won't bless you with material success because “a worker is worthy of his food” (Matt. 10:10), and you will always reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7). It just means that material success is not the goal because we are not here to build earthly empires and erect statues of personal glory. The goal is to be transformed and conformed to the image of Christ *by the very troubles we are*



*promised that come because of standing for Truth* (cf. Jn. 17:17. Rom. 8:28-30).

So, remain fixed on Christ, not on “success.” Remain true to His word, not in this world’s. And above all, remember “it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). You are “stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10); therefore, exercise faithful stewardship.

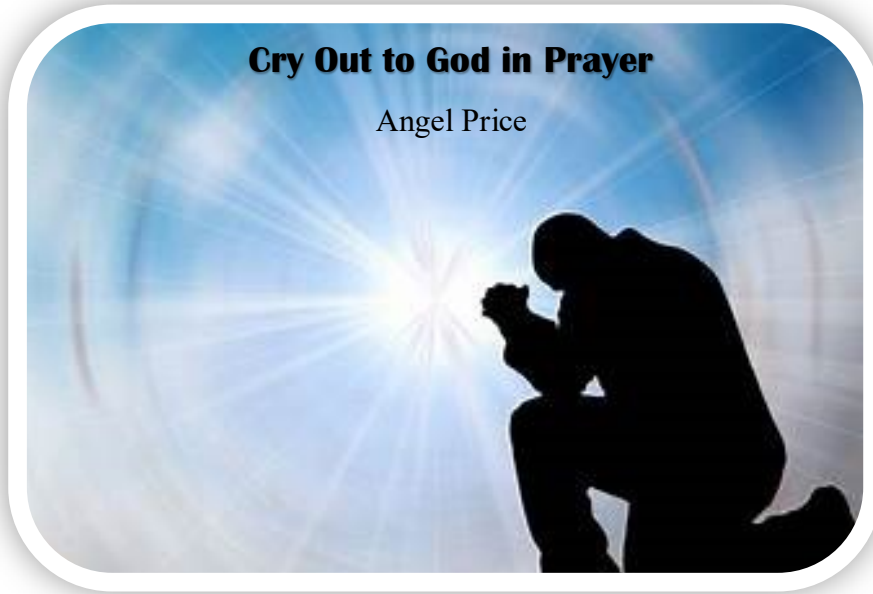
Steward your attitude. Steward your time. Steward your thoughts. Steward your actions. Steward your heart. Steward the little things. Steward the things that are within you, the things that no one can see. Because in the end, that’s all that will matter; that’s all we’ll be judged for—not the churches we attended, the programs we created, or the monuments we constructed to our name. Therefore, be a faithful steward and do not seek the fame of this world nor the applause of man.

Instead, seek to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matt. 25:21). ■



## **Cry Out to God in Prayer**

Angel Price



Before I accepted Jesus as my Savior and the Lord of my life, whenever I would go through a tough time I would run to unhealthy things like drugs, and alcohol to medicate myself and try to drown out my problems. Unfortunately, those coping methods did more damage than good and only provided a temporary distraction from the pain of whatever I was facing & eventually left an even bigger void in my soul.

However, giving my life to Christ in 2017 radically changed that perspective. Recently, I went through a very tough season of sorrow and isolation due to an unexpected circumstance. But, instead of the unhealthy coping methods from my past, I took all my pain, negative thoughts, frustrations, sadness, and confusion to the Lord. It was not easy, and it took a level of vulnerability and honesty that I was not always ready to give. But I remember reading 1 Peter 5:7 where the Word tells us to “cast all our cares on the Lord, for he cares for us,” and it suddenly dawned on me that God not only loves me, but He hears me when I cry out to Him, He knows that I am hurting, and is always there to comfort me.

In fact, it was in those moments when I experienced His presence in an almost tangible way. It was as if the heartache gave me no choice but to come crawling at His feet, and He welcomed me with open arms. There were times when I would just sit and weep or be silent with my eyes closed. Or I would be real and ask Him, “Why me? When will this end??” Yet I knew that the Lord always looked upon me and heard my cries, as the book of Psalms says, “You keep track of all my sorrows, you have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book” (Ps. 56:8).

