I AM GLAD !

In this Newsletter I want to share with you those precious times and things that I am GLAD for! Let’s ask the Psalmist David to start us off!

**Ps 16:5** The LORD is the **Portion** of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou **Maintainest** my lot.

 **6** The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly Heritage.

 **7** I will bless the LORD, who **hath given me counsel**: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

 **8** ¶ I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

 **9** Therefore my **Heart is GLAD**, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

**11** Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

 What are you saying to us Psalmist David? Share with us your heart! “The Lord is my **main part** in Life – He gave me a **spiritual Inheritance**, and He is **maintaining me.** I’ve had many battles, many enemies but He is Keeping me going. The Lord has given me **Counsel** and by it, the reins of my Heart **instruct** me. My God knows how to guide! The Lord talks to me and my Heart listens – my inward Conscience won’t let me stray from God! I’m holding on and keeping what I know is right and I know I shall be saved! I’ve set the Lord before me, I keep Him ever at my side, I know I shall not be moved, my Enemy – the Devil cannot remove me or take what I have away! God has shown me the Path of Life. There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen and I am walking in it. My Lord is with me and my Joy is full!

LOOKING BACK ON MY PAST

 On my riding mower recently while I was mowing my lawn, as I was making circles around our property, I went back in my mind to when I was a young boy in High School. I’m now 71 years old – I can tell you – My God has been Merciful, He has been so good to me! April 28th was my Spiritual birthday when I gave my heart and life to Jesus 51 years ago – down on bended knees, He gloriously Saved my soul! While on the mower, I looked at my aging hands that were on the steering wheel in front of me, I thought so deeply of What and Who I am today and Where I am right NOW compared to How I was and Where I was back then when I was in High School. My life was a wreck, I was in a horrible shape! My precious Lord has brought me a mighty long way! I relived my whole life during the hour that I was on that mower. Many scenes played themselves out in my mind and thoughts.

Looking back to the 11th grade when my life started **unraveling** – I was influenced by my worldly friends and the wrong crowd I was hanging around. This world had a strong hold on me! I was heading down the wrong path, farther and farther away from God – I was so Lost in my soul – No one knows the anguish I had inside – the addictions and bondage to sin! Listen, I had several very close calls – I faced death and came so close to losing my life because I was in the wrong places and doing the wrong things. The Devil was pulling for my very life and soul to mess it up forever and destroy me! How could a young boy who was raised in Church, go to such lows? O the power of Satan and the deceitfulness of sin!!

Three different people had a dream that I was killed in a car wreck, they saw the car rolling and the glass breaking! I’ve been to death’s door, even to Hells gate and I stared it right in the very face - through the drugs and alcohol, flying down the road, power shifting the high powered motor, and losing control, the car spinning completely around barely missing the oncoming traffic! I’m now terribly ashamed to even mention any of this, but looking back, I want to tell you the teachings and the Prayers of a loving Christian Mother – it reached me and it touched me!! It brought Mercy and the Grace of God and Salvation to me!! – **I Love you Lord Jesus**!! My God is **REAL!**

I’ve been in a car with 3 other boys and the driver lost control taking a curve too fast, run off the road, hitting the gravels sliding, coming back on the road and cross over and ending up in a ditch backwards, thank God there wasn’t any cars in the other lane coming around that curve! I want you to know that God’s grace kept me from going out into Eternity Lost! O dear reader, how far will God reach to the lost soul of a loved one or friend out in Sin? **Your prayers are holding death back from your loved ones and keeping them out of Hell,** no matter what sins they’re involved in!! God is able to reach them, convict them and turn them!! Praise God, I am a Holy Ghost filled preacher and writer today, a living Testimony of the power of prayer! Dear reader, God will do this for you, He’ll do it for your loved ones too!! I gave my heart to Jesus when I was 20 years old. I have given my testimony, preached it, wrote about it literally hundreds of times to thousands during these 51 years! I’ve seen many come to the Lord – **My God is Real!!**

MY DEAR PRAYING MOTHER

 I give great Honor to my dear Mother who is in Heaven now this special Mother’s Day! I’ve had my dear **Praying Mother** to stop me at the door while the boys in the car were out in the driveway honking their horn for me to come join them. I was 20 years old!! I was my Mom and Dad’s only Child, their only Son!! I am writing all this with tears in my eyes now and a bleeding heart!! When I would get to the door getting ready to open it, walk out and climb into that midnight blue 1967 Chevelle with a 396 high horsepower racing engine, Mom would stop me and say – Honey, wait a minute. She would go in the living room, get her Bible and would come and stand in front of me and read me scriptures from God’s Holy Word! She sowed the Seed in my Heart that would bring Holy Ghost conviction and turn my life around and bring me to the Lord!!

Mom would say to me, “Honey, your Dad and I have done our best to raise you and teach you right from wrong!” My Mother’s words still ring in my ears today as she would say to me there at the door – “Honey, Mother can’t go with you out there, but Son know this, Mommy is telling you right – God has an all-seeing eye and He knows everything you’re doing. If something bad happens to you and you die, you’ll be like the Rich man in the Bible, you’ll lift up your eyes in torment in Hell and you’ll never get out!” She would then wrap her arms around me and hug me and tell me she loved me before I stepped out the door. I can still feel her warm arms embracing me now in my memory!! If I should live to be a hundred, I don’t believe I could ever forget it!! Can It tell you – The Love of God wins, it still rescues, it turns lives around and saves!!!

 You might say to me - Brother Tommy, why did you title your message “I AM GLAD?” It’s because I am Glad that I was raised in a Christian Home and taught Right from Wrong! The family Bible was the Master piece that Graced the Living Room table that my Mom would pick up and read to me! She instilled in my heart to fear the Lord!

