WHAT'S COMING UP?

Main Sessions: 10 - 11:30am Tues-Wed/Thurs-Fri

Walk through Galatians:

Second Sessions: 12 - 12:45pm

Practical Tips: Handling Conflict Tuesday:

Wednesday: Transformational: Silent Communion

Reflective: Lifelines Friday:

Integrative: Prayer Ministry with Community. Saturday:

[+ lots of great stuff, space and scenery]

+THURSDAY WORSHIP NIGHT

peace patience kindness

faithfulness

gentleness

self control

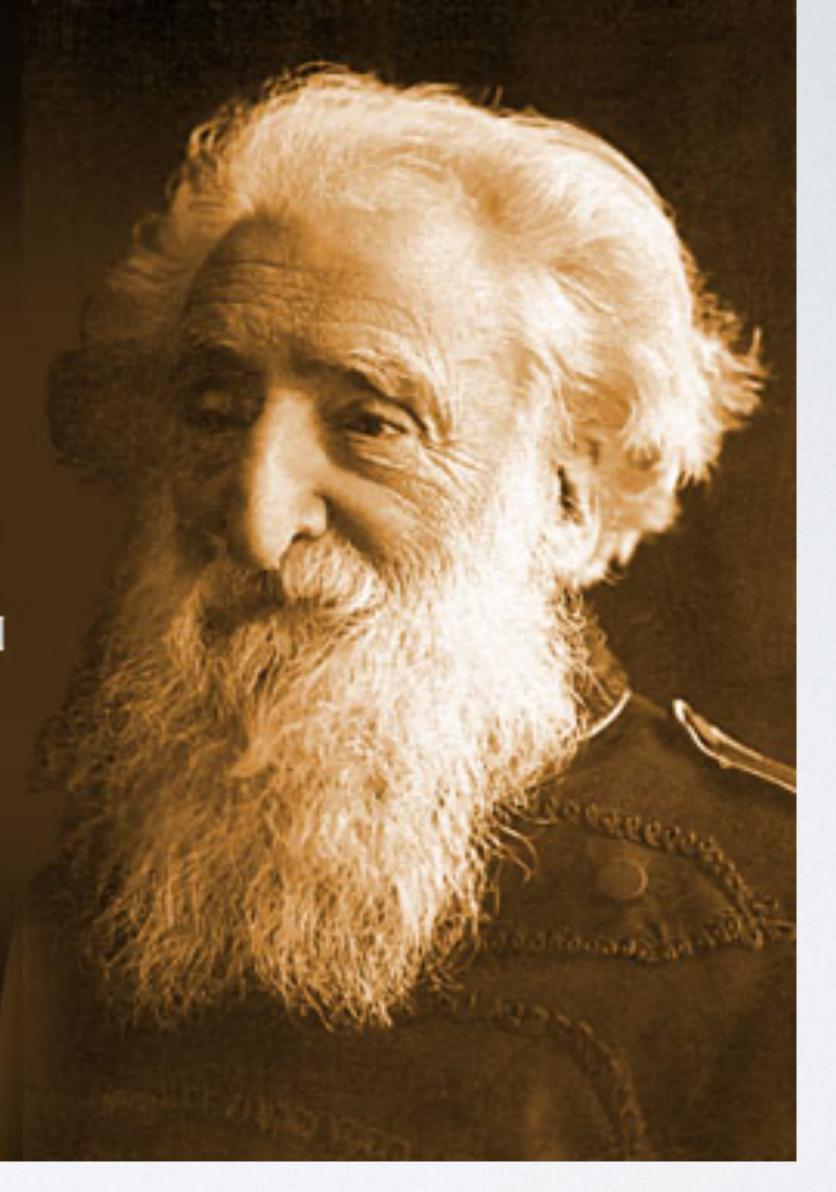




GALATIANS 5

LEE ABBEY 2022

"THE CHIEF DANGER THAT CONFRONTS THE COMING CENTURY WILL BE RELIGION WITHOUT THE HOLY GHOST, CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT CHRIST, FORGIVENESS WITH-OUT REPENTANCE, SALVATION WITHOUT REGENERATION, POLITICS WITHOUT GOD, HEAVEN WITHOUT HELL." -WILLIAM BOOTH



William Booth, 1829 - 1912 founder, Salvation Army

WE ARE NOT CHILDREN OF THE SLAVE WOMAN, BUT OF THE FREE WOMAN



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THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

'Now the works of the flesh' Paul says, are plain. They are obvious to all.

