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Easter 2017

“NO
GREATER
LOVE!”

A
Moment
with
Chance Cessna



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ISSUE

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MAGAZINE

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He is risen! Rejoice!
As you peruse through the pages of this publication, reflect on the redeeming nature of our God and the amazing love He has for you. Do not doubt His love for you for one moment.

Understand that there is not one single thing that you can do to separate you from His love. See Romans 8:38.

I encourage you to pursue God with all of your being. Make the right decision today. Invite God into your heart and into your life. You will not be disappointed!

Dwell in God's presence. For it is there that you will find all that your heart seeks after. Do not be deceived.

Many Blessings for a Resurrection Day where you are able to see God's love as it abounds!

As always we thank you for your support you give us with your readership and through the purchasing of advertisements.

GPGT's core belief is that, "God uses good (regular, ordinary) people to do great things" and it is our goal to feature them in this publication. Please send your letters to the editor at info@valencyathompson.com with GPGT in the subject line and your feedback or inquiries to info@goodpeoplegreatthings.co.

Would you like to view our media kit or recommend a feature? Please visit goodpeoplegreatthings.co!

God's Blessings to You! May You Be on **Path** to **Purpose**!

~Valencya Thompson



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Purpose Pusher!

Easter

Faith:

Christ was resurrected from the dead for our sins. This is the premise of our faith.

Work:

Push past doubtful people and press your way towards the cross.

It is my belief that in identifying our spirit (God) - led passions, we might be propelled into purpose.

It's Easter Sunday or more rightfully referred to as the Sunday where we, Christians, acknowledge the Resurrection of Christ.

I once heard a powerful preacher, Rev. Dr. William D. Watley, suggest that Christ's resurrection in and of itself, though miraculous, was not unique because there were other resurrections performed throughout the biblical accounts. For example, Christ's resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:1-44); Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:21-43); and the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-17) has been documented. There were several other accounts mentioned such as Elisha's raising of the Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:18-37)

and Elijah's raising of the widow of Zarephath's son from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24).

Given this information, what makes the resurrection of Christ unique?

A few reasons why Christ's resurrection was set apart from the others is that He proclaimed Himself to be, The Son of God (John 19:7) and this self-raising (by The Holy Spirit) was seen as confirmation of Christ being The Son of God (Romans 1:4).

Another factor was that Christ was bruised, beaten, and then slain at the hands of sinners, though He, himself was sinless (Isaiah 53).

Perhaps you're thinking, "While this story is sad, what does any of it have to do with me?"

Well, I am so glad you asked! Quite frankly, it has everything to do with you! It is a testament to God's amazing grace and His redeeming love for you! It means that you yourself can be resurrected. And while God has all power, it is not necessary that you physically die prior to God's calling you to dwell with Him in Heaven, but that you spiritually die to your flesh (self-fulfilling sinful desires) and allow God to resurrect a brand new, totally – reliant upon God version of YOU.

May You Find Yourself at the foot of the Cross.

Happy Resurrection Day!



Valencya Thompson

Passion for Purpose:

Isaiah 53: 1-5 (NIV)

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

QR

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What is the cross you bear? Sometimes it feels life presents the unbearable. As adults, we may ask God "WHY???" While none of us can ever know the burden of being nailed to a cross, Christ has such an empathetic heart that He draws us to not ignore the sensitivity of undesired pain, hurt and disappointment. As many rejoice during Resurrection Sunday, there are people crying out for freedom, peace of mind and unconditional love. The optimistic outlook advises individuals to think positive or consider someone in a more harsh or distressed situation. Still on the cross, Jesus cried out to God amidst the agony He experienced at the hand of evil spirited people.

The Cross, The Crucifixion, and Christ Resurrection, could be a figurative parallel to our current or past sufferings as human beings. Throughout this season some of us may be drawn to reflect upon "moments of the unexpected"; yet inspired with an unexplainable hope when recalling how Jesus endured suffering. Not just on the cross alone, but throughout His life journey.

While excited about Easter, the thought of Jesus being nailed to a cross can have the tendency to stand out more when charting what Jesus withstood. Many may ask, "How could He do that for us?" There is no way, I would let someone drive nails in my hands, pierce daggers in my feet, and bear it all for people I have yet to see or who may even deny me." In another manner reflecting on the cross could broaden our ability to balance acceptance and betrayal. This can feel far from comforting in the moment, but only God can enable one to "find strength and courage" in the face of persecution.

