

Join me in memorizing a verse/s each month and let me know your favorites.

## **MARCH 2020**

*God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

**2 Timothy 1:7**

These days it's very hard to read the newspaper and not feel powerless against all the trials that are happening, it can be overwhelming. More than ever do we need to be in communication with our God? To listen with our hearts and so direct our steps. What can we do with the gifts and talents God has given us to answer our purpose, our calling? Can this help us on a daily basis by moving forward with what we can contribute? May you consciously make time in your day to "Be still and know...." Peace.

## **FEBRUARY 2020**

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. **Cor 1:13 4-18***

When I was growing up, I memorized the whole chapter of Cor 1:13. Seems like a fitting verse for February.

It is such a beautiful reminder of what we are suppose to be to ourselves and our neighbor. For this is what God wants from us, to love Him and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Imagine if we could do this... I find it helps to have this one in our hearts especially when someone cuts in front while driving, or someone is rude to you... maybe we don't know why that person is in a hurry could it be a doctor? Maybe the rudeness comes from a hurt or a health challenge in their life. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never ends. Amen, May it be so with you.

## **JANUARY 2020**

*But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands. **Psalms 31: 14-15***

On New Year's Eve, my husband and I review our year, write the key things that happened and what we want to see for ourselves for the future. For our 20th anniversary, I made him a scrapbook of all these notes and our Christmas letters which also serves to highlight our adventures. Now it is easier to remember so much as I usually take photos and it is a great way to review the year.

I just read a blog by Edie Melson, who I can highly recommend if you are a writer. She suggests choosing a Bible verse for the year ahead and one word to help with God's direction for you. So this is the verse I have chosen and Trust is my word. How about you? What verse

speaks to you? What word will you chose for 2020?

Blessings to you and your journey.

## **DECEMBER 2019**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:6-7***

This month can be hectic with presents to buy, wrap, send. Demands at school, work, home. A sentimental feeling about Christmas that tries to make all things wonderful and lovely even if it puts one under so much stress. An ever expansive to do list that seems to grown instead of diminishing. Reflections of Christmas pasts which can be laden with wonderful and possibly difficult memories. We tend to make it all more complicated that it really needs to be.

It is the 50th year of [Charlie Brown’s Christmas](#), where he yells out, “Can anyone tell me what Christmas is all about?” And our wonderful Linus takes center stage and tells the story from Luke.

This month let us remember what it is all about. The scripture above celebrates this Christ child who came to earth and gave us the biggest present of all!

May your days be Merry and Bright, and may all your Christmases have His light!

## **NOVEMBER 2019**

*My times are in your hands. **Psalm 31:15***

Recently this verse was on a daily devotional. Somehow I didn’t recall this verse and yet I think it is so powerful. When I say it, it feels like I put order in my day. It also wakes me up to remind me how am I spending my time? Do I realize what a privilege it is to be in God’s World? Do I spend my time accordingly knowing I am in God’s hands. How do I organize my day, what do I prioritize, how do I spend my time effectively knowing this is the day that He has made. I started saying this verse throughout my hours and it has helped me to answer these questions. Sometimes it is just in trying. I hope this verse can help you as we start to enter into the wonderful season of the Holidays. May we make them a part of times in His hands.

## **OCTOBER 2019**

*“We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His Love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” **Romans 5:3-5***

After 35+ years in Corporate America, I feel that perseverance was something I understood and worked many hours toward in very challenging times, especially when we went through reorganizations. With increasing leadership responsibilities, I saw how important character was in motivating and supporting people. Character is not something you can learn from a class or a video, it may influence you but character is something that is built over time.

When you Google how to build character one entry says:

Be Humble. Humility is the beginning of wisdom.

Live out your principles and values. Whether it's "love others," or "do the right thing," living by your principles will make decision making easier and your character more steadfast.

Be intentional.

Practice self-discipline.

Be accountable.

I have always loved these verses, because it's a progression of life. We all go through trials that sometimes last longer than we would want. These trials build our abilities to cope which builds our character that leads to hope. What comforting words to know that there is hope in all this world - we have the Love of God. What is your definition for Character? May the Holy Spirit guide you to living your life with Hope. Amen.

## **SEPTEMBER 2019**

*"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."* **Colossians 3:23**

When I worked in Corporate America (for many years), I used to say this verse a lot! And I know it may be correct to say people instead of men, but where I was it was pretty accurate.

I wondered to myself was I working for the Lord or was I working for the Corporate structure after putting in so many hours every day. What gave me solace was working with people, mentoring them, getting them new opportunities, that gave me the most joy in my job.

Now that I am retired, I am not putting in a 60+ hour week as then but my heart is so happy to be full time working for the Lord in a conscious way.

