

RainDancing101.com

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass
It's about learning to dance in the rain

Dance Classes Here

January Newsletter

Rx For The Soul

To thrive in life you
need three bones.
A wishbone.
A backbone.
And a funny bone.

Reba McEntire

The best revolutionary is
a youth devoid of morals.
Lenin Agenda: Make
youth anti-social -immoral.

Inside every man is a God
-shaped vacuum. Nothing
fits there except Christ.
St. Augustine

LOVE is when a man
kisses away your tears,
while you left Him on
the cross for your sins.



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We, Like Sheeple...

Does it bother you that God calls His people 'sheep'? It has long bothered me, largely because of the nature of sheep. They are completely defenseless; they don't bite or fight, they only run...and that's usually in the wrong direction! They also have absolutely no sense of direction. At all.

In Istanbul, Turkey in 2005, one sheep jumped off a cliff and then nearly 1,500 others followed! Not knowing which way to go, they mindlessly follow others in the flock.

Mindlessly is the operative word there. It bothers me when *people* who are made in the 'image and the likeness' of God don't use their mind..."unthinkers."

So my question is, why did God make us that way? Is this why Jesus calls Himself the 'Good Shepherd'...? And why we are told 'we like sheep all go astray, each to his own way?' (I read that as our 'doing our own thing!') And: Is being sheep in any way connected to where it says in Eccles. 3:11 "He has set eternity in our heart?"

In other words, we are all hard-wired for God...And that's why everyone is looking for something! Hardcore atheists look to New Age, chrystals, Mysticism or astrology, for *guidance!* For *something, anything* to fill that God-shaped void inside us!

If that doesn't work for them, they design their own god, after their own image – like universalism where there is no hell, or cults that deny the truth of scripture.

Lost tribes and aboriginies are noted to have a belief in some sort of deity. Innately, they know murder or theft is wrong. God explains that as 'conscience'- which is 2 words defined 'with knowing.'

It's true that sheep do not think – they just act. That bothers me when people do the same. God gave us a mind, & emotions - to better know & understand Him; to enjoy & engage one another. But we often don't use our minds; yet fear our emotions! So we follow our five senses.

Scripture tells us 'by wisdom we can't know God.'¹ So, ever-learning is not the route to salvation. It is the heart that believes; the mouth that confesses Jesus is Lord.²

I have a confession. At one time years ago, I attended many Alanon meetings over a couple of years. I had a loved one addicted to prescription drugs, so I went there for them. Like others, I soon discovered I needed it more than *they* did!

Upon reflection later, I realized an amazing thing! I'd learned more "life skills" at those meetings (there are some good ones!) than I'd ever learned in churches, since so few provide any real **training** in righteousness.

I learned what makes a relationship sick and/or whole. And what my own role was in them. I learned empathy for broken lives like my own. I learned how to encourage others...

This is a primary reason I write these newsletters, (5 yrs in March) to convey life skills that aid others ...based on the truths of scripture.

Even though God crafted *eternity* in our hearts, and gave us a *conscience* so that we innately know right from wrong....we'd usually go our own way in life! Why?

Vanity. We think we know better than God! But...He put those elements in us so we would seek Him.

When I realize people aren't using their minds- *it apalls me!* Instead we're led

by emotions, fads, trends, latest technology, & idols. Captured by the world ...captivated by *lesser things*.

But... people can't help it! - They're usually doing the best they can. Why? Because they may not be born again.³ Even if they are... they've entered their new life *with baggage!* Stinkin' thinkin'. Thus, all **new** thoughts go through the same old prism... their minds not renewed via scripture. Read Rom. 12:1-2...

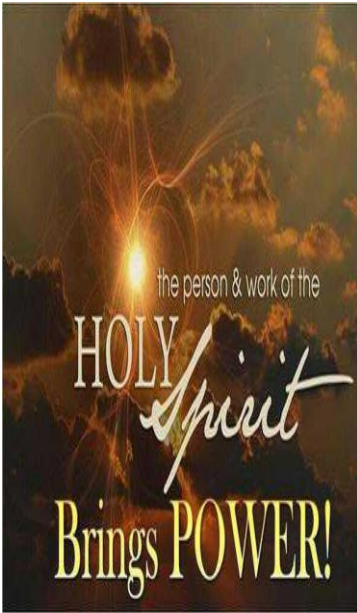
You cannot know the good and acceptable will of God until your mind has been transformed! How? Scripture! Stinkin' thinkin' must GO!

Until our minds are renewed...they're **virgin soil**, & our lives mostly anemic...!

Your mind is the key to a brand new life! My dictionary defines the mind as: "The agency or part in a human ... that reasons, understands, wills" – **stop** right there! Did you know you can't make decisions without *thinking* first? Are decisions hard for you? Then renew your mind! And "don't let the world squeeze you into its mold - but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Msg)

'Transformed' in the Greek is *metamorphoses*. YES, phase by phase, we are transformed - via our minds - by scripture! Don't live only by your 5 senses anymore, just guessing.⁴ Have the faith of God - thinking His thoughts! ⁵

We're made sheep by the Master Designer so that His abundance can flow thru our emptiness. "in your weakness, I find my strength."⁶ It's His secret for use! So we can **sow mercy** to other broken and sin-sick souls. Those who are ok don't need a physician! Mercy & truth are intertwined in scripture. It's **Truth that sets those captives FREE...** ⁷



THE ONLY
PEOPLE WHO
ARE MAD AT
YOU FOR
SPEAKING THE
TRUTH ARE
THOSE PEOPLE
WHO ARE
LIVING A LIE.

