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 **THE FRUITS OF NATURE**
BORN OF GOD'S LOVE BY PASTOR PRAYLOW

Regardless of where our journey continues to take us, we can be encouraged by the assurance that God abides with us. Scriptures tell us in the Gospel of John, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing,” (John 15: 5). Isn’t that good news, that God abide with us – come what may. The challenge we have all along our journey is reminding ourselves, wherever the road takes us, to continue to abide in God’s love. So easily, we can get caught in the rhythm of trying to figure out life ourselves. Sometimes we grow into becoming our own “solution.” Daily, Jesus invites us to abide in God so that the Spirit of God may abide in us. Just as a branch stays connected to the vine, we too, as children of God, must stay connected to our source, Jesus. Eventually, somewhere along our journey, we encounter the reality that apart from God, life is not as easy.



As we journey into our corporate and familiar observances of Mother's Day and give thanks for the gift of nurture given to us by our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, teachers, spiritual parents, church mothers, mentors and all women who answer the call to "care", I am reminded of the metaphor of fruits grown from branches connected to vines rooted in fertile soil. All of us are the "fruit" of the faith of nurturing women connected and rooted in Jesus Christ. These women we remember. We give thanks that as they have abided in the love of God, all the days of their life, their acts of nurture have shaped us and sustained us.

Where would we be if they did not love us as God loved them. They have lived their lives by this assurance, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love," (John 15:9).

I'm so grateful for the women who nurtured me in God's love. It has made all the difference in my life. I am today because they loved God.



This month, as we give God thanks for mothers and all women, our nurturers, yesterday and today, let us continue to abide in the love of God through nurturing acts that make a difference in the lives of others.

Let us continue to abide in the unconditional love of God revealed through Jesus Christ.

God bless you and keep you,

Rev. Perzavia T. Praylow, PhD., Pastor
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MY PRAYER BY **JOHNIE SEABERRY**

Father in heaven, I want to thank you for this prayer journey you put me on 91 years ago. It has been a faithful, good journey which I hope has helped someone along the way. I started praying a long time ago. I remember getting on my knees as a small child blessing my mother, father, and sister and brothers. This was the least I could do before I went to bed. I thanked God for bringing us through the day without any hurt, harm, or danger. I could not help but thank Him for He is the only one who can bring us through the day and carry us through the night.

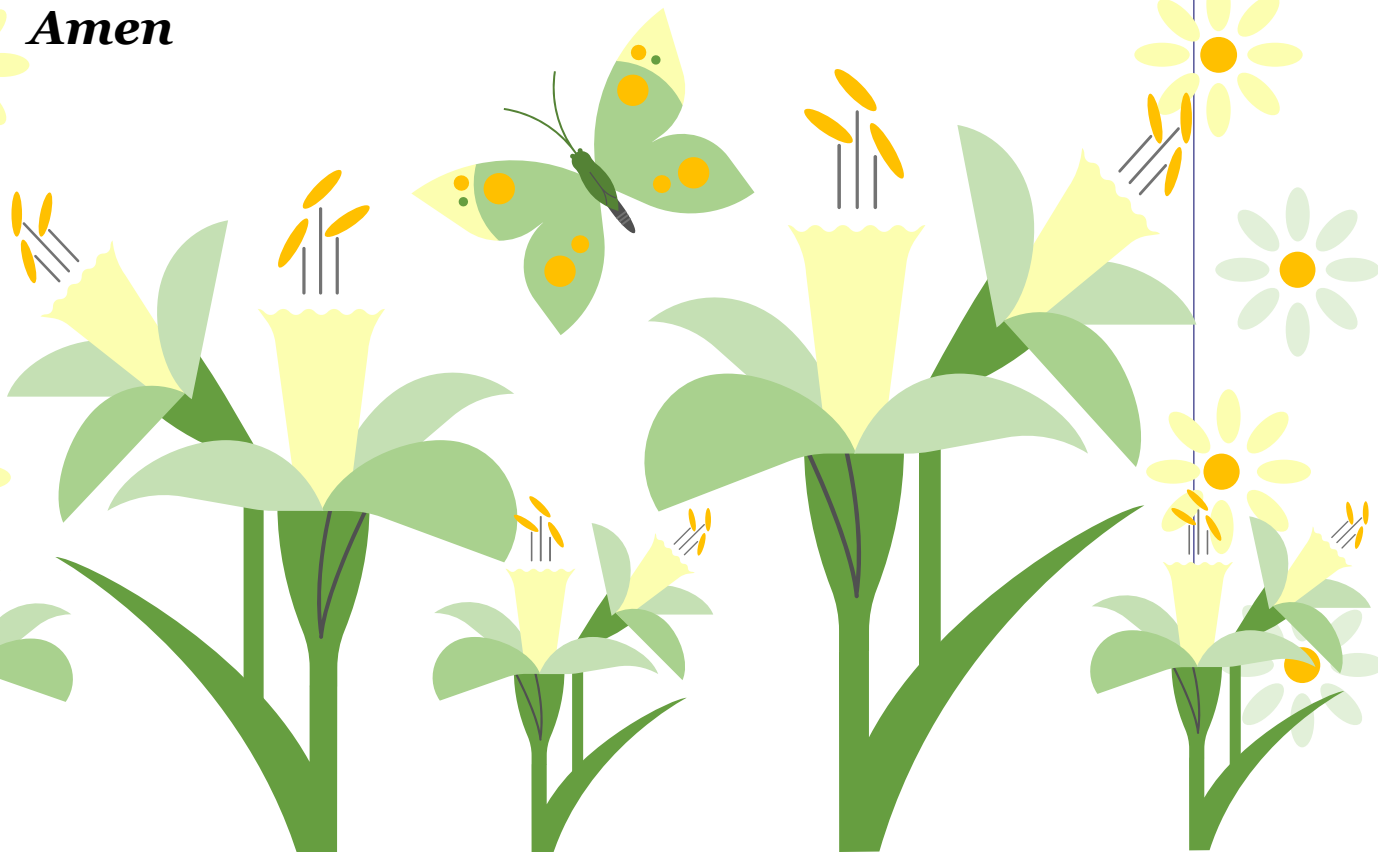
I am praying as always for my family and all people on this earth. There is nothing like prayer. It seems you are thanking God for the lives of others as well as for your own family's lives. It is a joy to pray for your family and others' lives. There is nothing like wishing people well, care, and concern. I hope my family and I are included in others' prayers every night and all during the day.

