

Sit Back And Relax

God is in Control

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

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Telling a brother or sister to *just sit back and relax, God is in control* maybe something that is easier said than done. When you are in the middle of a trial and your world seems to be turning upside down the last thing you would like for somebody to tell you is, "just relax, God will take care of you." At times those very words could be very daunting when you are facing a very physical, real world issue. However, on the other hand those are probably the exact words you may need to hear in order to keep you focused on the true prize: Heaven!

The world loves to say the only thing guaranteed in life is death and taxes. Well, I would like to add one more guarantee and that is trials. If you are a true Christian you will face trials of many kinds (James 1:2) and the bible teaches us to consider it pure joy too. You have to remember God did not give us his Holy Spirit to be on easy street. In fact John 14:26 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is our helper and not our ticket to easy street. Just think about it, we would not need a helper if we were going to be on easy street.

Trials are things that come upon us and "test / try" our faith. Trials will separate those who truly love God versus those who just play the role. We must remember that as Christians we are not about the physical, but about the spiritual. Yes, the physical issues of this world may get a little tiresome, but we need to focus on the true war which is the spiritual war that is going on. All physical trials are just there to merely take our eyes off the prize and focus, off us being with our Lord and Savior. In 2 Timothy chapter 2, Paul reminds Timothy that we are soldiers and we must have the proper focus if we are going to win the war.

In life everybody is going to go through some sort of trial sooner or later and if we handle those trials correctly good things come from them. Paul says, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those whose are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) (ESV)

James also identifies that good things come from every trial. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4) (ESV)

Paul also asks a rhetorical question by saying, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" In other words, God is on our side even when we are going through our trial(s). Sometimes we may not think God is on our side, but we need to remember that God does not lie. All we have to do is simply examine the book of Job and you will see our brother go through some hard times but he never lost his joy for the Lord. Because of his attitude God delivered him through his trials.

In the end overcoming trials is about God, and not about us! As long as we faithfully serve God, He will strengthen us to overcome every trial. Since it is all about God we need to learn to depend on Him for everything. Like the old song, Leaning On the Everlasting Arms, says:

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the Everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the Everlasting arms.*

So remember, trust in God, serve Him faithfully, and do not be afraid or dread the things you must do as a soldier of Christ. Just lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus.

Derek Peterson.

Resurrection Power

Roger Wine

I AM the resurrection and the life Jesus said (John 11:25). Anything and everything you can ever learn about resurrection power is embodied in Jesus. If you were to look up the word in the dictionary there should just be a picture of Him there. He IS the resurrection. When Jesus’ friend Lazarus was on the verge of death his sisters sent word to Jesus to come to the rescue. He loved them dearly and they probably expected that the minute He heard the news He would be on the road to help them. But Jesus did not do the expected—He did the unexpected—He delayed a couple of days! His disciples seemed to think He was delaying because He was afraid to go back to where Lazarus lived, since the last time He was there the people tried to kill Him. But Jesus was not afraid—He just had bigger plans than anyone could have expected. He waited so that He could show the world that He is the resurrection—death itself answers to Jesus as LORD! He allowed his friend Lazarus to die so the world could know that he is the resurrection! The grave does not have the final say in our lives. You can be physically dead and buried and bound in grave clothes, but when Jesus says “come”, you will rise again! If that’s not awesome then words have no meaning. Praise be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—He is the RESURRECTION.

“The Lord added to their number...” Acts 2:47 Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
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12/17/07Kristie SebastianOld Westbury
02/22/08Tameisha Moon.....Old Westbury

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 8,500

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
3/02/08	272	\$9,275
3/09/08	260	\$7,121
3/16/08	314	\$9,646
3/30/08	300	\$8,630

Let Your Light Shine...that they may see...and praise your Father!

