

Newsletter: God, Our Refuge and Strength, An Ever-Present Help in Trouble . . .

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**Mission:** To equip women to overcome life challenges and find God's purpose and fulfillment through prayer, teaching and mentoring relationships

**Vision:** Daughters of Hope is called to lead women towards spiritual, emotional and physical wholeness through the application of biblical principles to their lives.

## Love Will Always Win

I have encountered many challenges in this season of my life. Just as COVID has brought on unexpected changes, my relationships have become challenging as people have changed in response to their challenges. Thus, God brought this scripture to me, Romans 15:1-7, The Passion Translation (TPT). The title in TPT is "Love Is the Key to Unity." "Now, those who are mature in their faith can easily be recognized, for they don't live to please themselves but have learned to patiently embrace others in their immaturity" (vs 1).

After reading this scripture, I asked myself if I could be recognized as being mature in faith. Honestly, there are times others may ask if I know Jesus as my Lord and savior. There are times when I struggle to maintain my mature walk in Christ right in the comfort of my home. I justify my unrighteous behavior by telling myself, "No one is perfect." We must remember what our purpose here on earth is. "Our goal must be to empower others to do what is right and good for them, and to bring them into spiritual maturity" (vs 2). Watching our conduct is something we must do at home, on our jobs, and everywhere we go. These verses challenge me to take a deeper look at myself and remember that I am mature in my Christian walk. Therefore, responding differently to situations is essential to fulfilling my purpose.

"For not even, the most powerful one of all, the Anointed One, lived to please himself" (vs 3). Am I living to please myself? There are times when I am living to please myself. Sometimes I feel like others are not giving me what I need. I confess, repent, and remember God provides me with everything I need. We must remember, "Whatever was written beforehand is meant to instruct us in how to live. The scriptures impart to us encouragement and inspiration so that we can live in hope and endure all things" (vs 4).

Remember, "All the insults of those who insulted you fall upon me" (vs 3 c). Jesus will reward you and give you what you need. BE THE MATURE ONE in all situations.

Suggested reading; Romans 15:1-7 in the NKJ, NKJV, and other versions. Ask yourself this question, "could I be recognized as being mature in faith?"

-- Linda Gary, DOHM President



Don't Forget to participate in the Daughters of Hope monthly prayer call. Every second Thursday at 6:30.



*God is faithful*

## The Fruit of the Spirit – Exercising Self-Control

It is easy to find people reacting harshly and quickly today. Our world has been shaken to the core, from racial injustices to political infighting and the pandemic. Yet, during it, all God is seeking to find those to maintain composure and seek guidance from Him to navigate through these tumultuous times.

Recently I had to present for a discipleship class in which we studied the Fruit of the Spirit outlined in the book of Galatians. We each have a specific fruit to explore, and I had the “pleasure” of receiving the fruit of self-control. I said, “God, you have a sense of humor,” because He knows His daughter has trouble with digesting this spiritual fruit. It seemed like ever since I started the class and obtained this assignment, any and everything that could happen to me that would cause me to lose control has occurred. I must admit that there were good days and not-so-good days, but the blessing in it all is the lessons God was teaching me through each experience.

The lessons helped me develop more self-control, not succumb to the fleshly desires, and relinquish all choices to God. It is crucial to maintain control of our emotions and feelings to not deter another soul from coming into the kingdom of God. If we as professed Christians cannot control ourselves or overindulge in the things of the world, then why would the sinner repent and come to God. God desires that all His children have an abundant life while committing to kill the lustful flesh and letting the Spirit reign with control.

The Christian’s influence is at stake, its health, the serenity of the soul because of a lack of self-control. Take up your cross daily and crucify the fleshly temptations until they are dead. Taming the flesh can be painful. But as we nail it to the cross, it has no choice but to remain there, and only then we shall endure and overcome. Do not let your flesh destroy your spirit and the life God has for you both on Earth and in Heaven.

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13, RSV)

-- Tomiko Hankerson, DOHM Secretary

### Galatians 5:22-23 (MSG)

**22-23 But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.**

## PRESS (Part 2)

Press on:

P - Pray,

**R - Read God's word,**

E - Experience the presence of God,

S - Sing songs of praise and worship,

S - Submit to God's will

God has used man to write down His word; it is meant to be read. Thus, we have a recording of the thoughts and mind of God. You can say we have instructions on how to manage the issues of life, and we have history and examples on what to and what not to do. God's word is amazing; if you have spent time in the scriptures, you have observed that re-reading a passage brings new meaning. Sometimes it's like you didn't notice that word as part of the sentence before. We have so many translations, comparing for greater understanding is becoming easy.