The flesh itself, our old nature, is secret and invisible, but its works, the words and deeds in which it erupts, are public and evident. What are they?

Before looking at his list of 'the works of the flesh', something further needs to be said about the expression 'the lust of the flesh' (verse 16 AV). For him 'the lusts of the flesh' are all the 'sinful desires of our fallen nature.' His ugly catalogue of 'the works of the flesh' puts this beyond question.

This is not to say that his list is exhaustive, for he ends it by saying 'and the like' (verse 21). But those he includes seem to belong to at least four realms – sex, religion, society and drink.

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THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

First, the realm of sex: *immorality, impurity, licentiousness* (verse 19). The word for 'immorality' is normally translated 'fornication' (so AV, NEB), meaning sexual intercourse between unmarried people, but may refer to any kind of unlawful sexual behaviour. Perhaps 'impurity' should be rendered by 'unnatural vice' and 'licentiousness by 'indecency' (NEB), alluding to 'an open and reckless contempt of propriety'. These three words are sufficient to show that all sexual offences, whether public or private, whether between the married or the unmarried, whether 'natural' or 'unnatural', are to be classed as works of the flesh.

Secondly, the realm of religion: (idolatry, sorcery* (verse 20). It is important to see that idolatry is as much a work of the flesh as immorality, and that thus the works of the flesh include offences against God as well as against our neighbour or ourselves. If 'idolatry' is the brazen worship of other gods, 'sorcery' is 'the secret tampering with the powers of evil'.

Thirdly the realm of society. Paul now gives us eight examples of the breakdown of personal relationships, which the New English Bible translates 'quarrels, a contentious temper, envy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions (or 'temper tantrums' and 'canvassing for office'). dissensions, party intrigues, and jealousies' (verses 20, 21).

Fourthly, the realm of drink *drunkenness, carousing* (or NEB 'drinking bouts orgies', verse 21).

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THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

To this list of the works of the flesh in the realms of sex, religion, society and drink, Paul now adds a solemn warning:

• "I warn you as I warned you before [when he was with them in Galatia], that those who do such things [the verb prassontes referring to habitual practice rather than an isolated lapse] shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (verse 21).

Since God's kingdom is a kingdom of godliness, righteousness and self-control, **those** who indulge in the works of the flesh will be excluded from it. For such works give evidence that they are not in Christ. And if they are not in Christ, then they are not Abraham's seed, nor 'heirs according to the promise' (3:29).

[For other references to our inheritance in Christ, expected or forfeited, see Galatians 4:7, 30].

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John Stott

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

A cluster of nine Christian graces - attitude to God, to other people and to ourselves

Love, joy, peace. General Christian virtues. Primarily concern our attitude towards God, for a Christian's first love is his love for God, his chief joy is his joy in God and his deepest peace is his peace with God.

Patience, kindness, goodness These are social virtues, humanward rather than Godward in their direction. 'Patience' is longsuffering towards those who aggravate or persecute. 'Kindness' is a question of disposition, and 'goodness' of words and deeds.

Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control 'Faithfulness' (AV 'faith') appears to describe the reliability of a Christian. 'Gentleness' is that humble meekness which Christ exhibited (Mt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1). And both are aspects of the 'self-mastery', or 'self-control', which conclude the list.

jon

peace

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

self control

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"So we may say that the primary direction of 'love, joy, peace' is Godward, of 'patience, kindness, goodness' - humanward, and of 'faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' - selfward.

And all these are 'the fruit of the Spirit', the natural produce that appears in the lives of Spirit-led Christians.

No wonder Paul adds again: 'against such there is no law' (verse 23). For the function of the law is to curb, to restrain, to deter, and no deterrent is needed here."

