

The X-treasure Chest Digest



A Word from Pastor

Jesus once said it is more blessed to give
than it is to receive
now the question remains
much to my shame
is this something i really believe

Do i live my life in such a way
that demonstrates faith in God's Word
or do i still wrestle
as an unholy vessel
to act on the things that i've heard

Jesus said that to this world
i am a shining light
but do i forget what i've learned
and become more concerned
with trying to prove myself right

It seems so hard to hold onto this joy
that God has put inside
it becomes a real struggle
when i constantly juggle
this joy with my slippery pride

Lord let my life be unto you
a praise of words unspoken
a life of holy living
of unselfish giving
a life of a man that's been broken

Pastor Tom

GIVE THANKS

Written By: Maryann Bylinski

Thank you Jesus for all You have done,
Shower me with peace and all Your love.
Hold me in Your arms and never let me go,
I need You in my life if I'm ever to grow.

OH FATHER, I LOVE YOU!

Written by Claudia Maher

O my God, my Father who has healed my soul;
Removed my sickness and set me free –
Who has filled me with grace to grace –
Who has surrounded me front and back, top and bottom;
Lifting me from the mire –
Who has called me by name and made me worthy
To be called daughter of the Most High King –
Who has filled my soul with Joy and removed the tears:

I rise in the morning with laughter and great expectation
For You are the great Healer and have filled me
With Your love and light.
Lead me, oh my God, in the path you have for me –
Guide me, oh my Father, and teach me
What You would have me know –
Where You would have me go –
What You would have me do.

Know my heart, Oh Lord God.
You are mighty Oh God – worthy!
I praise You, oh my Father!
Arise! Arise! Arise! There is none like You!
You have put a new song in my mouth,
New sight to my eyes and renewed my strength.
Oh Father, I love You.

NO GREATER LOVE

Written By: Maryann Bylinski

There is no greater love than this;
To die for you and me.
To walk and carry the cross;
To die to Himself to free the lost.
Just hold your head up high, my friend,
When you doubt the reason why –
For Jesus, our Savior, came to give you life
He's the answer to your every cry.

ON THE ROAD TO LINCOLN PARK PART 4
The Testimony of Jose Feliciano

The night before my brother Carlos left us to go home to the Lord I went through the mail and I opened a letter addressed to me from the New Jersey Blood Bank. I had donated blood back in June 1992, during a Sunday service at the Nutley H.S., with hopes that my blood could be used someday for my brother. I took notice that the envelope was rather thick and not a normal size. There were several pages in the envelope which I then started to read. At first I could not, or perhaps did not want to, understand what the contents said.

The first page began with the usual ‘thank you’s’ for donating blood, the second went into their findings and why I couldn’t donate again, the third explained consequences of not bringing this letter to my physician and following up with him. The fourth page was the actual results of my blood levels and the fifth and final page compared my levels with normal levels. The end result was that I had the hepatitis C virus. I could not accept these findings so I put the pages back in the envelope and threw it.

The next day I received the call that my brother had died early that morning. I was too preoccupied and concerned with my brother’s funeral arrangements to think or worry about myself. I returned a week later from Puerto Rico and started to worry about the letter. All I could think of was I had just buried my brother after he had fought a long battle against the AIDS virus and now I had to look for help to battle hepatitis C. I looked for the letter and found it behind the dresser. The next day I took it to work with me and reread it. I then called the blood bank searching for a better explanation but all that did was impart bigger fears than I could have imagined. I was really upset and did not know where to turn so I decided to call the church to speak with Pastor Bruno. They put me through to Pastor Paul Bruno, his son, and right after I told him why I was so upset he began to pray for me over the phone.

I finally got the courage to tell my wife and made an appointment to see my doctor. He tried to encourage me by saying there is always a possibility of errors but his results confirmed the letter and he referred me to a specialist for further testing. The specialist explained they would have to do a biopsy of my liver.

After nine years on and off of medications that would not guarantee a complete healing, my faith that Jesus would heal me by His stripes has given me the strength. I was told by my doctor that patients like me (a believer) have better results than those patients who do not have faith in God. He warned me to stay off alcohol and drugs and to continue to keep my faith strong because I will always be better off with the liver God gave me than receiving a transplant or taking treatments that have been proven to give little or, in most cases, no positive results.

I decided that if the apostle Paul could live with a thorn in his flesh and yet grow stronger in Christ Jesus, so can I. The Word of God says that He knew who I was before I was formed in my mother’s womb and only He has the days numbered for me, so I will continue to put my trust in Jesus. After all, whose report am I going to believe; the report of the world or the report of the Lord!

ALL IN A DECK OF CARDS
Written by: Debbie Reno

It all began when I started to shuffle a deck of cards to play an ordinary game of Solitaire. As I began laying down the cards one by one, I was not at all happy with the hand that I was being dealt. These are not the cards I would have chosen. However, I know there are a few choices I could make: I could throw the cards in the garbage and quit! I could re-do this hand until I find one that I like. I could add a few rules of my own (cheat), or I could stop complaining and continue on with the game.

