

The Divine Spark, the match that lights the candle...the flint that starts the fire...the pilot light that starts the oven...the flame that keeps your water hot. Little things always go unnoticed but are so important in the quality of your lives as well as the lives of others. In each one of you there is a Divine Spark, a burning ember, a flickering flame. Do what you need to in order to keep the fire burning. Blow on it... fan it...but whatever you do never let that spark go out.

At times you may be tempted to give up or quit but you won't be able to, the Divine Spark won't let you, because when the spark goes out life ends. This year make a commitment to keep the spark going and never let the fire run out. Always be a spark in the lives of others, God will honor it and bless you beyond your wildest dreams.

God Bless and have a very Happy New Year

JUST AS YOU ARE

There are millions of people who sincerely but wrongfully believe they are acceptable to God based on how good they are. They will die in ignorance, deceived by false doctrine of working to earn the Lord's approval.

Ask yourself, do you set rules and regulations for your life, but then judge yourself harshly when you do not live up to your own expectations? Do you feel close to the Lord when you are doing something religious and distant when you are not? Are you living in this manner, lacking assurance that you have pleased God? The Bible says that you and I have been accepted by His grace, which is defined as Gods love and kindness to us without consideration of any merit on our part.

In the Old Testament, only the high priest could be in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant, which symbolized God's presence. Thousands of people stood outside, unable to get anywhere near to Him personally. Instead their whole concept of relating to God involved living up to laws and achieving their acceptance on the basis of performance. Forgiveness of sin was based on literal animal sacrifice and obedience to the Ten Commandments.

In contrast, in the New Testament Jesus came in order to die for our sins and be a permanent, one-time substitutionary sacrifice. Forgiveness was only part of the plan; He came to also establish a different covenant than the people of God had been experiencing. On the day of His crucifixion, the veil hiding the Ark of the Covenant was split from top to bottom, symbolizing that God opened the door to an intimate relationship with Him. He made it possible for us to speak to Him directly and know that we would be heard. This relationship is the difference between Grace and Law.

We have a choice to make. We can either choose to live a life of rules and live by legalistic domination, fear and uncertainty. Or we can choose to live in the wonderful acceptance and unconditional love we can experience by the way of the Cross. A life of grace is available to anyone who will call upon the name of the Lord.

Jesus' death settled the issue of our acceptance once and for all. Though our conduct sometimes is not what it should be, we are nonetheless embraced as children of God.

Joy In Life

In order to enjoy the Christian life, *we must see ourselves* the way God sees us, we can never experience freedom, joy, and peace nor have any contentment by living a life by rules and regulations.

God accepts us just as we are which allows us to come before Him and get to know Him in an intimate way. It enables us to draw near to him and stand in His presence regardless of where we have been, or what we have done. God promises to provide every desire of your heart especially, the only one thing that can satisfy us completely, that is the Lord Jesus Christ who is full of love, mercy, and grace. (Galatians 2:21) ²¹ ***I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.***

Beginning January 1st 2013, the Daily Devotionals that come to you every day by email will center on looking at our lives, not from our point of view but from God's perspective. What we think; see, and feel, rarely have anything to do with the truth. The Bible tells us in John 8:32 ***“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”***

God is ready and willing to show us the truth but we must always look at it *Through the Eyes of the Father*. January's topic is, ***“Just as you are”*** and we will be looking at how God really see's us, as opposed to how we see God. In February the subject is, ***“Totally transformed”*** or, what God has already done in our lives that we are not even aware of.

Our hope is that by the end of the year we can have a clear understanding of just how much we are loved, accepted, and treasured by our Father, who out of His great love and mercy reached down to us and did what no one else could or would ever do. Love us unconditionally.

If you do not have access to the internet please write or call (all the info is on the bottom) and give us your mailing address and we will send those Daily's out to you at no charge.

JANUARY - JUST AS YOU ARE.

WORD FOR TODAY

Just As You Are.

One of the most difficult things to accept yet one of the most glorious things to remember is that God loves us just as we are. Our natural tendency is to please and strive to deserve something. It might be wealth, love, career, or prestige that we need to achieve in order to feel accepted. God's love, however, can never be earned through our own effort. There is absolutely nothing we can do to make God love us any more than He already does.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

(Romans 5:1-5) ¹ *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,* ² *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* ³ *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;* ⁴ *and perseverance, character; and character, hope.* ⁵ *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Have you ever tried to make God love you more?

JOURNAL FOR TODAY

Our job is to let you know how much God loves you. We would really appreciate your comments and prayer requests. “Much Joy in Life”