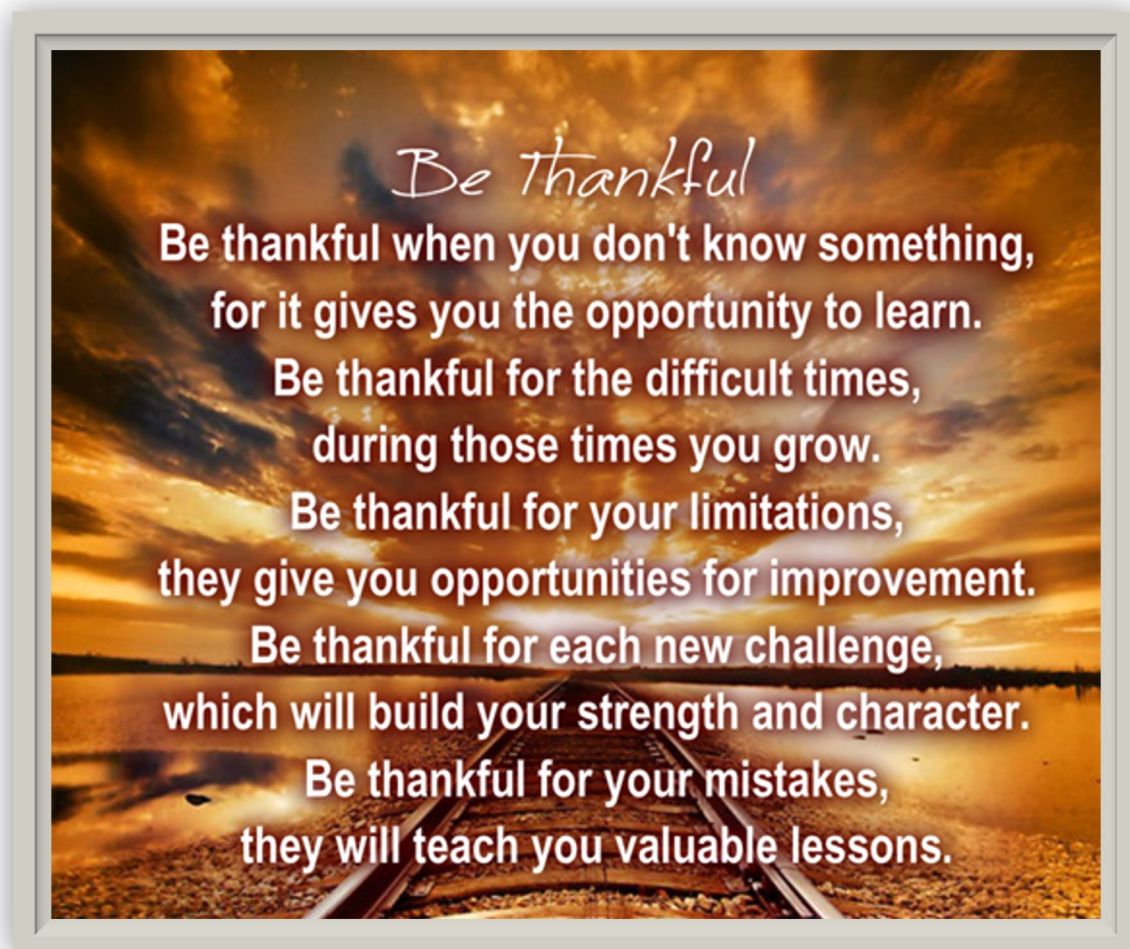
Now it was not just a one-time thing. I had to do this daily. In the beginning I felt forced to do it because I knew that if I didn’t, I would go crazy; the burden of my pain would be too much to bear. However, as the days went on, I noticed that I started to desire to be at the Lord’s feet, spending time in prayer and in His presence. Intimacy with my heavenly Father started to become all that mattered, and I learned to depend on Him with everything in me. Some verses that carried me through that rough season were knowing that “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saved those who are crushed in spirit” (Ps. 34:18) and “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matt. 5:4).

