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Encouraging Christian men in their walk with JESUS

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Living in God's Presence

Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. Eph. 6:18

How do I live in God's presence? How do I detect His unseen hand on my shoulder and His inaudible voice in my ear? How can you and I grow familiar with the voice of God? Here are a few ideas:

Give God your waking thoughts....Before you face the day, face the Father. Before you step out of bed, step into His presence.

Give God your waiting thoughts....Spend time with Him in silence.

Give God your whispering thoughts....Imagine considering every moment as a potential time of communion with God.

Give God your waning thoughts.... At the end of the day, let your mind settle on Him. Conclude the day as you began it: talking to God.

Max Lucado: *Grace for the Moment*

HAPPY
Father's
Day



THE ABC'S OF ENCOURAGEMENT

A lthough things are not perfect
B ecause of trial or pain
C ontinue in thanksgiving
D o not begin to blame
E ven when the times are hard
F ierce winds are bound to blow
G od is forever able
H old on to what you know
I magine life without His love
J oy would cease to be
K eep thanking Him for all the things
L ove imparts to thee
M ove out of "Camp Complaining"
N o weapon that is known
O n earth can yield the power
P raise can do alone
Q uit looking at the future
R edeem the time at hand
S tart every day with worship
T o "thank" is a command
U ntil we see Him coming
V ictorious in the sky
W e'll run the race with gratitude
X alting God most high
Y es, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
Z ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!
Ricci Gambino. Birmingham, England

MORALS



"Religion I hold to be essential to morals" (John Adams to Benjamin Rush, 18 April 1808)

Where do morals come from? Atheists would have you believe that people got together and came up with a code of moral behavior over time. Bear with me. Suppose atheists are right and evolution is the answer to life. Evolution proclaims the survival of the fittest or strongest.

God given morals benefit the weak and helpless. If evolution were the basis of life, morals would benefit the strong. The strong would never surrender their rights to the weak. We know for a long time in human history kings did not allow their subjects to challenge anything they did.

Therefore, morality must come from outside human thought. Morals have to have been given from the beginning of humanity. When God confronted Cain, Cain knew that murder was wrong. Moral behavior is not evolved. It is God-given. The reason I can say that is because the morals that we have are seen in God's character. We were created in His image to have like character. We are to behave like our Creator.

God cares for the weak and helpless. He deals fairly and expects us to deal fairly with others. God is dependable, trustworthy, and honest. As we read the Scriptures, we need to look at them in order to see our Father's character. Our morals need to be patterned after our Father's characteristics.

Jesus summed up our morals, our behavior, when He said, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

Ed Wittlif UCC, Elder, Denver, CO; via Joe Slater, minister, Church of Christ in Justin, TX.

THE BACK NINE.....

You know .. time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... the BACK NINE of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the BACK NINE yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the Back Nine or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life....so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY! Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. LIVE HAPPY IN 2017!

Author unknown. Courtesy of Maurice Wright. UCC

be strong and
COURAGEOUS
and do not be afraid

Deut. 31:6