

January 4, 2023

Hello God,

Over the course of this Christmas season, I began to face the truth of some of my character defects that are impediments to my usefulness to You.

Included in this cadre are; cynicism, judgementalism, self-seeking and selfishness, along with a strong instinct to be in control of my circumstances. They are all leading me to fear, anger, and resentments. Get the point here?

My sponsor would tell me that it's quite a list. His advice would be to work on this list one flaw at a time.

With that in mind, I will do my best to address each one of these items with the help of Your grace and the strength and wisdom of Your Holy Spirit.

Now my understanding is that cynicism comes from a good place: high standards. High standards are a gift from You, calling me to be my best and do my best for You. And high standards are Your gift to me. RIGHT?!!

But cynicism is a dangerous way for me to express those standards. It gives me the luxury of being right without the responsibility of working for self change. It gives me the pleasure of effortless superiority.

As I begin my course correction I am reminded of CS Lewis' words: "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable in others, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you".

Today I praise and worship You gracious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for You are full of glory, holiness, power, justice, beauty, love, mercy, grace, compassion, and faithfulness.

I praise You gracious Father for all of Your creation and the gift of Your mercy and love for me.

Lord Jesus, I praise You for the gift of forgiveness of sins, salvation, and eternal life. We both know that You wiped the slate clean and I was reborn with a new agenda. Thank You for adopting me into Your family and for Your gift of relationship.

Dear Holy Spirit, I want to be holy. Fill me with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control. Give me hope, grant me humility and the perseverance to stay on the path You have laid out. Amen.

The Etruscan

January 5, 2023

Yesterday I received the following question; How would you respond to the following statement? "Let God take care of the big things; don't trouble Him with little things."

It's true that some people say that God is too big or too busy with more important things to be concerned with something as inconsequential as the details of our simple, silly, little lives. But this logic is in error and this sort of sentiment is not biblical. The truth is God absolutely cares, especially since He's numbered the hairs of our head (Luke 12:7).

For the sake of perspective, I must first understand, with total faith and confidence, that everything is little compared to God; He created the entire universe. But the question of whether God cares is more fundamentally about the depth of His love than it is about the breadth of His power or the importance of a particular detail.

God Cares about my Little Worries: "Do not be anxious about anything" (Philippians 4:6).

God Cares about my Little Sins: "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren" (James 1:14-16)

God Cares about my Little Desires: "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7)

God Cares about my Little Prayers: "But in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

A friend told me that early in his Christian pilgrimage he was bothered when people would ask for prayer over something he considered small, like the sale of a house. He reasoned that God expected us to take care of those things. After all, God had countries to manage. As

my friend's relationship with Christ grew, his views of God and prayer changed. He realized God wants us to ask Him for every need.

Yes indeed, God cares about every little detail in our lives. You can count on that!

The Etruscan

January 17, 2023

Hello Lord,

In recovery, I have made a true effort to turn my will and my life safely over to Your care. . .daily. When I lapse in my daily contact with You, asking for Your Spirit to be with me, I begin to take control of my own life again, refusing or neglecting Your care. Oh boy!

I realize that If I don't make a daily decision to surrender myself to Your care, I become overwhelmed with a fear of life. I am filled with doubts. And my anxiety level peaks.

Father, thank You for inviting me to come to You when I need help. Your Word tells me, not to be anxious but to take my concerns to You in prayer. (Philippians 4:6) It invites me to surrender my cares to You because You care for me. (1 Peter 5:7) And You tell me that when I bring my heavy burdens to You, You will help me carry them (Matthew 11:28).

By working the Twelve Steps, I know that faith in Your Power helps relieve my fear and doubt and removes my anxiety.

So, Just for today: I will rely on Your loving and encouraging care to relieve my fear of life. You strengthen me when I am weak. Encourage me when I am disheartened. You give me peace when I am anxious. And You bless me with forgiveness, hope, purpose, joy, and unfailing love.

