

Good morning, Good Morning

Psalm 118:1-24 V 24

How many of you are morning persons? How many are night owls?

There is often a lot in the news concerning the importance of breakfast to give us the fuel we need to carry on our responsibilities during the day. For many though, mornings go like this. The sun is barely up, you drag yourself from the bed to the shower to the closet.

Most of you probably do sit down at the breakfast table, you eat some toast, drink a little coffee or juice, and read your morning paper. Sadly, though it's not always fun waking up. You feel tired and lousy and the snooze-button sure seems tempting.

What can you do?

*The fact is, the way you spend your morning can add a certain flavor to the rest of your day. You see, mornings can be mayhem or magical--depending on our outlook on A.M. activities. Well, lets look to scripture to find a couple of ways to improve our mornings after the breakfast dishes are cleaned up and put away . Psalm 118:24 says *This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

So breakfast is over, we have fuel for our bodies but now what is the fuel to help us face the rest of the day that the Lord has given us?

Og Mandino reminds us "Each day is a special gift from God, and while life may not always be fair, you must never allow the pains, hurdles, and handicaps of the moment to poison your attitude and plans for yourself and your future. You can never win when you wear the ugly cloak of self-pity, and, the sour sound of whining will certainly frighten away any opportunity for success. Never again. There is a better way."

With this in mind lets begin with this as a better way

I. Approach Each Day With Confidence

*V 6 says **GOD's now at my side and I'm not afraid; who would dare lay a hand on me?***

The psalmist understood that the world was against him. The devil was against him. His own people were often against him. But he knew God was for him. **Thought:** When we start our day with the confidence that God is for us, we will be successful, even if many times during our day it seems like we may fail.

Let these verses from God's word give you added confidence Proverbs 29:25 says The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever leans on, trusts in, and puts his confidence in the Lord is safe and set on high.

Or Romans 8:31-33 What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. *If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them?*

When human nature is backed up with a God like nature, human nature is full of confidence. When the Lord is on our side there are no circumstances too great for us to handle. Jesus could face the suffering and agony of Calvary because he knew that His Father was on his side. God was for him.

This is the kind of confidence that laughs at impossibilities. So look forward to a day where you remember clearly that you and God are a majority and you can be confident that the will of God will never lead you where the grace of God will not keep you

II. Approach Each Day With Courage

V 6 "I will not fear; What can man do to me."

A condemned prisoner awaiting execution was granted the usual privilege of choosing the dishes he wanted to eat for his last meal. He ordered a large mess of mushrooms. "Why all the mushrooms and nothing else?" inquired the guard. "Well," the prisoner said, "I always wanted to try them, but was afraid to eat them before!"

The psalmist was much like Jesus as he faced the cross. Although surrounded by enemies, he remained calm and confident. God's children need to remember that nobody can do any more to them than God permits. At the very most, man can hurt the body, but he cannot hurt the soul, the real you. Believers Should learn to Think Like Winners.

Courage is that which enables the Christian to humbly make his boast in the Lord. Don't forget, Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow.

III. Approach Each Day With Contentment

V 24 "This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Contentment was meant to be a part of the Christian life each day we live. This means that even the days of adversity are meant to be days of contentment.

William Gladstone observed "Be happy with what you have and are, be generous with both, and you won't have to hunt for happiness."

Another writer said "The secret of contentment is knowing how to enjoy what you have, and to be able to lose all desire for things beyond your reach." And isn't it true, our day will go a lot better if we enjoy what we already have, and we lose the desire for anything beyond our reach?

There was once a man who became envious of his friends because they had larger and more luxurious homes. So he listed his house with a real estate firm, planning to sell it and to purchase a more impressive home. Shortly afterward, as he was reading the classified section of the newspaper, he saw an ad for a house that seemed just right. He promptly called the realtor and said, "A house described in today's paper is exactly what I'm looking for. I would like to go through it as soon as possible!" The agent asked him several questions about it and then replied, "But sir, that's your house your describing."

So instead of trying to buy another house, enjoy the one you have. Don't forget, all the experiences of life, the shade, the showers, and the sunshine, the big homes and the little ones are working together for our good.