 I can tell you, Holy Ghost Conviction got a hold of my Heart! I ran from God for about 2 years, my bed got too short that I couldn’t hardly sleep, I got to where I couldn’t hardly eat, I was so miserable that nothing would satisfy me! All I could see was my lost condition! I was so scared and afraid to die!

I am Glad that I listened! I’m Glad I didn’t turn my Mother and God away! I’m Glad that God dealt with me while I was tender! I am Glad He drew me, He dealt with me and He showed me this Good Sweet Holy Way! I’m Glad He Called me – I heard the Lord’s voice and I followed! I’m so Glad today that I Obeyed! Children, I am a trophy of God’s Grace that He snatched me out of this world and the Devil’s hand! I’m Saved today and have the sweet Holy Ghost and Eternal Life abiding in my Heart! I’m Glad I’m free from this world, it’s bondages and Sins!!

What else Brother Tommy are you Glad for? I am truly Glad for my precious Wife God gave me almost 46 years ago, who has been a true and faithful companion and helpmate. She’s the Love of my life that has Graced our home and the work in the ministry! I know she will get a GREAT reward! I’ve been so BLESSED! I am Glad for my Good Holiness Home Church! It is my Sanctuary, my Inspiration and Haven of Help, where the Spirit of God flows, touches and Blesses! I am Glad for my Dear Pastor – Brother Jason Paynter, who loves his people, his precious flock and preaches to us the Truth, the Way to Heaven, the Way to Eternal life to escape the awful place called Hell. This is the House the Lord is building! I am Glad for the Peace and Joy I have in my Heart, that I have Jesus and a Home in Heaven waiting on me!!

I want to tell everyone in this Newsletter – “Sin is deceitful, it is luring, it’s strong and persuasive – it’ll take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you far more that you ever want to pay!” The Devil would like to use anything and everything he can to take you down and destroy you. He’ll use wrong people, he’ll use every method and enticement he can to pull you out and away from the Lord – Don’t listen to him – don’t let him do it! Stay in Church, Stay with Jesus, Stay in the House of God where the Convicting and drawing power of the Holy Ghost and the Word of God is!!

A BACKSLIDDEN DAD AND HIS TWO SONS

Many years ago, I heard a Preacher in His message telling a true story about a Christian Dad who went to Church with his wife and two sons. The whole family were doing good. They prayed and was dedicated to the Lord. For some reason, the Dad began to gradually let up – he gradually grew cold on God and after a while, he began to miss Church. He ended up backsliding on God. It wasn’t long till he pulled his two boys out of Church and got them involved in playing Ball. His wife begged him to get back in Church…… Honey please bring our boys and get back in Church before something bad happens. She begged him for weeks. Revivals would come and go but he wasn’t interested and stayed out! His heart was wrapped up in ball and got his sons involved.

 In Church one night while the service was going on, the lights flickered and suddenly went dim in the house. The Ball field was in the neighborhood not far from Church. One of the players hit the ball and it went up high and stuck in the fence. The Dad climbed up to get the Ball and he touched an electric wire, with his hands grounded the voltage surged through him, he couldn’t break free and he died inches from the Ball. As he slipped into Hell, the last image that’ll be forever stuck in his mind is that ball field and his backslidden soul hanging on the fence not far from the Church he once attended and worshipped in!

 **O God have mercy** upon the souls who let this world and trivial earthly things pull them away from the Lord!

WE ONLY ONE CHANCE

 Children, we only have ONE CHANCE through, if you miss it and **don’t get it right**, there’s no coming back to do it over, it’s forever gone!

**Pr 22:6** ¶ **Train** up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

(I read a Statistic that 85% of people who are Saved - most come to Jesus when they are 12 to 14 years old, while they are still tender and receptive in heart! When the Holy Seed of God’s word and teachings are sown in their hearts at a tender age, they can never get away from it! Somewhere down the road, deep in their conscience, many have returned to the Lord to serve Him because of how they were taught in the ways of the Lord and being in Church.) Dear reader, don’t give up on your loved ones. Pray that God stirs them in the fear of the Lord!

**Ecc. 12:1** ¶ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

(What are you saying to us Lord through the writer Solomon? Serve God while you’re young, while you’re tender and receptive; if you don’t, the evil days will come when you get old. Your heart inside will get hard and the body will break down – and you won’t have God or any peace when it comes time to die!! You turned God and Conviction away and forfeited your chance of Salvation!)

**Heb 4:7** Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will **hear his voice**, harden not your hearts.

**Ecc. 11:9** Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

**Ecc. 12:13** Solomon finishes out his Book by saying - ¶ Let us hear the **conclusion** of the whole matter: **Fear God**, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

 **14** For God shall bring every work into Judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

 In ending this Newsletter, let us pause for a moment to look back to where we once were to where the Lord has brought us in His Mercy today!! O where we could have been and the awful shape, even in Hell, had it not been for the Grace of God and someone caring and praying for us!! Children, pray for your Loved Ones, God still hears and answers.

MY PRAYER REQUEST

 Pray for me! I recently was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst case, mine is ranked 7. I will be starting Radiation treatments at the Oncologist Cancer center at St. Mary’s Hospital in Huntington, WV. within the next 2 to 3 weeks. I have no fear! I have truly been Blessed and have no regrets! I count myself happy and have the sweetest peace in my soul! I’m ready to go or I’m ready to stay – “To my God be the Glory!” My Jesus is PRECIOUS, I dearly Love Him so!! He’s my Life and He’s more precious than Gold! I can’t wait to see Him, when my work here is through!!

**May God Bless all my dear Readers!**