

OASIS
16.3.25
THE
BATTLE
FOR
OUR
HEARTS.



When the Bible speaks of the human heart it is speaking of our imagination, our thinking, our will, our emotions or feelings, our conscience and any combination of these.

PROVERBS 4:23 (NKJV)

Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life. Guard your heart above all else, for out of it spring the issues of life

(NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

(CEV)

Carefully guard your thoughts because they are the source of true life



In 2004 Erin M. Shackell and Lionel G. Standing at Bishop's University, Quebec Canada undertook a very interesting experiment and study.

They took thirty male undergraduate students from the university who were all either football, basketball, and rugby players. They divided them into three groups.

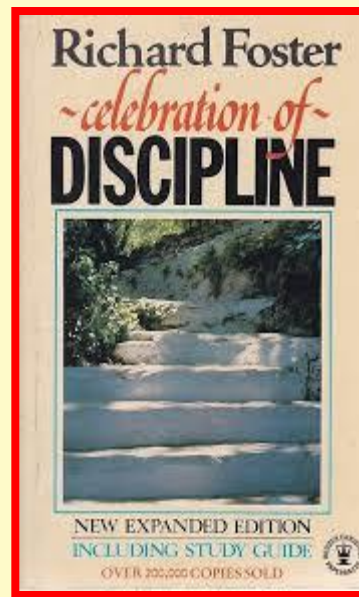


GROUP 1. No change

GROUP 2 (In the gym) 28% gain

GROUP 3 (Imagine) 24% gain

RICHARD FOSTER:
Celebration of
Discipline p22.



The imagination is stronger than conceptual thought and stronger than the will. In the west our tendency to deify the merits of rationalism-and it does have merit-but it has caused us to ignore the value of the imagination... Most of us need to be more deeply convinced of the importance of thinking and experiencing in images. It comes so spontaneously to us as children, but for years now we have been trained to disregard the imagination, even to fear it.



JOB 3:25 (NASB)

“For what I fear comes upon me, And what I dread
befalls me.

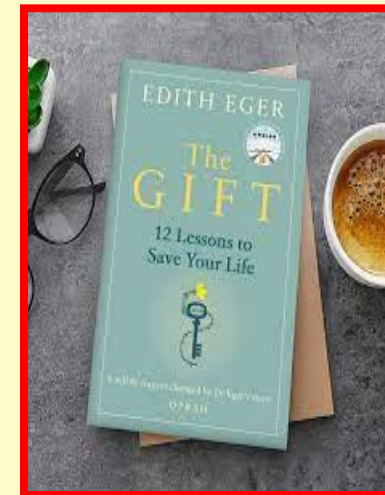
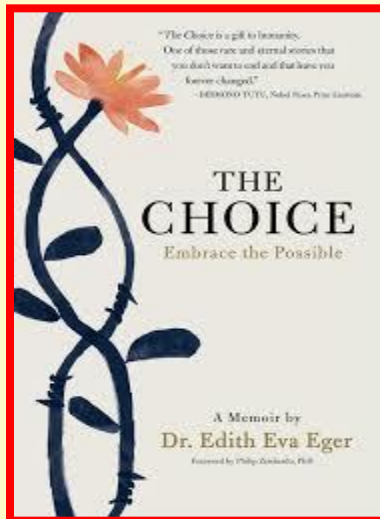
JOB 3:25 (TLB)

What I always feared has happened to me.

Edith Eva “Edie” Eger (born is a psychologist practicing in the USA. Born to Hungarian Jewish parents, a Holocaust survivor and a specialist in the treatment of PTSD.



What you think you create.

