



Willingness to Change is a Willingness to Grow

By Rev. Deborah Shepperson Smith

As I traveled through the city late the other night, I was reminded of a conversation I had with a woman who lives in that part of town, who told me about a young man in her neighborhood who would hang on the corner across from her apartment. This went on night and day for some time when a chance encounter gave her an opportunity to say to this young man, imparting to him that he could do something different with his life. That there were other ways that he could make a living. "Why don't you go to school and do something positive with your life?" She noticed, after a while, that this kid was missing from the corner. Taking the subway to work some time later she saw a person who looked familiar but she couldn't figure out who he was until he spoke and reminded her that he was the guy on the corner and that her words resonated with him and after thinking about it he decided to go back to school and was now a student attending a local community college. Because she took the time to look him in the eye and give him hope that his life could be different he in turn made a decision that changed the course of his life. He stood straighter and pulled up his pants and he made a goal.



The day that she spoke a word into this young man's life made a difference. He made a change, he had hope, and he wanted something new and different for himself.

There comes a time when we must stand and make a change. When our lives seem stagnant and all hope seems to be gone is a time that we can make up our minds to make a change. Change can be scary and uncertain but change we must. If we change our minds and our attitudes we can change the direction of our lives. A willingness to change is a willingness to grow.

As we share with our Angel Wings families tips and encouragement to make small changes such as planning and cooking meals rather than buying fast food can lead to better money management and better nutrition. Learning to use public transportation and limiting hacks and private ride share companies can save money. When we give into our wants, as opposed to evaluating our needs can lead to a change. These are a few steps that can lead to growth and economic stability at any level. Deciding to wake up in the morning with money in our pockets and money in our bank accounts is a change in our mind set and a change in our circumstances. These are lessons that lead to growth.

Mission Statement

Angel Wings Ministries, Inc. is an interfaith spiritually-based outreach program dedicated to support children, individuals and families from crisis to wholeness.

Educate..... Serve..... Inspire

Vision Statement

We envision an interfaith community where families and stakeholders work together to empower *all* to wholeness

Here at Angel Wings Ministries our mission is to help those who want different and want better. Moms who need a support system, guidance and someone who believes in them and their families. We don't always have the answers but our prayers and networking system enables us to help those who desire our help. However, those who are willing to change are willing to grow.



The Angel Wings Annual Crab Feast is a Fundraiser to Benefit

The School Uniform Project:

Which helps supply school uniforms, clothing and school supplies to families in need

& The Secret Santa Project:

Which helps parents provide for their children at Christmas

YOUR SUPPORT helps make this happen, so **PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!**

And let's crack some crabs for a cause!



PRAYER POWER

“Top Ten One-Liner Prayers”

Jacquelyn L. McLellan

Since this issue is devoted to the restoration of order in the midst of confusion and chaos, I want to address the area of getting your *spiritual house* in order. We can agree that setting things in order around us can start progress in our earthly journey. If we learn of order in heavenly places [according to scripture, Isaiah 6, and Revelation 21], then *we need to get our earthly spiritual house in order, as well*. Remember, the Lord's Prayer teaches that heavenly shifts take place when we say "...Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." So here are some short, simple starter prayers to make a shift in real-time thinking. They are listed in the format of the old "David Letterman Show---his Top Ten List of the Day":

10. Father, I'm [in] a mess! I can't fix it, but I know only You can. I'm giving it all to You.
9. Dear Lord, I've tried my best and I'm tired of trying. Tell me what to do. I'll wait on You.
8. O God, my friends don't understand, and my enemies don't care. Help me, I pray.
7. Oh my Lord, why don't my solutions work? Show me the Right Way. Show me Your way.
6. It's been a long time since I've had a good night's sleep, Lord. What are You saying to me? I'm ready to listen.
5. I just realized it's not really about the money!! Help me get my priorities straight, O God.
4. Dear God, my body is not well! The doctors have given up, but You NEVER WILL! Stay with me, Jesus.
3. Father in heaven, I miss my loved one! I feel so all alone; how can I go on?
2. You promised to be with me always, but I don't feel you near. Reveal yourself to me.

