

# Life Lessons 2015

# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



Life Lesson  
January – 2015

## *"Get Into God's Word"*

*"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." John 1:14 (NKJV)*

Dearest Friends:

Throughout the Old Testament God routinely spoke to people. In these thirty-nine books He gave them instructions, and promises with conditions. Some people understood what He was saying, others didn't. Some tried to live by it with varying degrees of success, while others rejected it and decided to do their own thing.

Then God did something truly incredible: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish" (MSG) Jesus was a living Bible! John tells us, "The Word was God" (John 1:1 NKJV) so the more you get into the Word and get it into **you**, the more of *God* you're depositing within you.

You say, "But sometimes I don't get much out of reading the Bible." A word to the wise: When you start studying the Bible, don't do it to find some new truth nobody else has ever seen. Do it with the attitude, "Lord, what are You saying to *me*?" The problem most of us have isn't interpreting the difficult passages; it's obeying the ones we already understand!

The Word of God provides you with two things:

(1) **Protection.** The Psalmist said, "Unless your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life" (Ps 119:92-93 NKJV).

(2) **Direction.** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (v. 105 NKJV).

*Need direction? Need protection? Get into God's Word.*

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

# MYSELF

I have to live with myself and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know.

I want to be able as days go by,  
always to look myself straight in the eye;  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
and hate myself for the things I have done.

I don't want to keep on a closet shelf  
a lot of secrets about myself  
and fool myself as I come and go  
into thinking no one else will ever know  
the kind of person I really am,

I don't want to dress up myself in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect  
I want to deserve all men's respect;  
but here in the struggle for fame and wealth  
I want to be able to like myself.

I don't want to look at myself and know that  
I am bluster and bluff and empty show.

I never can hide myself from me;  
I see what others may never see;  
I know what others may never know,  
I never can fool myself and so,  
whatever happens I want to be  
self respecting and conscience free.

Quote-meal:

"You'll never get ahead unless you move forward."

~ Shalandrea V. Scurry-Foster ~

*Lowell Annex*



Would you like to contribute? Send your suggestions, prayers, quotes or poems to:

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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



*Life Lesson*

*February 2015*

## ***“Unrealistic Expectations”***

***Don't do...good deeds...to be admired. Matthew 6:1 (NLT)***

*Dearest Friend:*

*When you do something nice for somebody expecting favor to be returned, you're setting yourself up for disappointment. Jesus said, “When you help someone...do it quietly and unobtrusively” (Matt 6:3-4 MSG); “Your Father knows what is done in secret, and He will reward you” (Matt 6:4 CEV). There are certain things everybody has a right to expect, like common courtesy and respect. But too often we place expectations on other people that aren't their responsibility to fulfill. Then when they don't meet our demands we act hurt and disillusioned, when in reality it was our own misguided assumptions that caused the problem.*

*I have learned from speaking with others over the years that many of us have unmet needs from the past...we want others to fulfill our desire to be loved unconditionally...some of us are so needy we drive people away. Husbands and wives are famous for holding each other accountable for things they need to work on personally. It's not fair to expect another person to “fix” you, or change your life, or suddenly become who you want them to be in order to make you happy. That kind of behavior just causes stress, resentment, hostility, and an unhealthy dependency you'll end up dealing with later.*

*Another problem is expecting others to read your mind when you haven't taken the time to spell out your expectations. How can you blame somebody for not doing something they didn't know you wanted? Understand this: People aren't your answer, God is. If He chooses to use a certain person to bless you ~ He'll do it; if not ~ He'll use somebody else. So examine your thinking today and ask God to remove any unrealistic expectations you're living with.*

*In God I trust,*

*Valarie Ellis*

# Change Your World

By: Brian Tracy

*You cannot change the world,  
But you can present the world with one improved person -  
Yourself.*

*You can go to work on yourself to make yourself  
Into the kind of person you admire and respect.*

*You can become a role model and set a standard for others.*

*You can control and discipline yourself to resist acting  
Or speaking in a negative way toward anyone for any reason.*

*You can insist upon always doing things the loving way,  
Rather than the hurtful way.*

