

OLD AND ALONE? GET BUSY AND CHEER UP! - PART 1

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My Life As A Private Individual, Motivation For This Article, A Lonely Miserable Depressed Online Friend, Online Posts And Comments Aren't Really Deleted, Be Slow To Speak And To Post On The Social Networks, First Consider Potential Consequences Of Your Words, Heartbreaking Words Of My Online Friend, Sense Of Hopelessness And Despair Expressed By Biblical Characters, Bible Examples: Adam And Eve, Jonah, Ahab Jezebel And Elijah, Prophet Jeremiah, Anguish Despair And Hopelessness Have Been A Part Of The Human Experience For A Long Time, Life With My Constant Feline Companions Polo And Eljio, My Demise And Fate Of My Cats, Adoption And Sometimes Tragic Fate Of Adult Cats, Brevity Of Our Human Existence, God Alone Determines Our Life Span, Health Products Life Extenders And The Deceptive Greedy Promoters, Self-Induced Deception, Artificial Temporary Boost

Let me begin by saying that this will be a very personal article, because I will be sharing some things in it which I would probably not share under any other circumstances. As some of my longtime readers will already know, aside from my very public online evangelization endeavors, I actually tend to be a very private individual. I usually keep to myself, even with my neighbors who live around me. I am, of course, pleasant when I come across one of them, but I don't go out of my way to associate with any of them on a regular basis. I don't attend social gatherings such as birthday parties or fiestas, or visit house-to-house, or do anything similar. In other words, that is just not me.

However, due to some heartbreaking comments I recently read on one of the social networks which had been written by an elderly online friend, I have decided to open up my personal life just a little more, because I feel compelled to share the following thoughts with you, my online friends, and my fellow Christian brethren. It is my hope that what I share here will both motivate and encourage those of you who may need it, and for certain others, hopefully shake you out of any similar state of depression in which you might possibly

currently find yourself.

Without revealing a lot of identifying details concerning this particular online friend -- their name will obviously not be shared in this series -- let me just say that they are elderly but younger than myself. They live alone. They own an old, sick dog which is now their primary companion and the sole love of their life. They feel totally rejected by their own family who lives a distance away from them. In fact, this person is now so depressed and bummed out due to their circumstances, that they have convinced themselves that they no longer have any reason to live. They say that their life is now just one monotonous, boring event after another, and that nothing ever changes. Sadly, they have even desired that God remove them from this Earth before their dog dies.

Now, to give you an idea of exactly how deep their state of depression has become, I'm going to share a few exact quotes which I extracted from their online comments. Being as this information was posted publicly, I see no problem in sharing this individual's actual words with you. However, before I do that, allow me to share another very important point that is directly related to this current discussion.

My dear friends, we all need to bear in mind that whenever we choose to share something publicly on the Internet, such as on one of the popular social networks, that information is out there, and it will remain out there. There is no way to take it back, or to try to conceal it, or to claim that we never said it. Yes, we can remove a post or comment from one of the platforms on which we participate, but that does not necessarily mean that other social network participants will not see it in other parts of that same social network. The social network gurus make this point rather plain in their terms of service and usage policies.

Let me give you a few simple examples. If you make a post on a social network, and somebody decides to share it, or even more, if they choose to copy and paste your comment to their own space instead of using the "Share" link or button, even if you delete that post or comment from your own timeline or page, your post or comment may STILL remain in circulation. Maybe you decided that what you had said was too offensive, too controversial, or perhaps too personal. So you changed your mind and deleted it from your page or timeline. Well, as I just said, once it is out there, it is OUT there, and

you will just have to live with the consequences if it comes back to haunt you.

Let me share another clear example of something else which I personally experienced myself a number of years ago on one of the social networks. As some of you fellow netizens will know, some social networks have a practice or feature called "history" where they can choose to share some of your posts from the past. Well, let me ask you a question. If when we delete a certain post from our page or timeline it is truly deleted permanently, how is it then that it can later still appear in a history post? Please give some thought to that.

So the important lesson that we can learn from this is that we all need to be very careful regarding what we post in the first place. We need to carefully and prayerfully think it through and consider the potential consequences of our words, BEFORE we post them. In the wise words of the Bible, none of us should be rash or quick to speak with our mouths, or post on the social networks, because we may live to regret it. It may eventually embarrass us, or worse. Please consider the wisdom which is found in the following set of Bible verses:

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

Psalms 19:14, KJV

"In the multitude of words there wanteth [lacks] not sin: but HE THAT REFRAINETH HIS LIPS IS WISE."

Proverbs 10:19, KJV

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Proverbs 18:13, 21, KJV

"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

Proverbs 25:28, KJV

"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards."

Proverbs 29:11, KJV

"BE NOT RASH WITH THY MOUTH, and LET NOT THINE HEART BE HASTY TO UTTER ANY THING BEFORE GOD: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore LET THY WORDS BE FEW."

Ecclesiastes 5:2, KJV

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Matthew 12:37, KJV

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, SLOW TO SPEAK, slow to wrath . . . If any man among you seem to be religious, and BRIDLETH NOT HIS TONGUE, but deceiveth his own heart, this mans religion is vain."