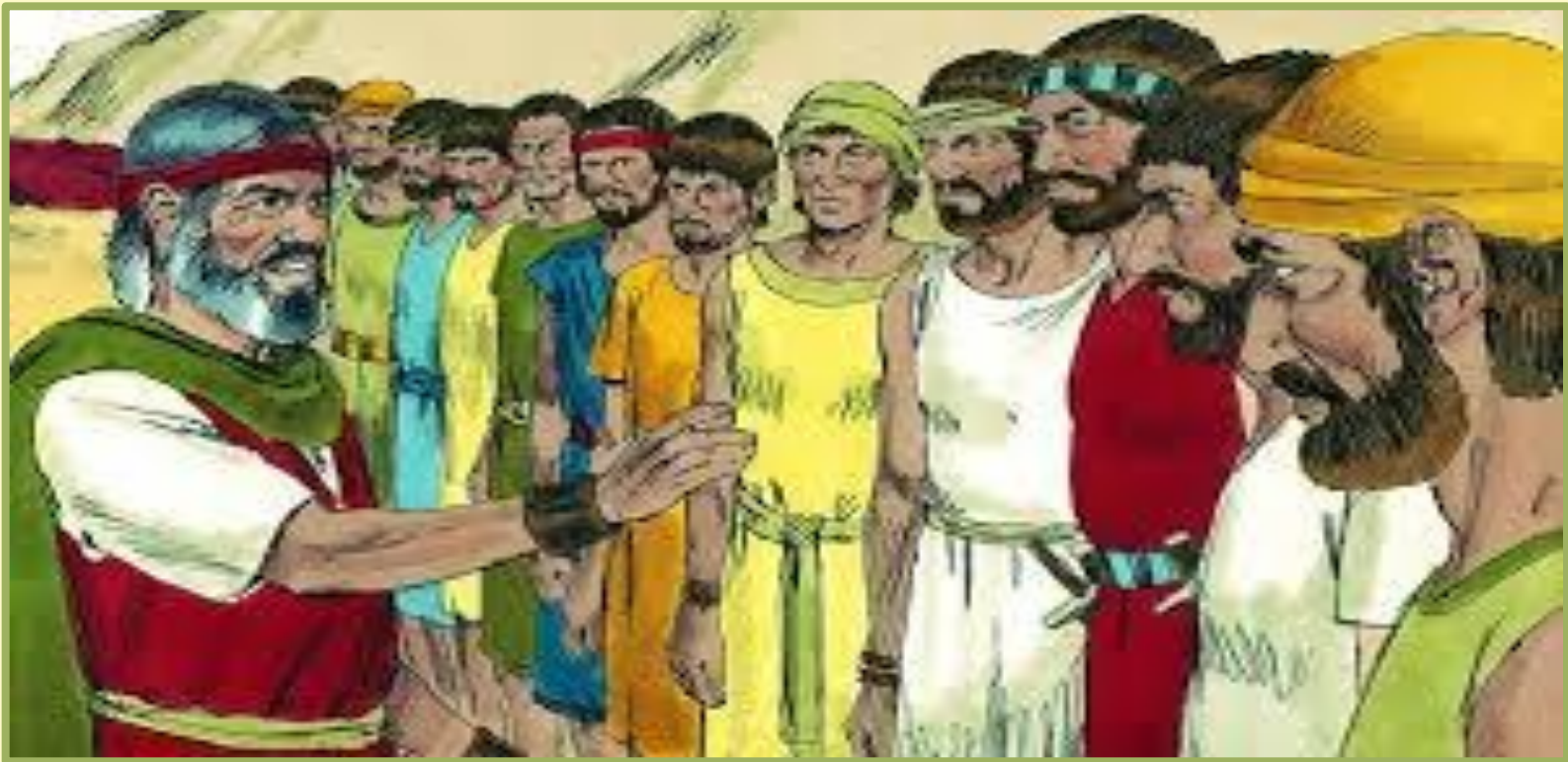




STEVE LONG-

Faith is acting on God thoughts. God thoughts are spontaneous disruptive thoughts which bring hope and need to be acted upon.

NUMBERS 13:1-3 (NLT) The LORD now said to Moses, “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.” So, Moses did as the LORD commanded him.



25-29 After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! The Amalekites live in the Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan Valley.”

30-33 But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!” But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we travelled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”



PROVERBS 23:7

For as a man thinks within himself, so he is.





JUDGES 6: 12 (MSG) God is with
you, O mighty warrior!

¹⁵ Gideon said to him, "Me, my master? How and with what could I ever save Israel? Look at me. My clan's the weakest in Manasseh and I'm the runt of the litter."

A painting of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a man with a long white beard and a blue robe stands on a rocky outcrop, looking towards the left. The background features a large, leafless tree on the left and a bright yellow sky. The overall scene is set in a rugged, rocky environment.

EXODUS 3: 10 Moses-I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt..

11: But Moses said to God "But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?"



Be it unto me according to your word.

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY.

This is built around the truth that the way you think is the single most determinate thing about you. It creates your attitudes. The way you think shapes your emotions, your behaviour and deeply influences your immune system and vulnerability to illness. Everything about you flows out of the way you think.