*By doing these things each day,*

*You can continue on your journey*

*Toward becoming an exceptional human being.*

*Quote-meal: "The only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday!"*

~Author Unknown~

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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



Life Lesson

March 2015

## Come As You Are

*"Follow Me, and I will make you...." (Matthew 4:19)*

Dearest Friend:

Understand this: Jesus doesn't invite us to follow Him because we believe in Him. He invites us to follow Him because He believes in us! He says, "Follow Me and I will make you..." He knows what we can become when His grace touches our lives. Matthew, a Jew, collected taxes for the Romans who enslaved his people. In their eyes he was lower than scum. Yet Jesus called him and he ended up writing the first book in the New Testament. When Nathaniel was invited to meet Jesus, he was downright skeptical. "Can...any good thing come out of Nazareth? Peter saith unto him, "come and see." (Johns 1:46)

*Even after three years of exposure to His miracles and messages, they still had doubts. Check how often He says to them, "O ye of little faith...why do you not believe?...If only you believed you would see." Knowing they were anxious about what would happen when He left them and went back to heaven, Jesus said. "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter (the Holy Spirit), that He may abide with you forever." (John 14:16) The Greek word for comforter is paracletos, which means 'one who comes alongside to help !*

*So, come as you are. Come with your self-righteous or sordid past. Come with your halo or your hang-ups. Come, even though you wonder if He can do what He promises. Let His power and presence rub off on you. What do you have to lose? You've tried your way and it didn't work; now try His way.*

**Come... You won't be disappointed!**

*In God I trust,*

*Valarie Ellis*

# *Don't Quit*

*By: Author Unknown*

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh.  
When care is pressing you down a bit.  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.  
Life is queer with its twists and turns  
As every one of us sometimes learns.  
And many a failure turns about  
When he might have won had he stuck it out:  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -  
You may succeed with another blow.  
Success is failure turned inside out -  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.  
And you never can tell how close you are.  
It may be near when it seems so far:  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

*Quote-meal:*

*"Work joyfully and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts will inevitably bring about right results."*

~Author: James Allen~

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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



Life Lesson

April 2015

## *"What Are You Seeing?"*

*"We walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV*

Dearest Friends:

Your eyes can deceive you! Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, dipped his coat in goat's blood and told their father he'd been torn to pieces by a wild beast. As a result, the old man said, *"I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning."* (Genesis 37:35 NKJV) In reality, not only was Joseph alive, he'd soon become prime minister of Egypt and save his family during the time of famine. But his father lived all those years grieving because of something he saw: a coat.

There's a difference between facts and truths. The facts may confirm that the economy is bad, but the truth is, *"God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ"* (Philippians 4:19). One day Elisha and his servant woke up in the town of Dothan to discover they were surrounded by an army. When the servant saw this, he panicked. But Elisha said, *"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed... 'Lord...open his eyes that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."* (2 Kings 6:16-17 NKJV)

God wants you to look to Him and know that in your darkest moment you don't have to be afraid. What you have going for you is so much greater than anything that comes against you. So rise up in faith and say with the Psalmist, *"My help comes from the Lord."* (Psalm 121:2 NKJV)

**Then act like you believe it!**

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*



# The Bend in the Road

By: Helen Steiner Rice

Sometimes we come to life's crossroads

And we view what we think is the end.

But God has a much wider vision,

And He knows that it's only a bend -

The road will go on and get smoother

And after we've stopped for a rest,

The path that lies hidden beyond us

Is often the path that is best.

So rest and relax and grow stronger,

Let go and let God share your load,

And have faith in a brighter tomorrow -

You've just come to a bend in the road.

*Quote-meal: "Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future."*



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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



Life Lesson  
May 2015

## "You Are In Control"

*"Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking."*

Romans 12:2A (NCV)

Dearest Friends:

You determine the outcomes in your life, because God has given no one but you power over your options. When things aren't working out for us, we often look elsewhere for the reason. Like Eve, we say, "The devil made me do it." No, Jesus said, "I have given you power...greater than the enemy has" (Luke 10:19 NCV). Like Adam, we say, "Eve made me do it." But the Psalmist says, "I trust God, so I am not afraid. What can human beings do to me?" (Psalm 56:4 NCV). Sometimes we believe circumstances beyond our control are responsible. But with God "all things [including people and circumstances] work together for [our] good" (Romans 8:28)—not for our defeat!