With the help of the Holy Spirit, these verses rang true in my heart every time I felt alone, ready to

give up and unable to bear the weight of my troubles. I would not wish tragedy like the loss of a loved one, divorce, the loss of your home, or even a bad breakup on my worst enemy. However, I literally thank the Lord for the hard times, and the crushing, because it produced a closer relationship with the Father, the one who created me and gave me eternal life. I've found that in my most challenging seasons, when I am in the most pain and anguish is when I experience God the most.

Likewise, many of us think that prayer is either giving praise to God or presenting God with a list of requests. While the Lord wants us to do these things, He also wants us to cry out to Him with our honest expressions of anguish, distress, confusion, and pain. In fact, the book of Lamentations presents us with the opportunity to consider the role of lament in a Christian's spiritual life. The word lamentations comes from the Hebrew word (*lamentatio*) which means "to moan, wail or weep." When we come to God in lament, we are letting Him in on the truth about hard times that come our way, including our deepest feelings of anger and bitterness and sadness.

We bring these things to God, not simply just to vent, but because He's a loving and faithful Father, who wants us to rest in His arms and share in His great love and care. So even and especially in your moments of doubt and disappointment it is important to communicate those things to God and be truthful with Him. If God's people make this our pattern of prayer, we will find our relationships with Him growing deeper than we ever expected. Sometimes we miss out by praying only for God to bless us. Maybe sometimes we should ask Him to break us so that we could see His glory. 🌅



# Things to Thank God for When Life Hurts

People - 1 Thessalonians 3:9

Provision - Philippians 4:19-20

Possibility - Matthew 19:26



Prayer - Matthew 6:6

Pardon - 1 John 1:9

Patience - Colossians 1:9

Peace - Isaiah 26:3

Perseverance - Romans 5:3-4

His Plan - Psalm 40:5

His Power - Jeremiah 32:17ff

His Presence - Romans 5:5

His Promises - Deuteronomy 7:9

**You are Precious to Him**

Psalm 73:12-13



## Occupy Till He Returns

Pastor Dennis Spire  
Calvary Baptist San Marcos

Are the current world events unsettling to you? Do you have questions or concerns about what will happen next?

I've been asked about the most recent situation in Israel and whether I

thought these events were pointing to the end times. All I can say is, they certainly are unsettling and cause for concern. I mean from the moral decay of our nation to Hamas attacking Israel and everything else between.

Do I think these things point to the end? Of course, because as I always say, the one thing we *do* know is that we are one day closer to the end today than we were yesterday. I don't know exact times and dates—no one does, so I don't know if it may be this year or next year, 10 years or 100 years or even sometime tonight. I do know what Christ said in Luke 21:28 “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” When we think about end times, it's not just about waiting for Christ to “come get us,” but rather it is like looking at two sides of the coin. One side is that we need to be ready/watching/prepared and the other side of the coin is what Christ told us to do in Luke 19:13, “...occupy till He returns.”

The word occupy doesn't mean to take up space but to be busy. Knowing that time “could be” shorter than we realize, we should be about our Father's business, just as Christ was, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ however He has given us a ministry to do that. Perhaps for you that's at work, perhaps your witness is your lifestyle, for some, your witness is more overt. We may be witnessing to our families or neighbors. For some, it might mean vocational ministry or overseas ministry.

We have been preaching through the *Experiencing God* study by Henry Blackaby on Sunday mornings. I believe it is a pertinent study for the day in which we live. God is at work all around us. God is not a slacker knowing that time may be short, but He desires for His salvation message to be more on our minds now than ever. People do need the Lord. We need to understand that people all around us, our neighbors, family, and friends, are walking and living life unaware of their lost condition and do not really know the Lord or understand their need for Him. They may have heard of Jesus, but do they really know Jesus, or have they experienced a changed life because of knowing Him in a personal way? Have they chosen to remain separated from God because their view of the Church or even Christians around them is negative and unattractive to them? Or are they simply depending on their own goodness to matter on some scale of “good things I've done versus bad things I've done?”