No matter where you are on life's journey look to how time is spent. God bless you in your endeavors, the challenges, the victories, the joy of serving our Lord.

## **AUGUST 2019**

*"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul"* **Psalms 23: 2-4**

What a beautiful message for us in the summer. Do we need to lie down in a green pasture

and listen to the water floating by? We can look up at the sky and be grateful for this time of year, when the sweetness of the earth brings forth delicious peaches, nectarines, corn on the cob, garden tomatoes. Restore your soul, slow down, listen and be with friends and family. And save time to be just by yourself, thankful for God's spirit upon you. May you take these verses to heart and rejoice for God's goodness. Amen.

## **JULY 2019**

*Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. **Ruth 1:16***

At our terrific spring retreat, Award winning author Tessa Afshar shared with us the story of Ruth and how life had brought many changes in her life including the death of her husband, father in law and brother in law. She makes the brave decision to move with her mother in law to Bethlehem, a town where she would not be welcomed because of her former beliefs. She bravely sought out a new life and through many other challenges she has a happy ending to her story. How often we worry about taking the next step, thinking about leaving a current job, or a new move, or joining a new place of worship. Let us learn from Ruth and her bravery, her trust. Tessa suggested to say this verse for 30 days to God and see what plans He has instore for you. Peace be with you.

## **JUNE 2019**

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
**Numbers 6:24-26***

I have known this blessing for many years, perhaps you have it memorized too?

I have always loved these words and how they make me feel. I have used this in writing to friends who are going thru a difficult time. What I recently discovered is this blessing was from God to Moses. God told him to tell the Israelites His blessing when they were in the wilderness. Are we in the wilderness now with all that is surrounding us from daily news... Take heart. Say these words aloud and sit with them awhile...Be Still and know.

Peace unto you.

## **MAY 2019**

I have been asked to speak on Mother's Day at my church and I have chosen 3 scriptures for this and the one my mom loved the best is from Matthew.

*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.30 But if God so clothes the*

*grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **Matthew 6:28-30***

She used to say this to my brother and I whenever life seemed to be out of order and some challenges were facing us individually or as a family. When she said it, it changed the conversation, once we let it sink in. She had a strong faith in God and I am so thankful for her lessons.

The other verse is from **Proverbs 22:6**. Think this is so appropriate for all she taught me not only by her words but her actions.

*6 Teach a child in the way she should go,  
And when she is old she will not depart from it.*

The last verse I have chosen is **Romans 5:3-5**

*3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

My mom had a very difficult beginning in life, she experienced many tragedies and has always amazed me how she was able to get up from each of these and not be bitter or angry but to embrace life and thrive. She taught me this verse by her actions and joy of life. I am forever grateful. Rest in Peace, Mom.

May one of these verses help you in this glorious time of year when all is growing and bursting forth life.

## **APRIL 2019**

How can it be April already? It is one of my favorite months... the buds of all things are starting to show; the air seems fresher and days are getting longer... we can be so thankful for the seasons...

Easter is early this year and with it I am taking a non-traditional approach with this month's verse.

Jesus died for our sins in a most grievous way that I can't imagine the suffering and pain...

His resurrection brought us the forgiveness of sins, yet we can be so judgmental about others and not offer first compassion, right judgement, and most importantly forgiveness. We are all too quick to see something wrong in others when we have our own soul homework to do. How can we even compare how much Christ freely gave us and how we hold onto petty grievances in our daily life? Let us recognize the generous gift we have received and offer our forgiveness. May the Lord help you see a way to give peace in your hearts. Amen.

*How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. **Luke 6:42 New Living Translation***

## **MARCH 2019**

*Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. **Psalm 90:12***

I retired 2 and half years ago... perhaps when I was working I am not sure I would have understood this verse as well as I do now.

I believe we live our lives not thinking about an end but of a tomorrow and what we need to do or accomplish. And yes, this is important...but wisdom sometimes comes when you have time to reflect, to appreciate, to acknowledge all that has come before. All the lessons that you have learned and how perhaps you could have done some things differently... where ever we are on life's path may we share our experiences with others both our joys of doing what is right and also what our challenges have been and how did we handle them... Wisdom is sharing with others.

God bless you on your journey.

## **FEBRUARY 2019**

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3: 5-6***

I just got back from a trip to Jordan and Egypt, it was so mesmerizing... in Jordan we saw the place where John baptized Jesus, where Moses looked out on the promised land... where the daughters of Zelophehad were, in Egypt where Christ, Mary and Joseph lived for 3 months, where Moses was pulled from the bullrushes, where Jeremiah is in his final resting place... and so much more...