Your misbeliefs victimize you and predispose you to a lifestyle of trying to change people and circumstances. That's like attempting to unscramble an egg. You become a blame-fixer instead of a problem-solver. Accept the truth that no matter what Satan, others, or circumstances do, God gives YOU the right to the last word in your life. "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1John 4:4).

The outcome is not determined by what goes on *around* you, but by what goes on *within* you. "As he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV). The Devil can only determine the outcome with your permission and cooperation—and you don't have to give them! So believe in God's ability to bring you triumphantly through this difficulty.

Let God change the way you think!

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

# Choices

By: Allen Steble

*We all have a choice...*

To live a lie, or be ourselves...to laugh and cry, or to follow someone else  
To look up and smile, or bow down and frown...to walk the whole mile, or take of our crown

*We have a choice...*

To shout out loud, or chant a whisper...to fly through the clouds, or to be blown like paper  
To conquer our fear or hide in the shadow...to the wise words hear, or be thrown out the window

*We all have a choice...*

To climb our highest mountain, or fall into our deepest hole...to drink from life's fountain  
Or live life like a troubled soul

*We all have a choice...*

*Quote-meal: "The reason many people in our society are miserable, sick, and highly stressed is because of an unhealthy attachment to things they have no control over ."*

**~Author: Steve Maraboli~**

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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



*Life Lesson*

*June 2015*

## *Take It to the Lord*

**"Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you."**

1 Peter 5:7 (GNT)

Dearest Friend:

When Jesus encountered a blind man, His disciples immediately began to discuss the reason for the man's condition. They asked Jesus, "Was this man's blindness the result of his own sins, or the sins of his parents?" Jesus answered, "[He was born blind] so the power of God could be seen in him." **Notice four things:** (1) The disciples were eager to attribute the man's problem to his sin. Satan will try to convince you that because of your sin you're disqualified from God's grace, but you're not! God doesn't examine your past to decide your future. (2) When Jesus healed him, the neighbors were more interested in debating than celebrating—and not much has changed! They started asking, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said that he was... others said, "No" (vv.8-9 NLT). (3) His healing failed the "religiosity test," because the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God...working on the Sabbath" (v.16 NLT). (4) Even the man's parents weren't free to praise God, because "anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue" (v.22 NLT). To the neighbors he was a misfit, to church leaders he was a topic of debate, to his parents he was a social stigma, so they "threw him out" (v.34 NIV).

### **End of story? Thank God—No!**

Jesus...went and found him...[and]...said, "I came...so that those who have never seen will see" (vv.35, 39 TM). So instead of rehashing your problem and listening to other people's opinions, take it to the Lord in prayer. When you share it with others the best you'll get is sympathy, but when you share it with Jesus you'll get a solution.

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

# "God Answers Prayer"

*I know not by what methods rare,  
But this I know, God answers prayers.  
I know that He has given His Word,  
Which tells me prayer is always heard,  
And will be answered, soon or late,  
And so I pray and calmly wait.  
I know not if the blessing sought  
Will come in just the way I thought;  
But leave my prayers with Him alone,  
Whose will is wiser than my own,  
Assured that He will grant my quest,  
Or send some answer far more blest.*

*~Hickok~*

*Quote-meal: "I certainly know that I would not be able to survive if it were not for the fact that I am being upheld by the prayers of so many people."*

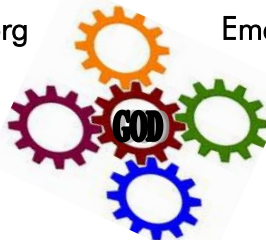
*~Author: Desmond Tutu~*

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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



Life Lesson

August 2015

## "DECISIONS"

*"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." Joshua 24:15 NIV*

Dearest Friend:

What you are today was determined by the decisions you made yesterday. If you want to change your future, learn how to make better decisions today. Here are a few principles to guide you:

- 1) Never make a permanent decision about a temporary situation. When the smoke clears, you'll regret it.
- 2) Never let your emotions blind you to reason. Weigh things prayerfully, and base your decisions on mature judgment.
- 3) Surround yourself with wise people and draw on their gifts without being intimidated by their expertise.
- 4) Take the time to consider all options. What looks good today may not look so good tomorrow.
- 5) You can't fight successfully on every front, so choose your battles carefully. Don't go into a battle where there are no spoils.
- 6) Get all the facts; conjecture leads to crisis.
- 7) Consider the consequences of each option, and ask yourself "Am I ready to handle them right now?"
- 8) Make sure your expectations don't exceed your potential and resources. Be realistic, if you can't sing, don't cut an album.
- 9) Time is your most limited and valuable resource, don't waste it.
- 10) Allow yourself a 10% risk of being wrong, a 50% likelihood of betrayal, and a 100% commitment to survive it all.

*So today, whom will you choose to serve?*

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

## *A Prayer to Aid In Making a Decision*

O God, You know that today — or very soon — I must make a decision which is going to affect my whole life.

Help me to choose rightly — and to choose the right way.

Grant me Your guidance, and with it grant me the humble obedience to accept it.

Help me not necessarily to choose what I want to do, but what You want me to do.

Grant that I may not be swayed solely by fear or by hope of gain, by selfish love of ease or comfort, or by personal ambition, by the desire to escape, or by longing for prestige.

Help me today in humble obedience to say to You, "Lord, what will You have me to do?" and then await Your guidance, and accept Your leading.

Hear this prayer of mine and send an answer so clear that I cannot mistake it.

This I ask for Your love's sake!

Amen.

*~William Barclay~*

### *Quote-meal:*

*"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are."*

*~Roy Disney~*

Would you like to contribute to this Life Lesson? Send your suggestions, prayers, or poems to.

*Valarie Ellis*

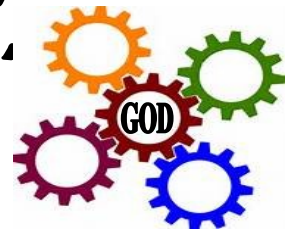
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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



*Life Lesson*

*September 2015*

## **When Your Situation Makes You Laugh At God's Promises**

*"...Wherefore did Sarah laugh...." Genesis 18:1, 9-15 (KJV)*

Dearest Friend,

Have you ever been in a waiting season for a blessing to fall through? You go to church faithfully and meet all your Christianly duties, yet FEEL as if God has turned His back on you. In remembering all the prophecies spoken over your life that has yet to come to pass...and your faith weakens. You know God is real....however, you don't FEEL as if you are on His mind.

Go ahead and laugh at Him and His promises, Sarah did. While God is sitting in the doorway of your situation...LAUGH! Right in her season of waiting on this promised child, Sarah laughed at God. She had given up hope of ever conceiving and settled into a life that she thought was her plight.

Her thoughts bound God into only what she thought He could do. Even in her state of doubt God heard her laugh. He knew she wasn't laughing with Him or at Him, but about Him and His promise. Have you ever laughed at God when things didn't come through? Don't lie like Sarah and say you haven't or didn't laugh.

Good news...the story didn't end with a laugh. Sarah's laughter come from fear and not realizing just how great our God is. God knew that the root of that laughter was doubt, so He posed the question, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" The next line should've given Sarah a clue...one we all miss..."at the time appointed I will return unto the..." A prophecy or promise is declared daily, but the time is appointed by God as to when it'll all come to pass. Rest in the fact that you're not waiting on it to happen when you want it to happen, but in God's appointed time.

Laugh today, because just like in the story...when God spoke His promise about what would happen to Sarah with His back to her, she was still on His mind. Never are we far from God's mind regardless if we FEEL His back is to us. Just maybe that's not such a bad place to be, because He still has you covered.