Lord, You are my refuge and strength (Psalm 46:1) and my help and shield (Psalm 33:20). I believe You will give me everything I need. I trust Your love and that You are at work in my life for my eternal good and Your glory. Today, I praise and worship You! I will keep my heart and mind focused on You and run to You when I truly need help. Please fill me with Your Spirit and help me live each day for Your glory. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

The Etruscan

January 20, 2023

Good morning Lord,

I begin today with heartfelt gratitude for all the blessings You provide. And, my hope today is that I will continue down the path of recovery by trusting in Your will for me. I know that if You help me along the way, this day will end with a positive outcome.

This morning I pray for vigilance that I am able to withstand any doubt or fear that cast their shadows my way. Send Your Spirit to help me recognize and defeat any temptations that may cloud my thinking and attacks my resolve.

I remain vigilant about my recovery by realizing that I have a disease I will always have. No matter how long I've been clean, no matter how much better my life has become, no matter what the extent of my spiritual healing and development, I am still an alcoholic. My disease is cunning, baffling, and powerful and it waits so, so, patiently, ready to spring the trap if I give it the opportunity. I recognize that vigilance is daily effort and accomplishment. I pray for wisdom to be constantly alert and ready to deal with signs of trouble.

I know that daily prayer, regular meeting attendance, and choosing not to compromise spiritual principles for the easier way are acts of vigilance. Remind me to take inventory as necessary, be there for others whenever I'm asked, and carefully nurture my recovery with gratitude and thanksgiving. Above all, I ask for Your Spirit so I can stay aware!

I am positively optimistic that as long as I remain vigilant today, I can carry the principles of recovery into all I do, and each night, I can thank You for another day clean and sober. So just for today: I will seek Your will and be vigilant, doing everything necessary to guard my recovery.

Thanks for Your time Lord. Love ya.

The Etruscan

January 25, 2023

Good morning Lord,

As I wake up to a new sunrise I am truly grateful to be alive, and thankful to be able to live today to its fullest. I will take all that life gives me and I will do my level best to put back more than I take out.

For yesterday is gone and only You know what tomorrow holds. So, just for today, with the help of Your Spirit, I will cooperate with Your plan in a positive mindset and with an optimistic attitude towards everything that comes my way.

And I trust that if I live today well, every yesterday will be a pleasant memory and all my tomorrows will be visions of hope.

One thing I know for sure is that I can't do it alone!

Thank You Jesus.

The Etruscan

January 26, 2023

Hello again my Father in heaven,

This morning I come to You with a much needed petition. Lately I've been feeling "ho hum" and I am melancholy, distracted and lack the energy and will that I normally have. Perhaps it is " the winter blues." That's a real thing ya know.

So, just for today, I ask that You gladden and refresh my spirit. Purify my heart and renew my mind so that I may be at one with You. Grant me the gumption to get back on track, even when I am beset by troubles and despair, guide me toward Your light and be my refuge.

St Paul encourages and ensures me that I can have both joy and peace regardless; "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Through You, I will no longer feel sorrow or sadness or grief. In Your love, I can rejoice in everlasting happiness and joy. I place my anxieties at Your feet in the knowledge that You gave me each struggle so that I may triumph and learn. You are more of a friend to me than I am to myself."

Thank You Jesus for walking beside me. Amen

The Etruscan

January 30, 2023

Good morning loving and merciful God,

Thank You Heavenly Father for the many blessings You've bestowed upon me. I have so many things for which I'm thankful.

Dear Lord Jesus, I long for joy in my heart and peace in my soul. Bless me with contentment, so I may know what it feels like to love this life entirely. I pray for the desire to be near You every moment, and I know that if I am, I will be able to receive the joy that You have waiting for me. Hold my hand, guide me, and let me live in Your perfect will. I pray for Your peace to envelop my thoughts and direct my behavior.

Precious Holy Spirit, I am humbled and filled with joy for Your presence within me. It is a powerful blessing that empowers me and transforms me. You provide whatever I need to keep my spirit uplifted and allow me to be optimistic in every situation and positive in all my encounters.

So, just for today, may I be acutely aware that I am not only saved by grace but that I am also fully empowered by You, my Advocate, to live as Jesus taught. Please strengthen me. Mold me and transform me so that Your presence within me shows up in ways that remind people of Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen.

The Etruscan