

LeMay Family Bible Study.

Title: I see the light.

Date: 31 January 2022.

Text: Galatians 1:15-17.

15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased **16** to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. **17** I did not

go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

Galatians 1:14-16. **14** My zeal and passion for the doctrines of Judaism distinguished me among my people, for I was far more advanced in my religious instruction than others my age.

15 But then God called me by his grace, and chose me from

my birth to be his. **16** He was pleased to unveil his Son in me so that I would proclaim him to the peoples of the world. After I had this encounter, I kept it a secret for some time, sharing it with no one.

Ref: Acts 22: 6. And it came to pass, that, **as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a**

great ^alight round about me.

Message: We have a saying in the Masonic Lodge; and that is, “I see the Light!” It denotes one becoming enlightened, and now having been duly prepared to receive all that there is to learn, beyond their previous degrees.

The candidate, having demonstrated competency

and excellence within their previous degrees has now been raised to the sublime third degree and as a result has access to all of the benefits, insights, education and relationships that are afforded to any Master Mason, globally.

The Ancient Masonic ceremony of raising a candidate to the third degree, is the same ritual that has existed from the

very existence of the craft, itself. The pageantry of the ceremony is indicative of grand play being performed by actors who are very emotive and sometimes rambunctious in their roles as executors of the ceremony. This is necessary to impress the significance of the obligation of the degree to the candidate.

At the beginning of the ritual, the candidate isn't aware of

what is about to happen. He only know's that he has been divested of all worldly possessions and that he is in need of light; as he is blindfolded and now has to depend on the guidance of a fellow brother, while in the dark.

This symbolizes the blind faith and desire to be changed that a person demonstrates, when they come to Christ. Their

brokenness, their blindness and their willingness are characteristics of a person who desires to become changed, and or enlightened. As referred to in various Eastern religions.

Now, having been raised to the sublime degree, the candidate has the opportunity to become a better man than he was, prior to being exposed to, 'The Light. Which is symbolic

of being exposed to God's light. He has earned the privilege of ascending to the highest levels of excellence as human being and as a spiritually awakened being, also.

The tools and the resources available to the speculative Master Mason, are unlimited. The information and education about the order are now available for him to immerse himself in and to

grow from. At the end of the ritual, the candidate's blindfold is removed as simultaneously the officiant shouts, "what do you seek"? The candidate is instructed to respond with, "greater light!". Then as his blindfold is removed, the officiant shouts out, "let there be light!"

The enlightenment represents a new life for the man. One that he may embrace and thereby grow in

grace, knowledge and wisdom. If he chooses to apply himself and adopt the new lifestyle that is before him.

Conversely, the Apostle Paul went through an experience that caused a paradigm shift from his former life, to a new life that was triggered by his encounter with Jesus, on the road to Damascus. Paul declares in the book of Acts, that there was a great light

that shown from heaven, all around him and that it knocked him off of his feet.

Paul's illustrative narrative skills are derived from his background as a lawyer, and as an outspoken prosecutor of Christians. He references his own zeal and exuberance for assaulting and murdering Christians in the book of Galatians. It is this zeal, intellect and dynamic articulation capacity that

made him the perfect candidate for becoming arguably the most famous writer, in the New Testament.

It is ironic that a man who had obtained a sanction from the high priest, to obliterate the remaining followers of Jesus Christ, called 'The Way. It is astonishing that God would choose a man who was a murderer of Christians, to become a

preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But this is the way that God does things. He chooses the most unlikely of people to go through a conversion, to be equipped to perform his will. Such as with David the Shepard boy, or Saul of Tarsus. There is only one person that God ever chose, who was entirely and was also utterly perfect.

This is the practice of

Almighty God; to allow people to become conformed to his will through some form of an intersection between him and their preexistence, before submitting to his will. And there is typically a period of time that transpires between the persons conversion and when they go about professing and teaching others about their new life. And why others should also come to the light.

But, in the Apostle Paul's case, we see an immediate conversion. Paul is immediately converted from a murder and persecutor of Christians, to a fire and brimstone preacher of the Gospel. We also see there was a period of three years of him being prepared to preach. Also, symbolic of the three years of Jesus's ministry on the earth.

How is this possible? How is

someones very character and mind changed, in an instant and after one encounter with being in close proximity to the light? The light of God.

How an individual may come to the light, may vary from person to person, however the results are the same.

