



SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*



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James 1:2-4 (KJV)

² ***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;***

³ ***Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.***

⁴ ***But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***

This verse is very easy to quote in Church when everything is going well. But when the bill collector calls, the car needs tires, or the doctor gives you a bad report, it may not be as easy when the tests and trials present themselves.

But wait, I HAVE GOOD NEWS! There is a way to consider EVERYTHING JOY! There is a way that we can go through life with a smile on our faces and laughter in our hearts. It probably won't be easy at first, but YOU CAN DO IT!

God has made promises to us in His Word. If we are Born-Again Christians, then these promises APPLY TO US! Now here is the key: We need to actually believe that God is telling the truth, and if we actually believe that He is capable of doing what He said He would do, then we will have no fear of anything.

Paul and Silas were preaching the gospel, they got into some real messes. Once as they were going to pray, a demon-possessed slave girl kept following them and mockingly gave them praise (Acts 16:16-26). After a time, the Holy Spirit revealed to the Apostle what the problem was and Paul turned to her and said to the spirit, ***"I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out that same hour."***

When the slave girls' owners saw that the demon was gone, they were upset. They had used her to tell fortunes and had made a lot of money with her, but with the demon gone, they had lost their meal ticket.

They proceeded to take Paul and Silas to the magistrates, and accused them of teaching things that were unlawful.

The magistrates stripped Paul and Silas and commanded that they be beaten with rods. After they were beaten severely, they were thrown into the inner prison and put into stocks. The Roman stocks were not like the ones we see in the movies. The stocks in the movies have three holes—the center one for the head and the two outer ones for the hands. The Roman stocks were for the feet. The holes were so far apart that many times bones were broken while putting a prisoner in them. It was not uncommon for a prisoner in stocks to never be able to walk again. It was not a thing to be taken lightly.

So, get this picture. Paul and Silas were in the inner prison. There were no sanitation facilities. They had been stripped and beaten severely with rods. Their open wounds were in the dirt and sewage. Their legs were stretched severely in the stocks, and it was dark. There were no prisoners' rights in the Roman jails.

What do you think you would do in the same situation? **Acts 16:25 (KJV)**

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. Paul and Silas believed that their God would deliver them.

Acts 16:26 (KJV)

²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. Notice, EVERYONE WAS LOOSED! Would Paul and Silas have been miraculously released if they had not been in praying AND praising? The Word doesn't say, but I believe that had they been griping and complaining, I don't think it would have happened.

All of us without thinking about it, ACT ON WHAT WE BELIEVE. We need to have faith in God and His Word. **Psalm 34:19 (KJV)**

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."

KATHY AND I DECREE YOU BLESSED IN JESUS NAME!

Agape Love,
Pastor Don Sister Kathy
MATT 6:33



From American Minute with Bill Federer

Plato on How Democracies Collapse: “The manner of life...is that of democrats...every man does what is right in his own eyes,” Ben Franklin “Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom.

Plato was a Greek philosopher who lived in the city-state of Athens. In 380 BC, **Plato** wrote *The Republic*, where he described in Books 8 and 9: “States are as the men are; they grow out of human characters.” “Like state, like man”...

The *Republic* is written by **Plato** as a collection of conversations made by his teacher, **Socrates**. It gives insights into **human behavior** which is amazingly applicable to today.

Plato described government going through FIVE STAGES: “The constitutions of states are five.” The FIVE STAGES ARE: “We count as one **Royal and Aristocratical...**” followed by **Timocratical, Oligarchical, Democratical, Tyrannical.**

Plato’s FIRST stage was called “**Royal**” or “**Aristocracy...**whom we rightly call just and good.” This is a government led by hard-working virtuous LOVERS OF “TRUTH” and “WISDOM.”

These are responsible individuals who know how to successfully run **businesses, farms, and entrepreneurial enterprises**, leaving them ideally equipped with the skills to successfully run a **city government**.

“A ruler considers...always what is for **the interest of his subject...**and that alone he considers in everything which he says and does.”

The SECOND stage **Plato** called “**Timocracy.**” This was a government run by LOVERS OF “HONOR and “FAME.”

Plato wrote: “Now what man answers to this form of government...He is a...lover of honor; claiming to be a ruler...Busy-bodies are honored and applauded.”

These may include a popular **actor** from the Greek theater; or a popular **musician or singer**; or a famous Greek Olympic **athlete**; or a renowned **warrior**; or just a political **busy-body** craving attention.

Their intense desire for honor and fame leaves them susceptible to being **swayed either by praise and flattery on one side, or the fear of ridicule on the other.**

They enter politics with the best of intentions, but **having no experience running anything successfully**, they yield to “AVARICE” or covetousness and begin to vote them, their family and friends, favors out of the city treasury.

Plato added: “Such an one will despise riches only when he is young; but as he gets older he will be more and more attracted to them, because he has a piece of the avaricious nature in him, and is not single-minded towards virtue...Not originally of a bad nature, but having kept bad company, is at last brought...to...contentiousness and passion, and becomes arrogant and ambitious...Is not the passionate element wholly set on ruling...and getting fame? True. Suppose we call it the contentious or ambitious...”