[Drum-roll, please] TOP ONE-LINER PRAYER

1. It's been so long I don't know where to begin. I just want to get closer to you, God.

The above starter-prayers are only for believers who have lockjaw in the midst of a crisis. They are meant only to *provoke* a person to shift from the status of victim into that of an active prayer warrior. During this season of renewal and Resurrection our souls should be restored with new HOPE and FAITH. All this depends on *a desire for* a right relationship with God. And that, dear beloved child of God, is where powerful prayer begins. Just try it!

[Hint: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." Matthew 6:33]

~ Rev. Jacquelyn L McLellan is a retired Methodist minister, residing in Catonsville, MD



WHAT'S YOUR CREDIT SCORE?

William Craig

I remember years ago I was young, wild and running against the wind with no worries, cares or concerns. Life was easy--being employed a year or two before graduating high school put me in a position early to be able to buy anything I wanted whenever I wanted it. That was fun. I had great credit and several credit cards, including American Express with no credit limit. I still can't figure out why they trusted a kid fresh out of school with a credit card without a preset limit. I was able to handle the payments fairly easily, up until the time I purchased a vehicle. Then things began to slowly unravel. Nobody had told me that cars need regular maintenance and without it you are bound for major problems.

Well, I began to have car problems which cost me a fortune. I had to start cutting down on reckless spending; I also stopped "wasting money" paying the credit card bills. That was my logic back then. So there I was--crippled with a huge credit card debt and bills still piling up from everything else. Things became worse when several of the creditors got a judgment against me and the courts began attaching my wages to pay them back. This quickly led to my downfall. For many years afterwards I was literally in "credit hell" with all my cards closed; I couldn't even get approved for a *free mobile phone*! It was so bad that I gave up on credit and loans and FICO scores. I just got a debit card to pay for things.

This worked for me for years and believe it or not, I was content. In this day and time a debit card will only work for certain things but for others, you need a credit card. In one instance I needed a credit card to rent a car since they wouldn't take my debit card. So I decided to take the leap and apply for another credit card. I was older and wiser by then; I felt I could responsibly manage it. But my hopes and dreams were eventually shot down after each application was rejected. I just told myself to forget it and I left it alone. But, I wasn't aware that time heals all wounds--even financially devastating wounds.

One day I happened to be riding with my sister and her family. Out of the blue her son asked me what my credit score was. I was befuddled at that question

coming from a 5 or 6 year old. I was even more befuddled because I had no idea what my score was. When he told me to check Credit Karma on my phone, we all just laughed and went on to our destination. But at home I was still thinking about his question and I decided to see what my credit score was. I was shocked to find out that I didn't *have* a FICO score at all; it was just three dashes on the screen. Then I wanted to check out my credit reports to see why. Once I got my reports I saw that all the negative stuff had fallen off over the years. Now I basically had a clean file with no credit history at all--which is almost as bad as having poor credit.

There is a good ending to this story so please read on. While visiting the bank where I had the heavily used debit card, one of the employees asked me if I had one of their credit cards. I laughed and said, "I have no credit, so y'all will just deny me anyway." He said maybe not and asked to check for me. I was in a hurry, but I did give him permission to email me information about it. Time went by and instead of getting an email, I got a letter inviting me to apply for a credit card. I called the number given and applied over the phone. To my shock they approved me for a credit card. It had a low limit but I was happy anyway.

Today I am much, much older and much, much wiser; this time I will not screw up. Looking back, I wish I had people who could have taught me how to use credit to my advantage and make it work for me instead of just using credit to buy stuff. We should aim to help our children avoid the pitfalls of misusing credit, while at the same time teach them the importance of credit management. Remember, just because you might be buried under a load of credit debt, it's still possible that one day you will be breathing freely again like I am. So, what's *your* credit score?

[Note: Bill Craig owns a marketing business providing print, visual media and web services; he has served with the Board for Angel Wings for almost 20 years.]



Repositioning Yourself

Paulette Privott



This is a new day, the beginning of our colorful season of change, spring. Step outside of your door, look all around and there it is, the bounty of a new day. Early blooming flowers like forsythia, hyacinth and tulips have responded to the warmer weather and are reaching their petals to the sun. Seasonal trees start to show change with new buds on their branches where leaves will flourish in a few weeks. You can hear the birds singing because you have probably opened up a window or two, just to feel the breeze in the air. **THIS IS NATURE IN ORDER!**

Your neighbors come out of hibernation. Those who exercise, whether they are walkers or joggers, gather and start their trek on the paths through the parks. Some of my neighbors like to just sit out on their porches and watch the passers-by. The gardeners begin their daily rituals that cater to colorful flower beds, trimmed hedges and manicured lawns. **YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE PUTTING THEIR LIVES IN ORDER!**

As you report to school/work, you have a specific schedule of events. Those events, meetings and gatherings are the main force to getting the work of the day done. Your work accomplishments are reflected in the bottom line. As a student, your attention to classroom assignments and their completion, can raise your grade and elevate your class standing. At work, you can find yourself making a lateral move or a move up the ladder of success. The effort that you put into your daily assignment, whether it is school or work, can determine the bounty of your outcome. **THIS IS YOU PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN ORDER!**

Yesterday is gone and only a memory. This new day gives us a chance to improve on our efforts of yesterday. Have you ever wanted a re-do? A chance to take back some wrongs, correct some errors or even be seen in a different light. Yes, we have the ability to flip the script and change that which looks unchangeable. I made a mistake yesterday but I don't have to make the same mistake again today. God gives you free will, the opportunity to choose what you want to happen. However, with free will, you are subjected to the consequences of your choices. If you make a poor choice, a wrong decision or a negative path, God has made provisions for that. He knows you!! He knows your thoughts!! He knows everything about you!! God uses your choices to grow you into the disciple He has always planned you to be!! Isn't that awesome!! My mistakes now become the groundwork development of my strengths. As you live, you learn. God uses this learning to build and grow His Kingdom! You are a valuable resource of God's plan for us. **THIS IS GOD'S ORDER FOR THE KINGDOM!**

I don't know about you, but I have a new outlook on my future and how I can eliminate chaos! WWJD!! What Would Jesus Do!! Be loving, care about others, give to those who have less than I, be the example in my community, offer wisdom to those seeking help, be a good listener, demonstrate responsibility, negate distractions, maintain focus.....oh, wow, this list can go on and on. That's who Jesus was. Now it is up to us. Can you carry on this legacy of love and spiritual living? I've joined the effort, will you?



**Hey, It's almost time
for the Angel Wings
CRAB FEAST!
Will I see you there?**

**I'll call Paul @
443-253-1642
For info & my
tickets.**

**I'll be there with
Old Bay on!**

Galatians 6:9-10 KJV

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.



**For Crab Feast Info and/or Tickets
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Angel Wings Ministries, Inc.



DONATION

\$60.

IN ADVANCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019

7 PM - 11 PM

TALL CEDARS

**2501 PUTTY HILL AVE.
PARKVILLE, MD 21234**

DONATION

\$65.

AT THE DOOR

A Fundraiser to Benefit

The School Uniform Project & The Secret Santa Project



~ Menu ~

***Fresh Steamed Crabs, Beef, Turkey Breast,
Country Smoked Ham, Bread, Rolls, Fresh Fruit Bowl,
Assorted Cheeses with Crackers, Fresh Vegetables,
Pickled Beets, Homemade Maryland Crab Soup, Buffalo
Wings, Vegetable Lasagna, Macaroni and Cheese,
Beef Barbeque, String Beans, Corn on the Cob,
Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Cake, Coffee, Iced Tea, Beer, & Soda.***

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