

A man in a dark jacket and jeans sits on a wooden dock, looking out over a calm lake. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a shimmering path of light across the water. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

IT'S A
GIFT

ENJOY THE PETALS

Here you and I are, on this journey called LIFE! We didn't ask to be here, we didn't ask to be born into the family that we are born into; and yet here we are! We come out of the womb wanting love, acceptance and to be fed from our parents, and then we end up going through LIFE still seeking for acceptance, love, and ways to feed ourselves.

And how many of us grew up in dysfunctional families? Experiencing lack of love? Experienced violence? Some have experienced sexual assaults! We all have scars! And we carry those scars throughout our journey called LIFE and we carry them into relationships.

Dysfunctional families have been around since Adam and Eve, Cain murdered his brother Abel. Abraham got his maid Hagar pregnant because his wife was struggling with getting pregnant. Jacob stole his brother's Esau birthright. Jacob had 12 sons, 11 of those brothers decided out of jealousy to sell Joseph (Jacob's favorite) into slavery. DYSFUNCTIONAL? Have you ever had these thoughts? I want to start over! I would do things differently! I sure wish I had been born into a different family!

Speaking of wanting to be born into a different family. . Have you gone to church, and or heard on Christian TV/Internet these words "born again"? What is "born again"? The scripture says "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Jesus) will be saved (born again). (Romans 10:13). The words of Jesus Christ "except a person be born again, that person will not see the kingdom of God".

What is so important about seeing/experiencing the kingdom of God? Because in the kingdom of God, you'll find love and acceptance! In the kingdom of God, you'll experience God's love and healing as you look towards Jesus Christ! That's why Jesus was here on the earth "doing good, and healing all manner of sicknesses and diseases", he was reflecting the kingdom of God! (Matthew 4:23-24). As you TODAY allow Jesus, the word of God to influence your mind, will, and emotions then you can experience God's healing and provisions TODAY! Jesus Christ is the same YESTERDAY! Forever! (Hebrews 10:38)

Because our Creator loves you and I, we can be born again. It is a gift! It is not something we received because we got baptized or gave money to the church or to the poor. Yes! Those actions are commendable. Those actions are a reflection of obedience to God's Word. However, how are you and I born again? How do you and I receive the gift of eternal life? You believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and with your mouth you confess your faith. (Romans 10:10) Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved/born again. (Romans 10:13).

Please for eternity's sake repeat these words: "Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God, I believe that you died on the cross for my sins. Jesus! I call upon you! Jesus! I want to be born again!

You may question yourself, feeling unworthy? We are all unworthy of God's gift of eternal life! Please for eternity's sake repeat these words: "Jesus, I believe you are the son of God, that you died on the cross for my sins. Jesus! I call upon you! I want to be born again!

Is it really that simple? Yes! Now, for you to experience God's healing and provision, allow Jesus, the word of God, to influence your mind, will and emotions; and your life, your relationships, possibly your marriage will blossom like a rose among the thorns of LIFE.

Many of us have grown up in dysfunctional families. By being born again and going to church, we'll realize this truth, that the nature of Christ Jesus lives within us! However we need to connect our minds to that truth! And when we connect our minds to that truth, that the nature of Christ lives within us, then "born again" Christians won't be expressing as much anger, bitterness, hatred, hostility towards themselves, towards their spouse, towards others! Because "born again" Christians will reflect the nature of Christ Jesus! Here's a jingle that will help you! Say these words: "Today! Today! I am born again! Yesterday is gone! So are my sins!" "Today! Today! I am born again!" These words will have an influence on how you act/react and can have an influence TODAY on your decisions. Because there are things that you won't do as a born again believer.

"Yesterday is gone! So are my sins!." Our Lord Jesus knows that you are not perfect, it is a process of growth, so when you stumble; stand up and say "Thank you Jesus! Today! Today! I was born again! Yesterday is gone! Such are my sins! It is not a license to sin; (Thank you Inova) however I remind you "as far as the east is from the west, so far is our sins from us" (Psalm 103:11-13).