In the Old Testament time, the word of God was commanded to be read to the people. God wanted His people to know the law and how they should live. God knew He had to write down His commandments, His precepts for reference because the people needed to be taught and reminded about who He is. Reading God's word has not changed; still, today, we need to be reminded, renewed every day. The written word is meant to be lived out and passed on.

(Instructions for the king/leadership, all leadership)

Deuteronomy 17:19-20 (NKJV)

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

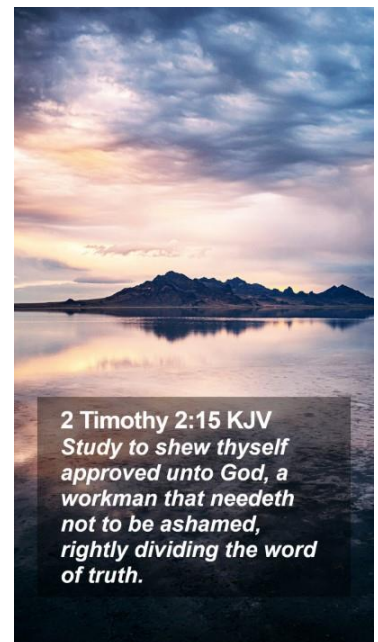
Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NLT)

Then the LORD said to me,

2 Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. 3 This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

I can give several reasons to read the bible, but know it is a book written with you in mind. Many of us know the scripture from II Timothy 2:15. To rightly divide the word, you have to read it. Reading God's word is a great adventure; sometimes, your mouth will drop open in astonishment, other times you will realize God did not play, He is serious, and then there are the times you will see His patience and mercy. He is unpredictable and so much more. Read for yourself; you will never get tired of it, and it will bring you closer to Him.

-- Minister Connie Lowe, DOHM Treasurer



**2 Timothy 2:15 KJV**  
*Study to shew thyself  
 approved unto God, a  
 workman that needeth  
 not to be ashamed,  
 rightly dividing the word  
 of truth.*

## Let the Church be the Church (The Temple vs the Church)



According to the Bible, the Tabernacle, known as the "Tent of Meeting," was the portable earthly dwelling place of God used by the Israelites from the Exodus until the conquest of Canaan. Moses was instructed at Mount Sinai to construct and transport the Tabernacle. And with this, the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness to the Promised Land. Four hundred forty years later, God instructed Solomon to build a temple in Jerusalem as His dwelling place. The Tabernacle and the temple's purpose was to house God's unique and holy presence, and in it, God powerfully dwelt among His people and traveled with them. Well, today, the dwelling place of God is in the church (YOU and ME). No matter how unworthy you may feel or how difficult it may be to believe, it is true; everywhere we go, He goes.

So, People of God, Stop:

Putting so much emphasis on the brick and mortar but take the church (YOU) out into the highways and byways and compel the lost to come to Christ. Did you forget we are commanded to do so? "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Favoring one preacher or ministry over another. "For there is no respect of persons with God." (Romans 2:11).

Compromising God's word to appeal to a particular group of people. "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently." (Psalm 119:1-4)

Being greedy for gain. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)

Usurping Christ's headship of the church. "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church." (Ephesians 1:21-22)

People of God, it is time to repent, submit, and be the church God created us to be.

-- Minister Geri Stancil, DOHM, Vice President



## Tea Time With God . . .

The Daughters of Hope Ministry recently held a virtual "Tea Time with God" where I presented the spiritual aspects of a teacup. Below is a recap of that presentation. I pray that as you have your own individual tea time with God, sipping on your tea from your favorite teacup, that you would have a whole different way of looking at that teacup, coffee cup, or mug as it relates to your relationship with God.

The making of the teacup starts with a lump of clay that is not too attractive. However, it becomes something very beautiful and valuable when it goes through the molding process, shaping, and going through the fire a few times. That same process resembles how God creates beauty and purpose to fulfill His divine will as we go through trials and tribulations. An illustration of this is shown in the book of Jeremiah when God told Jeremiah to go to the Potter's house where he would hear from God on how to deal with Judah's wickedness. God showed Jeremiah through this analogy that God (as the Creator) had the power over Judah (the clay) in how He could destroy these sinful people in executing justice if He so desired, or He could shape them and make them a useful vessel giving them mercy. (Jeremiah 18:1-6)