I am praying that you, God will take care of everyone under the sound of my weak voice.

I pray for the sick and shut in, and for those without food or shelter. I pray that God will provide for each and every one because each one of us came from God.

We are lucky to come on this earth that God provided. We all should fall on our knees every night and give thanks for each, and every one God has chosen to come on this earth. We should never forget a single person who made it to this earth. We should be so proud of our prayers for we know that God is taking care of everyone. We thank God for carrying us through another Easter full of grace and truth. Take care of all of us.

*With prayerful love, we ask this in Thy name,
Amen*



Click on  for Audio file:



IT'S JUST A THOUGHT

BY ELDER CEDRIC BOATMAN

When you get up in the morning to start your day, pray, give thanks, leave your worries and troubles at the altar. No matter what else is happening in your day, keep believing, keep faith, keep trusting, keep serving, keep loving, keep forgiving, keep praying, keep praising, remember, you are your brother and sister's keeper. Then leave the rest up to GOD.

Just A Thought!!!



Psalm 37:5-9

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret-it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING BY ELDER JANET LEONARD

Rise, shine and give GOD Glory. Morning arise and *talk with GOD*. Need direction and guidance, *talk with GOD*. Before every meal, *talk with GOD*. Spoke hurtful words, ask for forgiveness, *talk with GOD*. Family, friends and neighbors are in need, *talk with GOD*. Feeling stressed or anxious, *talk with GOD*. When you lay down to sleep, *talk with GOD*. Conversation with GOD all day is a reminder of His loving presence. Pray without ceasing and enjoy the wonders of GOD.



GOD IS PRESENT BY DR. RONALD RAGLAND

Above, in and through all, God is present.
In our witnessing this there is no bragging.
In knowing this, we find fulfillment and life's essence.
Living into God's inspirational love reveals deep meaning.

Conversely, might we wear spirituality to gain advantage?
Maybe, but such is fully counterintuitive. Life is then ironic.
God's presence inspires the building-up of others; never ravage.
Goodness is thereby achieved, not greatness; the latter is mere topical tonic.

God's many blessings delightfully illumine us in sacred submission.
As such, Eternal God, constrains and liberates us in Providential Love.
Life, at times mundane, but in God we find energizing spiritual connection
So it is: In God-given goodness, we are enfolded in peacefulness from above.

In being God-focused, we are saved from inflated, idolatrous views of self.
Almighty God's strength is our anchor and healing by way of spiritual tether.
Goals, achievements and humility derive from God: No need to vie for top shelf.
In prayer and praise to God, souls joyously sing. Life is then so very much better.





MOTHERS! BY ELDER STEPHANIE COX

Thank God for mothers! They love and nurture, teach and discipline us, from the moment we enter their lives. They reprimand and worry about us, protect and fiercely defend us. They comfort, encourage, embarrass and empower us. They bind our wounds. They sacrifice themselves for us and shield us from dangers real and imagined. They cradle us through heartbreaks and heartaches. They push us to be and do our best, to have confidence in ourselves and to believe that all things are possible in Christ Jesus. Mothers teach us to laugh and love, to know the difference between good and evil, to make good choices and to follow our dreams. They hurt when we hurt, they are happy when we are happy, and they celebrate with and for us in our times of joy. They love us unconditionally, just as Christ loves us.

It has been said that the love of a mother is the closest example on earth, of the love God has for us. Mothers are the heartbeat of the home, and they pour out their love in all that they do. God has blessed us with the gift of mothers. We should never take that gift for granted. We thank the Lord for the gift and give Him the honor,

glory and praise for mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, aunts, godmothers, sisters, nurturing female friends and all the women who provide maternal nurture in our lives. Proverbs 31: 10-31 describes a virtuous woman as one “who opens her mouth with wisdom” and “on her tongue is the law of kindness...Her children rise up and call her blessed,” because “a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.” We are truly the ones who are blessed. Happy Mothers’ Day and God bless each and every woman, who has had a role in shaping our lives. We love you and appreciate you!!!





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MAY DAY

BY *ELDER WILLIE T. MONTGOMERY JR.*

Not a call for help,
but a signal for self-determination.
A breath of renewal
and moment of reckoning.
A turning from the past
to a present beyond most comprehension.

May Day

An age of . . .
growth beyond the storm,
healing through the pain,
revival from the flames.

And as His glory
gleams brightly upon the days,
months,
weeks,
and hours ahead . . .
We can plot our shifts
to fresh awakening,
from the day May began.



*May the next season bring expansion, elevation
and be full of God's grace.*