My journey with the Lord has somewhat resembled these similar choices...and isn’t life about choices? *Oh Lord, forgive me. I have indeed done all these things to You...I have quit when things seemed too hard. I have turned away and tried making up my own rules. I have complained about the choices I’ve made and, oh, what a mess I’ve made again. Oh Lord help me!* Once again I can see, realizing just how totally distracted I became from the Word of God. Choosing to put Jesus first in my life is a conscious choice and effort that I must make everyday...*and I thank you, Lord for Your mercy and grace that is given each day. I thank you, Lord for you are always waiting for me with open arms. I need you guiding my every step. Lead me, oh Father, everyday. Amen.*

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life.” (Deut. 30:19)

I choose life!! *Thank you Lord, that each day I continue to hunger and thirst after Your Word...* I continue my journey looking ahead at the things I cannot see but knowing the truth that waits for me.

Wait, I’m not finished with this Solitaire game yet. (I’ve lost about 6 games)...

As I began to look at each card that was being played...I thought...what value would I place on myself within this deck of cards? I would probably say just an ordinary “2”. However, I really would like to be a Queen!! But then I realized that each card is unique and different from each other and the order in which the cards are played is also important to winning this card game. There was a time that I thought...*Oh Lord, how in this world are you going to use a very ordinary person like me...there are so many people who are much more valuable, Lord, we are talking about me!* But I understand now, that I can’t be looking at other people, wishing I could be like them. God has His own special plan just for me. *Thank you Lord, that You are molding me into this woman You want me to be and I thank you Lord that Your timing is indeed perfect.* As far as being valuable...We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, belonging to God! (We belong to Him!) How special am I? *Thank you Jesus, my Lord and Savior, that You paid the price for me and have chosen me to be a member of this Body of Christ, to help build Your eternal Kingdom. Thank you, O Father, for loving me first. Amen.*

(By the way, I won this hand.) I always look forward to playing an ordinary game of Solitaire...but I am NEVER ALONE when I play. I pray you too will enjoy your next game of Solitaire! God Bless You.

TITHING- AN ACT OF WORSHIP

By Fran Schornstein

Tithing (one-tenth of our income: our first fruits) is an act of worship to our Heavenly Father. Tithing is an eternal principle of God; it existed before the Law (Gen 14:18-20), was incorporated into the Law (Deut 26, Lev 27) and exists today. Jesus spoke of tithing (Luke 11:42) and stood by the Treasury (Mark 12:41-44). The tithe is holy unto the Lord and belongs to God. Tithing is an expression of our love (obedience) for the Word (Jesus) and declares to the Lord that our finances are His to bless. Faithfully, we put ourselves in God's economy so His financial blessings for us can be released.

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now, herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 4:10-11)

Tithing releases the floodgates of heaven (ask Noah about the floodgates of heaven!) We tap into God's source of Supply! What a Promise!!! God will open the floodgates and pour out so much blessing that we will not have enough room to contain it. God tells us to TEST Him – give Him the opportunity to prove His Awesome Power and Promise to us in this area. Tithing releases God's law of increase over our finances and God works with multiplication! (Remember the loaves and fishes?)

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. (Luke 6:38)

Tithing declares to God that HE is our Lord, Our Source, our Provider and we trust HIM. It reveals our heart to Him. God also promises that when we tithe, the devil is bound and not able to “steal, kill and destroy” (John 10:10) our financial well-being. God says HE will rebuke the devil for us. God is fighting the battle for us and HE WINS! (Remember when God fought the battles for Joshua at Jericho?) That's a supernatural Insurance Policy!!!

Tithing is our first fruits (giving God's money to Him before we get to spend the remaining 90%).

Proverbs 3:9-10 says: “honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

In Malachi 3:8, the Lord speaking: “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed thee?’ In tithes and offerings.”

Psalms 96:8-9: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering and come unto his courts.”

Money is a Spiritual matter when given by His spiritual children. God's Kingdom uses this money as an effective tool to bring the Truth of the Gospel of Christ and the message of Salvation to a dying world, to set the captives free, and to heal the sick and brokenhearted. How little our Heavenly Father requires of us and how much is given in exchange for our obedience. I believe that when we grasp this principle, we will seek God, asking “Is that all you ask of us, Lord?”

SOMETIMES

~anonymous~

Sometimes i get mad
because i don't have something i want
But i feel ashamed because
i know one day i will have everything
and all my desires will be fulfilled.

Sometimes i get frustrated
that my friends won't turn to Christ
But i know that one day
at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is the Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Sometimes i feel scared
when i'm all alone
But i know that wherever i go
God will always be beside me,
helping me up when i fall,
giving me strength when i stumble
and guiding my direction when i'm lost.