Whatever the reason for their stubbornness, we can make a difference by showing them what being a Christ follower should really look like. With the Holy Spirit working in and through us, we can love them the way He wants to love them. We can be His hands and feet to meet needs, to show compassion, to bridge



gaps, to live life the best possible way a human being can live—but only by being attached to Him. Remember, Jesus told us that apart from Him, we can do NOTHING. At least nothing of value to Him that will have eternal weight.

As we look around at our troubled world, I am reminded of a saying: a Christian would do well to have a newspaper (or smart phone) in one hand, but always a Bible in the other so that we can discern the times according to the Word of God and His prophecies and promises to us. So, with that in mind, let us not simply read, watch, and wait, but let us occupy. Let's get busy joining God where He is already at work, with what God is doing, jumping on board, getting involved and invested, all for His glory. There is nothing in this world today that will make it into the eternal work of God except for souls. To God, the most precious commodity on earth is the souls of men, women, boys and girls. His heart's desire is to see souls saved and that none should perish.

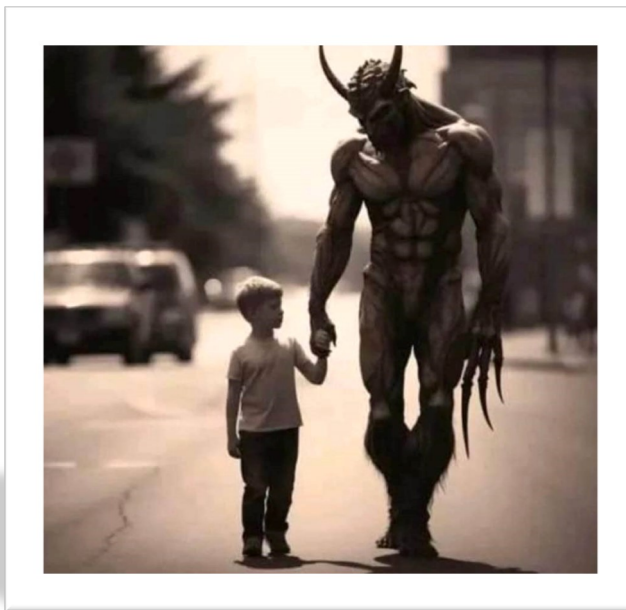
Lastly, I want you to pray with me about a couple of matters:

#1. Pray for the nation of Israel. Israel is God's chosen people with whom He made a covenant. His covenants are lasting, and He does not go back on His promises. He is still working in the Jewish world today. Yes, they must come to know Jesus to make it to heaven but pray for them to look up and see the Hope that came 2000 years ago. The Person of Christ, who walked, taught, healed, and died in their land for the souls of mankind. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as commanded in scripture (Psalm 122:6) and accented with a special blessing for those who do. Pray for the United States and the nations of the world to stand by Israel.

#2. Pray for the moral climate of our own nation. I believe many of us do more griping and complaining about it than really praying that the strongholds of Satan will be broken, especially in the young people of our nation. So many of our younger generation are confused with little guidance toward the truth, so they follow lies, unable to discern what is real truth and what is relative truth, which is not truth at all. Truth does not change, but they are being taught that it is malleable and customizable. Let's earnestly pray for them and step in when we can to show them what TRUE love is really all about, and His name is Jesus!

Blessings on you!

Bro. Dennis



## **Don't be too busy**

**T**his should terrify every single parent enough to be diligent with the care of your children's souls! Without even reading this, this picture should scare the devil out of all of us!!!

Don't be too busy!

Don't be too busy that you let your child hold their phones the entire day without checking what contents the devil is feeding into their minds. (Satanic, worldly ideologies)

Don't be too busy that your kid's little questions and concerns are not your top priority.