ROBERT LESLIE :Jesus & Logotherapy.

Most neurotic suffering results from an erroneous outlook. In one way or another, the person has acquired a picture of his place in life which simply is not true. Feeling helpless in the midst of conflicting claims, he allows his life to be moulded by circumstances until he feels himself to be little more than a victim of fate.



HYPNOTIC INDUCTION

Psychologists have found that owing to an undeveloped sense of self, messages, both verbal and non verbal given to a very young child can be as powerful as hypnosis. For this reason, early messages are often referred to as 'hypnotic induction.' Such messages tend to be swallowed whole, fully believed and then played in the mind repeatedly as if they were the child's own views, whilst he or she forgets who said or implied them in the first place. We continue to believe and live with these distortions. Our minds continue to receive or reject input according to these beliefs.



Ugly

don't cry-you look dreadful

Now that you have failed this exam you will always be
a 2nd Class Citizen.

You should have been a girl.

You are stupid.

You're messy.

No good.

Will never make anything of yourself.

Fatty. Skinny!

You are not good enough.

Why did you come second and not first?

Could do better.



HOW DO WE TAME OUR IMAGINATIONS AND CULTIVATE AN INTERNAL ATMOSPHERE THAT RECOGNISES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD THOUGHTS AND OTHER THOUGHTS.

HOW DO WE CREATE AN INTERNAL ATMOSPHERE WHERE GOD THOUGHTS COME AND WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO ACT UPON THEM?

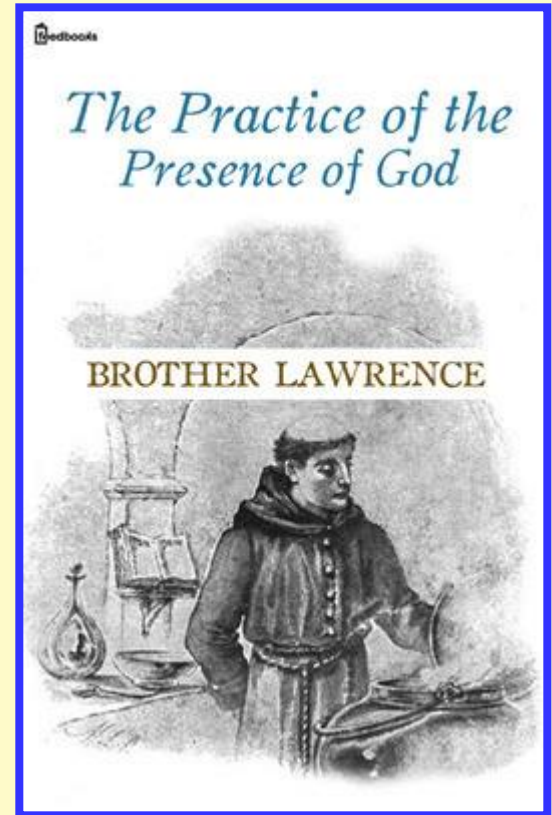


1. PRACTISING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS
(Keeping our imagination upon Him.)



Do we profess Christ or do we possess him?

BROTHER LAWRENCE 1614-1691





His exuberance, genuine humility, inner joy, and peace attracted people from near and far. Both leaders of the church and common folk sought Lawrence for spiritual guidance and prayer.

HIS SECRET?

I have abandoned all particular forms of devotion, all prayer techniques. My only prayer practice is attention. I carry on a habitual, silent and secret conversation with God that fills me with overwhelming joy.

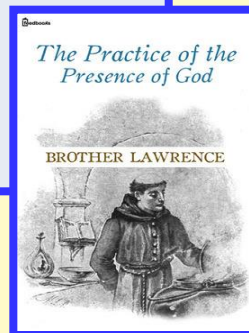


ISAIAH 26:3 (NASB) The steadfast of mind you will keep in perfect peace because he trusts in you.
(KJ) thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.
(MSG) people with their minds set on you, you keep completely whole, steady on their feet, because they keep at it and don't quit.

Quotes from Brother Lawrence:

The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way.

The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament.





EPHESIANS 3:20
(PHILIP)

Now to him who by his power within us is able to do far more than we ever dare to ask or imagine—to him be glory in the Church through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen!