James 1:19, 26, KJV

"For he that will love life, and see good days, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, and his lips that they speak no guile:"

1 Peter 3:10, KJV

Returning to my friend who currently finds themself under a major cloud of depression, as I stated earlier, the quotes I am now going to share with you reveal nothing regarding who this individual is. You would really have to have read these comments for yourself on the right social network, as well as on their own account, to even recognize who this person is. Of course, I'm not about to say. I have to respect their privacy. Thus, they will remain anonymous. But I assure you that these were their exact words:

----- Begin Quote -----

And my life really has no reason to be anymore. I do nothing because I am too poor to go anywhere. No one invites me to their home. Plus it's no fun to do everything alone. I only exist. I eat and sleep, empty the trash. Go to the same old [grocery store], go to the same park. Always alone. Nothing new happens ever. Nothing changes . . . I feel lost, alone, invisible, hopeless. If I had a friend to do things with or a male companion . . . I need someone to care about me . . . When I am here I feel like a ghost who is no longer in the world . . . But we just have nothing else to live for . . . I try to have faith that God still loves me . . .

----- End Quote -----

As I said, I found my friend's comments very heartbreaking, and I imagine that many of my readers will too. What a sad, depressing, hopeless attitude to have. It reeks of complete and total misery, doesn't it? In the Bible, we find a number

of verses where certain people expressed the same kind of hopelessness, either because they realized the vanities and the futilities of this present life, or because they had not yet come to know the Salvation which is freely offered to them through faith in the atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Consider the following set of verses. Beware, because these folks seem to be on a major bummer:

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."

Ecclesiastes 1:2, KJV

"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

Ecclesiastes 1:14, KJV

"Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

Ecclesiastes 2:17, KJV

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Romans 7:24, KJV

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

1 Corinthians 15:19, KJV

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Ephesians 2:12, KJV

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13, KJV

So these depressing emotions and feelings of hopelessness which my friend has been experiencing are not anything new. They have been plaguing humanity since the very beginning of man's creation. In fact, I imagine that the first human pair -- Adam and Eve -- were not feeling too great either after God was forced to eject them from the Garden of Eden due to their rebellion and sin. How would you have felt if you had suddenly found yourself ousted from the most beautiful place

on the entire Earth? Downright wretched, I imagine.

Then, of course, there is the Prophet Jonah who temporarily rebelled against the Lord, and refused to go to Nineveh -- the ancient capital of Assyria, and today known as Mosul, Iraq -- in order to warn the people of the Lord's impending judgment against them. Well, as many of my Bible-literate readers will already know, as a result of Jonah's defiance, the Prophet ended up in the belly of a great whale with seaweed wrapped around his head and other nastiness. It was NOT a very nice situation to be in. God was very obviously dealing with Jonah's reluctance to fulfill His Will. Then, in his darkest moment of despair, Jonah repented of his sin and cried out "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." -- Jonah 2:8. Let me share that entire chapter with you so that you can really understand what a dismal situation Jonah found himself in:

"Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land."

Jonah 2:1-10, KJV

I am also reminded of the mighty Prophet Elijah. As I point out in a few other BBB articles, evil King Ahab and his very wicked queen wife, Jezebel, were killing the Lord's Prophets left and right. This was due to the fact that earlier, the Prophet Elijah had slain four hundred and fifty of the false prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel in Israel, and now Ahab and Jezebel were after Elijah's hide. They wanted that man dead!

In fact, the moment finally arrived when the Prophet Elijah believed himself to be the only Prophet left alive in Israel during that time. Thus, Elijah was definitely in a state of despair; so much so that he even asked the Lord to take his life from him. The following conversation with the Lord is what occurred after Elijah had fled from Ahab and Jezebel, and gone to Mount Horeb -- also known as Sinai -- where he hid himself in a cave, hoping to escape Jezebel's wrath:

"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. AND WHEN HE SAW THAT, HE AROSE, AND WENT FOR HIS LIFE, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: AND HE REQUESTED FOR HIMSELF THAT HE MIGHT DIE; AND SAID, IT IS ENOUGH; NOW, O LORD, TAKE AWAY MY LIFE; FOR I AM NOT BETTER THAN MY FATHERS . . . And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, EVEN I ONLY, AM LEFT; AND THEY SEEK MY LIFE, TO TAKE IT AWAY. And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, EVEN I ONLY, AM LEFT; AND THEY SEEK MY LIFE, TO TAKE IT AWAY."

1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-14, KJV

Lastly, I am reminded of the dire situation of the Prophet Jeremiah. In fact, more than eight and a half years ago in 2017, I composed a poem -- which I more recently converted into an actual song -- about this very incident. You will find at the URL below:

<https://www.billkochman.com/Poetry/prophet-jeremiah.html>

As I amply describe in the poem and song, Jeremiah began his prophetic ministry in Israel at a very young age. He in fact lived through the reigns of various Jewish kings, and faithfully preached God's warnings to the Israelites for a period of some forty years, right up until the last assault by Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, and his armies, which resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in about the year 587 BC. However, similar to so many other Prophets which the Lord had sent to warn the Israelites, it seems that Jeremiah was NOT a welcomed voice in the land.

As a result, during the reign of the final Jewish king who was named Zedekiah, dear Jeremiah found himself thrown into prison and accused of being a false prophet and a traitor to his own country. This event was due to the jealousy of the false prophets who prophesied of peace and prosperity, and who absolutely hated Jeremiah's guts. In fact, they wanted Jeremiah executed. However, even the prison courtyard wasn't enough for those wicked deceivers. Thus, they had Jeremiah thrown into a pit where he sank into the mud up to his very armpits. Thankfully, he was eventually rescued by a eunuch and friend named Ebedmelech, who was of Ethiopian descent.

In addition to reading my poem and listening to the song, if you want to read the actual story as found in the Scriptures, please proceed to the Book of Jeremiah, chapter thirty-eight. But as you can see by the previous paragraphs, just like so many of the Lord's other Prophets and children, Jeremiah had a very rough go of it. Now, on the surface, it would seem as if he had a justifiable reason to just get discouraged, give up and quit. However, just like the others, he did NOT do so. Jeremiah faithfully executed the tasks which the Lord had given him to do. He did not allow himself to be persuaded by political correctness, by the hatred which was directed at him, or by the life-threatening and perilous situation in which he found himself. He persevered.

I could share a number of other Bible stories with you, but I am sure these ones will suffice. So again, such moments of

anguish, despair and hopelessness are nothing new. They have been a part of our human experience for an extremely long time, and, of course, they will continue to be so. But do we need to remain victims to these types of negative emotions? Do we need to let them continually clobber us over the head and keep us in a state of such depression so that we become totally ineffective for the Lord? This is a question which I will directly address later on in this same series.

To continue, while I do find my friend's comments rather heartbreaking, at the same time, I will also say that I do very much relate to them as well, because I find myself in a very similar situation. Allow me to explain. And, yes, this is where I start to get personal. While I do not have a dog, as some of my readers and online friends will already know, I do have two cats -- Polo and Eljio -- which were both born under my bed, nineteen days apart in 2021, to two different sets of parents. Both cats are still in the prime of their lives, being just over four years old each. Similar to my friend's dog, Polo and Eljio are my constant companions who bring a lot of joy to my life, despite one of them -- Polo the female, of course -- being an absolute dictator. But I love her regardless of her demanding, tyrannical behavior. Other cat lovers will completely understand this. 🐾

But concerning these two feline rascals, my perspective is the exact opposite of that of my online friend. While they desire to die BEFORE their dog so that they do not have to watch it suffer in its old age, as much as it would sadden me to have to experience it -- I have suffered pet loss in the past -- my desire is that my cats die BEFORE I do. Why do I feel this way? Well, because I would be concerned with what would happen to them after I am gone from this Earth.

Please understand that my two fur babies have never known any other existence apart from living with me. Neither has ever been outside except for a few times when they were kittens, and when I took them to be spayed and neutered prior to their first birthday. Of course, both of them enjoy sitting on the window sill and basking in the Sun each day, or gazing out the window from the top of the shower stall in order to see the birds, or whatever else might be going on out there. So I and my little apartment are their entire lives. They are very comfortable, and very much loved. This is their little feline kingdom.

So the simple truth of the matter is that absolutely nobody

could ever love Polo and Eljio, and care for them as much as I do. There just would not be that same connection were they to be given to someone else following my earthly demise. Or who knows. As other cat owners will know, cats can be rather traitorous with their affections. While our cats do indeed love us -- yes, I believe that cats do have emotions like all animals, and that it is not just a matter of instinct -- it is also an inescapable fact that they're self-centered little opportunists who will take advantage of the situation. Shrewd little manipulators! Ha! 🐾

Anyway, given my personal situation -- I live alone with no family members around -- my two feline companions would more than likely either be cast out onto the street, or else be taken to the local pound -- pet shelter -- where they would either eventually die, or else purposely be put down. This would not be because they are sick or anything. In fact, my dearies are in perfect health. Rather, the sad truth of the matter is that in my observation, most folks prefer to adopt cute, little kittens, and not already-mature cats. This is one reason why it can be difficult for pet shelters to find new homes for adult cats and dogs, and why they will end up euthanizing many of them. Sadly, economics do enter the picture.

At any rate, that is why I personally much prefer that my two feline companions pass from this current life before I do, despite the pain, emptiness and loneliness which I would experience at their passing. I will say this. It will be an interesting race, because while my cats are only four years old, I am now in my early seventies. In other words, my cats could possibly have another eleven to sixteen years to go before they meet their demise. But the question is this: Do I really have that long to live? This is something that I do seriously think about. While I sometimes joke that I need to beat Moses and live to be one hundred and fifty years of age in order to complete my work for the Lord, the truth is that only God knows. After all, consider the following group of Bible verses that mention the brevity of our human existence:

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalms 90:10, KJV

"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that

passeth away."

Psalms 144:4, KJV

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:7-8, KJV

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Luke 12:20, KJV

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready."

John 7:6, KJV

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Hebrews 9:27, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14, KJV

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

1 Peter 1:23-25, KJV

So as you can plainly see, contrary to the popular, secular opinion which erroneously claims that we can each determine our own length of time on this Earth by what kind of diet we maintain, or what level of exercise we perform, what miracle foods we consume, what pharmaceutical drugs we take, or what vitamin supplements we ingest, the Scriptures inform us that

it is God alone who determines the length of our sojourn on this planet. When He says that our time is up, then our time is up, and that is the end of it.

Do any of the aforementioned things really help in any way to extend one's life? The older I become, the more doubtful I become that any of it is true. Of course, the promoters of such products and services don't want you to know that. After all, money and profit are their gods, and lies and deception are the standard tools of their craft. They want you as a customer for life. Thus, they will do everything within their power to convince you of the effectiveness of their products.

Sadly, I have known people who will swear by some of these products. They will tell me how absolutely great they feel after using one of these items or services. Personally -- and I know that some of my readers won't like to hear this -- I think that in some cases, it is all in their mind. I believe that they actually psyche themselves into believing that a certain product is having some positive effect on the quality of their life. In other words, it is all imaginary. They want to believe, so in their case, it is so, regardless of the truth.

Yet at the same time, I also believe that the promoters of some of these questionable products add certain ingredients to them which will give the individual a temporary boost in their energy level, or maybe a certain feeling of euphoric wellness. Whether that ingredient is caffeine, some type of sugar compound, or perhaps a certain combination of chemical additives, or some other stimulant, the end result is that the user becomes convinced that the product is working as advertised. Thus, they become addicted to it, and become a customer for life. Wow! It sounds just like drug addiction, doesn't it?