Don't be too busy that going to Church with them, isn't a thing anymore because for you many things are more valuable than a family going to church every Sunday.

Don't be too busy that praying for them seldomly only becomes your seldom-habit.

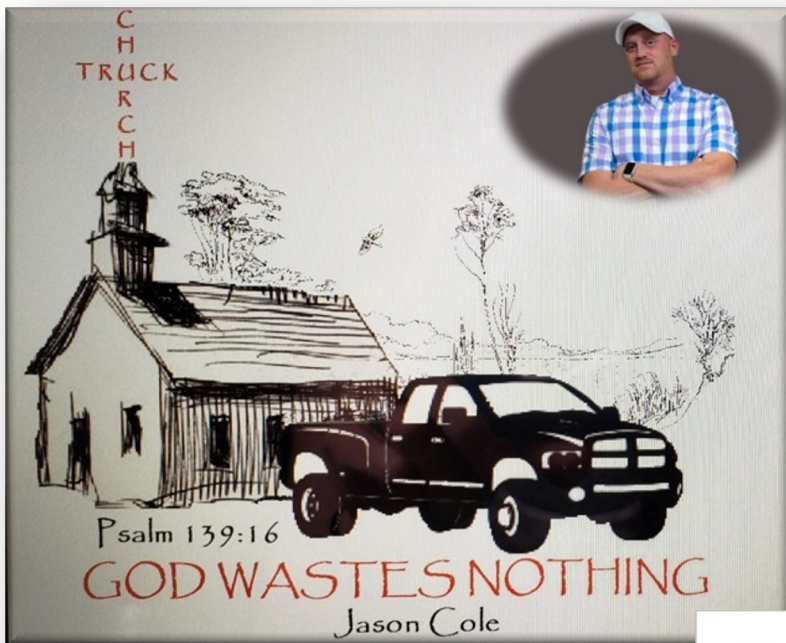
Don't be too busy that correcting them, rebuking them is old-fashioned anymore and just let them learn for themselves all the time.

Don't be too busy that guiding them becomes a hard burden to your busy day-to-day schedules.

Don't be too busy that it takes you as a parent to wonder in the end why you've raised a while different child.

Don't be too busy and neglect them. Love them, pray for them, guide them, correct them, discipline them with love and most specially bring them to church, while they are still young.

A special thanks to these faithful ministries and organizations who make our classes possible!





## **Wretched Me, but Trusting Jesus**

Adrian Pasillas

I make it a practice to “straight off the muscle”, as it were, pray before I do anything else after I get up in the morning.



Lately, and instead, I have been galvanized into looking for news that would give me assurance that the “good guys” (rock-ribbed conservatives, that is), in this clearly neo-paganistic nation are indeed preventing the further greasing of the skids that are pointing towards a new Sodom & Gomorrah (to which my native California is heir apparent....I can't go back home). Why did I change my routine, shelving temporarily the duty, privilege and means of grace that is prayer, to be enamored by the fissions of the goings-on of the lost and dying world?

*Because I'm a sinner.*

When things aren't done around the house according to my satisfaction (mainly sanitation or maintenance, or, for this septuagenarian, “a place for everything; everything in its place”), the perfunctory excuses of “I forgot!” or “I'm just too busy for that!”, bring on my usual retort of, “Hmm... you could have said, ‘I'm washing my hair, or looking for something on the internet, or some sort, because, you know, any excuse will do!’” But, when I fail in a promise, my usual come back is, “Yeah, but (plug in the most efficient and quite plausible excuse/reason), to where my loving family say, “I thought you said you didn't like the ‘Yeah, but!’” Why, after years of maturing in the faith, did I think I could put myself in a better, albeit distant spiritual light?


*Because I'm a self-righteous sinner.*

Maybe some of you are “furious to think” that this sinner can teach anything of spiritual import. I wonder about that, too. Growing as a Christian for so many years, I hope some people would think that I'm quite a respectable “feller”. The fact is that, basically, I'm morally depraved, and (not to buy off my conscience), so are you.