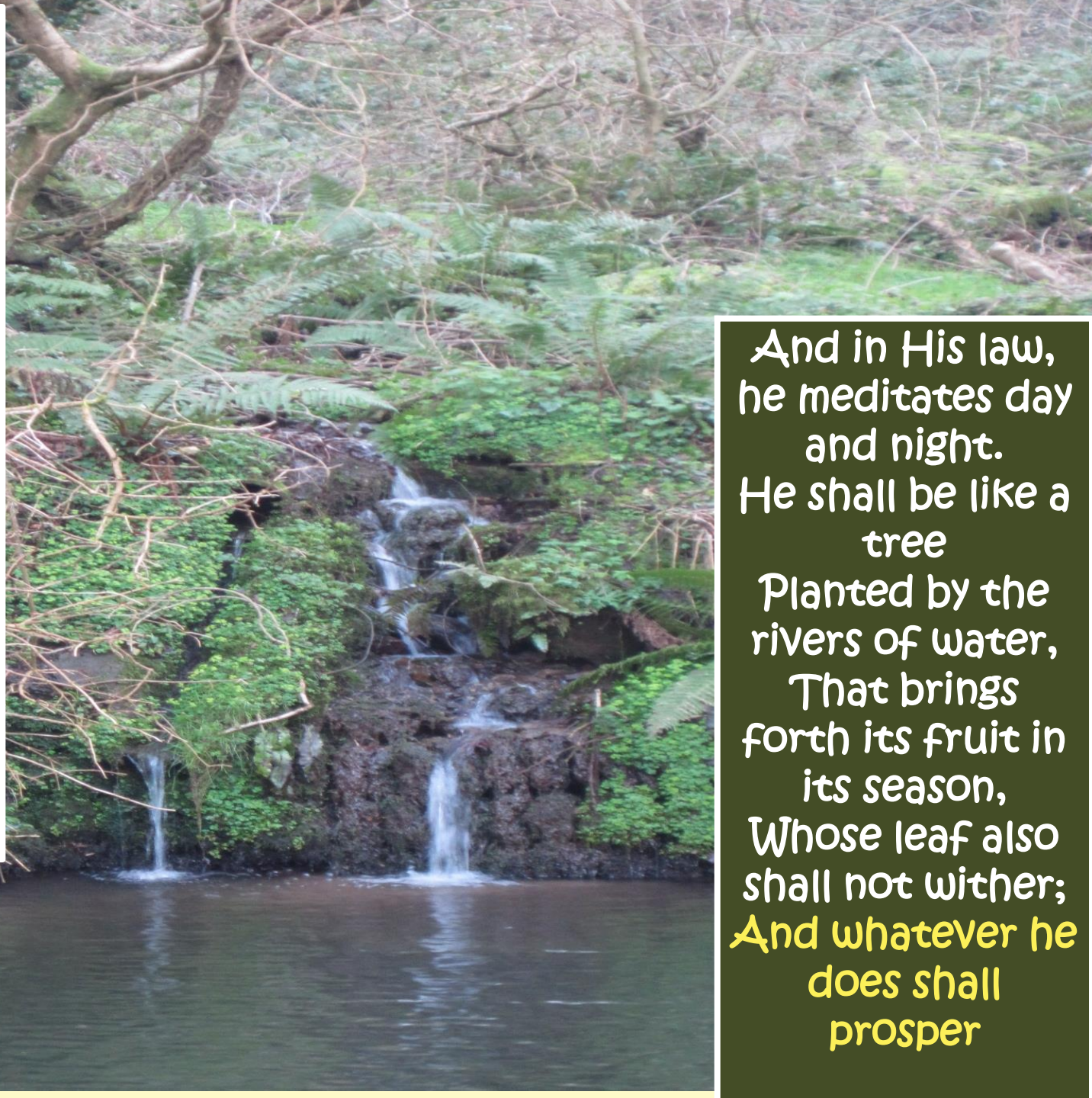
2. CULTIVATING PROSPERITY IN OUR LIVES
(By taming our imagination!)

PSALM 1:1-3

(NKJV)

Blessed is the
man

Who walks not in
the counsel of
the ungodly,
Nor stands in
the path of
sinners,
Nor sits in the
seat of the
scornful;
But his delight is
in the law of the
LORD,



And in His law,
he meditates day
and night.