Plato added: “The love of honor turns to love of money; the conversion is instantaneous. Because they have no means of openly acquiring the money which they prize; they will spend that which is another man’s.”

(Continuing on with stage three next month)

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2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

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Jesus Our Jubilee, February 25, 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A TRIBUTE

The Bible means so much to so many souls that follow God, believes Jesus is His Son, who died for everyone regardless of their skin color and doers of His Word! Let's begin with a Poet:

Phillis Wheatley Peters (c. 1753 – December 5, 1784) was a slave owned by John and Susanna Wheatley who named her once arriving in America into the Boston area.

After seeing Phillis's interest in writing, she was not given slave duties but allowed her to learn to read and write and encouraged her poetry. She is the first black to write and publish in America. She seldom referenced herself in her poems. However, this poem has a glimpse of her life that is the picture of so many of Black American Heritage:

"Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there's a God, that there's a Saviour too:
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
"Their colour is a diabolic dye."
Remember, Christians, Negroes, black as Cain,
May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train."

There are many African Americans that have contributed to the development and growth Biblically, throughout the United States of America and the world, yet so little is taught to people while in secondary and college schools and if taught only during February schools are inclined to give a few hours to the subject. Black history is American history; therefore, Black History matters every day not just when it began in February 1926 (Dr Carter G. Woodson) later expanded in 1976! Let's be clear, it's all of our history!

Most Bible teachers believe that Black people are descendants of Noah's son Ham ([Genesis 10:6–20](#)), but we cannot be sure since the Bible does not specifically say. In further research, African American (Blacks, Negroes) in the Bible, we also learn that Ebed-Melech was a Cushite servant of the King of Judah. Ebed-Melech risk his life to save Jeremiah from the pit his brothers lowered him in; Simone of Cyrene who is likely black from Northern Africa due to complexions known in the region and was chosen to help Jesus carry the cross; here in Oregon, we have had a number of first; Soloman's Bride who is portrayed in his song as saying "I am dark and lovely like Kedar's tents, like Solomon's curtains," her identity isn't specifically stated, yet we can imagine it still.

An author writes “When it comes to skin color, the Bible is consistently silent. The color of the skin is not as important to God as the condition of the heart. The gospel is universal good news. Black people, white people, and every shade in between are invited to come to Christ for salvation. By the grace of God we can take our eyes off of the skin and focus on the soul” and I add, definitely not just during February’s Black History Month.

This is a brief chronology of African American History in Oregon. Thanks to Oregon Black Pioneers research in Perseverance: A History of African Americans in Oregon’s Marion & Polk Counties (Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers)

1788 Marcus Lopus (Lopez) is the first person of African descent known to set foot in Oregon

Moses Harris born around 1800 led wagon trains into Oregon

1803-06: York, William Clark’s slave, explores the West with Lewis & Clark

1844: Slavery is declared illegal in Oregon Country, freeing slaves but established exclusion law that requires Black to leave within 3 years

Between 1844 – 1863 several families came into Oregon. Emancipation Proclamation came in 1863 (Abraham Lincoln)

1866, the Oregon Legislature passed the 14th Amendment, granting citizenship to African Americans. OL also outlawed marriage between whites and persons with ¼ Negro-blood and non-whites (Chinese, Kanakas (native Hawaiians) and Native Americans).

1948 William Tebeau graduates from Oregon State College (later OSU)

1853 Louis Southworth

1966 Claudia Thompson becomes Salem’s first Black Nurse

1970 Salem first NAACP chapter is formed

Willamette University hires its first Black professor, William N Powell

1976 Geraldine Hammond is named Salem’s first African American School Principal

1984 Margaret Carter, 1st African American woman elected to State Legislature

1987 Willie B Richardson 1st African American elected to Salem-Keizer School Board

1992 Jim Hill of Salem elected to Oregon state treasurer, 1st statewide office

1998 M Lee Pelton African American named president of Willamette University

Jackie Winters becomes first black Republican to the State Legislature

2002 Exclusion law was eliminated

2010 Sheryl A Thomas becomes Salem's first black city councilor

African-American Men and Women.

- Harriet Tubman - Underground Railroad "Conductor," Civil Rights Activist
- Alice Ball – Chemist
- Josephine Baker – Singer, Dancer, Civil Rights Activist
- Martin Luther King, Jr – Baptist Minister and Social Activist
- Rose Parks – Civil Rights Activist
- Mary Jackson – Scientist, Mathematician, NASA's First Black Female Engineer
- Maya Angelou – Civil Rights Activist, Author, Poet
- Joyclyn Elders – First African-American U.S. Surgeon General
- Colin Powell – U.S. Secretary of State, Four-Star General (U.S. Army)
- Barack Obama – U.S. President, U.S. Senator, Lawyer
- Kamala Harris – 1st U.S. "Female" Vice President

This is an excellent tribute reading by:

John Lewis

"Freedom is not a state; it is an act. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society..."

Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble...

Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with goodness. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself."