

The Holy Journal

First Baptist Church of Richmond Park

Quarter 1 2022

Pastor Harrel's Thoughts...



Greetings in the name of Jesus.....

Today, victory is yours. You can have peace knowing that whatever

you are going through, God has placed you in your unique situation to have an extraordinary impact for him.

He is not surprised at where you are, although you may be. God has put you there and has given you the gifts necessary for your circumstance.... and will give you victory if you place your trust in HIM.

I want to encourage you as always to TRUST in your Lord. He said he would not

leave us nor forsake us. Trust in Him who will not leave you. Thank him for knowing that you are fulfilling a victorious plan in whatever circumstance you find yourself. Know that He is working it out, in your favor.

Remember, the battle is not yours, it belongs to the Lord. Have a victorious and blessed 2022.

Pastor Leonard Harrel, Sr.

**Rev. Leonard Harrel, Sr.,
Pastor**

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Sharon Harrel

Dr. Patricia Norwood



Doing Better in 2022

L.A.Davis

Praise the Lord Family! Happy New Year! Our Dear Sweet Father has blessed us to enter another year! Thank You JESUS!

Like most of us, I have started the year with a desire to **do** better than I did last year, especially when it comes to God's work for me. James gives us some advice in how to get **doing** in chapter 1:19-25, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick

to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his

*face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but **doing** it—they will be blessed in what they **do**."*

Lord, help me to be more of a **doer** for YOU this year! Let's all challenge ourselves to **do** better in 2022! In Jesus' Love...

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Love

By Velma Cadore Gray

Giving glory and honor to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thanking Him for allowing me to see another year. Love as Webster defines it is an intense feeling of deep affection. Most of us have fallen in love at one time or another. I've learned and was shown love for as long as I can remember from my parents, grandparent, sisters, brothers, family, friends, children and husband. I'm a hopeless romantic believing that everyone should be loved and eventually will find their true love. Being in love brings me so much joy, but my ultimate thrill is knowing that GOD loves me and has done so all my life!

Over the years I have heard of so many different types of love, such as puppy love, momentary love, lustful love, forbidden love, true love and yes even grave yard love. The ultimate love is **God's agape love**. He loves us unconditionally no matter who we are, and doesn't care if we are black,

white, rich, poor, young or old- in his eyes we are all the same.

I've heard and seen so many different versions of what individuals consider to be love, people talk about it, write about it, preach about it but how often do we show it. John 15:12-13,"says This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends".



There have been songs sung, movies and books written about LOVE, one song in particular that comes to mind is "What's Love Got to Do with It". It was a number one hit for Tina Turner back in the 80's. My answer to the question is this; Love has everything to do with it! I mean everything period! God loves us and he always will. John

3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life". Jesus loved us so much that he died on for our Sins.

As Christians we are to love our enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; have you shown love today? Did you exhibit love through communication or deed? Jesus commanded us to Love one another as he loved us, Let us go forth by showing love, not just to family and friends but to all God's children.

LOVE is what we need every day, LOVE is a Powerful emotion, Let Love rule, let in abide in each and every one of US.

I Love you all.

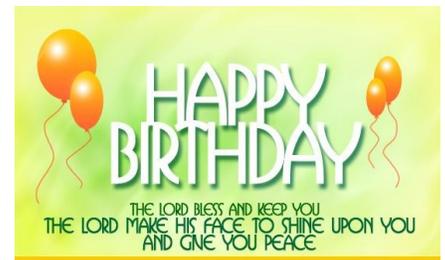
Birthday Greetings

Sister Emily Davis

Our church family would like to take the time to recognize all birthdays in the months of January, February, and March! We thank God for another new year of His love and grace. May you celebrate the gift of life that He has given you in another year to serve Him in so many ways. In times of love and appreciation in February, we recognize the love

that God has given to each and every one of us. And as the springtime comes around, we thank God for this time of grace and the opportunity to spend time together with family, friends, and loved ones. May the Lord continue to guide you on your special day and give you the strength to have positive thoughts in all parts of your life. We also pray that

everyone is staying safe and healthy with the current health crisis. We love you and continue to pray for you all!