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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OLD AND ALONE? GET BUSY AND CHEER UP! - PART 2

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My Life As A Loner And A Recluse, Decades Of Isolation And Rejection Due To My Christian Beliefs, Renewed Relationship With My Mom, Tragedy Of My Agnostic/Atheist Dad, My Siblings' Rejection, Eventual Family Estrangement, Special Relationship With My Granddaughter, 2-Year Toll Of COVID-19 Restrictions, My Firm Position Against The Jabs, Heavy Price Of My Refusal, Ongoing Deaths And Negative Side Effects Of COVID Vaccines, CDC Quietly Drops Universal COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendation, Special Gifts And Two-Year Alienation From My Granddaughter, More About My Personal Situation And Living Alone With Cats, Various Justifiable Reasons Why I Have The Right To Complain Be Depressed And Even To Die, My Primary Purpose, My Mom And That Crazy Happy Guy, My Early Life As An Introvert And Odd Bird, Spiritual Rebirth Conversion Transformation: Changed By Jesus Christ And The Spirit, Old Man Versus New Man, Spiritual Warfare And Our Primary Adversary Satan, The Devil Induces Us To Sin And Then Condemns Us For Sinning, The Fallen Preachers, Not Ignorant Of His Devices, Error Of Taking Our Eyes Off Of Jesus And Putting Them On Ourselves And Negative Circumstances Instead, Black Holes Of Endless Misery And Despair, Preach The Glad Tidings And Not The Sad Tidings, Quick Way For A Friend Request To Be Rejected, Post Positive Uplifting Content And Plenty Of God's Word, Not Continual Murmuring And Complaints, Problem: Driving Away Potential Sheep Through Open Hostility, Self-Absorbed Page Posters, Share Jesus And Not Just Yourself

Continuing our discussion from part one, and getting back on track with the main focus of this series, as I mentioned in part one, similar to my online friend, and many other elderly people, I live alone and I am quite the recluse. I rarely go anywhere except to the post office, or food shopping, or to the occasional appointment. However, the solitary life I live is by my personal choice for reasons which I will explain in a moment. Unlike my social network friend who feels the need to be around people, I do quite fine living alone. I enjoy the quiet, the peace and my independence from obligations to others, and all the unnecessary family drama which occurs in so many American families today. Similar to many of you, my

home is my spiritual abode which is dedicated to the Lord and to my personal service to Him. This is what I live for, as a number of you will already know.

While I know how to be friendly and sociable around people, and can be quite talkative -- particularly when it comes to discussing God's Word -- at the same time, I thrive just as much being alone without them. The truth is that I've been a loner for most of my life, and it is just the way that I am. However, I believe that there is a reason for this. This too I will be explaining momentarily when we arrive at the key message of this series. In that regard, I suppose my friend and I are very different. In fact, I sometimes joke that I would have made the perfect interplanetary astronaut, had I chosen that profession. Isolation simply does not affect me in the negative way in which it affects other people. But then maybe it is simply because my two cats keep me sane. Well, at least I believe that I am sane. 🍌

Regarding the hurtful family rejection which my friend has experienced, trust me when I say that I am very familiar with such pain. Suffice it to say that I have experienced some of the very same things as my friend related in their online comments. In fact, I have been treated as a complete outsider by the vast majority of my family for about fifty years, even when I have made certain endeavors to establish a relationship with some of them. As I've explained before, in large part, this seeming rejection has been due to my strong, Christian, Bible-based convictions and beliefs. If there are other reasons, I am currently not aware of what they are, because no one has ever told me. Thus, it remains a complete mystery to me.

Thankfully, in recent years, my mother -- who is a Christian -- and I re-established our relationship after many years. I am happy to report that it has been going well, and that she now fully supports my work for the Lord. What is nice about our relationship is that I can be exactly who God made me to be without any pretense whatsoever. If I want to be serious with her and discuss the Scriptures, she accepts, very much respects and enjoys it. Or if I want to be a septuagenarian, wise-cracking, sarcastic, joking goofball just to get a laugh out of her, she enjoys that just as much. In short, my mom -- who is currently ninety years old -- is quite the lady and character herself. And oh is she as sharp as a tack for her age! No loose marbles upstairs. Nope, none at all! 🍌

In contrast, and sadly, my dad and I had our final falling out decades ago, again, due in large part to my Christian beliefs. Tragically, he passed away earlier this year as he approached his 93rd birthday, either as an agnostic, or as a complete atheist. It was not quite clear to me due to our long lack of communication. Regarding my siblings, they too have all kept me at arm's length for over five decades as well, even though at times I tried to establish some kind of rapport with them. Now, only a few of them survive, and the sad trend of rejection and silence continues.

In more recent years, due to work opportunities elsewhere, not quite a year ago, my more immediate family members left the island where I now reside. In fact, they currently live about 1,600 miles away from me. However, for a number of years before they left, they had already stopped visiting me, and communication between us pretty much came to a standstill. This was particularly painful due to the fact that I have a young granddaughter similar to the friend I have been writing about. I used to baby-sit her for various reasons, and sometimes she would even spend a night or two at my home. On rare occasions, she would even stay longer than that.

Being as my granddaughter was so young, I would treat all of her visits as educational experiences. We would color and draw together, read books together, quiz her on her various flash card sets, watch children's movies, etc. It was lots of fun, and it saddened her to have to leave me at the end of each of her visits. However, once her family moved to a new apartment that was miles away from me -- we used to live right next door to each other -- those special visits became a lot less frequent.