Total depravity is to be applied only to the unbeliever. After our coming to faith, however, what happens to our total depravity? It isn't total, according to Paul in 2 Cor. 5:17...but we still sin. We still battle continually between "flesh and spirit". We must remember: We live our Christian life the same way we begin it—despairing of the flesh but trusting in Christ. Paul also rebukes the Galatians for "flesh perfection" after "having begun in the Spirit" (Gal. 3:3 ESV). Paul also shows sheer frustration of anyone trying to please God in the flesh: "I know that nothing good dwells within me..." (Rom. 7:18-20).

We should show humility and confession...but we still defend ourselves when we are accused of wrongdoing. Not that we plead guilty to every charge, but the reason why we overlook our corruption is that we are *proud sinners*. For that reason, worship and daily practice must be girded by confession and repentance.

When it comes to total depravity, the Christian must view their acts of righteousness in the light of the acts of a moralist. Moralists do good predicated upon their own "pure" motivations...mainly to make them feel good about themselves, irrespective of whether they are fitting and/or proper. The Christian performs acts of righteousness unto the glory of God, with nary "a pat on the back" expectation, a manifestation of another miracle in the Christian's heart.

So much for me. But I thank God I can also sense something of the Spirit's work as well, producing, within the continual renewing of my mind, in the long run true repentance and righteousness. 

# Be Thankful For . . .

The mess to clean up after a party because it means I am surrounded by friends . . .

The taxes I pay because it means I am employed . . .

The clothes that fit a little snug because it means I have food to eat . . .

A lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home . . .

All the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech . . .

The space I find at the end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking . . .

My huge heating bill because it means I am warm . . .

The lady behind me at church that sings off-key because it means I can hear . . .

The piles of laundry because it means I have clothes to wear . . .

Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive . . .

The alarm that goes off in the early hours of the morning because it means I am alive . . .

(Author Unknown)

six sisters' stuff



When God created woman, He was working late on the 6th day. An angel came by and asked, "Why spend so much time on her?"

The Lord answered, "Have you seen all the specifications I have to meet to shape her? She must function in all kinds of situations. She must be able to embrace several kids at the same time. Have a hug that can heal anything from a bruised knee to a broken heart. She must do all this with only two hands. She cures herself when sick and can work 18 hours a day."

The angel was impressed. "Just two hands? Impossible! And this is the standard model?" The angel came closer and touched the woman. "But you have made her so soft, Lord."

"She is soft," said the Lord. "But I have made her strong. You can't imagine what she can endure and overcome."

"Can she think?" The angel asked.

The Lord answered. "Not only can she think, but she can also reason and negotiate."

The angel touched her cheeks. "Lord, it seems this creation is leaking! You have put too many burdens on her."

"She is not leaking. It is a tear." The Lord corrected the angel.

"What's it for?" asked the Angel.

The Lord said, "Tears are her way of expressing her grief, her doubts, her love, her loneliness, her suffering and her pride."

This made a big impression on the angel. "Lord, you are a genius. You thought of everything. A woman is indeed marvelous."

Lord said, "Indeed, she is. She has strength that amazes a man. She can handle trouble and carry heavy burdens. She holds happiness, love, and opinions. She smiles when she feels like screaming. She sings when she feels like crying, cries when happy, and laughs when afraid. She fights for what she believes in. Her love is unconditional. Her heart is broken when a next-of-kin or a friend dies but she finds strength to get on with life."

