

## Old Emails

Last week in the Parallax View, we discussed that our perspectives on the world begin to change at baptism and our continued walk and seeking God's will and way for our lives. We no longer view the world and things of and in it the same way as before. We begin to see things through spiritual eyes. **2 Cor. 5:7-** "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

In support of this concept, I found an old file on my computer labeled, "God's Folder." I started this file way back in 2006. I started keeping inspirational emails and correspondences from friends and family from all over. In reviewing so many I had accumulated; I really saw the change God had worked into my life. I thought I'd share some of the ones that give you something to think about. Some warm and fuzzy ammo to keep in mind for your ready answers (**1 Pet. 3:15**).

This is one of the first ones I kept from "R Holt", author unknown. It's been so long; I don't even remember the sender but the message is clear. It reads as follows:

### ***DANCING WITH GOD***

*When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance at the end of the*

word.

*I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.*

*When two people try to lead, nothing feels right.*

*The movement doesn't flow with the music,  
and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.*

*When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead,  
both bodies begin to flow with the music.*

*One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back  
or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.*

*It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully.*

*The dance takes surrender, willingness,  
and attentiveness from one person  
and gentle guidance and skill from the other.*

*My eyes drew back to the word Guidance.*

*When I saw "G: I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i".*

*"God, "u" and "i" dance."*

*God, you, and I dance.*

*As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust  
that I would get guidance about my life.*

*Once again, I became willing to let God lead.*

The key point was that we have to be willing to trust and follow God, let go and have Him lead us in life. **Psalm 25:2.** “O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemy’s triumph over me.” **Proverbs 30:5-** “Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.” (KJV uses trust in the following verses **Psa. 16:1, 18:2, 30, 25:2, 91:2, I Tim. 4:10** whereas AFV uses “refuge”).

**Psalm 63:8-** “My soul follows hard after You; Your right hand upholds me.”

**Proverbs 21:21-** “He who follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.” (AFV- **Isa. 51:1, Matt. 4:19-20, 10:38, Mark 1:18,**

**John 10:4, Eph. 5:1**). It is a pretty good analogy about becoming one with God and following His lead. We begin to flow with His way of life in our obedience to His Commandments and His guidance. Through our surrender, we have victory.

Having been called, I believe that what we are experiencing and where we are headed puts us on a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a journey to locations for a religious experience or spiritual enlightenment. We’re not headed to Mecca but bound for the Kingdom of God. I’ve come to believe our pilgrimage is our life’s testimony and the changes taking place making us into the image of God’s Son

Jesus Christ. It is a journey towards The Truth and a spiritual awakening in us. These changes and transformations are not always an instantaneous “Damascus Road” experience but realistically a gradual conversion into who God made us to be. All in God’s time.

The next one up is one I received from my brother Ben in 2007. You’d think I’m some kind of hoarder keeping all these old emails but I think God had a reason.

### **The CEO (author unknown)**

A successful Christian business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different.

He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you.

"The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued." I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown

from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO"

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed.

He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed.

Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew.

Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by--still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed.

Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at

his stomach. It was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful--in all shapes and sizes.

Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back.

"My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at

Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!"

Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust. If you plant goodness, you will reap friends. If you plant humility, you will reap greatness. If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment. If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective. If you plant hard work, you will reap success. If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

If you plant faith in Christ, you will reap a harvest.

Therefore, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you *will* reap later.

**Galatians 6:7-** “Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” (1 Cor. 9:16, 2 Cor. 9:11). Reaping fruits of the Spirit? (Gal. 5:22, Eph, 5:9)

Here’s a couple of more from my brother Ben from 2008.

Live your life in such a way those who know you but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you.

**Matthew 5:16-** “In the same way also, you are to let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father Who *is* in heaven.”

The next little chart has some good scriptural references:



<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
You say: 'It's impossible'	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: 'I'm too tired'	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: 'Nobody really loves me'	God says: I love you	(John 3:16 & John 3:34 )
You say: 'I can't go on'	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: 'I can't figure things out'	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
You say: 'I can't do it'	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: 'I'm not able'	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: 'It's not worth it'	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28 )
You say: 'I can't forgive myself'	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: 'I can't manage'	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: 'I'm afraid'	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: 'I'm not smart enough'	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: 'I feel all alone'	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

I found this one particularly interesting.

### ***Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin?***

This is one I can honestly say I have never seen circulating in the emails so; I'll start it, if it touches you and you want to forward it.

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (**20:7**- “And the napkin that had been on His head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.”) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in

and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side...

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'.

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table,

because.....

The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

He is Coming Back!! Be Blessed!

I even found a few from Chauncey. This one is from 2009.

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally, we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives... Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

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There's work to do, deadlines to meet;

You've got no time to spare,

But as you hurry and scurry-

**A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER**

**In the midst of family chaos,**

**"Quality time " is rare.**

**Do your best; let God do the rest-**

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He'll respond to all your needs

**A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.**

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(1 Thess. 5:17- "Pray unceasingly." -AFV)

God bless you and have a wonderful day!

Also, from Chauncey in 2010.

When you reach the end of your rope

You will find the hem of his garment...

I would rather live my life as if there is a God, and die to find out there isn't, than  
live my life as if there isn't, and die to find out there is.

***Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, but faith looks up!***

***Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator  
who loves us***

These are just a few of the old emails I've had for over a decade. It was enjoyable to re-read them after so long a time. So many in the folder are now meaningless as they reflect the "old Sunday church" themes. You know the ones. Read this and send it to at least 10 people and tomorrow you will receive a blessing! Yea, right. Right along with your Miracle Spring Water. God isn't into chain letters or pyramid scams. His Spirit isn't something you keep in a box and "call it down" by singing the same verses over and over again. He's into us doing what His Word tells us and living for what His Son Died for, our salvation and eternal life with Him. John 14:15- "If you love Me, keep the commandments— namely, My commandments."

You've all heard me say of how I threw the Bible over 20 years ago and got mad at God. I know that God heard that cry when I threw His Book. It was all part of His plan for me anyway. A lot has transpired over the past 20 years. The pilgrimage will continue until we breathe our last breath. We have been on a steady journey of growth and change. I know that the greatest thing we can achieve on Earth is to fulfill our creation purpose and glorify our Creator according to His will. It is not about religion or being religious. It is about making a choice, choosing to accept His truth, applying His truth and living it every day of our lives. Sharing this truth

readily with those in need and working to be a good steward of the truth we are entrusted with.

The application of scripture in daily life is routine as He clearly shows the way.

The more we grow, the more we find we will no longer struggle with issues of who God is or why are we here. We've accepted His truth and "come unto Him as a child". Trusting Him fully. I'm grateful that we are continuing to learn and grow in wisdom and knowledge. Our trust and following Him takes away fears and concerns and replaces them with His peace. I'm sure I could fill quite a few pages detailing the miraculous things I've witnessed over the years in my life. Our weekly fellowship is just one of them.

I admit I am remiss in the number of inspirational emails I send compared to what I used to. I used to share a daily devotional with numerous co-workers and friends.

While these few emails may not define a pilgrimage, it has been my journey to seek and know God. His way of revealing Himself to us is not always in the way of what we wanted or even asked for. It is always for His purpose, in His time and according to His will. I've learned that we need not journey any further than the thoughts in our hearts and mind to seek Him; a trip that goes no further than where we are at any given moment. "Seek and ye shall find knock and it shall be opened unto you." He will meet us right where we are and in whatever condition we're in.

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