John Stott

palience kindness faithfulness self control

FRUIT VS FLESH

Having examined 'the works of the flesh' and 'the fruit of the Spirit' separately, it should be even clearer to us than before that 'the flesh' and 'the Spirit' are in active conflict with one another. They are pulling in opposite directions. **There exists between the two 'an interminable, deadly feud'**. And the result of this conflict is: 'so that what you will to do you cannot do' (end of verse 17, NEB). The parallel between this little phrase and the second part of Romans 7 is, in my judgment, too close to be accidental.

Every renewed Christian can say 'I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self' (Rom. 7:22). That is, 'I love and long to do it. My new nature hungers for God, for godliness and for goodness. I want to be good and to do good.'

That is the language of every regenerate believer. 'But', he has to add, 'by myself, even with these new desires, I cannot do what I want to do. Why not?

Because of sin that dwells within me.' Or, as the apostle expresses it here in Galatians 5, 'because of the strong desires of the flesh which lust against the Spirit'

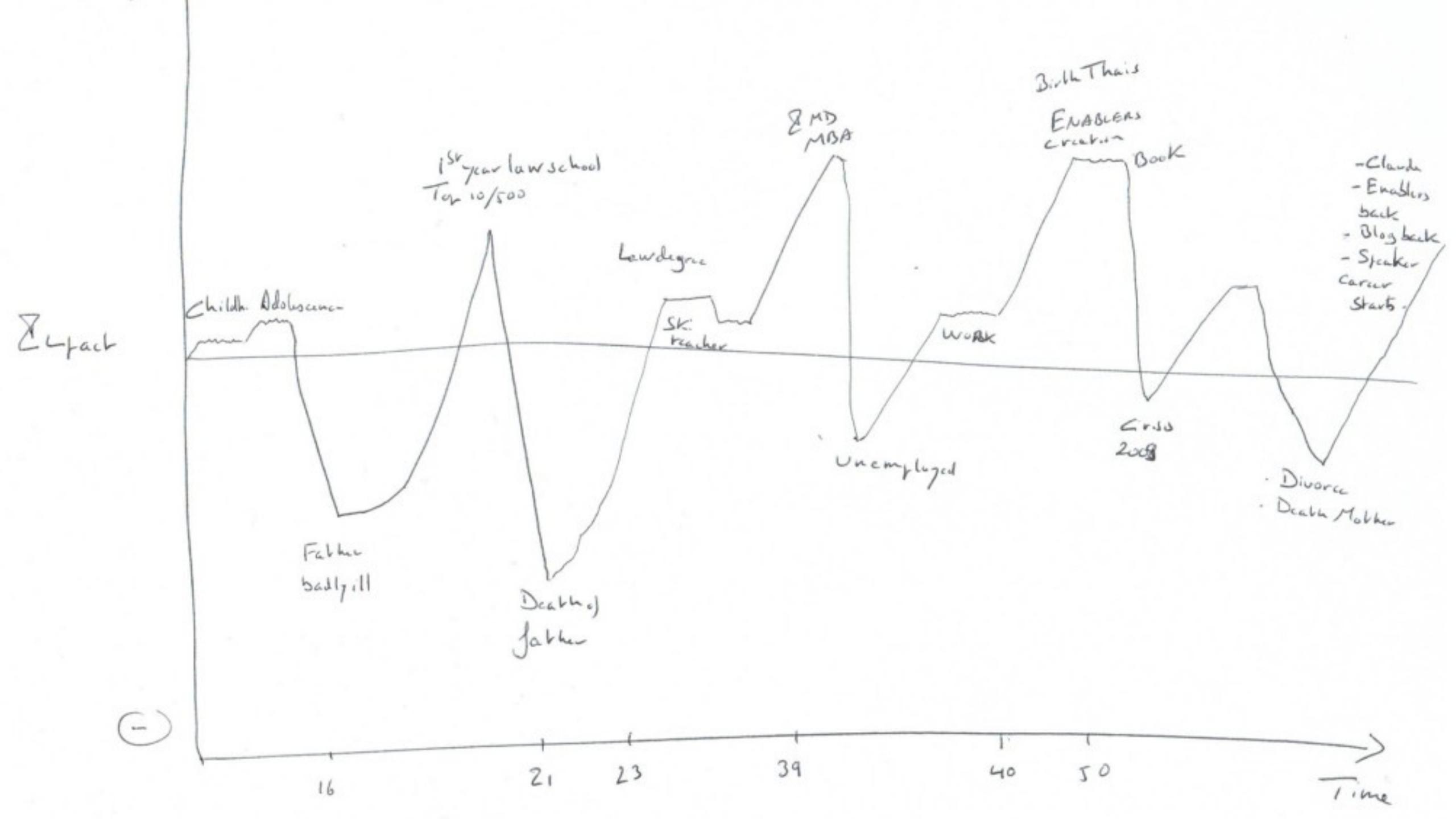
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THE FIGHT FOR FRUITFULNESS