He shall be like a
tree

Planted by the
rivers of water,
That brings
forth its fruit in
its season,

Whose leaf also
shall not wither;
And whatever he
does shall
prosper



A person in a white dress stands on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean. The sky is a clear, bright blue, and the water is a deep blue with white foam from waves breaking on the shore. The person is positioned in the center of the frame, facing away from the camera.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 & 9 (NKJV)

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.



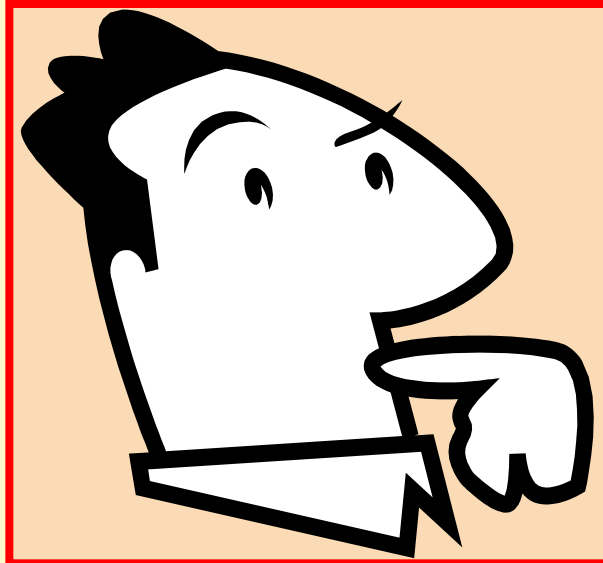
3. CREATING A CULTURE OF HONOUR
(Allowing others to love, encourage,
support and help us imagine accurately!)

DANNY SILK: DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF HONOUR.



A culture of honour is created as a community of people learns to discern and receive people in their God given identities. The clear fruit of establishing a culture of honour is that the resurrection life of God begins to flow into people's lives, homes and communities bringing healing restoration, blessing, joy, hope and wholeness. If we are not seeing this fruit then we must ask ourselves if we are truly honouring those around us as we ought.

EPHESIANS 4:15 Speaking the truth in love we will
In all things grow up into Him who is the head, that is
Christ.

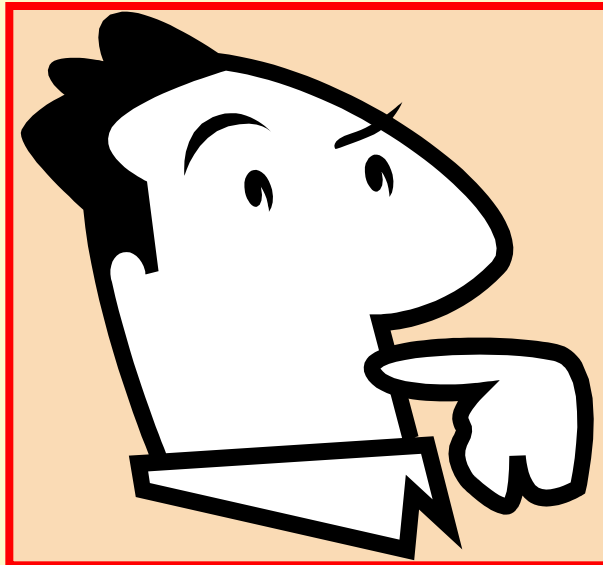


Are you prepared to learn to live in fellowship, being open to be known for who you are, accepting one another in love, and saying of others nothing that could not be said to them personally if love and wisdom required it? I am.



PROVERBS 18:21 Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

JAMES 3:6 (Message) A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything-or destroy it!



PATRICIA BOOTSMA.
We are called to be bless people
places and ourselves.