Sometimes i feel discouraged
when an obstacle comes my way and i think why me?
But i know God has his own reason for things
and if he brings me to it he'll bring me through it.

Sometimes i wonder
what my life will be like in five, ten,
even twenty years, just what has God planned for me?
But i don't worry, because
i know that whatever it is, in time,
i'll find out and until then,
i'll just continue to bring people to Christ
and show them the Glory of God.

I WILL TRUST

Written by Maryann Bylinski

I'll trust You Lord when I'm feeling sad.
I'll trust You Lord when my flesh gets mad.
I'll trust You Lord for the things I know not.
My Savior, my Redeemer, without blemish or spot.
I'll trust You Lord when the lights grow dim.
I'll trust You Lord when I can't seem to forgive.
I'll trust You Lord for the times when I am weak.
It's then, oh dear Jesus, You desire to speak.
I want to say Yes Lord. I want to stand firm.
I want to surrender my spirit and soul.
So please do not leave me nor turn far away
My Savior, my Jesus; the Light and the Way.
I'll trust You for miracles. I'll trust You for love.
I'll trust You to walk with me my Savior up above.
I will shout to the mountains – I will shout to the sky:
Jesus is the answer to your every heartfelt cry.
So trust Him in the morning.
Trust Him all day long.
Trust Him for true deliverance
And praise Him with your song!

MY CHILD

Written by Maryann Bylinski

Listen to your heart and walk with me today
Stop all that you are doing.
There is something I must say,
A child of mine so pure in heart
Leave your cares behind you
Step out in faith and touch the sky
There is something I need to tell you.
I love you as you are
You're special in every which way
I made you weak in spirit
So that you would come and pray.
I want to heal your wounds
And mend your heart so broken.
I want to give you joys abounding
And blessings never yet spoken.
I want to give you peace
And provide a world of calm
I want to enter deep within
And touch your heart and palm.
I want to give you joy
And victory in your day
I want to spread your talents
To touch lives along the way.
Never give up my child
I've called you out by name
I want to give you wholeness
Never to be the same.
I want to claim your life
And free your spirit now
Come walk with me and hold my hand
And I will show you how.
~ *Your friend, Jesus*

SOUL OF LIFE

Written by Michael Cavallo

Life is a cycle that keeps turning until it breaks you. Life has already broken me – the chains of misery are weakened by knowing God. Breaking the chains took years because my heart wasn't ready to accept a liberator. Once you open your heart the misery in you life will fade. By opening your heart you must free your mind of any obstacles that will not allow you to die to the self. The light of the soul dwindles with the misery you face that impedes on seeing through eternal darkness. The light that you perceive could be a torch or a match depending on how you get through life; how you get through life and the misery, that much brighter the light will be. The soul is a candle through the eyes of God that allows sight. Life has already broken you in some way, that doesn't mean the light isn't there, how you perceive your life and the obstacles in life is when the light brightens.

MY EVERYTHING

Written by Anne Marie Cornetto

I grew up in church knowing Your name;
When to bow my head and genuflect.
I would kneel and stand and sing Your praise
Never really taking time to reflect
On the depth of the words I would sing
Or the hope in Your Word for those who were lost.
That the man who to kings is the King
Had died, just for me, upon the cross.
And I thought that I had loved you
Thought I knew you as my Lord
Never taking time to know what it meant to
Stand by faith or know Your Word.

But now I am learning, day by day
That to serve You as my Lord and King
Requires submission and that I obey
Your Word above every other thing.
And though I struggle with every stride
And sometimes find I have made a mess
It is through Your strength I can arise
And see through my pride and selfishness.
As I grow a little closer to You each day
The more and more to You I want to cling.
You are my Lord, my Savior, the Way
You are my desire; my everything.

THE BEST MEDICATION IS MEDITATION

Written by Adrianna DeMarco

(Rich Cornetto's grandmother)

If your "soul is sick," and your "heart is sad"
And the good things in life begin to look bad,
Don't be too sure that you're physically ill
And run to the doctor for a sedative pill...
For nothing can heal a "soul that is sick"
Or guarantee a cure as complete and quick
As a heart to heart talk with God and His Son,
Who, on the shores of the Galilee, said, "Thy will be done"...
So when you're feeling downcast, seek God in meditation,"
For a little talk with Jesus is unfailing "medication!"

Written By Danielle Mete

Tyler Mete, age 4, is so into and fascinated by superheroes (Superman, Spiderman, Batman, Power Rangers) and he always compares who is bigger or stronger or faster. Yet, somewhere along the way, he realized who the biggest Superhero is. Now after rambling on about all his figures he says, "But you know, Mom, God is the biggest and strongest of everyone."

Tyler's new prayer for bed time and meal time is this song...

*God is bigger than the boogie man.
He's bigger than Godzilla or monsters on TV.
(3 times)
He's watching over you and me!*