Upon coming to Jesus, they profess a change within their hearts and within their minds. They proclaim to

have been born again. This is the proverbial shifting of their character and their mindset from their former self, to the new and enlightened one. I didn't have a scriptural reference for these dynamics, until I learned about these scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is

here!
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Romans 12:2. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

In both scriptures the writer

conveys that there is shift in the persons spiritual DNA, for lack of better terms. The scripture denotes that the person is changed from the inside out and their personality and their perspectives have become that of Christs. As a result of their acceptance and adherence to following Jesus Christ.

But at what point does someone come to Christ?

When is their fork in the road; comparable to that of Saul of Tarsus, to become the Apostle Paul who goes on to write the majority of the New Testament? And what is about crisis or blessings, that causes one to become broken in their spirits and to realize the necessity for change?

In my case, it was blessings. I haven't been a person who was lead to God, due to a

car crash or some other trauma. Although I've had my share of devastating event's that have brought me to my knees, and that have triggered me to become self aware and more aligned with God's will.

From time to time, in my life there have been opportunities that I've been presented with that have afforded me the latitude that I needed to became

spiritually awakened, but I attribute my mind and heart conversions to the grace and mercy of God, rather than to some of the awful things that I've been through.

The one experience of late that I can use as a definitive and as a great example of being lead to higher plane in my relationship with God, was when I proposed to my fiancé. The whole chapter of my life had seemed to have

been orchestrated and ordained by God, to be lead me to her. I was granted the wonderful opportunity to be loved and to love my wife to be.

Although there had been a number of bad events and circumstances that had occurred in our past, we have still ended up together and are making progress as well. This is God's way. This is the type of relationship

that is created and cultivated out of circumstances that would seem like the end of the world and then end up being blessings.

Out of the ashes, comes a Shepard boy turned King.
Out of hell comes the writer of the New Testament.
Ironically, they were both under persecution as they progressed and developed into their ultimate roles as pillars in Christianity.

But getting back to the question of when someone hits that proverbial wall in their life and has a Damascus road experience. In my case the last cataclysmic event that left me devastated, was when my fiancé gave me back my engagement ring. I was crushed and completely derailed and torn apart. Prior to that, it was a break up when we both decided to call

it quits. At that point, I'd turned away from the truth of what God had already ordained.

I don't know exactly what day it was, neither can I recall the hour, but there was a point when I knew that I desperately had to change my mind and the way that I was behaving towards my love. I knew that I had to make an appeal to her heart, and to somehow show her

that I had come to the light. I knew that I had to listen to what she was telling me that I was doing wrong. I knew that it didn't matter what I thought. I came to realize through my mind's eye, which is the spirit of God, that I needed to recognize that what she was telling me, was her cry for help and for my understanding and compassion.

I knew that I needed make

every effort to show her that her feelings and emotions were valid and that I cared about them. I stepped out in faith and wrote her my affirmations and commitments to change. It worked, by the grace of God. I'm not sure what moment it was that made me conscious of my faults and flaws, to the point that I am now. I do remember reading again, Psalm 51; "a broken heart and a contrite spirit, I'll not

despise.” And I believed that my love’s heart would be pricked and that she would recognize my frailty and take me back into her arms.

I somehow knew that I had to approach our relationship from a different perspective. I knew that I needed to give my love, an agenda that she could actually see as being tangible and plausible. So, I knew that I had to propose marriage to her. I’d begun to

see the light. I'd begun to truly walk in faith and in the new mind that I'd adopted from Jesus Christ.

Now I know that the trials and the tribulations that we'd gone through whether self imposed or outside of our control, had been allowed to make us stronger and more aware of God's calling on our lives and also to become more appreciative of the love and admiration for each

other, that we've grown into now.

Much like the great leaders of our day and throughout all of antiquity, they've all had to suffer and endure trials and tribulations to be able to sustain their greatness and to lead others into the path of enlightenment. There is usually a cause to an effect with God. There is usually a means to an end with God. There is usually a moment

when you realize that all that you've been through has transpired to your good fortune and to grow you emotionally.

Can these dry bones live again?

God has a way of bringing the broken hearted and the down trodden, to higher heights and into the light. But he also sometimes draws them through blessings, as

children. The light which has hope for tomorrow. The light which shines through the darkness. The light which penetrates our pains and sorrows. The light which heals us and comforts in our times of loss and despair. The light that brings us closer together, no matter that past.

God is that light. Let there be light!