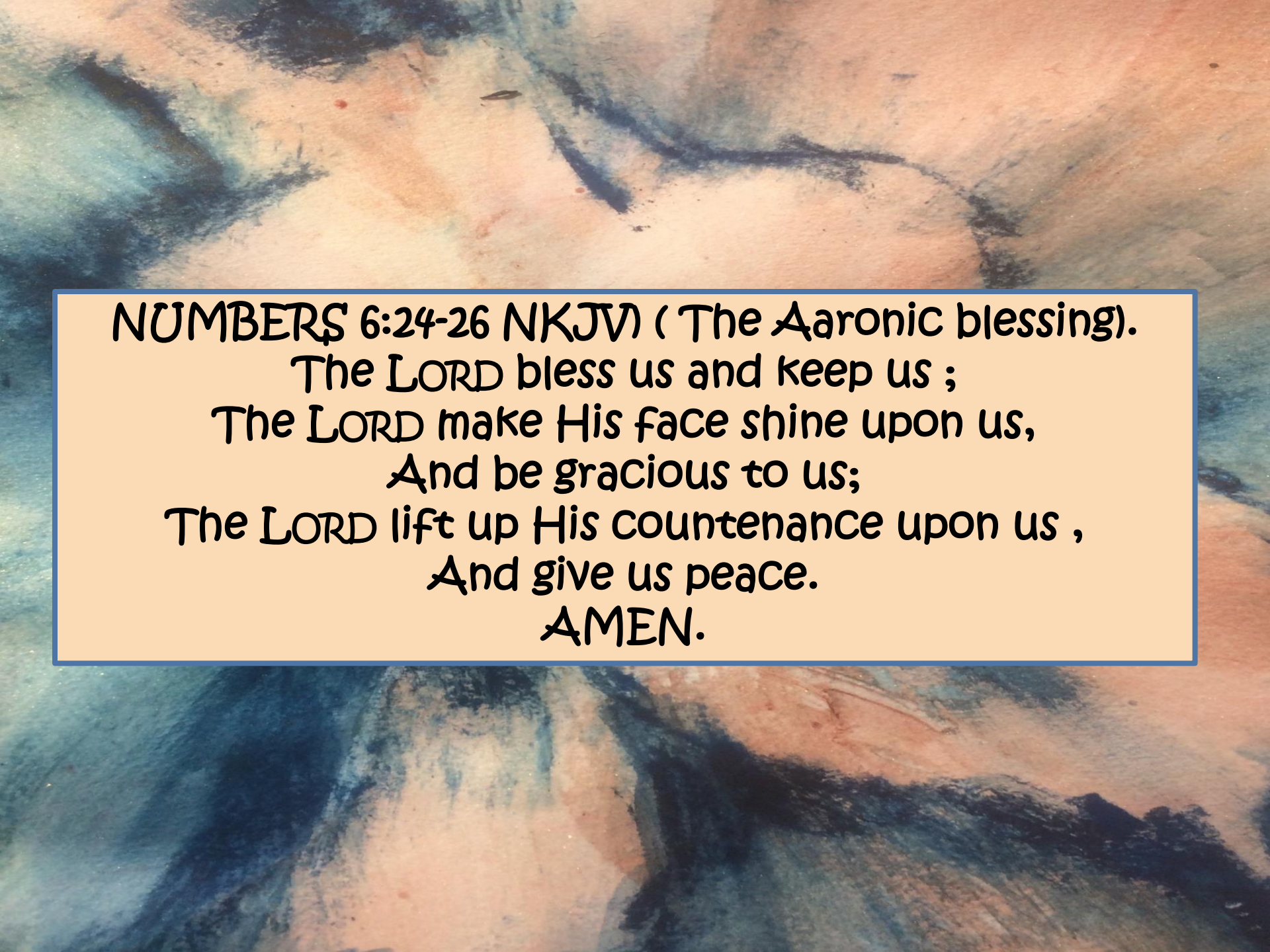
1 PETER 3:9 (NKJ) not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

(NLT) Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you, his blessing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I choose to permanently set myself beneath the everlasting covenant of God sealed with the precious blood of Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, that this covenant annuls, invalidates, and countermands all other covenants. Thank you, Jesus, for the freedom that you have won for me by dying in my place and becoming a curse for me so that I can be free of all curses. Holy Spirit show me any way in which I am not living under the new covenant. Help me to deal with anything which prevents me enjoying the fullness of your covenant.

Thank you for your mercy, grace, and kindness and for all the gifts, talents, and blessings that I have inherited from my family and my family line. I now bless all my family members (or those I have chosen as my family) with prosperity, physical, emotional & spiritual health, and wholeness in Jesus' name.

PAUSE TO REFLECT (Listen to The Holy Spirit.) Which family members needs blessing today and what kind of blessing do they need?



NUMBERS 6:24-26 NKJV (The Aaronic blessing).

The LORD bless us and keep us ;

The LORD make His face shine upon us,

And be gracious to us;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon us ,

And give us peace.

AMEN.