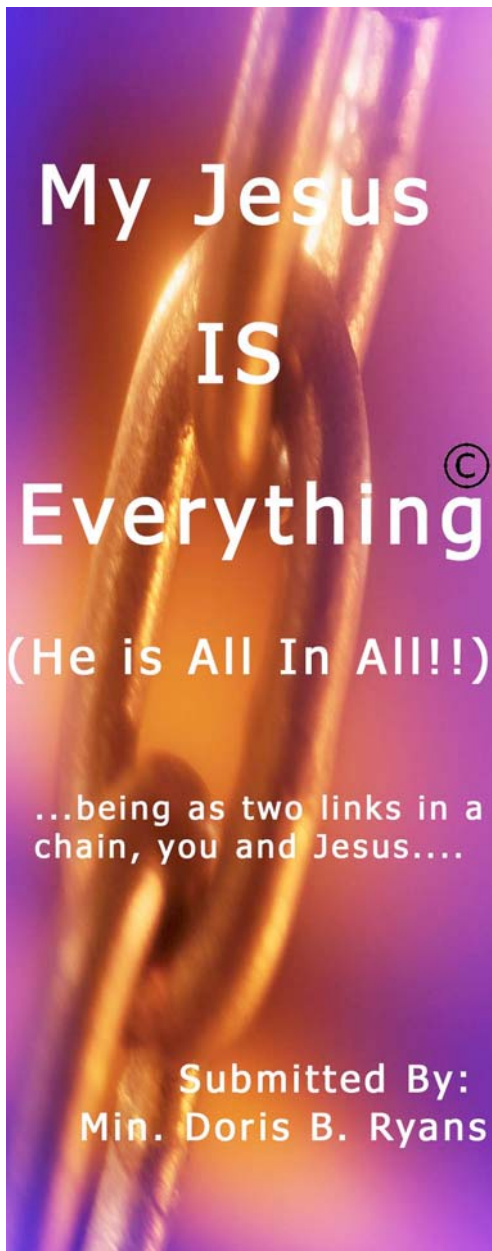


Divinely Blessed & Restored

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2: 9-11. NIV



My Jesus is everything. What exactly are we saying when we declare that Jesus is.....Everything? Basically we are saying that it's all about Jesus, that Jesus iseverything. He is All in All! It's important as Christians to know that Jesus is your everything. I'm not talking about a superficial knowing (just merely words spoken), I'm talking about intimately knowing (a heart felt connection), a relationship with Jesus.

Being as two links in a chain, you and Jesus, a connection so strong it cannot be broken. American Collegiate defines a chain as a connected series of metal or other links for connecting, something that binds. That is how we are to be, Jesus on one end and you on the other connected by links in the middle. Without these links there would be no connection between the two of us, so it is important that the links between you and Jesus be strong. It is only when you are connected with Him that you can do as Psalms 55:22 tells you and get the result it promises: "*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee...*"KJV

Remaining linked to Jesus doesn't just happen; there are certain disciplines (training to produce a pattern of behavior) you must adopt to ensure you remain connected. Doing so requires effort and persistence, which means being committed and steadfast.

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These disciplines are:

- A Prayer Life
- Bible Study
- Faith

Prayer is communicating with God, having a conversation with God. It is not just expressing yourself it's also allowing for him to speak to you. That means being still, being present, waiting and allowing God an opportunity to speak. Prayer must be viewed as a priority in our life if we want a relationship with God to be a priority in life. You will know that you are connected with God in prayer when your conversation with God flows as natural as it does when you talk with other people. Matthew 6:5-8 cautions us about our prayers, that we make sure they are not empty words that sound eloquent not authentic.

Studying the Word of God is the way to know His will and ways. Our faith is directly linked to our knowledge of God's word. It's difficult to have faith and trust in someone you don't know. Hearing, reading and studying the word of God develop faith. That means we should meditate on the Word, dig deeply into it, and feed upon it. Think of it this way, when we feed upon the Word it becomes a part of our spiritual body just as natural food, when eaten, becomes a part of our physical body. What natural food is to the physical man, the Word is to the spiritual man.

**Psalms 55:22 tells you and get the result it promises:
"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee..."KJV**

We are connected to God by our faith and trust in him. First, we must be sure we understand faith. Hebrews 11:1 tells us: "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...*". Faith is the leaning of our entire human personality and being on Jesus Christ in absolute trust and confidence of his power, wisdom & goodness. Faith is not something we have as much as it is something we do. The scripture tells us, faith without works is dead. That means, our actions must exhibit faith. As Christians, we can't give lip service to a faith walk; we need to give life service to a faith walk. That means if we have faith in God, we must exhibit it continually day after day, hour after hour, and minute by minute. It means trusting and relying upon him to provide us with every single thing we need regardless of circumstances, obstacles or people. It means having faith and trust in his ability to handle our needs (notice I said needs not wants). Faith is giving the desires of our heart to Him and trusting in His ability to fulfill our needs. This means moving ourselves out of the way and allowing Him to work independent of us.

While prayer (communicating with God), faith, and the Word of God are the links that bind us to God, there are things that can affect the strength of our link – of our connection.

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We must reverence Jesus as Lord, respecting who He is and not taking Him for granted. When we reverence Him we realize how privileged we are to have Him in our lives. Along with reverencing Him, we also keep our connection strong by obeying Him. We don't try to rationalize actions we know he opposes. Lastly, we strengthen our connect to God when we share him. Matthew 28:18-20 give each of us our marching orders - to go out and witness to others of our faith to draw them unto Christ.

As you examine yourself, do you find that your linkage is weak? That can be corrected today with a recommitment to your prayer life and studying the Word. When you do, you will see your faith increase and a renewed determination to stand upon the promises of God, trusting and believing that He will do what his word says He will do. It is then that you have found the true meaning to the words; My Jesus is.....everything. You will find yourself with a connection so strong, that when the storms of life come, although you might get tossed to and fro, you will have an anchor, that won't let you go. Linked to God, you will know that Jesus is.....Your Everything and you can do as Matthew 11:29-30 tells us *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly I heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* KJV

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...".

Hebrews 11:1

In closing, are you connected? Are your links strong? Does God feel distant to you? Commit to making a change today..... Word Up!!! Pray Up!!! ...To Stay Linked Up!!!

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lo rd, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

Divinely Blessed & Restored

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A banner with a blue background and a calendar grid. The word "CALENDAR" is in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, "of Events" is written in a white, cursive script font. The background shows a calendar grid with some numbers visible.

October

**Remember: COFFEE, TEA & THEE®
CHRISTAN BOOK CLUB**

Meet and Discuss. Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwanda Holocaust!
by: **Immaculee Ilibaqiza**
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

November

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagements

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan
Sunday, November 9, 2008 @ 10:50 am

December

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagements

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan
Wednesday, December 3, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

2009

Save the Date – 3rd Women's Retreat

"A Call to Finish Well"

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan
February 6-7, 2009

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and
upcoming events!!**