No matter what life presents, we have someone, Jesus, who can relate to the agony of experiencing uncomfortable situations.

How awesome is it that we don't have to ignore the agony of defeat, despair or disappointment in any area of our life?! That's right, because of Jesus we don't have to deny the pains we bear: be it in health, relationships, financial hardships, emotional hurt, mental anguish, systematic circumstances, or ethnicity driven inequality.

Courageously, Jesus didn't overcome suffering in His own strength. How profoundly, neither should we! The story of the crucifixion is beautiful, pain-filled, and enrages a sense of fury beyond words. Yet, the resurrection alludes to a sense of hope; despite ALL the agony, suffering, misunderstanding, betrayal, and hurt one may personally encounter in life.

Seriously, who would fathom that we are sometimes positioned to literally embrace our pain, confront our truth and find a practical way to face an overwhelming burden despite feeling defeated?

Through Jesus, my eyes were opened to the truth that the road to redemption is not always comfy, cozy, calming or cuddly.

Surround yourself with people strong enough to embrace you unconditionally. Don't suppress or hide your anger to appear "nice". Always remember even Jesus **CRIED, YELLED, RELEASED** and **SURRENDERED** His agony on the cross.

As spring blooms the flowers of new life, Easter bares the excitement of beautiful weather, festivals and fellowship. Let us all find restoration in the intangible things which add joy and peace to our lives. Don't hide behind the pain. Find your voice in the cross.

Allow your heart to be resurrected from the anguish of your past, present or unforeseen moments in life. Be encouraged and inspired. God does not desire to see us as a victim or a prisoner to our pain.

I pray in this season of resurrection that whatever has brought the feeling of crucifixion, suffering, agony, defeat or anguish, that in Christ you are brought back to life through unconditional love, prayer, healthy fellowship, intentional interaction and encouraging company.