This is the Christian conflict – fierce, bitter and unremitting. Moreover, it is a conflict in which by themselves the Christian simply cannot be victorious. They are obliged to say 'I can will what is right, but I cannot do it' (Rom. 7:18) or, 'I am not free to carry out my good intentions' (Gal.5:17, NLT).

'Is that the whole story?' some perplexed reader will be asking. 'Is the tragic confession that "I cannot do what I want to do" the last word about a Christian's inner, moral conflict? Is this all Christianity offers - an experience of continuous defeat? Indeed, it is not. If we were left to ourselves, we could not do what we now want to; instead, we would succumb to the desires of our old nature. But if we 'walk by the Spirit' Verse (16), 'then' we shall not gratify the desires of the flesh. We shall still experience them, but we shall not indulge them. On the contrary, we shall bear the fruit of the Spirit. - John Stott

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Galatians

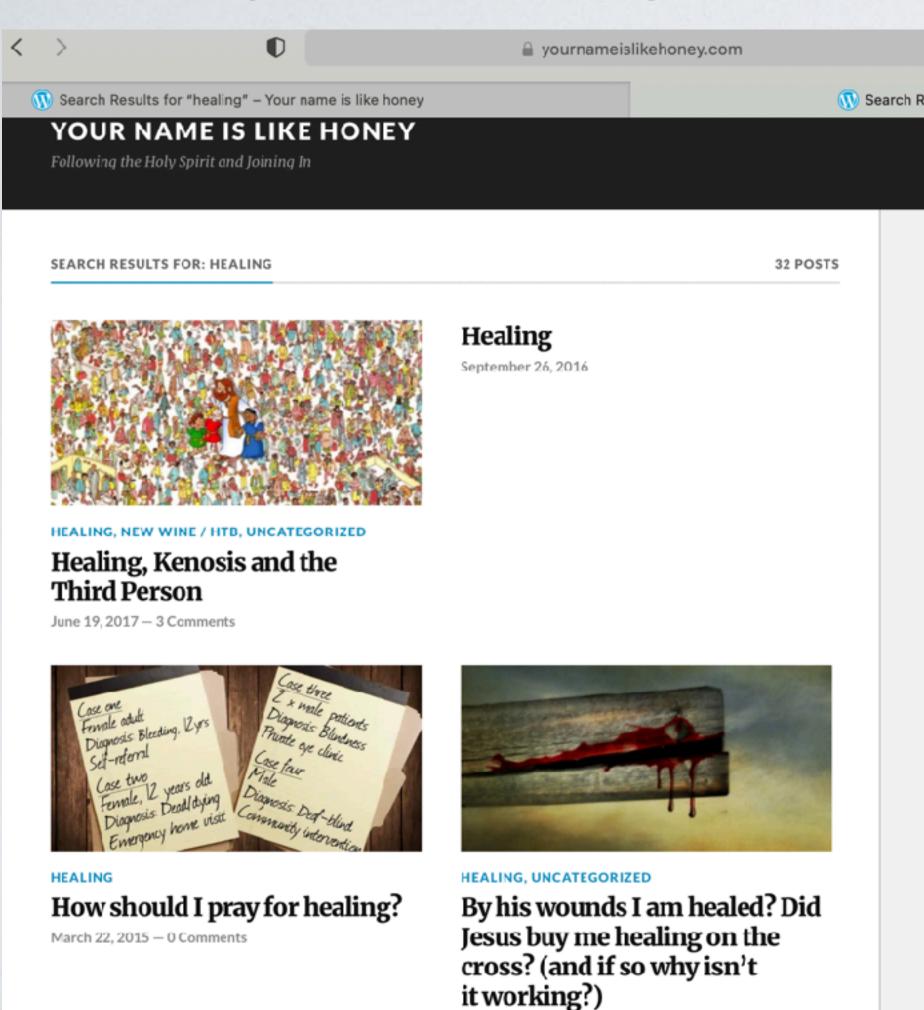




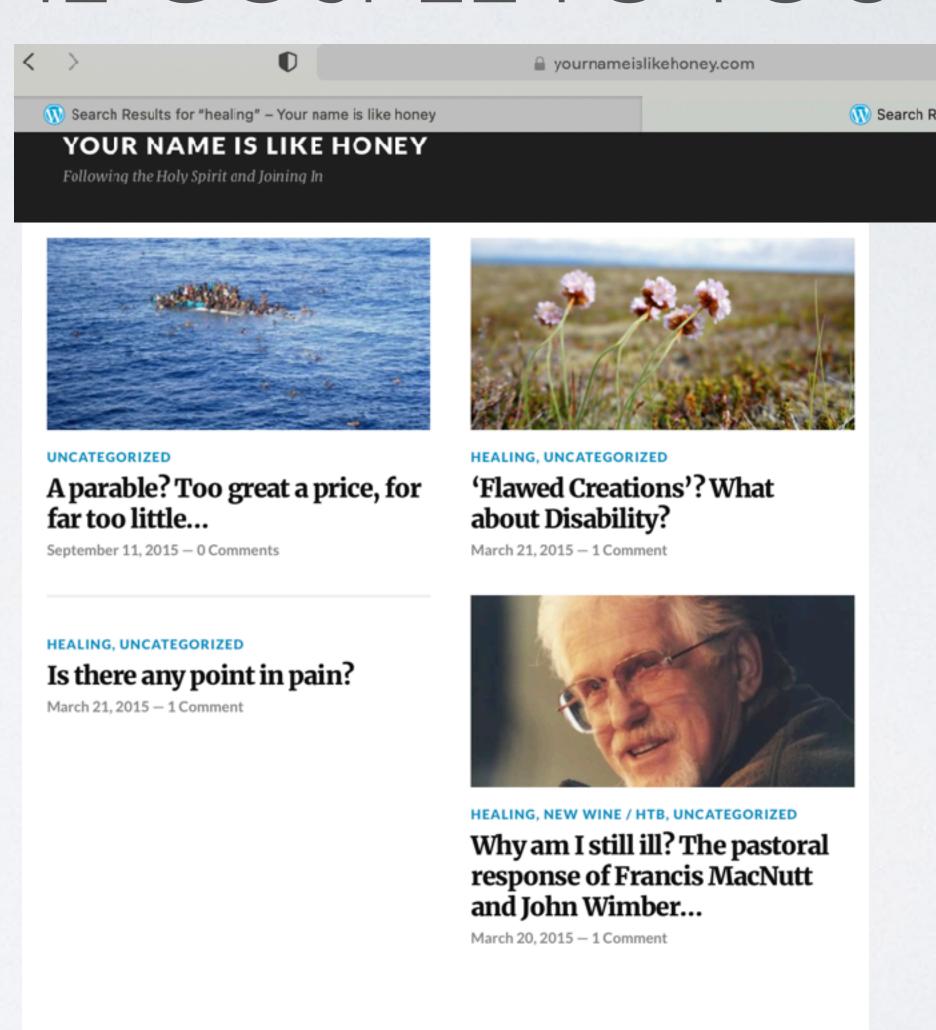
WHERE DO I NEED TO BE TO DAY?