The teacup handle is used to grip the cup to avoid touching the outside of the hot cup. In our relationship with God, the handle is like Jesus extending His righteous hand out to us. We can grip His hand and hold on to it tightly that we are safe, or we can choose not to accept His hand and grab the outside of the cup and possibly get burned. (Isaiah 41:10)

At times we fill our teacups to the brim. Some also prefer to have a little cream in their tea but don't leave enough room for the cream, or they pour too much hot water in the teacup creating a spillover. In our Christian walk, what spills out of our teacup depends on what is on the inside. What spills out of you when you are offended? Is it peace, love, and joy? Or, is there a splatter of anger, jealousy, or bitterness? We all have intentions of leaving room for cream or extra hot water, but just as in our relationship with God, we get so busy that we keep filling the cups of our souls to the brim and don't leave room for rest, reflection, or to be still in the presence of God. And, before we know it, we have a huge mess right in front of us. (Hebrews 4:9-11)

The saucer is used to prevent stains, transport the teacup, and a place to lay the spoon and tea bag. We are to lay down our burdens (our spills) upon Jesus in our relationship with God. How do you surrender your burdens (spills)? Are you allowing Jesus to be your saucer and contain your spills? (Matthew 11:28-29)

Teacups are very fragile and are easily broken. One of the methods to repair broken pottery is called Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery that gives it a more excellent value and strength once repaired, showing us that there is beauty and value in its brokenness. In the same way, God takes our shattered pieces and binds them together with His Spirit. As we give it all to God, He will heal our brokenness and bind up our wounds. (Psalms 147:3)

God knows what He is doing. So, just like the designing process of our beautiful teacups, be willing to yield to God's handiwork in His creative mastery as the Potter and we the clay as He molds and makes us so that we may be made into a flawless and valuable piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

-- Linda Price-Smith, DOHM Member



**Jeremiah 18:1-6** – “Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this Potter? Says the Lord. Look, as the clay is in the Potter's hand, so are you in My hand.”

**Isaiah 41:10** – “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous hand.”

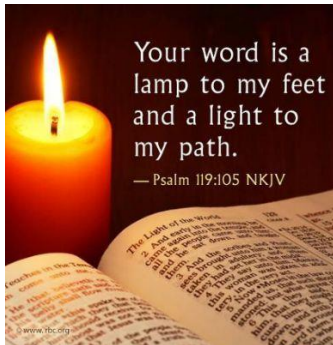
**Hebrews 4:9-11**– “There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

**Matthew 11:28-29** – “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

**Psalms 147:3** - “He heals the brokenhearted And bind up their wounds.”

**Matthew 6:33** – “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”





## Follow the Light

Have you been to a rural area ("the country") at night? It is very dark. You would not be able to see ANYTHING. You would have no sense of what is before you, behind you, to the right or left of you. Having a flashlight to use would make a difference in this situation as it would help guide your steps. For example, driving to South Carolina on I-95 late at night, there is no light on some stretches of the highway. There is only pitch-black darkness. If it were not for the light from my car's headlights, I do not know where I would end up. The headlights illuminate enough of the highway to help keep me on the right path.

These two images help me understand what is said in Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The bible is the word of God (2 Timothy 3:16), and Jesus is the word of God in the flesh (John 1:14). In John 8:12, Jesus says: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT), it says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."

Like the flashlight, scripture helps guide our steps, so we will not stumble. Jesus, our example, showed us how He overcame the world and was able to live victoriously in the flesh. With Him as our guide, we can stay on the right path.

Without the flashlight or headlights in the scenarios described in the introduction, we would be unable to see things along our path that would cause us to stumble or crash, or if we are on the correct path and have not turned too far right or left. When we do not follow scripture, we are prone to stumble over obstacles or veer off to the left or right of the path God wants us to follow.

*So be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you are **not** to turn aside to **the right or to the left**. Deuteronomy 28:14*

***Do not turn** aside to the **right or to the left** from any of the words I command you today, and do not go after other gods to serve them. Proverbs 1:15*

FOLLOW THE LIGHT!

-- Cornette Cole, DOHM Member

### Daughters of Hope

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## DOHM Upcoming Events

Listed below are some of the Daughters of Hope Ministry planned events for 2021. Updates will be provided once details are confirmed.

- Monthly Prayer Conference Call – Every 2nd Thursday, 6:30-7:30 pm. If you are not receiving notifications and would like to participate, send an email to [daughtersohope@aol.com](mailto:daughtersohope@aol.com) to receive details.
- 2021 Women's Conference – October 2021