Be Heard, Be-Well, Be Whole, Be Restored,

Corri-Rose

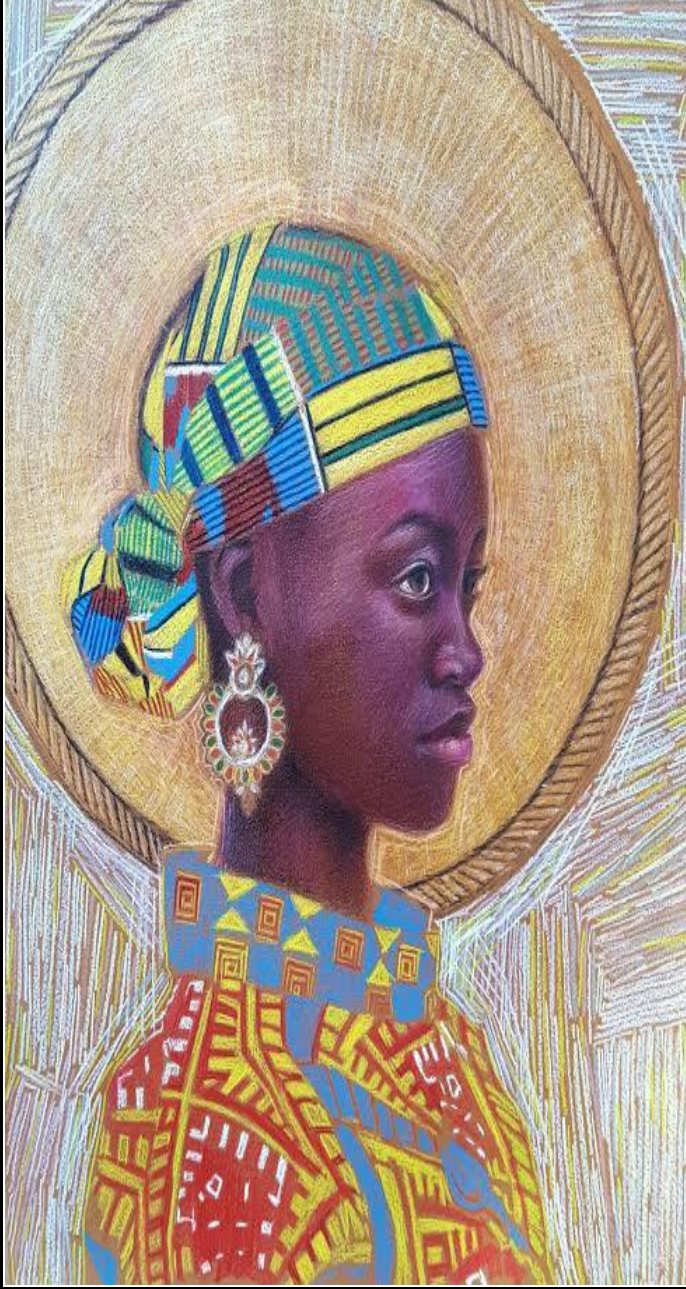
BEAUTY OF THE CROSS



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A close-up portrait of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing large, ornate, teardrop-shaped earrings with a circular pattern. The background is a neutral, dark grey.

A Moment with
Chance Cessna:

Actress/

Entrepreneur/

Philanthropist/

Pageant Queen

...

By Felicia Hefney

Images Provided By
Chance Cessna

*Not By Chance ,But By The
Power of Almighty God!*



1) What did you dream of becoming when you were a little girl?

I had many dreams as a little girl. However, the greatest dream was to grow up and become a woman of great influence. I wasn't sure what avenue that was going to come through, but I knew I wanted to be a world - changer.

2) You carry the titles of actress, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and pageant queen amongst others. How do you manage to do it all?

Stay organized! Organization is your best friend when you are juggling multiple things. The more organized you are, the more effective you will be,

and the more you will get done in life.

3) You speak freely about your love for Christ, how does the work you do build and uplift the Kingdom of God?

*One of my favorite verses is Luke 17:21 which ultimately says, that the "Kingdom of God is within you." So, wherever you go or whatever you do as a believer, the Kingdom of God is within you; and you can demonstrate His power, love, and light wherever you go. Love people, encourage people, and share the **Good News**. It doesn't matter what profession you are in, work your sphere of influence and be the light in dark places!*

4) You have shared on social media about your experiences with

adversity during childhood and adulthood. Please share some on this topic with our readers and share how these experiences have shaped you into being the woman you are today.

One the biggest challenges I experienced was growing up without my mom as a young adult. When I was eight years old, my mother was pronounced brain dead after suffering from a stroke and was on life support for many years after. I struggled with my identity and had a lot of questions about successfully transitioning into womanhood, and staying on the right path. That is why I am dedicated to serving women, mentoring girls and guiding them through some of the challenging realities life may bring. So, in honor of my mother,



@iamchancecessna



@ChanceCessna



@Chance Cessna

I have started doing my "Women Who Conquer" Conference every year - which is a conference all about faith, healing, self-discovery and women's empowerment.

5) What drew you to pageantry?

Never in a million years did I think I would get into pageantry! When I was young, I went through my "tomboy" phase in life and didn't see myself as this graceful, poised, and glamorous woman like I would see the women on stage as being. It wasn't until college that a Miss USA titleholder and others in the pageant community suggested that I give it a try. So, I did and it was an amazing experience that really helped refine me and build my confidence as a young woman.

6) Does pageantry tie in with your acting career or do you consider it to be a change of pace from your other interests?

Pageantry teaches you life skills that you can apply in every area of your life. It teaches you how to be a leader, how to be sharp, poised, confident, driven and committed to excellence. So pageantry has actually helped my acting career amongst the many other things I do professionally. It has been a total blessing and I encourage other women to do it.

7) You minister in a variety of ways. Tell us about the work you do with people impacted by homelessness and why this ministry is dear to your heart.



In the winter of 2012, I was living in Chicago and I wanted to do an experiment in which I disguised myself as a homeless person. I genuinely wanted to see what life was like living under those circumstances. Thankfully my cousin was bold enough to join me and we went downtown all wrapped up in scarves, coats, and baggy

jeans and did it. It was no more than maybe twenty degrees outside.

What we experienced was indescribable. It was horrifying and I never felt so invisible in my life. No one talked to us and they barely looked at us. Ever since then, serving the homeless has been a priority and commitment for me. I love to go out and share God's

love and let them know they are not forgotten.

8) Is there anything else you want our readers to know?

Trust the gifts and talents God gave you and don't let anyone sow a seed of doubt into the field of your dreams. There is room for everyone in every industry; and if you remain committed and faithful over what seems small in the beginning, you indeed will begin to see a great harvest.

Be patient with yourself, trust the process and God's timing for your life. Be still and know Jeremiah 29:11. "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."