Words to Live By

A NEW YEAR, A NEW ME

Praise God for another day, month and year. Happy New Year to all! God is so good. He has blessed us with a new year to serve, praise, testify and obey him.

As each new year begins, so many people make resolutions or promises that they intend to keep. Many have "good intentions" to do so, and others merely make the resolutions or promises because it "sounds good". These resolution makers or promise makers often get off to a good start keeping their promises, but as the year progresses the promises become a thing of the past.

2 Corinthians 5:17 declares: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

As new creatures or people in Christ, we have put away the old sinful man and put on the new man. Our actions, speech and habits have changed and we are now lovers of God and representatives of him. We love, act, give and live to please our heavenly father.

Perhaps you have made or thinking about making new year resolutions or promises of your own in the year 2014. If you are, allow the word of God to direct your resolutions or promises that you may grow spiritually.

Resolve or promise to.....

Love the Lord with your all

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might

Love your neighbor

Matthew 19:19 Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Trust God

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD

with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Be confident

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Seek God

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Read God's word

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Be a worker for the Lord

John Chapter 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Be a cheerful giver

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

"We love, act, give and live to please our Heavenly Father."

Put God first

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Pray always

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Philippians 4: 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Change your thoughts

Philippians 4:8 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.

Change your ways

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

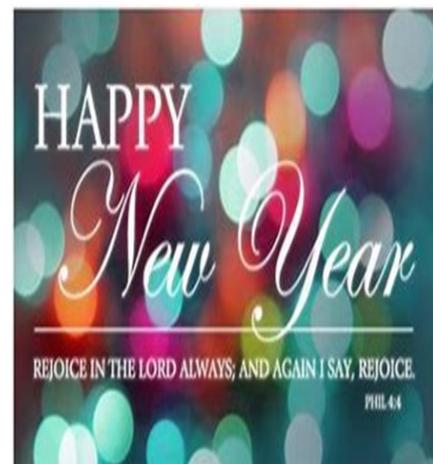
3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Be a witness for the Lord

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

This is a new year, and a new me in Christ Jesus!



The Seven Habits of a Godly Life

Submitted by Bro. Matthew Sharper, Sr.

1. A life of prayer. We see this modeled by Jesus. Although the disciples and the crowds did not understand why He withdrew when there was so much good He could do, Jesus knew that prayer was an important priority of His life.

Mark 1:35 “In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.”

Luke 4:42 “When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.”

Prayer that promotes godliness is not merely occasional petitions offered in times of trouble or need but a daily conversation with the Father that springs from love for Him and gratitude for who He is and what He does. It’s not a duty but a delight.

Jesus’ disciples observed that His prayers were very different from the ritualistic prayers that were so common in that day. Seeing how He spoke so personally with His heavenly Father prompted them to ask Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1).

Since we live in a world filled with temptations, trials, heartaches, burdens, and sin, an intimate prayer life should be a priority because it keeps us connected to almighty God and sensitive to His will. Whatever we do will be accomplished on our knees as we submit to the Lord, give Him our time, and listen for His instruction.

2. Faith. Psalm 103:19 says, “The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.” God controls everything—not only what happens but why and how it happens as well. His sovereignty is our firm foundation for believing and trusting Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 offers this advice: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

The only other option to faith is fretting. A godly life is one that steps beyond worry and into trust. Each time a situation causes us to fret, we should stop and remember who’s in charge. If God’s sovereignty rules over all, we have no reason to worry. The evidence of our faith is the absence of worry. Trust in the Lord also builds intimacy with Him. As we talk and listen to Him and respond in obedience, He guides us, and we develop closeness with Him both in our heart and in our thinking.