Tragically, two years of harsh COVID-19 restrictions here on our island -- including enforced social distancing, business closures for all but certain approved businesses, mandatory masks, etc. -- did not help our family situation. Of course, neither did my stiff resistance to getting the vaccine jabs help either. To this day, I remain vaccine-free despite some pressure from both my personal physician at the time, as well as from my immediate family. I had done due diligence through online research, such as by visiting the U.S. government-run VAERS -- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System -- website, so I was quite familiar with the serious health dangers and risks which were resulting in large numbers from the COVID vaccine shots. Thus, I stood my ground despite the pressure.

Well, sadly, in the end, my family totally restricted me from seeing my granddaughter as long as I refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19. However, I was not about to allow myself to be blackmailed or bribed into getting the shots through such tactics, or to risk my personal health by injecting something into my body which had been hastily foisted upon the American public without the required multi-year testing and analysis phase. Between that and the frightening horror stories I had been reading, it was just a no-go for me, despite the heavy price I had to pay due to my refusal to be vaccinated. When I discovered that the American government had in fact engaged in the very deceptive practice of paying hospitals and other health institutions \$39,000 dollars for each death that they reported as a COVID-related death -- even if it really was no such thing -- that solidified my decision against the jabs.

My friends, to this day, I remain fully convinced that I made the right choice to refuse the COVID jabs. In fact, as some of you will know, even now, despite some efforts by both the US government and the pharmaceutical industry to conceal the real truth, we still occasionally read reports of people who are dropping dead due to the side effects of the vaccines, or at least who are suffering from a number of serious health issues which have been directly linked to the COVID-19 jabs.

Furthermore, it did not go unnoticed by me -- and probably by some of you as well -- that earlier this month -- Oct. 2025 -- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its immunization schedule. This included dropping the universal COVID-19 vaccine recommendation. In other words, less people are now being required or recommended to get the COVID jabs. If the vaccines are as safe as they have continued to claim, then why would they do this? Think it through, my friends, and arrive at your own conclusions.

While we've taken another small detour, let's return again to our main subject of discussion. While my granddaughter and I used to FaceTime frequently, as she began to get older -- but while yet being a pre-teen -- she seemed to lose her interest in video chatting with me on a regular basis, as we had been doing. Honestly speaking, my friends, to this day, I still do not know why it occurred, and why she became so distant from me. Perhaps it was just a stage in her life due to her age, or her school studies, or maybe her personal life activities. Or maybe it had something to do with the COVID restrictions. Who knows.

But the point is this: By the time these family members left our island almost a year ago, I had not seen my granddaughter in person for about a two-year period. Her family had stopped visiting me entirely. Even with the rare FaceTime chats that still occurred, I could tell from the way my granddaughter acted that she did it more because her mother insisted that she do it, than because she was really interested in chatting with me. As I said, this continues to mystify me, because we used to be quite close. Aside from the activities I already mentioned previously, I used to purchase her a lot of gifts. From the time that she was still in diapers -- boy, I changed many of those! -- I began getting her things such as a walker, a cradle, a baby jumper, a high chair and more.

As she moved into the toddler stage, I also bought her book shelves, and piles and piles of children's books. Some books had built-in noises, while others had different textures that she could touch and feel. There were also Bible story books, and many books about nature, because I personally love God's natural creation, and I wanted her to love it and appreciate it too, which she still does to this very day. She loves to go to zoos, to visit public aquariums and venture to similar places where different animal species are kept.

Now that my immediate family no longer lives on-island, I am completely alone, except for my two cats. Oh, and by the way, while my online friend is unable to travel due to issues with their car, in my case, I have not owned or driven a car since 1997. On the rare occasions when I do have to go out to take care of personal business, I take advantage of a special bus service that is specifically designed for people such as me who suffer from certain disabilities. It is actually rather great, because not only do I save thousands of dollars every year -- due to no car expenses -- but the bus picks me up and drops me off right at my doorstep. Plus, the rides are cheap.

Thankfully, another blessing in my life is that I also have a large supermarket within walking distance of my home. It has a large selection of food items which easily meet my personal needs. But let me also tell you that at my age, those short trips walking home loaded down with heavy groceries -- often twenty to fifty pounds, and on rare occasions even more when I over-shop by mistake -- is sometimes quite the challenge. I arrive home huffing and puffing and totally wiped out. I will often have to jump in bed afterwards in order to recover from the ordeal.

Now, after reading all of the previous paragraphs, some of you might be led to conclude that, similar to the friend I've been writing about, I have very justifiable reasons for being totally depressed and bummed out. I live alone. I don't even have a car because I am too poor to own one, besides the fact that my vision is very poor. I have been ignored and rejected by my personal family for years, in most cases, even for as long as five decades. Should I also add to my personal list of woes the fact that my health isn't the greatest at my age, and that I have certain health-related issues which directly affect and limit my ability to conduct the BBB ministry as I would like? Or how about the fact that despite all of my hard work, I am also majorly shadow banned on every single social network where I participate? If you require more reasons for why I have a right to be bummed out, to complain, and even to want to die, please let me know. [sarcasm intended].

So, sure, my friends. If I looked at all of these things, and allowed them to negatively affect me, I could be just like my online friend, and totally all down in the dumps, lavishing myself with self-pity, in a very miserable state, feeling so sorry for myself, and even desiring that God would take away my life just to put me out of my misery. But guess what? I am NOT like that, and I will NEVER act that way, or allow that kind of oppressive spirit to overtake my life. I just don't have time for, or interest in, that kind of self-absorbing nonsense! Nope! It's NOT for me! I have more important things to be doing with my remaining life than throwing myself some kind of pity party; namely serving the Lord and feeding His sheep with the truth of His precious Word! That remains my primary purpose in this present life.