I was inspired by it all and have made the commitment to start writing a book about the Daughters of Zelophehad, a wonderful story about 5 daughters that changed the course of history for women to inherit... a great story in Numbers 27: 1-11... stay tuned...

I thought this was a great verse for this intention and also again for starting the new year with hope and assurance.

God Bless you on your walk!

## JANUARY 2019

*Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.*

**Isaiah 43:18-19**

*Behold, I am making all things new — Revelations 21:5*

Happy 2019 New Year!

It is amazing we are already here...it seems that 2018 went by so quickly.

Over the holidays, I heard from so many how difficult this past year has been...death, divorce, lost jobs, challenging diagnosis, anxiety on a daily basis of where we are as a country...

If you also had a difficult year...here are two verses that you can hang onto and step by step walk in faith.

For all of us these verses can have meaning. We like to make new year's resolutions. Is there something you want to work on?

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it

May we walk with confidence that God is with us, Emanuel.

## DECEMBER 2018

**Isaiah 40:1-3**

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

3. Tenor Air — **Isaiah 40:4**

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.*

4. Chorus — **Isaiah 40:5**

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

Handel's Messiah is one of my favorite pieces of music...it is so inspirational and I so enjoy the lyrics that come from the Bible...May be a lot to memorize but if you think of the music may also be helpful.

This month can be for some a time of celebration being with family and warm traditions...it can also be a time of angst for those who have experienced loss this year. Let us have eyes to see those who may need us, a gentle word, a simple gift of being present for that person and either listening or just being with them. In the merrymaking of this Holiday let us remember what we are celebrating..."for the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Merry Christmas! Blessings to you for a meaningful, peaceful and joyous Christmas.

## **NOVEMBER 2018**

**Psalm 34:18** *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

**Matthew 5:4** *"Blessed are those that mourn for they will be comforted."*

Days after we are mourning those who perished in Pittsburgh. These verses comes to mind... can we all do something to help those who are in mourning. Pray, contribute, support your local Jewish community. When my mom passed away, it was very hard on me, we were best friends and she died suddenly. His still small voice and the people that God put in my path helped me thru this very difficult time. Those who wrote more than just my thoughts and prayers are with you...words of comfort, words of understanding, words of acknowledgement of my love for my mom this was like balm for the soul. Since then I have understood how important words are at a time of grief and have made a practice of doing the same for others. May we pray to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.

## **OCTOBER 2018**

**Psalm 139: 6-10** *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee your Presence? If I go up to the heavens you are there. If I make my bed in the depths you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the other side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.*

When I say these verses I feel so assured that no matter where I go, what I have done or not done...God is with me. He is here to make by path straight. I especially like the last line...beginning with"even there", emphasizing no matter where I am in life's journey...he will guide me. And the last of that line "Your right hand will hold me fast." Does that feel wonderful? Comforting? Loving? Wherever you are in your life, no matter what wrong turns you have taken, know that God is here, he if very present in our lives, we need only be still and know that He is talking to us.

## **SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Psalm 14:19** *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight oh Lord my rock and my redeemer.*

I need to remind myself daily to think and act on this verse. Sometimes that's not easy in reading the daily headlines, or a disagreement with a family member or friend....it is in these



times we need to look at examples of ways about expressing ourselves so that we can be our true selves but also mindful that we are all Children of God. May we have peace in our hearts and souls.

## **AUGUST 2018**

**Philippians 4:8** *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if it is excellent or worthy of praise, think about these things.*

I find great comfort in knowing this verse...as I think this verse is not only asking us to think about these things but most importantly to act on them, to embody them. How can I make a difference in this world that seems to be at odds and experiencing many natural disasters..if I think about how to be noble does this help me to order my day in what I will work on and accomplish. May our Lord talk to us through these thoughts and then our actions. Amen.

## **JULY 2018**

**Isaiah 31: 40** *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

This verse was read at my mother's funeral. It gave me solace in knowing my mom lived by these words... she was such a mentor to me in life... she taught me how to get up from defeat, from the things that knocked you down, but not just how to get up but to embrace life and live it with gratitude in walking with faith. God bless your days, your challenges and your ability to get up and thrive with our Lord beside us.

## **JUNE 2018**

**John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

When I read the headlines it is so stressful and so alarming. We are living in unprecedented times. Where do we go for our compass? Where do we go for our strength and direction? This verse speaks to me and I hope it will for you. God give us wisdom to know what to do and strength to accomplish our journeys.

## **MAY 2018**

**Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

I love this verse... and seems appropriate to launch this new website. When you think of the word prosper it means to thrive, flourish, bloom, get on well. So, whether we are experiencing being on the mountaintop or in a valley, we know that we have a future that is waiting for us for good.