*Trust the gifts
and talents
God gave you
and don't let
anyone sow a
seed of doubt
into the field of
your dreams.*



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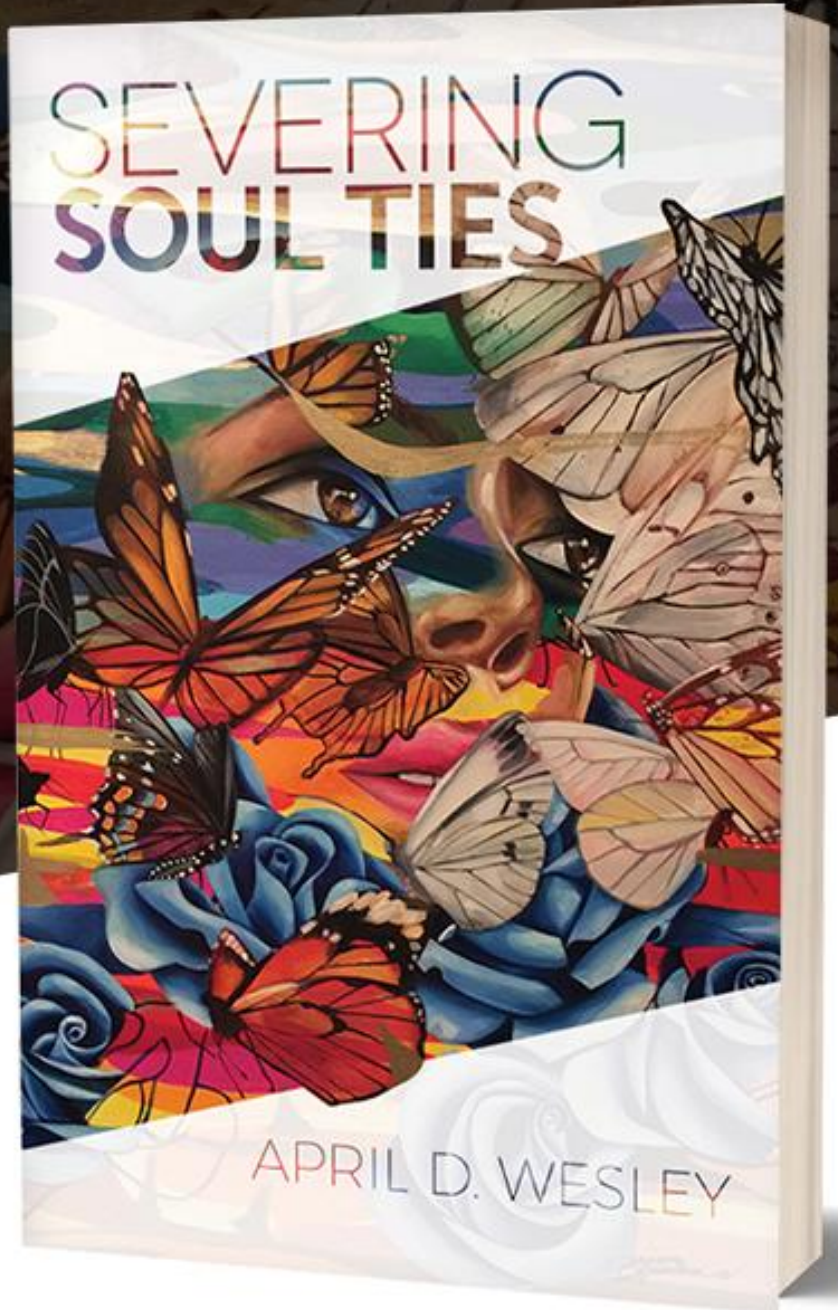


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HOW TO "WERK" YOUR WEEK

5 TIPS TO HAVING A PRODUCTIVE WEEK *EVERY* WEEK

Now that Spring is in full effect, many people are feeling a bit better about going to work. This is simply because the days are brighter and the chill has finally left the air. So, let's uncover how to have a productive week *EVERY* week:

M-Mind your business. Yes, try to stay out of others affairs, but this is not a plea to keep you from being nosey rather it is an opportunity to get yourself focused on the business you must take care of this week. How often do you start the week thinking "I'm just not ready." or "Where did the weekend go?" It's important to have *YOUR* business on *YOUR* mind! Not everyone else's. Nope, it's not selfish. It is vital to your well-being and the well-being of those you will impact. Giving someone the best version of yourself is a gift. Start your week making sure you are organized both mentally and physically. See what it feels like to be *READY* for once. It will do wonders for your work week.