By Rebecca G. Young

Some of you may not know this about me, but I started playing organized sports when I was 5 years old. I played basketball and softball for over 15 years. As I look back to my youth, I remember others taking notice of my athletic talents and being drawn to my father, Steve to tell him the good they saw in me. They were compelled to tell him what they saw and they attributed my talent to him. In a way, they praised Him for the good work he had produced in me. I was reminded of this as I meditated on this scripture. *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:14-16*

You are the light of the world. Wow! God has **created you to shine** forth His glory. He has blessed each and every one of us with gifts and talents that are meant to be displayed to all, making known His goodness, His greatness and His beauty. We have all been made for greatness! Not greatness for us to pride ourselves in or to boast about. But greatness that is so wonderful, so beautiful that others stop and take notice, and when they question, there is no answer other than this is clearly a gift from her Father. Everyone has at least one gift. What has God gifted you with? *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8.)* Maybe you’re good at singing. Do you use your voice to display His beauty? Maybe you are a good cook. Do you use this talent to benefit others? Do you use your knowledge for good, to teach others and bring forth God’s word? If you love children, are you contributing your time to the Children’s Ministry? What is your passion? What comes easy to you? These things are gifts God has given to you freely so you can freely bless this world with them. Put your lamp on a stand giving light to everyone in the house. **You are the light of the world!**

Satan has a hidden agenda, a hidden message filling this darkened world. Through the media we are continually being told that we don’t have enough money, we’re not pretty enough, we need more clothes, shoes, cars, the right make-up, the perfect hair color, the list goes on. The subliminal message being sent is this...you’re not good enough, you’re not smart enough, you’re not pretty enough, you are not successful if you don’t have or do x, y and z. Read enough magazines; watch enough TV or commercials and you’ll begin to feel really inadequate and depressed about yourself and your life. You’ll want to take that bowl and cover up your lamp because the lie your being sold tells you your lamp is shabby and doesn’t make much of an impression. But that is a lie! You are a daughter of the King! **You are beautiful! You are talented! You are wonderful! You have everything you need** to be successful. He has given us *“**everything we need for life and godliness**” (2Peter 1:3).*

The Creator of the heavens and the earth has made you (*Isaiah 46:4*), formed you (*Isaiah 44:2,24*), knitted you (*Psalm 139:13*), created you *in Christ Jesus for good works, which He prepared beforehand that you should walk in them (Ephesians 2:20b NKJV)*. Are you walking in them? Or are you allowing Satan to take you off course? How are we going to fulfill God’s plan for us if we are allowing ourselves to be persuaded by the world around us and its lord to believe that we are totally inadequate? Instead of focusing on all the good deeds we could do, if we allow it, we will be totally distracted, running around aimlessly, gathering up all the things we “need”, always feeling inadequate, unsatisfied, and totally missing the mark. God’s glory will not shine in a woman who is distracted enough to believe the lies of Satan. God’s greatness cannot and will not shine through a woman who is afraid to be who God made her to be. Fearing what others might think or say will hinder your light. I have received a lot of criticism over my lifetime, even as a child. My father taught me not to allow it to stop me from shining brightly. My Father in Heaven has taught me the same. When your motives are pure that is all that matters. A pure heart with a good conscience and a sincere faith will shine like the stars, and people will ask, “Who is her Father?” Cast off whatever is hindering you and focus on the gifts God has bestowed upon you so that others may see and praise your Father in heaven. Sisters, let your light shine! God Bless! I love you!

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on April 16th (Long Island and City).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** April 11th and April 25th 8:00 P.M., here in the chapel. Please come early to fellowship and to encourage one another.
- 📖 **VBS:** VBS this year will be held Aug 11th-15th during the off week in August.
- 📖 **Kent Men’s Retreat:** The Kent Men’s Retreat in Kent, CT is on June 6th-7th this year. See www.cocmensretreat.com for more info.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 We are now reserving the front two rows for people who wish to be prayed with, during the song of invitation. Please try to find seating elsewhere. Thank you!
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to Derek Peterson.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to directory@licoc.org.
- 📖 **Parking reminder -** Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✝ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✝ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✝ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✝ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America
- ✝ Doug & Lucy McDougle.....Moscow, Russia

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(347) 392-4339
Individual House Churches

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2008	Location
April 16 - April 27	Abilene, TX
May 21 - June 1	Williamsburg, VA
June 18 - June 29	Richlands, NC