KEEP SPEAKING
THE TRUTH.

So What's The Big Deal?

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New Year's celebrations always fascinate me. It's the animation on people's faces. What is it that does that?

I think it may be people envision new opportunities. Maybe they blew it last year, but it's gone now. A new chance. A fresh start.

Someone recently said to me their marriage was dead. I said, Good! Then rejoice! Jesus deals in death for He is the Resurrection and the life. You are candidates for a real miracle for a better marriage than before!

We serve a God of second chances. Or fifth chances, whatever you need. Even our gov't gives people a fresh start via bankruptcy, forgiving old debt.

Occasionally believers run across people who cannot understand why it is that scripture is so revered. Some

Christians. Some even accuse them of worshipping the Bible! So, why is it so central to our faith, anyhow?

Well, sometimes it isn't! That's the problem with seeker-friendly churches & cults... they have strayed so far from the truth, they don't resemble true Christianity.

Critics' biggest problem with scripture is it reveals itself as an **absolute** on which we are to base our entire lives.

Many people and society at large, want no such thing as a moral or *absolute truth*! It's too narrow-minded. We are, after all, all climbing the same mountain in matters of faith, they feel. Not.

Many believe that since Abraham is the father of our faith, it includes Jews, Muslims and Christians. Not

Only Isaac is the son of promise. Ishmael was the son

of the flesh. They've been in constant conflict since, with Ishmael molesting Isaac's calling and offspring, still seen today.⁸ *It's a big deal!*

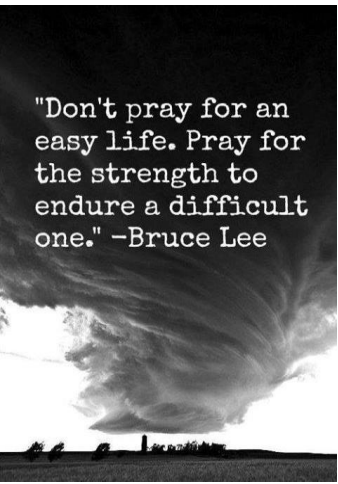
The Bible is simply the 'word' of God, or *logos* meaning 'an expression or an idea.' Hebrews 1 says Jesus is the express image of God... *That's why Scripture is such a big deal!* It is 'living and active, **able**...' ⁹ because 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us'. We're "born of the incorruptible Word."

Logo cable TV is now called "the gay epicenter of culture." Interesting, huh? *Is this a big deal?* You tell me!

But, there's an acid test here. God is watching His church to see if we will love the sinner more than we hate their sin! What Would Jesus Do? *The woman taken in adultery story tells us. 10*



Ask
Agatha



"Don't pray for an easy life. Pray for the strength to endure a difficult one." -Bruce Lee

References: 1. I Cor. 2 2. Rom. 10:9,10 3. John 3:3,5 4. Rom. 8:1-10 5. Rom. 4 6. II Cor. 12:6 7. John 8:32,36 8. Gal. 3 and 4 9. Heb. 4:11 10. John 8:1-11

How Does 2016 Look...?

Dear Agatha: I'd appreciate your perspective on this! I am a long time believer and I try to please God. But honestly, this past year has been so dreadful for me personally, and I won't even go there where it concerns America! I'm struggling with hope...or the lack of it today. Seems like I spend more time cursing the darkness than lighting a candle. Can you provide me a candle...? **Sue.**

Dear Sue: Me too, Sue! It is hard to remain positive in our world, especially when we feel like we're in *survival mode* - just in the personal sense. Yet we serve a God Who says He is 'More Than Enough'- one of His covenant names in the Old Testament. So how does one overcome?

I think it's 'perspective'...

I'm reminded of a story about a monk who tended a garden on the mountainside between two towns. One day a fellow traveled by him from the town above. He stopped and asked the monk about the lower town, and whether he'd like it or not.

The monk stopped a moment & asked the fellow, "Tell me, did you like the town above?" The man answered, "No, not really. The people weren't friendly & my landlord was awful. I had no friends."

The monk told him, "Well, you probably won't like the next town then."

Why did the monk say this? Because wisdom says "He that has many friends, knows how to be one." The man had no friends, yet blamed others. **Perspective.**

2016 is an unknown factor, and things can happen out of our control. But if we set our hearts to expect bad things...what can we say when we get them? 2016 may look a lot like what you anticipate....We can choose to set our hearts on good! God is good & we WIN...!

More, we *are to be known* for the HOPE within us! Therefore - hope is **visible** to observers! Nothing's too hard for God & You, to face!

Sue, learn to live and walk in His holy presence where He speaks & guides you. Prayer's not a monologue but a dialogue. Wait upon Him. Write down thoughts that come to you. *Analyze.* God's thoughts are hopeful & uplifting. Negative thoughts bring depression & darkness.



GOD's VOICE

CALMS
COMFORTS
CONVICTS
ENCOURAGES
ENLIGHTENS
LEADS
REASSURES
STILLS

SATAN's VOICE

OBSESSES
WORRIES
CONDEMNS
DISCOURAGES
CONFUSES
PUSHES
FRIGHTENS
RUSHES