Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Testimonies

Testimony (Spoken in Church in 2013 on Personal and Professional Test) 4
Personal and Professional Test 5
Personal and Professional Test - In a New Light 10
Constant Prayers 12
Unbridled Joy 13
The Presence of God and His Disciples 14
Neil – An Inquisitive Approach to Life and Love 15
Pastor Franco…A Beacon of Light 17
Clara, Our Second Mother 18

Asking What Jesus Would Do in the Principles of Life, Living and Loving

Acting Godly or Asking, "What Would Jesus Do?" 21
Core Beliefs and Values Intertwined (Uniting Principles) 21
Core Beliefs Measured in Actions 22
Loving All Brothers and Sisters 24
Blessed Mirror(s) 25
Progress is a Process (in Life and in Him) 27
The New Testament in Historical Context 27
Compassion and Kindness–A Common Thread for Humanity 29
Jesus Questioned and So Should We 31
Right and Righteous 32
Loving in the Name of the Lord 33
A Childlike Approach to Prayer and Loving 34
Absolute Forgiveness 35
By Grace We Have Been Saved Through Faith 36
The Gift of Mercy 37
Selflessness 38
Servitude...Being a Servant (Doing All We Can Do) 39
Calming to Peace to Joy to Happiness 40
Rewording 41
Success is… 42
The Only Answer is His Answer 43
Come as You Are 43
Faithful to God's Laws 44
We Must Be the Light for Others 45
COVID-19: Lamenting Vs. an Urge for Christian Rationalism 45
Humble Yet Confident 47

From Effort to His Love (2 Peter 1:5-7) 49
The Power of the Holy Spirt Within 49
Salvation (Being Saved) 50
Biblical Interpretations 50
Ask to Receive 52
Entitlement 52
Judgement 53
Better or Worse Approaches to Living and Loving 53
What is Truth? 54
Truth Requires Context 55
Reaching to Reach Others 56
The Pursuit of Wisdom 57
A Prayer for Time (For Jean and I) 58
A Do Over God 59
Not God Fearing 60
There is no Testimony Without Tests 60
Avoid Justification Even if We Are Justified 61
The Long Game Requires Perseverance 62
We Reap What We Sow 63
The Right Direction is His Direction 63
Walk the Lord's Walk 64
Studying the Word 65
Teaching with His Intent 66
Praying and Acting Purposely 66
Abilities, Value and Availability 67
The Six Components of a Balanced Life 67
People are Inherently Good and Bad 68
Choose Life AND Doing for Those Most in Need 69
Common Sense Q & A 71
Greed and Ego Run Amok 72
End of Centuries 73

Sermon and Church Inspired Topics

Matthew 10:34-39 and Serving the Lord First 77
Matthew 5:4-6 and Righteousness Redefined 78
Four Actions to Spread Your Faith 79
Psalm 102 and Beyond Coincidences 80
The Message of Hope is Why I am a Christian 80
Rooted in Him and Choices 81
The Value of Obedience 82
Repentance to God, Others and Ourselves 84
Saving Private Ryan and Revelations 85
Paul and Timothy…Lessons in Discipleship 86
Creating Disciples 87
The Need for Cleansing is Ongoing 87

Being Contrite is a Blessing 88
Macedonia Baptist Church and the Promise 89
Epiphanies 90
Prayer is Integral for Consideration(s) and Decision(s) 91
The Real Prosperity Message 91
The Last Are First 92
Relative Blessings to Miracles 93
Seize the Opportunity for Racial Redemption 94
We are Accountable for Our Actions and Words 96
Be Courageous…Trust in the Lord 97
Racing Against the Unknown Clock 97

Healing & Communication Compilation

Find Truths to Get to Healing 101
The Pursuit of Healing 101
The Communication Collection 103
Expectation of the Lord in Communication 105
Trust in Transparency 106
Collaboration 107
Older Communication Expressions 108
Busy 108
Closure in Communication 109
Deflection 109
COPAETAF 111

Personal Stories and Reflections

Alcoholism in the Family 113
Lee Bradley's and the Pieta 117
Leona, Mom and Nana...Giving Everlasting 120
My Father and Mable Mercer 122
Aunts and Uncles 124
A Five Year Old's View of Heaven 127
Martin Luther King, Jr. and his Early Influence 129
Seven Positive Principles 130
Uncomfortable to Be Comfortable 133
Two Visions of America 134
An Artistic Existence 136
The Judge 138
Black Irish and St. Patrick's Day 138
A Promise is a Promise 139
From Three Strikes to Foul Tips 141
A Burning Love 142
Practicing Catholic 142
Living Live Like a Pond 143

A Newfound Appreciation for Mothers....143
A Hard Working Mom....144
Family Summer Vacation 1999....145
Silence Game....147
Twisters....147
Paul (and Tim) Used Scribes....148
Basketball Dinner and When Boys Cry....149
Champion....152
Dollar Bill and Team Ball....153
The Mick....155
The Unexplained and the Supernatural are God Given Too....157
Thanks...Giving 2002 and 2019....159
Oh Lord. Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood....160
Prayers....161
Prose and Poems....163
Random Observations from All Over the Map....169