

The Essentials
AWAKE



"Le saintes femmes au tombeau" by William-Adolphe Bouguereau

They were
continually devoting
themselves to the
apostles' teaching
and to *fellowship*, to
the *breaking of*
bread and to *prayer*.

Acts 2:42 NASB

the caleb prayer for nations

O High King of Heaven

Have mercy on our land.

Revive your church;

Send the Holy Spirit

For the sake of the children.

May your Kingdom come to our nations.

In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

the numbers prayer of blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord look kindly on us and give us His peace. Amen.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

when you are starting out

God, I am here and I need the essentials for this journey to your eternal city. Physically and emotionally I will need your help.

All I want to do is finish well, and this goal feels gigantic if not full of temptations, and trials God. I ask

You to awaken me when sleep pulls at my resolve. Awaken my mind to learn from You, to fellowship with you and to pray. Awaken my

heart to be compassionate to those around me. Awaken my spirit to Your presence, Lord. Help me learn to rest in You, God, even when I am tired. Show me the way, as the word has promised 'you know the way that I take' Amen.

WAYFARING STRANGER

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
Traveling through this world below
There's no sickness, no toil or danger
In that bright land to which I go

I'm going there to see my father
And all my loved ones, who've gone on
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me
I know my way is hard and steep
Yet beauteous fields arise before me
Where God's redeemed their vigils keep

I'm going there to see my mother
She said she'd meet me when I come
So i'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home

So you are heading out and what in the world do you take with you? WELL FOR ME it's the essentials. It's who. Who has snacks? Who has extra water? WHO is on this long trail with me? THE ESSENTIALS ARE FOUR things mentioned in Acts 2:42.

However if I could talk about the fellowship you keep, take with you the APOSTLES MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN.

No, they wouldn't be better than the FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. However you already have the Father when you have the SON, and then in the prayer of waiting you will be filled with the Holy Spirit who is your guide. (John 14:16, 26; 16:13) However as I study the word we are given four APOSTLES written testimony. SO YES CHRIST IS THE MAIN THING of which they each tell us about. Put on Christ! (Romans 13:14)

celtic prayer from the breastplate of saint patrick

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

prayer for faith resting on God's power

Apostle of Paul in 1 Corinthians 2 states, "1 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. a 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power."

LORD I pray my message and my preaching are not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power. LORD I pray I know the fullness of CHRIST crucified, and all this deaith affords me. I pray other's faith, my faith, and my families faith doesn't rest on human wisdom, but GOD'S POWER. HOLY SPIRIT COME. AMEN

matthew, tax collector to apostle

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Matt. 4:17 NRSV

Matthew 9:9-13 NET As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax booth. “Follow me,” he said to him. So he got up and followed him. As Jesus was having a meal in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this he said, “Those who are healthy don’t need a physician, but those who are sick do. Go and learn what this saying means: ‘I want mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Take a look at Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27)

Jesus instantly eats a meal with Matthew giving him the status and indication of full fellowship regardless of his occupation’s reputation. And the controversy follows as immediately as Matthew follows Jesus.

Matthew will die a martyr for his boldness to confront a lusting king in Ethiopia. *Ethiopia to the south of the Caspian Sea (not Ethiopia in Africa).

Matthew’s father is Alphaeus. Matthew quotes the old testament the most of all the gospels.

JESUS IS OUR Physician who can and did heal their diseases both in the gospel of Matthew as well as in the old testament (e.g., Exod. 15:26; Deut. 32:39; 2 Kings 20:5; Ps. 103:3 *He is the one who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases*). Isaiah and Jeremiah also promised the Messiah would bring healing to the nation (Isa. 19:22; 30:26; Jer. 30:17 “*Yes, I will restore you to health. I will heal your wounds. I, the Lord, affirm it! For you have been called an outcast, Zion, whom no one cares for.*”).

Matthew shows us Jesus has authority to forgive sins and heal. (Matthew 9:1-8, 8:5-11) There is a place at the table for you.

Matthew wrote the longest Gospel a total of 28 chapters. Note Mark wrote the shortest at 16. And Luke, 24 and John, 21).