IT WAS BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS THAT I FIRST PREACHED THE GOSPELTO YOU



March 21, 2015 - 1 Comment

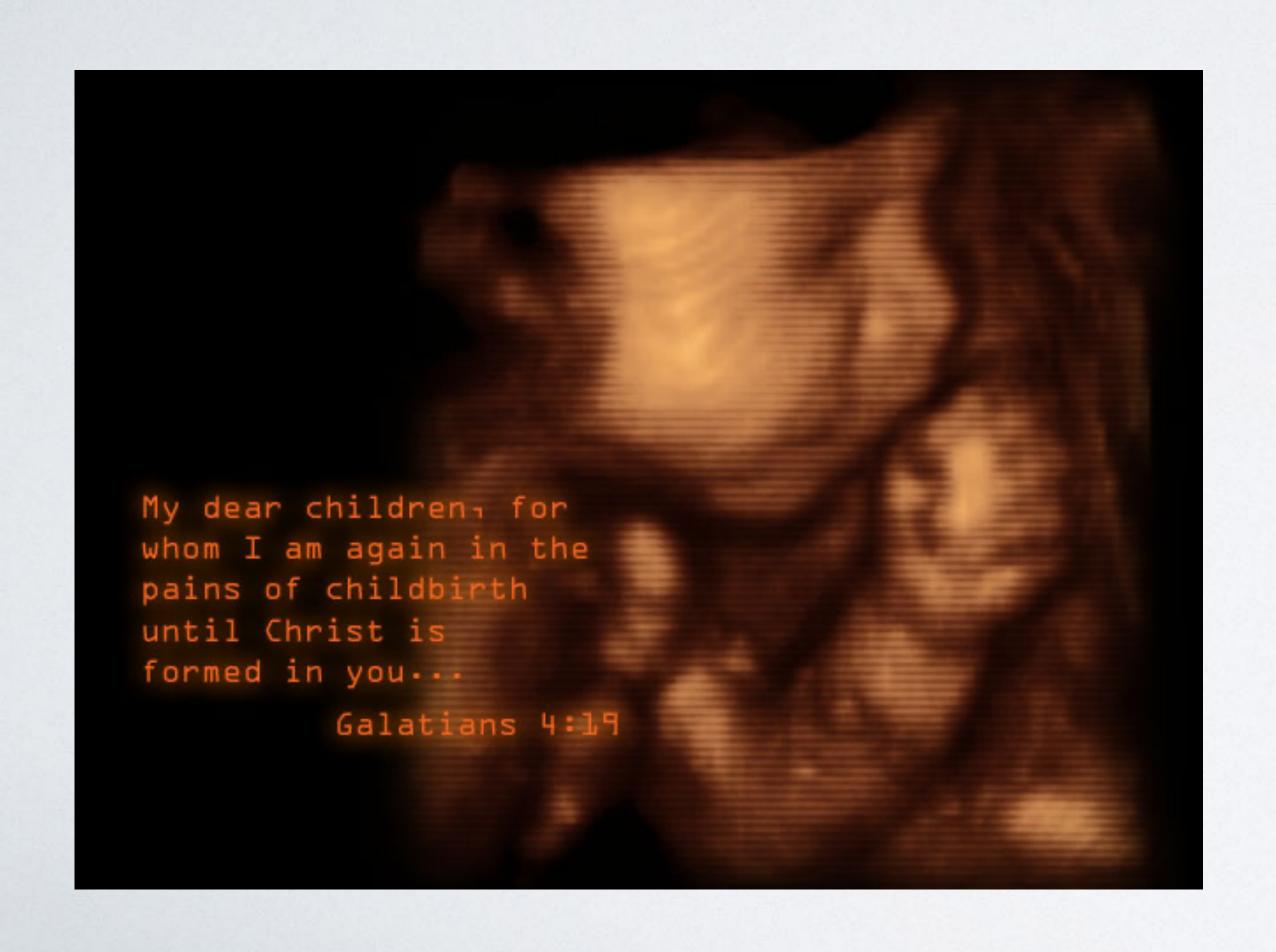


patience kindness

gentleness self control

https://yournameislikehoney.com/?s=healing

I AM AGAIN IN THE PAINS OF CHILDBIRTH UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU...



love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness self control