*Be encouraged!*

*Submitted by Valerie Rhodes #162184 (Florida Women's Reception Center)*

In God I trust,

*Valerie Ellis*



# God's Promises

~By Deborah Ann~

All of God's promises, are for you to receive  
All you have to do...is trust and believe.  
All of His blessings He wants to bestow  
All of His goodness He wants you to know.  
You can find them in the Good Book  
All you have to do...is take a good look.  
They flow all about, woven all through  
The promises of God are waiting for you.  
They hold your future, they'll guide your way  
Comfort and give you strength for the day.  
All of God's promises, are yours to believe  
But, you must open up...  
Your Bible to receive!

*Quote-meal:*

*"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen,  
to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 1:20)*



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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



*Life Lesson*  
*October 2015*

## Who are You and What's Your Name?

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)*

Dearest Friends,

When God spoke His name to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3, He uttered a word so holy that for centuries it was almost never spoken aloud. Moses, a shepherd in the wilderness, was shocked to encounter a bush that was not consumed by the flames that engulfed it. God spoke to Moses out of that burning bush and told him to go to Egypt and liberate the children of Israel from Egyptian slavery. *"But what if they ask me your name?"* Moses asked. The powerful name that God revealed to Moses that day came to be known as the sacred Tetragrammaton; *(the Hebrew name of God converted into Latin, YHWH or JHVH; pronounced Yahweh or Jehovah).*

In Revelation 2:17, the Lord says of the faithful, *"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."* Jesus indicates here that each of the faithful has a new name coming, a name that only the individual and Jesus shall know. This new name will be reflective of God's character and of the individual's own personality. Jesus was, after all, a giver of names during His time. He gave Simon, one of His closest friends, the name Cephas. The name meant rock; we know the name as Peter. *"You are Peter,"* Jesus told him that, *"and upon this rock I will build my church."* (Matt 16:18)

Jesus called two other close friends, James and John, *"Sons of Thunder"*. It was an appropriate name for the brothers because they wanted to call down fire from heaven (Luke 9:54). Jesus gave people names that reflected who they were. It seems that if you were faithful to the Lord, He would give you a secret name that communicated something about you and about Him.

So, think about that the next time someone calls you by your name. Think about that, the next time you pray in the name of Jesus. God gives us the opportunity to live in His name and for His name's sake. When we live in obedience to Him, we honor the name of God, the name that He has permitted us to take upon ourselves. Who are you and what's your name?

*Submitted by Lady Lois Dunbar, Refreshing Spirit COGIC*

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

***Cast thy burdens upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee.***

**Psalm 55:22a (KJV)**

***When burdens come so hard to bare,  
Keep your eyes on the Lord, He's always there.  
He sees the hills that you must climb,  
You're a child of the King, whose there all the time.  
He'll never fail you in your plan,  
Just hold to His unchanging hand.  
Jesus died for you, it wasn't in vain,  
He'll see you through your hurt and pain.  
His love is with you, traveling to and fro,  
He'll walk beside you, just don't you let me go.  
His love and grace is all you need,  
When you lean on Him, His heart is pleased.  
Trust Him fully in all that you do,  
And know that your God is faithful and true.***

**✝ written by Lady Lois Dunbar, Refreshing Spirit COGIC**

***Quote-meal:***

***"That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."***

***~ Shakespeare (Romeo & Juliet) ~***



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# W. H. E. E. L.

*Women Helping Each-other Enter Life*



*Life Lesson*

*November 2015*

## **Stop Putting Yourself Down**

*Jesus asked him... "What is thy name?" Luke 8:30 (KJV)*

Dearest Friends:

Remember the man in Scripture who was possessed by demons? "Jesus asked him... 'What is thy name?' And he said, 'Legion': because many devils were entered into him." (*A legion in the Roman army comprised some six thousand troops.*) "Legion" wasn't this man's real name; it was merely a label. But he'd battled his problem so long that he accepted the label, and defined himself by his experience. Perhaps you've labeled yourself "fat," because you've battled weight for so long with no apparent victory in sight. Or you define yourself as a "victim," because you were abused or taken advantage of by others. Maybe you see yourself as a "failure," because you're divorced, or you have made some bad choices. If so, it's time to lose the negative labels and start seeing yourself the way *God* sees you. Jesus set this tormented man free, gave him back his self-worth, and restored him to his family, and He wants to do the same for you!

