

Weightless

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be weightless? Several of us often speak about shedding some pounds but with Cookie's prowess at cooking lunch after our Sabbath Studies and Joann's brownies, losing weight may be doubtful.

One fact is, we could never lose enough weight to become "weightless." We have all seen news footage of astronauts inside the International Space Station. They seem to float around without effort, moving from place to place with a push or for those doing a moon-walk, leap with a single bound.

What is being weightless? Merriam-Webster defines it as: having little weight : lacking apparent gravitational pull. Some of us have more "gravitational pull" than others and can leave footprints in dried cement. Speaking for myself of course...

I checked on the definition of gravity as it is the source of having weight and according to the Oxford Dictionary:

1. the force that attracts a body toward the center of the earth, or toward any other physical body having mass. *synonyms*: attraction · attracting force · downward force

The law of gravity is quite unforgiving when you try and break it. Just step off the roof and flap your arms and see what happens...

Gravity also has another significant definition: extreme or alarming importance; seriousness. The gravity of a situation relates to how serious the situation or event can be.

Outside of comic books, no one has yet achieved the strength enough to leap over tall buildings with a single bound. Without man-made assistance from aircraft, jet-packs or other propulsion devices, we are destined to stay put on the ground under our feet. Man has dreamed of flight for centuries and the sensation of being weightless is a step further.

We have invented the “thrill ride” such as roller coasters and other types of can adventure rides to produce a momentary feeling of weightlessness, many right here in Florida. Several amusement or theme park rides come close if but for only a few seconds. Chauncey and I experienced one a few of years back during the Feast of Tabernacles. It was called the “Slingshot” located in Old Towne in Kissimmee. You get strapped into a cage that is literally launched skyward by a series of springs and cables. You accelerate from zero to over 100 mph in less than 2 seconds. You are shot to an altitude of over 300’ before reaching the final second before gravity reclaims you and the cage. You are then sent hurling back to earth under the normal effects of gravity. However, in the brief second or so at the peak

of the launch, you decelerate and seem to float above the weight of the cage, although you are strapped tightly to it. They had another ride called “the vomit comet” which just spun you around at an elevated level until you hurled your breakfast or lunch all over the spectators looking up with their mouths open. We did not brave that one.

In other such efforts to be weightless, some of us have taken the ultimate plunge and jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. The free fall, hitting speeds of 120 mph, mimics weightlessness as you have no ready visual reference to falling, giving you a feeling of flying, having no apparent effects of gravity on you... except the ground is coming up to meet you rapidly. This will be quite obvious if your parachute does not open. So, no matter what the method of seeking to be weightless, so long as you remain on the Earth (or significantly close to it), it will always have a hold on you. Is there any way we can ever be truly free and separated from the pulling down of the Earth on us? Perhaps we will never achieve weightlessness physically but we can spiritually.

We know that sin can be called, transgressions, iniquities, evils and so on. All are the breaking of God’s Commandments. Sin can be like gravity in holding us to the things of this Earth. We are no longer to love the things of this world. “Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”- **1 John 2:15**.

Our journey towards being spiritual weightlessness has to deal with the shedding of the burden of our sins. Sin is a heavy burden for anyone who carries it.

Isaiah 1:3-4- “The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master’s crib; *but* Israel does not know *Me*; My people do not understand.” Ah, sinful nation, a people ***burdened with iniquity***, a seed of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD; they have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger; they have gone away backward.”

Psalm 31:10- “For my life is spent with grief and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones have wasted away.”

Do you think it is possible that our nation is in the condition it is in because of sin? Remember the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah? How close are we to them in the morality in our nation?

Isaiah 24:19-21- “The earth is broken, yea broken down! The earth is crumbling, yea crumbling to pieces! The earth is tottering, yea tottering! Like a drunkard the earth is staggering, yea staggering! And it rocks to and fro like a tree hut! And its ***transgressions are heavy*** upon it; and it shall fall and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.”

Daniel 9:8- “O Lord, confusion of face belongs to us, to our kings, to our rulers, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against You.”

Do you feel you have an undue number of trials and setbacks in your life?

Hopefully we’ve all dealt with and repented of the fleshly things we were so used to before our calling. Our studies and focus on self-reflection since the Feast of Tabernacles has been on our preparation for the Passover. Again, our transformation is a journey that will take us the rest of our lives.

Jeremiah 13:22- “And if you say in your heart, “Why do these things come upon me?” *It is* because of the ***greatness of your iniquity***; your skirts are lifted up, *and* your heels suffer violence.” Sin can be a chain around your neck.

Hosea 9:7- “The days of her judgment have come; the days of vengeance have come; Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool, the spiritual man *is* insane because of the ***multitude of your iniquity*** and your great hatred.”

When we are called and come to repentance, we get baptized in the name of God and Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. Our symbolic death in a watery grave and arising to the newness of life was bought and paid for by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

John 1:29- “On the next day, John sees Jesus coming to him, and he says, “Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.” We are called out of this

world of sin (**2 Corinthians 6:17**) and into a life of repentance, obedience and living by God's Word (*every one of them*).

What was the paying the price like? Jesus knew what lied ahead after sharing the Passover with His disciples for the last time. The physical aspects of crucifixion but was just one part of the pain and anguish He endured for us.