In fact, if you were to ask my dear mother what I am like, she would not hesitate to honestly inform you that in her opinion, I am the happiest person that she knows, and she sincerely means it. I am her personal picker-upper, even if I do act like a fool for her own benefit. I just don't care what other people think, so I will act like a clown if it encourages someone and makes them giggle a bit. So now we come to the real heart and lesson of this current series.

My friends, I will tell you that many years ago, when I was a very young Christian -- I would say in my late teens through my twenties and into my early thirties perhaps -- I was a very self-absorbed person who had my eyes only on myself, and who was constantly discouraged by my own sins and shortcomings as

a Christian. Even earlier than that, I had zero to very little self-confidence. I was extremely shy and introverted. I always worried about what people thought of me. I also felt rejected by society as a whole, and I simply did not fit in anywhere or with anybody. I was truly an odd bird, and I knew it.

Well, actually, some people -- particularly the nonbelievers -- would probably insist that I am STILL a very odd bird. But that is quite okay with me, because at this stage in my life, I truly and honestly just do not care what such people think of me. I cannot waste time being concerned with such trivial matters. Does that sound a bit egotistical to some of you? It actually isn't. Why not? Well you see, because all that truly matters to me now is what the Lord thinks of me. After all, He alone is the final Judge of each of our lives. Right? But that is not all. Something happened in my life which changed me. It is something which many other Christians know about as well, and which they too have likewise experienced.

Exactly what was it? Jesus Christ saved my soul and filled me with His Spirit. THAT is what made the difference! As I began to study God's Word in earnest, and was fed and nourished by it, and learned its truths, it in fact began to slowly change me internally in a spiritual sense. I became a new creature, and a new creation in Jesus Christ. That old man of the flesh began to fade away as the new spiritual man began to surface in his place. Many of my Christian brethren will understand exactly what I am talking about. The KJV New Testament has a number of different things to say concerning this spiritual process of rebirth, conversion and transformation. Allow me to share some key Bible verses with you regarding this topic:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mothers womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

John 3:3-8, KJV

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

"And THAT YE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:24, KJV

"And HAVE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Colossians 3:10, KJV

"And be not conformed to this world: but BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:2, KJV

"Knowing this, that OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Romans 6:6, KJV

"THAT YE PUT OFF CONCERNING THE FORMER CONVERSATION THE OLD MAN, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

Ephesians 4:22, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that YE HAVE PUT OFF THE OLD MAN with his deeds;"

Colossians 3:9, KJV

But that is not all that I have learned over the years from my personal studies of God's Word. Another rather important lesson is that in addition to the fact that God has called each of us to be spiritual lights in the world, as Christian Believers, we are engaged in a very real spiritual war. And do you know who our primary adversary is? Again, if you are also a Christian, then you no doubt already know the answer to this question. Following are two verses which greatly clarify the issue:

"Neither give place to the devil."

Ephesians 4:27, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

In case you were not already aware of it, Satan -- the Devil -- absolutely hates your guts! He is NOT the least bit happy about you endeavoring to lead a new soul to Jesus Christ. Why not? Because each time that you win a soul, or turn somebody in the direction of Jesus Christ -- some people sow the seed, others water the seed, and yet others reap the harvest -- that foul fiend's Kingdom of Darkness becomes even less populated.

So, Satan does everything within his power to slow you down, and to stop you in your tracks. For example, he may attempt to ruin your personal witness as a Christian by inducing you to sin in some great way. By so doing, he is able to point his accusatory finger at you, condemn you and hold the sword of guilt over your head. In short, he induces you to sin, and then that sly serpent turns around and condemns you in your heart for sinning. The end result is that it can negatively affect your effectiveness for the Lord. My friends, the fact of the matter is that over the years, we have watched as the ministry of a number of popular, public preachers have been besmirched and ruined when certain sins have been exposed in those preachers' lives, right? So before you fall for this particular devilish tactic, please remember the following Bible verse and beware:

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

But there is another insidious way in which Satan can weaken you and destroy your effectiveness for the Lord. Furthermore, we have already been discussing it throughout this series. What am I referring to? The answer -- or I should really say, the opposite of the answer -- is found in the following verse which is found near the beginning of the twelfth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrew brethren. Consider these first two verses of the chapter:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, LOOKING UNTO JESUS the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."
Hebrews 12:1-2, KJV

And there it is! Aside from laying aside our personal sins, what do those two verses instruct us to do? LOOK UNTO JESUS! So what does the Devil do? The exact opposite! He tries his very hardest to get us to take our eyes OFF of Jesus, and to place our eyes on ourselves and our personal struggles and problems instead. My dear readers, that is PRECISELY what my online friend is doing, whether they realize it or not. They are now so bogged down by their current circumstances and personal problems, and concentrating so much attention on their OWN desires and needs, that they have totally taken their eyes off of the true Author and the Finisher of their faith. That, of course, is Jesus Christ. In fact, as we saw in part one, the person in question now wonders whether or not God still even loves them. They also talk about wanting to die! They have fallen right into Satan's trap and black hole of endless misery and despair where they see nothing good!

Sadly, this person is not alone by any means. There are so many modern Christians in the world who fall for this very same trick. I have personally seen it a number of times on the social networks. Such people do nothing but use their page or timeline to talk about their personal list of woes. In other words, all many of them do is constantly complain about their problems and struggles, their depression, their hungry kids, their broken down car, their mean and unfair ex-spouse, the fact that their ungodly neighbors hate them, the fact that they are going to be evicted soon unless their online friends quickly send them some money, their declining health and a host of other negative things.

