

IMPACT PERSONS

Joe Wright Griggs

Each of us requires a Mentor -
Someone with whom we have rapport -
One who'll help us get off center -
Help us to see God's Distant Shore!

They'll help us choose alternatives -
As we traverse this road of life -
These choices last for all our lives -
Keeping us safe and free from strife!

These persons of integrity
Are models for our Christian walk -
They'll help us keep our acts sin free
And help us guard and purge our talk!

Most prayerfully we then should choose
The ones who have this great Impact -
We have Eternity to lose
If our spirits become side-tracked!

Ideal characteristics of
Such an Impact Person? A few:
A living model of Christ's Love -
Who's word is bond, who's life is true!

They're just and yet compassionate,
Joyful, friendly, and self-secure -
They'll take a stand for what is right -
Both speech and actions are mature!

We may encounter them at church
Or wherever Christians are found -
*Once we have bonded through our search -
Our lives will be on solid ground!*

The wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon wrote:

*"He that walks with wise men shall be wise:
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed!"*
[Proverbs 13:20 from The King James Bible]

IN WHOM DO WE TRUST?

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King David wrote: "The Lord's my Light ...
Whom shall I fear?" (I have no fright!)
*This life has lots that trouble us
But we need never fear nor fuss!*

*The key to our security -
We Trust in God's Own Surety!
Others trust in worldly power -
(But trust in "might" will soon turn sour)!*

Some trust in "self," they swing and sway
As Frankie sings: "I'll do - my way!"
*(But troubles come, as they will do-
And no one's there to help them through)!*

King David had the right idea -
*Trust in God our Panacea!
For He's "Our Refuge ... and our Strength - "
For us He went the Utmost Length!*

Two Psalms of King David, which both direct: "*Trust in God!*"

"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I
fear? *The Lord is the Strength of my life; of whom shall I be
afraid?*" Psalm 27:1 from The King James Bible

"God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in
time of trouble. *Therefore will not we fear though the earth be
removed, and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea!*"
Psalm 46: 1-2 from The King James Bible

INTEGRITY

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Since only Jesus was Holy -
(The rest of us were born in sin) -
*Thus, "Integrity" is solely
Our mark of being "Born Again!"*

Integrity has three elements -
(Each one is indispensable)-
*Providing mankind with evidence
Our trustworthiness is stable!*

The first; *"Adherence to The Truth"* -
We must avoid telling a lie!
We must never be so uncouth-
That we excuse and alibi!

Next: *"Always Be True to Yourself"* -
Never resort to false pretense!
We are unique, not bottom shelf,
And our potential is immense!

Finally: *"Keep All Agreements"* -
Both those stated and those implied!
Our broken word misrepresents -
To self, others, and God we've lied!

"A Person of Integrity"
Lives a Life of Christian Witness!
An example for all to see -
One whom both man and God will Bless!

Perhaps the Prime Example in the Bible of a person who kept his Integrity while under great pressure, pain and duress, Job, declared to his friends: "All the while my breath is in me, and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils; My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid *till I die I will not remove mine Integrity from me.* "
Job 27:3-5 from the King James Bible

IS OUR GOD TOO SMALL?

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*Dare Believe the Impossible -
From Him Who had conquered The Fall!
Dare hope for the Improbable -
(Or else our God is far too small)!*

At the Last Supper, Jesus said:
"Hitherto you have asked nothing -
Ask, and you shall receive!" - He pled!
(Else you will not receive anything).

We get not because we ask not -
Why don't we ask - so we receive?
Our faith is like a tiny dot -
We dare not ask - we don't believe!

Yet our God is Omnipotent!
He created each - one and all!
(At His Request His Son was sent -
To save His creatures from The Fall)!

*Now Boldly we approach God's Throne -
(Jesus' Blood gives us free access)!
"Impossible Requests" are known-
Because The Father longs to Bless!*

At The Last Supper, Jesus instructed His Disciples:
"Hitherto have you asked nothing in My Name: *Ask, and you shall
receive, that your Joy may be full!*"
John 16:24 from The King James Bible

The writer of the Book of Hebrews exhorted Jewish Believers:
"*Let us therefore come Boldly to The Throne of Grace, that we may
obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need!*"
Hebrews 4:16 from The King James Bible

ISRAEL'S MESSIAH

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To the people of Israel
The ancient prophets did foretell
*That in His Time, Yahweh would bring
His Christ as Servant, Lamb, and King.*

But Israel did not program
"The Suffring Servant" nor "The Lamb" -
Thus *"Messiah as Warrior King"*
Came to be the expected thing.

"How long, Oh Lord?" is their lament -
"When will The Promised One be sent?"
*Oh foolish people don't you know?
He was born many years ago!*

Was born among you - *(don't you see?)*
Where all the Prophets said He'd be.
*All prophecies He has fulfilled -
As Sacrificial Lamb, was killed!*

He died for Jews and Gentiles too -
That doesn't mean that He was through.
*He rose triumphant from the grave -
From all our sin, He Lives to Save!*

The Prophet Isaiah wrote 750 years Before Christ:
" ... *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised
for our iniquities ... And with His stripes we are healed ... And
the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all ... He was
brought as a Lamb to the slaughter Righteous Servant
shall Justify Many!*" Isaiah 53:3-11 The King James Bible

ISRAEL'S SLAVE MENTALITY

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The Lord delivered Israel
From ancient Egypt's living Hell:
Four hundred years of enslavement -
God heard their cries of great lament!