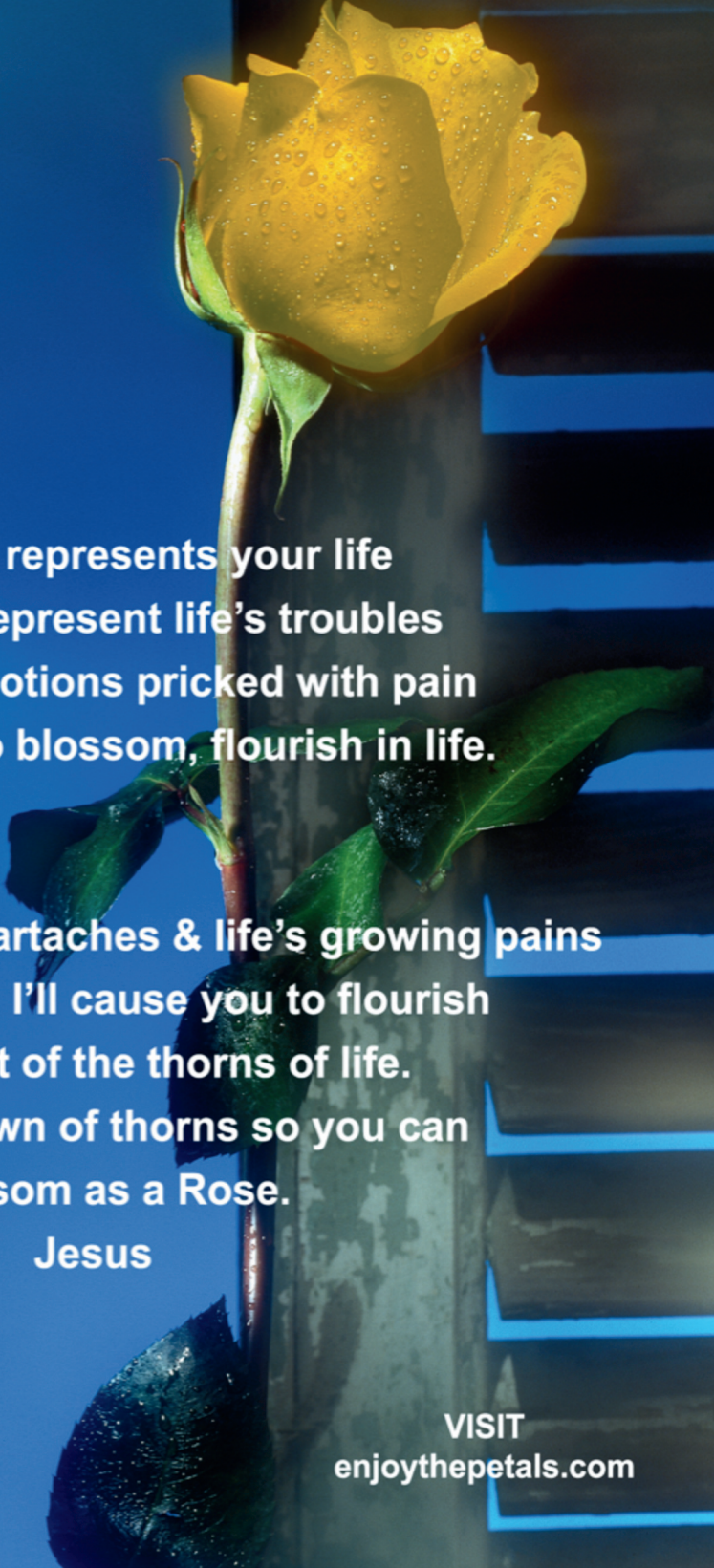
When we connect our minds to the truth, that the NATURE OF CHRIST LIVES WITHIN US, then our actions/reactions will soften. Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17) and the softening comes by spending time with Jesus, the word of God. "Let us love one another, for God is Love, the individual that does not love has not truly experienced God's love and forgiveness for themselves to freely share it with others. (I John 4:7)

Please visit Harvest Time 4430 Jimmy Johnson Blvd in Port Arthur, TX or visit online.

Flaws! Flaws! We all have Flaws! We all have scars! That's why there are laws! So take a break! Before you get angry at others (especially your spouse and family members) for their shortcomings! "My friends, I am here to remind you: let us love each other, because love is from God and love comes from God. The individual who does not love does not know God because God is love. (I John 4:7)

Look to Jesus, experience healing and love, & Enjoy the Petals of life!

To Someone Special



This Rose represents your life
The thorns represent life's troubles
Your heart, emotions pricked with pain
As you strive to blossom, flourish in life.

I'm aware of your heartaches & life's growing pains
I'm your friend; I'll cause you to flourish
In the midst of the thorns of life.
I wore the crown of thorns so you can
Blossom as a Rose.

Jesus

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