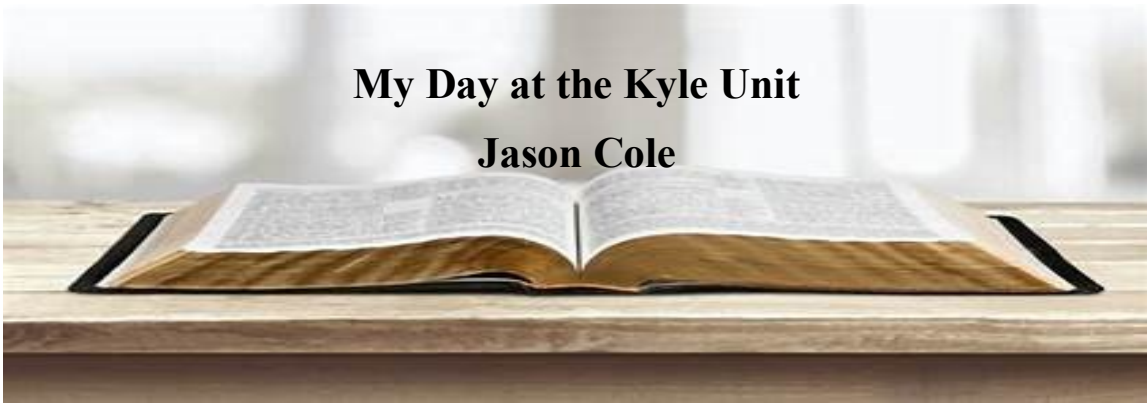
The angel asked, "So, she is a perfect being?"

The Lord replied, "No. She has just one drawback. She often forgets what she is worth."



# My Day at the Kyle Unit

Jason Cole



I was invited to come into the Kyle unit this past Saturday with Chariots of Light for an outside crusade and speak to the men. This would be my first time back inside of a prison since Covid. We had 77 residents come out to the event. Worship was awesome and then I was invited to the front to speak. There were so many things I wanted to share with the men especially since everyone in attendance was not far from getting out on parole.

After sharing some of my testimony, I talked about how just getting out of prison couldn't be their only plan. We talked about how to plan for the things you can't actually prepare for, such as the hardships that aren't expected. Then we talked about how almost every prison story starts off with, "Well, me and my homeboys were just going..."

The people that we call "friends" will be a significant variable in whether you get out and stay out, or if you get out and come right back. I did my best to encourage the men to be their own man, make their own choices, and do what is best by their family and themselves. We touched on identity and how a man that doesn't know Christ has no way of knowing who he is or what he is called to do.

It's hard to explain the service in a way that matches the vibe that was taking place. The Holy Spirit was there and moving. Passion, hard truths, and love were being poured out. I don't know the exact number, but during the invitation at the end, over half of the residents responded and came to the front. Some were saved, others rededicated, and some just poured out their hearts. It was beautiful. I snuck to the back to catch the guys that were too nervous to go to the front. I talked and prayed with many men and two guards came to receive Christ as well. It was a beautiful day.

As if that wasn't enough, Ruben Constante has asked me to come back that evening to speak at his graduation service for Blueprints Graduation. Twenty-three men, I believe, were graduating, eating pizza, listening to me speak and then watch a movie. Movie night in prison is a big deal. Ruben and I passed out the graduation certificates and let the men eat their pizza. I spoke about the trials that were soon to come once they are released. We talked about how God used trials to produce things in us (James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5, and 1 Peter 5:8-9). We had an open Q&A where the men could ask me anything they wanted too. So, I shared victories, struggles, and falls on my face. It was so good for all of us. When I tried to wrap up my talk so they could watch their movie, the men said they would rather continue talking with me and skip the movie. That blessed me so much. So, we dove back in and poured as much Jesus on them as I possibly could.

I left there feeling so full in the Spirit. Pouring out just feels you right back up. I thanked God all the way home and made it home about 2 a.m. So worth it. 🖼️



On Saturday, October 14, 2023, my first preaching partner during my days at the Torres unit, Jason Cole, was able to serve with the Chariots of Light ministry from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and he returned that evening to share his life and the Word with the September graduates.

In 2011, while Jason and I were still serving time, we tag teamed the Torres unit for about eight straight months, leading the men there into a closer encounter with God and during that time Blueprints for Living Ministries was birthed.

Jason's motto is "God wastes nothing!" a statement he embodies every moment of his life. No matter what tragedy has befallen him, he remains committed to God, knowing that all things do work together for our good and His glory!



**Don't forget to stop by our social media sites to see more of what God is doing through our ministry.**