Satan will take you from one extreme to the other. He'll make you either boastful or bashful; make you think you're "hot stuff," or convince you that you're worthless. Don't buy it! Self-deprecation is often disguised as humility, when in reality it's a rejection of God's Word, which assures you that you "can do all things through Christ who strengthens [you]" (Phil 4:13 NKJV).

What others call you doesn't matter; what you call yourself does! The bottom line is: "God is able to make all grace abound to *you*, so that in all things, at all times, having all that *you* need, *you* will abound in every good work" (2Cor 9:8 NIV).

***Stop putting yourself down!***

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

## *Are You Sure About This?*

Today, well, I messed up completely...And I've had many days like this before.  
So are you sure you still want to use me...Was what I am what you were looking for?

Lord, I have my issues, You know that...And my flaws stand out loud and clear.  
Will using me be something You regret?...Are You sure You weren't mistaken here?

I'm simple and I can't understand...A lot of things that You have done.

So do I really fit into Your plan...Are You sure that I'm the one?

This job seems so big for me...And I don't want to fail you again.  
I'm just not good enough, can't You see...I'm way to easily tempted to sin.

But it's now that you reassure me,

“I know this is what I want to do... I made and know you completely.

And I really want to use you...I see your flaws, yes there are many.

And your sin was never out of my sight...

But I can take all that and use it for My glory

Through you I'll show them My wonder and might...

So don't worry, I will continue to mold and shape you,

So that when the time comes you will be ready...

You will do all that I've planned for you to do,

And through it all, they will see Me.”

~ by Jessica L ~

*Quote-meal:*

*"The most beautiful thing you can wear is confidence.*

~ Blake Lively ~

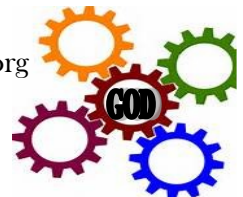
Would you like to contribute to this flyer? Send suggestions, prayers, poems or quotes to:

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# W. H. E. E. L.

Women Helping Each-other Enter Life



## Life Lesson

December 2015

### “A Child is Born”

*“For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11”*

Dearest Friends:

As you wait attentively in His Presence, the Light of the knowledge of His Glory shines upon you. This radiant knowledge transcends all understanding. It transforms every fiber of your being: renewing your mind, cleansing your heart, invigorating your body. Open yourself fully to His Presence: be awed by His Glorious Being.

Try to imagine what Jesus gave up when He came into your world as a baby. He set aside His Glory, so that He could identify with mankind. He accepted the limitations of infancy under the most appalling conditions--*a filthy stable*. That was a dark night for Him, even though Angels lit up the sky proclaiming *“Glory!”* to awe-struck shepherds. *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest.” – Luke 2:13-14*

When you sit quietly with Him, the process that Jesus Christ went through is reversed in your experience. As you identify with Him, heaven’s views will open up before you--granting you a glimpse of His Glory. Jesus became poor so that you might become rich. *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

Sing Hallelujah to His Holy Name!

*This Life Lesson was respectfully submitted by Lady Lois Dunbar, Refreshing Spirit COGIC*

In God I trust,

*Valarie Ellis*

# Plans for the Future

Jesus Christ was born this day  
So many years before  
We celebrate this joyous time  
Reflecting on His birth  
Not born in a mansion, but a stable  
He came so He could identify  
With the human heart of man  
And gave His life as a sacrifice  
Offering a better plan  
A plan that reconciles us back  
To our loving Father God  
Bringing hope and redemption from  
Sins ruling iron rod  
For this is the only reason that we  
Should celebrate this day  
To become focused on anything else  
Would take the meaning away  
So let's arise with joy in our hearts  
And share it with everyone

The meaning of Christmas will always be  
The birth of Jesus - God's son

*Quote-meal: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

~Jeremiah 29:11~

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