T-Talk to yourself. Believe me, you're not crazy if you

ONE GOOD CONVERSATION WITH YOURSELF COULD BE THE DIFFERENCE...

do, but you might be if you don't! Constantly remind yourself why you do what you do. Ask yourself questions and re-evaluate often. Constantly speak positivity to yourself. You're worth it! I am not saying this is easy. I am also not saying you will get it right every time, but what I am saying is this is critical to your mental state and the overall temperament of your work week. What you say to yourself affects what you do and have daily. One good conversation with yourself could be the difference between quitting and success.

W-Werk it! No, I am not suggesting you use the walkway to the restroom as your catwalk in the office. I am simply saying be great at what you do. Really work! Show up ready to do 100% plus some. When have you ever given your all (really, your all) in your career? If you said "yesterday", then you're already on the right track to amazing weeks ahead and keep Werking it!

For the rest of us who didn't...well, you reap what you sow in all areas of life; therefore, you will never see the full fruit of your gifts and talents if you don't use them to the full capacity in which God has given them to you. Study your craft. Continually become better. Please don't wait for your supervisor or boss to make you do it. Step out on your own and hone your skills. Whether you are a master carpenter, middle school science teacher, or a talented musician, there is room for improvement.

Th-Think on these things! In Philippians 4:8, we are reminded"...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Often times we are stuck thinking, worrying about all that went wrong, or could still go wrong in the week that we forget to stay grateful. We think about all that has been lost or taken from us when the truth is we are stronger because of what we went through.

We often times reflect on our past hurts and poor judgements so much that we don't notice how lovely things are now. Just as it's important to talk to yourself more than others talk to you, you must keep the right thoughts running through your mind regularly as well. You are not your job. You are not your situation. You are not your mistakes. Give yourself some "I AMs" to think on...I am amazing. I am strong. I am better. What you think will be what you eventually say. What you say is what you become!

F- Finish strong. It's been said, "It's not always how you start but how you finish." You have an opportunity to complete the story in whatever way you desire. Don't let a rocky start deter you from working towards a successful end. God even confirms this in His Word. Jeremiah 29:11 (MSG) states, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."

**"IT'S NOT
ALWAYS HOW
YOU START
BUT HOW YOU
FINISH!"**

-Christina Marie

REMINDER:

*Mind your
Business!*

*Talk to
yourself!*

Work it!