Just for thought, have you ever hit your thumb with a hammer? If you have ever worked on any project and used a hammer and nails? Chances are you most certainly have "nailed" your thumb once or twice. It is definitely not a pleasant experience and often ends in a nice purple thumbnail that eventually falls off. With just one smack of the hammer.

Just for a moment, imagine the pressure at the point of the nail going into the wood. Now up the image from a regular claw hammer to a three-pound mini-sledge and a nail the size of a railroad spike. The wood is no longer the place of impact but your hands and your feet. The bones and tendons are cut and severed as the spikes are driven into your flesh with anger and fury as you are being nailed and hung on a cross. All of this agony is after you have been scourged with a leather whip laced with pieces of lead and bones. Your naked skin is literally tattered and hangs like rags off your body. Your ribs are exposed from the beating.

Aside from the beating that left you unrecognizable, you have a crown of thorns thrust down onto your head, all the while being slapped, punched, mocked, and spit upon. And the worst thing about all of this suffering? You are completely innocent!!

Now the overwhelming part, you were the Creator of the universe and all in it and gave that up to come to Earth and endure this treatment for a bunch of people of which the majority hates your guts! Even those who profess to love you, deny, abandon, profane and twist Your laws, Sabbaths, and Holy Days. Now imagine the love the Father has for us in sending His only Son to suffer this fate (**John 3:16**)!

Luke 22:41-44- “And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw; and falling to His knees, He prayed, Saying, “Father, if You are willing to take away this cup from Me—; nevertheless, not My will, but Your will be done.” Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became as great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Anguish so great, He sweat drops of blood.

Mark 14:35-36- “Then He went forward a little, dropped to the ground and prayed, that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible with You. Remove this cup from Me! Yet not

what I will, but what You will.” His love for the Father and for us overcame and fear or concern for Himself.

Even more horrible than the torture He endured was when His Father had to turn away from Him on the Cross.

“And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” That is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”-

Matthew 27:46 (Mark 15:34)

He bore the sins of the world upon Himself. Christ paid the price once and for all. All of the past, present, and future sins of mankind. We could now be forgiven. His earthly mission was complete. He revealed God the Father to us and set an example for us to follow.

1 Peter 2:21-25- “For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps Who committed no sin; neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; *when* suffering, He threatened not, but committed *Himself* to Him Who judges righteously; Who Himself bore our sins within His own body on the tree, so that we, being dead to sins, may live unto righteousness; by Whose stripes

you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.”

His shed blood was the price paid for us to the burden of our sins. Why would He do this?

John 15:12-13- “This is My commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that one lay down his life for his friends.”

Revelation 1:5- “And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”

He did all this while we were yet sinners. “But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”- **Romans 5:8.**

1 Peter 3:18- “Because Christ indeed once suffered for sins, *the* Just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God; on the one hand, He was put to death in *the* flesh; but on the other hand, He was made alive by the Spirit”

Colossians 2:13-15- “For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses. He has blotted out the note of debt against us *with* the decrees

of our sins, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross. After stripping the principalities and the powers, He made a public spectacle of them, *and* has triumphed over them in it.”

As His work here on Earth was accomplished, our Savior continues to intercede to the Father on our behalf.

1 John 2:1-2- “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And *yet*, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous; And He is *the* propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.”

How should our conduct be that our salvation was purchased with so great a price?

2 Corinthians 5:20-21- “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; *and* God, as it were, is exhorting *you* through us. We beseech *you* on behalf of Christ, “Be reconciled to God.” For He made Him Who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, so that we might become *the* righteousness of God in Him.”

All future generations, until His return, have such a tremendous opportunity if they would but search for God’s truth and way of life. A nation lost could be restored if the people would repent and turn from their wicked ways (**2 Chronicles 7:14**). The word of God has long since been removed from our schools and replaced with drag

queen shows and other abominations by the alphabet perverts. We are so blessed to have been called and have so many little ones among us that will learn of God's truth at such an early age. The responsibility falls upon us to teach and set the good examples for them to follow.

Hebrews 7:25-27- "Therefore, He has the power throughout all time to save those who come to God through Him *because* He is ever living to intercede for them. For it is fitting that we should have such a High Priest *Who is* holy, blameless, undefiled, set apart from sinners and made higher than the heavens; Who has no need, as *do* the *other* high priests, to offer up sacrifices day by day, first for his own sins *and* then for the *sins* of the people; for this He did once for all time when He offered up Himself."

A correct diet can help us to shed pounds, but if we want to keep the weight of sin from our lives we must have the proper nourishment from God's word, and a healthy prayer life. Daily exercise in seeking God the Father through His Son will keep us from adding on the weight and burden of sin and our spirit will grow healthier by His grace. Did you experience any weightlessness at baptism? As we begin this year's Holy Days, let us all strive in all we do to please God in conduct and deed, to grow in grace, wisdom and knowledge.

“Therefore, whether you eat, or you drink, or you do anything, do all things to the glory of God.”- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

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John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

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- **1 John 4:18-21**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love [God](#)," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

- **1 John 3:14-18**

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.