IV. Approach Each Day With a Commitment or Dedication to the Lord

It is said that Nathan Hale, a young patriot of the Revolutionary War, was captured and hanged by the British. Before being executed they asked him if he had anything to say. His last words were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

A child of God's only regret in life should be that he or she only has one life to live for God. The word sacrifice has to do with more than just dying; it also has to do with living. The writer in Hebrews 13:16 said, *But don't forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God.*

A gift that costs something is a gift that involves self-denial. A gift that costs nothing is a gift rejected by God. Jesus died willingly for a lost world, and he would just as willingly have died again if need be. The cord which bound Jesus to sacrifice himself for a lost world was love. Jesus said" John 15:13 *The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.*

That takes commitment. Are we that committed to each other? Are we committed to the unsaved? Are we committed to service in the church? Are we committed to feeling honored that Jesus wants to use us? If we are committed to his service we will find each day challenging and full of opportunities and yes, even a few surprises along the way.

It is all of what it takes to make any day for the believer, a good one.

V. Approach Each Day With a Spirit of Conquest

V 17 "I shall not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord." In other words, my life is safe, and I will live to tell what the LORD has done.

The psalmist saw death, but death slain. He saw the grave, but the grave had been robbed. He saw judgment silenced, and hell defeated. That which men call death, God has made the gateway to life. Let me give you a few examples of some conquerors we may have heard about

- Jim Elliot (1927-1956) reads in part

In 1955 they began their attempts to get to know the mysterious Auca tribe. The five men were Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Nate Saint, Roger Youderin and Peter Fleming. Their bodies were recovered and their equipment and personal property was brought back.

To many people it would seem that Jim Elliot's dream and the aspirations of the other men had ended in failure. But they had done what was expected of them, and it was now time for God to continue with His plan.

Amongst the personal possessions was a camera, and amongst the pictures taken, were some of the Auca Indians who had initially made contact with the missionaries. The people in the photographs were recognized by an exiled Auca woman who had helped the missionaries learn the language.

They were relatives that she thought were dead! She made contact with them and before long Elisabeth Elliot and Rachel Saint (Nate's sister) were living amongst the tribe. They established a church and many of the Aucas became Christians. Jim Elliott a conqueror for the lord even in death

David Brainerd (1718-1747)

David Brainerd was a missionary to the American Indians. He was born in 1718 at Connecticut in America. Both of his parents had died by the time that he was fourteen. He knew that he had a call to the ministry and studied to be prepared for this calling. He wanted to preach the gospel to the American Indians and to do that he had to go to where they were.

He was plagued by ill-health but worked zealously to bring the natives to Christ. He knew that he should give up the work or his health would fail but he persevered with his calling. **At the age of twenty nine he died.**

Brainerd left a diary which later influenced William Carey who then became a missionary to China. And Brainerd, a conqueror for the lord, still has spiritual children in the great nation of China even today.

And what of these other great names from church history, Men and women who sought to approach each day with conquest in mind

William Carey and Amy Carmichael early missionaries to India Or William Hunter The boy martyr who refused to recant his faith. And what of David Livingstone the world-famous missionary from Scotland taking God's light to Africa. Or Corrie Ten Boom An heroic modern day saint and evangelist

And what of Robert Jermain Thomas, the Protestant missionary martyr who changed the nation of Korea. The memory of Robert's martyrdom made a great impression on many who witnessed it. A few managed to rescue some of the Bibles and brought them home to be used as wallpaper in their houses.

As time went on, curiosity arose and people began to read this strange text on the walls of their houses. Gradually Koreans began to become Christians and today, the church in South Korea numbers many millions of believers and reputedly the **capital Seoul** has seven of the then largest evangelical churches in the world. One (young) man who, on fire with the gospel of Jesus Christ, laid down his life to tell other people about Jesus. The Koreans thought that they had won the battle, but 130 years later it is clear that they lost the war!

These are just a few folks who started their days with this passage in mind: This is the day the Lord has made I will rejoice and be glad in it. Men and women who probably had their breakfast of toast and eggs but then also had a spiritual breakfast based on confidence, courage, contentment for their place on life. Folks who had an omelet filled with commitment and topped with conquest

Remember the words of Paul who said: *But thank God for letting our Lord Jesus Christ give us the victory! My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile.*

Or Romans 8:37-39 *In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love--not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!*

Is this not the way to both begin and end a day of victory in our lives?

In closing let me suggest one other invaluable way to start your day if you have never done so before. Why not read the following, believe what it says and act on it as it leads you to, and not only will today be a day of victory but the rest of your days will be that as well. Days of victory and not defeat.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)