“He took our weaknesses and carried our diseases.” (Matt. 8:35, Isaiah 53:4)

Matthew is going to keep saying to you, JESUS CAN HEAL THAT! JESUS has the greater ability, he took your weakness so you can have his authority and strength. Jesus is with you always. MATTHEW 28:19-20

MATTHEW ON PRAYER: You’ll need prayer and fasting if you are dealing with demons.

“But this kind doesn’t go out except by prayer and fasting.” Matt. 17:21 NASB

Jesus was tempted while fasting for 40 days and exits the wilderness with power. Peter is tempted/sifted and falls by betraying Jesus 3x. However Jesus restores Peter over breakfast and Peter prays for 40+ days and then preaches in power on the day of Pentecost. Both Jesus and Peter preach ‘repentance’ (Acts 2:38) What about Saul to Paul what did he 1st preach? See Acts 26:19-20 And what about those who are Gentiles? What are we granted? See Acts 11:18

Matthew 6:33 ESV But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

What’s YOUR STORY? Share it with someone over lunch sometime. Breaking bread is eating with people, plain and simple.

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to

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life

I know that it is finished.
I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

mark

John Mark from Acts 12 (and other parts of the New Testament) is believed to be the same person as Mark the Evangelist, the author of the Gospel of Mark

Immediately is a favorite transition for John Mark, the nephew of Barnabas.

Mark opens and closes in a clunky way. He's not great on transitions and he gets straight to the meat. Yup he is younger than the others.

His mom is a mom of prayer Acts 12:12-20 NASB 1995

And when he (Peter) realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer.

Mark 4:8a "Jesus says, "Consider carefully what you hear."

Luke will phrase it, "Therefore consider carefully how you listen." (Lk. 8:18)

Mark focuses on what Jesus is doing and his gospel is meant to be read aloud to a room of listening people.

He will know how young men can stumble and fall. Yet his uncle Barnabas will not give up on him. And he will be restored to Paul and serve under Peter. (Colossians 4:10-11) Who is Mark telling you to not give up on?

luke

PRAYER IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Throughout his gospel, Luke constantly points to the connection between prayer.

Luke 1:8-10: Zechariah, John the baptizer's father, is a priest offering incense and prayer chosen by lot.

Luke 3:21-22: Jesus prayed and the heaven was opened. Another way of saying it is the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at His baptism, "as he was praying." Luke would say, you too can pray and see heaven opened.

Luke 1:13,15,25: Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.

John the baptizer is born. John is "filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth." There is joy and gladness in the answer to his prayer! Disgrace is removed. "Elizabeth, after conceiving John the Baptist, says, "The Lord has done this for me; in these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people""

Luke 1:28-29: Mary is attentive for God's voice, and conceives by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:46-55: Mary's prayer.

And Mary[said,

"My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has begun to rejoice in God my Savior, because he has looked upon the humble state of his servant. For from now on all generations will call me blessed, because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name; from generation to generation he is merciful to those who fear him. He has demonstrated power with his arm; he has scattered those whose pride wells up from the sheer arrogance of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty[p] from their thrones, and has lifted up those of lowly position; he has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (NET)

Luke 1:67: Zechariah prayed had doubt and was struck silent until God fulfills his word and John was born. He is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

Luke 2:25-27: Simeon, with “the Holy Ghost was upon him” is both lead and hears the Lord. Devout Jews prayed at a minimum three times a day.

Luke 2:37: Anna, daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. She is able to see the Christ child.

Luke 4:1-2: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for 40 days of fasting and prayer he was tempted.

Luke 5:16: But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 6:28: Jesus teaches us to pray even for those who curse or mistreat us.

Luke 9:29-35: As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning; God’s voice is heard from a cloud. **LUKE WOULD SAY YOU CAN HEAR GOD WHEN YOU PRAY.**

Luke 10:1-2: The Lord appointed seventy-two sending them he said, **ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD.**

Luke 11:1: Jesus was praying in a certain place, when he finished a disciple of his said to him, **“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.”**

Luke 11:2-4: “When you pray, say:
“Father, may your name be honored;
may your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And do not lead us into temptation.” (NET)

Luke 11:5-13: PERSIST IN PRAYER. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK. A FATHER GIVES GOOD GIFTS AND HOW MUCH MORE WILL THE HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM!

Luke 18:1-8: ALWAYS PRAY. God gives justice to those who cry out to him day and night.