3. Meditation on the Word of God. The psalmist said, “When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches” (Ps. 63:6). Meditation includes reading Scripture, thinking about it, seeking to apply what God says, asking Him questions, and surrendering any issues He brings to mind. It’s like looking in the mirror of God’s Word to see what He says, but then looking beyond the mirror to see Him.

As we focus on the Lord, worries and concerns drift away, and our minds are freed from the contamination of the

“A Godly life is one that steps beyond worry and into trust.”

things that do us no good. Psalm 119:133 should be our prayer: “Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.”

Meditation keeps us alert and sensitive to whatever God wants to do in our lives. That’s why it’s so important to set aside a time to be alone with Him in His Word. As we read and think about what the Lord says, He speaks to our hearts.

If we want God to fill our minds with His Word, we must guard against letting the world dominate our thoughts. It’s easy to be occupied from morning

until evening with the things of this world without giving much thought to God. However, taking time to be alone with the Lord to meditate on His Word is essential if we want to live a godly life. Each day we must choose whether to carry the Lord or the world with us.

4. Obedience. Moses told the nation of Israel, “If you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth” (Deut. 28:1). In a similar way, we walk on a higher level than the world when we live in obedience to God. It’s not a matter of looking down on others but choosing to live by God’s standards rather than following the world’s lifestyle.

5. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Every believer in Jesus is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but the apostle Paul also tells us to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). The Greek verb signifies that this is a continuous action of filling. It means to live in obedience to Him, relying on Him to equip, empower, strengthen, teach, and guide us each day. Only as we depend on the Spirit will we be and do what God desires.

6. Giving to God and others. We have a promise in Luke 6:38: “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.” We can never out give God. But by not giving, we are claiming that we really don’t need Him but can manage on our own. Only God can predict and provide for our future needs.

7. Forgiving other people. Forgiveness may not be easy, but it’s what the Lord commands (Eph. 4:32). Even if someone betrays us, we must forgive them and trust God to take care of the situation.

Finding Peace in God's Word

Tamia R. Davis

Peace. The word our heavenly father hears us request and pray for consistently each day. Peace. What we all crave in our homes, even the times when we're all alone. Peace. It's what our heavenly father is. It's what he brings. It's what he's all about. He's the epitome of peace without a shadow of a doubt. Peace. It's found in his word, it's brought through his word. His word is alive and well, the scripture Isaiah 43 is my fa-

vorite book to share. Chapter 43 is the one I found, the one that holds the peace for me. It begins with our heavenly father stating that he formed me, created me, and calls me by name. I'm formed by the Father I won't ever be put to shame. He says that the flames won't set me ablaze. He says that I won't drown. He even says that the troubled rivers won't sweep me off the ground. He states that he loves me, that I'm precious

and honored in his sight. That is one of the many reasons why I love my Heavenly Father with all my might. He says not to be afraid because he's with me at all times And that is why Isaiah 43 will always be my peace of mind. Peace.



A NEW YEAR FOCUSED ON GOD

Dear Lord,

In the new year, we pray that You will guide us each new day in paths that are pleasing to You. Lord, the new year gives us another chance to rededicate our lives to You, to study Your Word so that we know right from wrong and to act in accordance with Your commands.

Thank you for the sense of direction, purpose and peace we get from aligning our lives with Your Holy will.

We pray for the strength and the will to obey You each and every day of the new year, and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy,

Your compassion, Your grace and Your love.

Help us in the new year to be your faithful servants.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

By Joanna Fuchs

First Quarter Dates To Remember:

1/17 MLK Day 02/1-28 Black History Month 02/14 Valentine's Day 02/21 President's Day 03/13 Pastor's Appreciation



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Dedicated to the service of God for over 100 years!

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions our service times are as follows:

Worship Service: Sundays 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary & via conference call

Sunday School Preview: Tuesdays 6:45 p.m. via conference call only

Please join us in person or via phone

Conference Call Number: 978-990-5000—ID: 693297#