In short, very little of what they post is actually about the Lord and the Gospel which saves men's souls, if any of it is at all. It is just one huge, self-absorbing, pity party where everyone is expected to pat them on the back and feel sorry for them. Well, wait a minute there, friend! But did you not say in your bio that you were specifically online to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What happened to that? Why are your eyes so on yourself and your personal problems, instead of on the Lord? Instead of sharing the light of the truth of God's Word as you are commanded to do, why are you acting like a black hole of complete despair and misery, and trying to suck people down to your level, instead of striving to raise them up to Jesus Christ?

Unless I have just misunderstood the Scriptures, they tell us to preach the glad tidings and not the sad tidings. They tell

us to preach the good things and the positive things, and not all of that negativity. For example, consider the following set of sample verses which were authored by the Apostle Paul:

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring GLAD TIDINGS of GOOD THINGS!"

Romans 10:13-15, KJV

"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."

Philippians 4:8, KJV

Now, please understand that I do feel sorry for such people who find themselves in the midst of such personal struggles. In fact, I will even pray for some of them as the Lord leads. However, when such folks just go on and on with the darkness and negativity day after day without any sign of ever letting up, eventually I'll grow tired of seeing it in my news feed, and I may choose to unfriend them. I'm sorry if that offends anyone, but that's just the way it is. Quite frankly, I have enough personal struggles in my own life, and I honestly do not need for you to drain my spirit further with all of your negativity. As we just saw, Christians are really supposed to encourage and inspire each other, and lift each other up, and NOT drag each other down. At least that is how I personally understand the Scriptures.

Furthermore, as I have mentioned a number of times before, including in some of the many graphics I have created, one of the criteria I use when determining if I should accept a particular friend request, is to see what kind of posts they make on their page or timeline. After all, as a responsible Christian, I do NOT want to lead my other Christian friends to a page where their spirit is drained from seeing so much negative content. So, yes, I am very selective regarding who I accept as an online friend. If you want your request to be accepted by me, then not only keep your page positive with little or no personal drama on it, but also make sure that you are really sharing God's Word on a regular basis. By so

doing, I will be a lot more inclined to accept your friend request.

On a related note, let me mention something else I have seen on some social network pages which I feel is misguided. As I mentioned a moment ago, some users will place a note in their social network bio where they will say that the only reason why they are on that social network is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of them will even take it a step further and say something such as "If you are not interested in the Bible, then please don't even send me your friend request." Friends, I have personally seen these kinds of statements a number of times. While I truly understand their motivation for doing this, nevertheless, if your goal is to win people to Jesus Christ and to share God's Word with them, that is a self-defeating approach. You are driving people away with your open hostility, even before they show any potential for being hungry for the Gospel truth.

On another note, something else I have observed is that some people are extremely self-absorbed, and appear to be in love with themselves. All they do is post one photo after another of themselves, as if they are the greatest thing on God's green Earth. Personally, I never accept friend requests from such people. What's the point? So if you are really on that social network to share the Gospel, then share Jesus and NOT just yourself!

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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OLD AND ALONE? GET BUSY AND CHEER UP! - PART 3

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My Obligation To The Lord To Share The Full Truth, We Are Called To Be Spiritual Lights In The World, Spiritual Light

Or Black Hole Of Misery And Darkness?, My Personal Practice Of Avoiding Sharing Negativity Online, Use Social Networks For God's Glory And Not For Your Personal Sob Story, Summary Of My Thoughts, Fight The Good Fight And Endure Hardness As A Soldier Of Jesus Christ, Foolish Desire To Die, You Aren't Done Here Yet, Final Recommendations, BBB Suggested Reading

Continuing our discussion from part two, my friends, please understand that I could have easily concluded this series without getting into all of these heavier issues. However, if I had taken that route instead, if I had simply shown this particular friend compassion and understanding -- which I have obviously done by demonstrating that I've experienced some of the very same problems as they have -- then in my view, this series would not be complete. It would not offer them -- or anyone else who may possibly be facing similar circumstances -- the solution that they need to hear, even if it may potentially be difficult and challenging for them to receive. In fact, it could even offend them if they are not yet ready to accept the truth of their situation.

But you see, my dear friends, my faithfulness is to the Lord above all, and what I sense He is compelling me to write, and NOT to trying to spare someone's feelings because they might take offense at the truth. In short, I'll share the Biblical and spiritual truth and "prescription" that I believe someone needs to hear in order to assist them in claiming the victory in their life, and getting back on track for the Lord. It is my hope that this current series will serve this purpose by waking up those of you who may find yourselves in the midst of similar problems and struggles, and who have foolishly placed your eyes on yourselves instead of on the Lord.

As I briefly mentioned in part two of this series, the Lord has called each of us Christians to be spiritual lights in this present world. In fact, over the years I have authored a number of articles where this subject is the main theme, such as "The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?", "Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?" and "This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future", all of which you will find listed at the end of this same series. Allow me to share a few of the key verses from those articles with you for your personal consideration:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an

hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

Luke 11:33-36, KJV

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children . . . For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Ephesians 5:1, 8, 11 KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, KJV

In the previous verses, please notice the clear warning that Jesus gives to His listeners. He plainly states to make sure that the light that is in them is not darkness. Today, by way of this current series, I ask you the same question. Has the light in you become darkness? Have you allowed your personal trials and struggles to smother and oppress you so that your candle has gone out? Instead of being a light to the world, and an encouragement, blessing and positive force to your own Christian brethren, have you foolishly taken your eyes off of Jesus, placed them on yourself and your problems, and become

a black hole of discouragement and negativity? Are you simply sucking spiritual energy out of others, instead of radiating the light of Jesus Christ?