Luke 19:46: saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house will be a house of prayer,’ (Isaiah 56:7) but you have turned it into a den of robbers!” (Jer. 7:11)

Luke 22:32: Jesus prays that Peter’s faith may not fail. “BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU.” Heb. 7:25 He always lives to intercede for those who come unto God through HIM.

Luke 22:40-42: “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” Jesus knelt down, and prayed. ‘NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS BE DONE’

Luke 23:34,46: “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (This is a direct quote from Psalm 31:5 a prayer of trust. Psalm 22:1 for your cross ref. Matt. 27:46, Mark 15:34)

Luke 24:49: OUR resurrected Christ exhorts His followers to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. (they wait by praying)

*Holy Spirit changes can be seen in Peter (compare Luke 22:54-62 with Acts 2:14-41).

Luke 24:50-51: Jesus departure prayer is one of blessing as He lifts his hands and blesses them he is taken up into heaven.

Note these men of prayer Enoch and Elijah in the Bible it is said of, Enoch, (Genesis 5:22) he "walked with God" and "was no more, for God took him" (Genesis 5:24), Elijah "went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11). (Read James 5:17-18)

john

all the books in the world can not contain, (Jn. 21:25) Although John will write the Gospel of John, First, second, and Third John and the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Robert Flemming (1630-1694) said the downpour of God's love is like trying to count the many drops of rain throughout your life.

"It would be some way as easy to number the drops of rain and dew since the creation, as to reckon all those precious drops and emanations of love,"

John 3:34 NASB For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.

ABOUNDING, ABUNDANT, OVERFLOWING, a source to never run dry is given to the one who believes in the Son and has eternal life.

John is one of the sons of thunder, John is brother to James. Son of Zebedee and Salome (Salome was an eye witness to the crucifixion and the angelic proclamation of HE IS RISEN Mark 15:40, 16:1-8). John knew the details of how Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus, and how they wrapped His body with seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloe (John 19:39).

And the person who saw it has testified (and his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth), so

that you also may believe. John 19:35

John is different from Matthew, John Mark, and Luke as only he James and Peter saw the transfiguration of Jesus.

Attempting to murder John they put him in boiling oil and he can't be killed, they try having him drink deadly poison and he survives so they confine him to the Island of Patmos. (Rev. 1:9) *1John 2:1-2 NET My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, We have an ADVOCATE with the Father Jesus Christ the RIGHTEOUS and HE is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

when you've come to the end of yourself

God, I don't feel like I have anything left to give. Between exhaustion and feeling overwhelmed, I can barely come up with words to pray. It feels impossible to keep going, but I don't feel like I have any other options. Will You help me? Will You show me how to lean on You? Give me strength to get through the next few hours today, and remind me that this hard season won't last forever. Your Word says Your power is made perfect in my weakness. I ask for You to sustain me. "And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" - 2 Kings 6:17 In Jesus' name, amen.

when you don't know how to make a big decision

God, will You give me wisdom for how to make this decision? HAVE YOU CALLED ME TO THIS? IS THIS YOUR WILL? I want what's best for my future, but I feel unsure of what to do. While it feels hard to give up control in this situation, I know You love me, my children, and my family even more than I do.

Help me to trust You are working everything out. Let your word bring light to my path. Reveal Your will to me, and give me peace to walk forward in confidence that You are in control.

If you don't want to do it without Him, SAY IT WITH ME come on LORD

Jesus, we don't want to do this without You. We need YOU.

We need Your anointing in our families, in our workplaces, in our relationships.

God, we need You. God, we want You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

I'll leave you with these verses compiled by Robert Flemming on prayer:

“it is no hopeless business, which is put over upon God by prayer, though there be small outward appearance.

That it is not in vain to follow out a suit before the throne, but access and moeyen* in heaven is assure a way to come speed (which they know well) as greatest moeyen* upon earth ; having so evidently found, while many seek the ruler's favour, that the determination of every thing is from the Lord.”

*Means

Phil. 4:6 in every situation prayer

Psalm 32:6 pray

Psalm 65:2 oh you who hear prayer

Psalm 91:15 He will call on me and I will answer him

Jer. 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you

Isaiah 55:1

Come, all you who are thirsty,

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without cost.