*Think on
these
things!*

*Finish
strong!*

Tomorrow Is Not Promised

Written By: Teanna Robinson

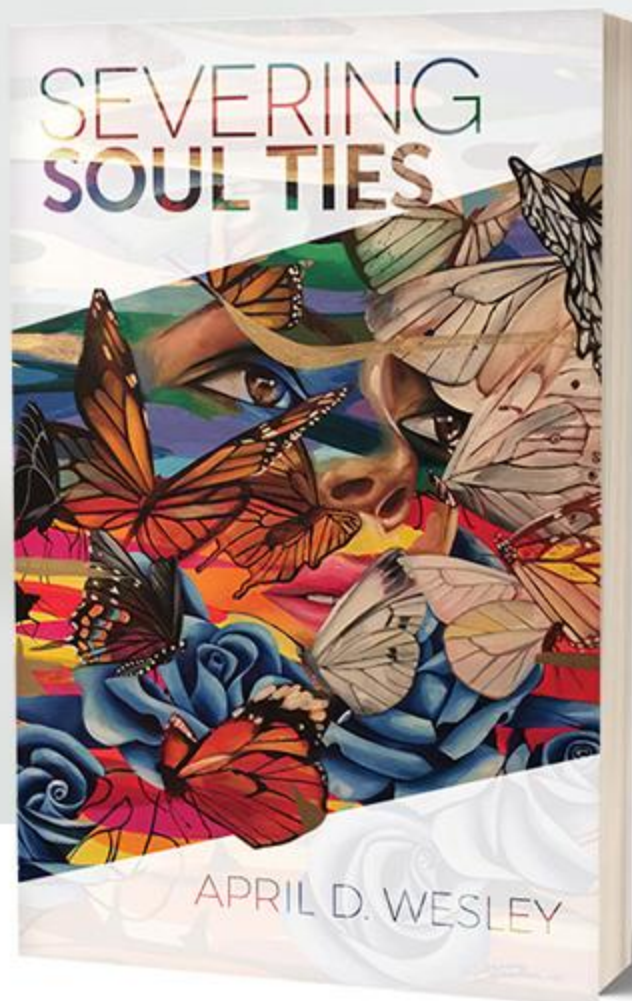
So I will start off with an odd question
After witnessing two kids make the same suggestion
What if you die tonight?
Would you blame God for taking your life
Would you beg for mercy, a second chance to do things right?
Even though you would probably mess it up twice
Or would you for the first time swallow your pride and finally walk to the light?
But what if it wasn't the light?
But instead extremely hot heat, burning flames
Hearing people cry out Jesus' name
Oh you didn't believe it was real so you never intended
But you ended up in this place
In a space where everyday for eternity you have to put up a fight
But it's just a simple question, What if you die tonight?
Would you want to see your mother Lie in your bed and cry all night?
Watch her blame herself because she tried hard to bring you to church and raise you right
But you refused to embrace the love of Jesus Christ
I'm sure you might wish for her to hug you and let you know that everything will be alright
Or would you watch your father cry at your funeral for the first time in his life
Blame himself because he knows that you will forever be in a place of suffering and no light
Condemned to a life in the dark Or would you feel guilty because the last thing you did was fight
When all he was trying to do is give you a fresh start
Then you think maybe I will be missed
So your homies, your friends, your family will put in prayers for you
To the Big Man upstairs to change your fate
But let's be real you already know that it's already too late
But how could you be mad?
You chose to ignore and negate what was sat out on a silver plate for you only just to take
By a man who came to earth to die so you could have a clean slate
But you were hard-headed and so you chose to wait
Thus sealing your eternal fate
But hold up, take a second, breathe, don't read into this too much right?
Because I was just asking a simple question, what if you die tonight?
So don't worry and don't fret because lucky for you
You are still breathing so your life isn't over yet
You still have a chance to make things right
You still have a chance to accept him as your Savior,
Walk with the righteous, be blessed and have power and might
But look at all the things you have done in your life
Why would someone like God want you right?
Who could love a broken soul?
But guess what?
The Lord doesn't care He just wants to bring you into the family, into the mold
Don't you know that he loves you?
And everything you have done or are going to do was all washed away in one night?
With one man's life?
This man we call Jesus, He died on a tree so that you could be free
But he didn't just die for you
He also laid down his life for me and for everyone else even if they choose even still not to believe
And in 3 days he rose again
So that you will no longer be condemned for your sins
But instead granted eternal life only if you should choose to let him in
But don't just do this and accept him for show, do it because you believe and you know
But again it's only just a simple question right? What if you die tonight?

And for all my saints, those who already believe and have let Him in your heart
Be honest with yourself, have you done your part?
Have you gone out and made fishers of men?
Bringing in the lost so they will be set free from the eternal cost of their sins
Or were you too busy pointing the finger
Judging them for the things they have done, how they dress, or where they have been
Did you show them the love of Christ?
Or did you act holier than thou and stick your nose up at them?
For which you didn't have the right
Did you read your Bible and pray every day?
Or was it just enough for you to listen to what the Pastor tried to convey every Sunday
And you wonder why things happen to you and you feel there is no way out
Don't you know that you have to have Faith, be proactive and meet my good Lord halfway,
So you can get yo blessing and shout
Did you operate in your purpose or did you choose not to listen and remain on the surface
Because maybe it wasn't what you wanted or had in mind
So everyday you chose to walk away leaving your truth behind
Did you forgive those who hurt and cut you deep?
Or instead only hold a grudge and choose not to speak
You call yourself a Christian and act like that?
So Saints, let's get one thing straight
Don't think just because you are saved by His holy grace
That you won't be judged by the Lord at those Pearly gates
Did you think that he would forget, that you wouldn't have to answer to him?
Well it's time to let you know!
My Lord will ask you what you have done
So you want to be able to say that I tried my very best to be just like your son
And maybe only then will He say, "My child well done."
For you have done everything I have asked
You accepted the challenge and the task to be set apart
Because you chose to accept me into your heart

I know that following me is no easy feat,
but you chose to believe anyway in me
You chose to show my love to strangers
You told people the good news of this baby,
who was born in a manger
Who came to save the world from its own dangers and sins
But again, it's just a simple question right?
What if you die tonight?

QR

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