Quite frankly, no true, Bible-believing Christian who trusts in the Lord should be doing this, no matter how negative or dark your personal situation may become. If you are online for Jesus, then truly be online for Jesus, and let His light shine through you always. For those of you who have been my online friends for a long time, you may have noticed that I very rarely, if ever, make negative posts. Even when I'm sick or going through certain things, I rarely ever discuss such things online. In fact, I rarely even ever ask for prayer. It is NOT because I'm some spiritual giant. It is simply because my social network accounts are NOT about me. They are about sharing the truth of God's Word, whether it is by way of my articles, graphics, poetry, songs or Bible verse lists. I am focused on the mission, and NOT on myself. I strive to be a positive force and a blessing to my brethren.

My friends, if you happen to be guilty of doing the things which I have described in this series, isn't there already enough negativity in the world? Just turn on the nightly news and you can very easily get your fill. To reiterate, that is NOT what we are here for, and that is NOT what you should be using your social network accounts for. If you are really a Bible-believing Christian who trusts in Jesus Christ, then I urge you to please use your accounts for His glory, and NOT simply as a means to share your misery with others. If you need prayer, sure, ask for it. But please don't go on and on for day after day with your sad sob story where you are the main attraction and the star. Don't be a black hole. Be a bright, shining star for Jesus Christ! Will you?

In summary, okay, so you are old. Deal with it! Old age is an unavoidable part of life, and it is what it is. Okay, so you live alone. Instead of just whining about it and feeling sorry for yourself, look at your solitude as an opportunity and a great blessing from the Lord. That is EXACTLY what I do. Because I live alone, I have very few distractions in my life, and I have the full freedom to dedicate myself wholly to the Lord's service, meaning, of course, the Bill's Bible Basics ministry. You need to do the same thing. Again, use your time as an opportunity and get busy for the Lord. Okay, so you have certain health issues, or financial problems, or maybe other challenges or troubles. Wow! You sound just like the rest of us struggling humans!

My friends, I really don't wish to offend any of you, but the fact is that you are not special or that much different from the rest of us. As such, it does NOT give you the right to pity yourself, or to bum out others around you with your negativity, as you seem to enjoy doing. Are you simply an attention seeker? So tell me something. Is Jesus really too weak and too ineffective to handle whatever issues you are facing? If you honestly don't believe that of Him, then why in the world have you taken your eyes off of Him and placed them on yourself instead? Why are you letting the Devil walk all over you and bring you down so that you have lost your effectiveness for the Lord? Where is your fighting spirit? Let me share a few related Bible verses with you:

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

Ephesians 6:10-18, KJV

So tell me. Can you honestly say that you are fighting the

good fight of faith? Are you truly enduring hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ? Or are you allowing the Devil to beat you down into total misery and defeat? Worse yet, are you constantly sharing your misery with others, which is NOT what God called you to do? Again, what has happened to your light? Where is the spark of the Spirit?

Sadly, similar to my online friend, some of you are now so depressed and miserable, that you even want to die. How in the world is such talk helping anyone? Why do you wish that the Lord would liberate you from this life and take you Home to be with Him? Can't you see how selfish that is? It might interest you to know that some time ago, I wrote an article regarding this very topic called "Forget the Express Train!". You will find it listed at the end of this current series. One of the key points in that article is this: If your job for the Lord in this life was already accomplished, then He would have already chosen to take you Home to Heaven.

However, the very fact that you are STILL here in your vessel of human flesh, clearly demonstrates that there must STILL be something that the Lord STILL wants you to accomplish before He lets you bow out of this mortal life. Maybe you should use your current freedom and lonely state to try to figure out exactly what that might possibly be, instead of whining about how lonely you feel. If you need some help in discerning the Will of the Lord at this stage in your life, please refer to my article entitled "What Is God's Will for My Life?", which is also listed at the end of this same series. One thing I will tell you is that I personally do NOT accept that your life has become useless and pointless as you have deceived yourself into believing. That is a bunch of self-pitying hogwash! It is a devilish lie straight from the bowels of Hell!

In conclusion, what you need to do is to immediately reverse course. You need to alter your current perspective. You need to get your eyes back on the Lord. You need to trust that He will resolve whatever problems you are currently facing in His determined time, and in whatever way He deems most fit and appropriate for your situation. God always does, and He never fails! I am absolutely certain of this. You also need to put on the whole armor of God -- as described in the sixth chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians -- resist the Devil, and stop believing all of his lies and deceptions. You need to stop letting that old serpent beat you over the head.

Furthermore, you need to turn your ears back to the Lord. You need to stop letting Satan speak in your ear and tell you that you deserve all of the self-pity. Likewise, you need to get back up on the wall of service and keep busy for the Lord. Last of all, you really need to CHEER UP! Really! Just stop being such a miserable, self-absorbed sad sack who sucks the spiritual life out of everyone around you! So this is my personal advice and answer to you, whoever you may be. I really hope you are able to accept it in a true spirit of humility. God has a victory waiting for you. Do you have the faith to claim it? The ball is now in your court!

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Are You Clean Every Whit?

Are You Crucified With Christ?

Christian Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare!

Forget the Express Train!

Going Down the Highway of Life

Have You Sold Your Soul for a Pound of Flesh?

One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews

Sluggards and Sloths: Are You Diligent and Faithful?

Strangers and Pilgrims: Are You an Alien?

Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?

The Battle is Not Yours Alone!

The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?

The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?

The Lord Will Lift You Up

This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future

What is God's Will for My Life?

Why Did the Apostle Paul Have a Low Opinion of Physical Exercise?

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