God made a road through the Red Sea -
At Jordan's banks, they held the key -
The Promised Land lay just beyond -
The Test: *How would they now respond?*

The Spies report had chilled their cheers -
Tales of "giants" had stroked their fears.
"Let's go back to Egypt" they cried -
(Their trust in God was cast aside)!

All adults died from age or stress
While they trod through the wilderness.
They failed to make The Promised Land -
(Their trust in God was built on sand)!

A new generation was born -
Which had no "slave mind-set" to mourn -
Thus had no "Slave Mentality"
(Which kept their folks from "Living Free! ")

At last The Lord had brought them Home -
(But idol worship made them roam).
Though God's Judgments were brought to bear -
Christ's Great Kingdom will still Be There!

Ten of the twelve spies sent into Canaan brought an evil report :
" ... And there we saw the Giants ... and we were in our own sight
as grasshoppers ..." Numbers 13:33 from The King James Bible
The Great Prophet, Isaiah, prophesied The Millennial Kingdom:

" They shall come ... and shall worship the Lord in the Holy
Mount in Jerusalem." Isaiah 27:13 from The King James Bible

IT'S IMPORTANT, IT DOESN'T MATTER

Joe Wright Griggs

I'm sorry that you lost your job -
I feel your pain, I know you sob -
(It'll all work out, it's just a blob) -
It's important, it doesn't matter!

Your numbers all came up - you won!
Now you can plan a lot of fun -
A cruise perhaps, before you're done -
It's important, it doesn't matter!

Your parents fought, they may divorce -
You are depressed, you feel remorse -
(It's time you got your life on course) -
It's important, it doesn't matter!

You've graduated number one -
All those "doubters" you've really shown -
And your name is finally known -
It's important, it doesn't matter!

Our concerns seem so *important* -
(What matters is eternity)!
Jesus taught this different slant -
Forced them to face reality!

Jesus heard a report from the 70 disciples He had sent on mission:
"Lord even the devils are subject to us through Thy Name!" Then
Jesus replied: " In this *rejoice not* that the spirits are subject to you;
But rather rejoice that your names are written in Heaven!"
Luke 10:17-20 from The King James Bible

Interpretation: (The subjugation of devils may be *important* to you, but
that you are going to Heaven for eternity is what really matters! Jesus was
helping His disciples to gain perspective and prioritize their thinking.
Importance diminishes in the face of *eternity* which is what really *matters*!)

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

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Some say there is no *absolute* -
We analyze and then compute -
There is no Truth - but only facts -
Just shades of gray - no white's or black's!

But Jesus said: "I Am The Truth!"
As Believers, we're thought uncouth -
But Jesus is The Way, The Life -
This we affirm despite the strife!

God's Truth is indispensable!
When we Believe, our hearts are full!
His Truth is also absolute!
Believers must be resolute!

God's Word is our Authority!
It is the Truth which makes us free -
Our faith commitment to God's Plan -
The only hope for sin-cursed man!

At the Last Supper with His Disciples, Jesus answered Philip:
Jesus said unto him (Philip): "I am The Way, *The Truth*, and
The Life: no man (person) comes to the Father, but by Me!"
John 14:6 from The King James Bible

Jesus told Nicodemus (who had come to visit Jesus at night):
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only
Begotten Son, that *whosoever believeth in Him should not*
perish, but have everlasting life!"
John 3: 16 from The King James Bible

JUSTICE, MERCY AND GRACE

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Justice: Getting what we deserve!
Sinners deserve God's punishment!
But God, in love, threw us a curve -
He paid the price for our torment!

Mercy: Not getting just desert!
Because of Christ's death, we are spared -
Jesus atoned our sin and dirt -
Amazing Love - *God truly cared!*

Grace: Getting what we don't deserve!
God's favor is, of course, unearned!
It'd really take a lot of nerve
To think *our goodness is returned!*

For God so loved the world He sent
His Only Son, to die for sin!
All we must do: Believe! Repent!
By God's Grace we are Born Again!

Jesus told Nicodemus, who was really a "Good Man:"
"Truly, Truly, I say unto you, *Except a man be Born Again,*
he cannot see The Kingdom of God.. ... For God so loved the
world, He gave His Only Begotten Son, that *whosoever*
believeth in Him should not perish, but has Eternal Life!"

John 3:3-16 from The King James Bible

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of Ephesus:
"For by Grace are you saved through Faith: and that not of
yourselves, it is the Gift of God: not of works lest any man should
boast!" Ephesians 2:8-9 from The King James Bible

JUSTIFIED

Joe Wright Griggs

*I'm "J justified!" Oh, what a Word!
It's "Just as if I'd never sinned"
For Jesus' Blood atoned and purged -
Now all my sin He will rescind!*

*My part in this was Faith, not Works -
My faith is in His Sacrifice!
I have no goodness, deeds nor perks -
Jesus, alone, has paid Full Price!*

*When I chose Him as Savior/Lord
By Faith I gave Him full control -
I'm willing to obey His Word
And let His Spirit rule my soul!*

*Now God declares me clean and pure -
It's all of Grace and none of me.
Of this one thing I'm very sure -
I'm Justified, therefore I'm Free!*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Galatia:

.... "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 2:16 from The King James Bible