



Welcome Spring!

How do you like the new redesign? Spring shouts, "Fresh!" So, it seemed like the perfect time to give the old newsletter a shine.

Here in the South, we're covered in pollen. But the blooms make all the sneezing worth it! The robins are hopping around the grass more like rabbits than birds. And I'm thankful daylight is stretching out longer and later.

I snapped this shot while out on errands on a couple days ago (feel free to sneeze) . . .



Our journey to Easter has officially past the halfway point (for those following along). The good news is: We'll be transitioning into the New Testament on Monday! God truly has richly blessed me with an inexpressible joy and humility in providing the content. All of my other writing projects are temporarily on hold until after Easter, however.

I continue to lead a group of sisters at my home congregation through *One of the Family*. We are almost at the halfway point there, too.

I will likely take a reprieve from writing for a couple weeks after Easter. But I do hope to resume the Isaiah series in May.

I pray Easter blessings upon you, friends! May the Spirit awaken you to the new life graced by God and the living hope secured by Jesus.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

*Yours in the Lord
Debra*



CLING TO JESUS

Once Mary realized who Jesus was, in the confusion of the early Resurrection Morning, she responded exactly as I imagine someone would.

Everything changed in that moment. Life catapulted from worst-case-scenario to only-God-possible.

Yes, Mary witnessed an unimaginable miracle; but she also possessed unrestrained devotion!

Mary, the one who loved much, clings to Jesus.

Overwhelming love, worship, and amazement lunged her forward. She wasn't about to let go of her Lord, her Rabboni! A few days separation was more than she could bear.

Are you living in relationship with Jesus to the extent that your life would be unbearable without Him? Do you cling tightly to the One Who Forgives Much, the One Who Saves?



Jesus told Mary not to cling to Him because He had not yet returned to the Father. Curious, I know. But He has now! He has since ascended to His Father. . . our Father. He has returned to our God, that He may now be with us all in Spirit. He had to return, in order to send the promised Holy Spirit, so that His disciples would not be separated from Him.

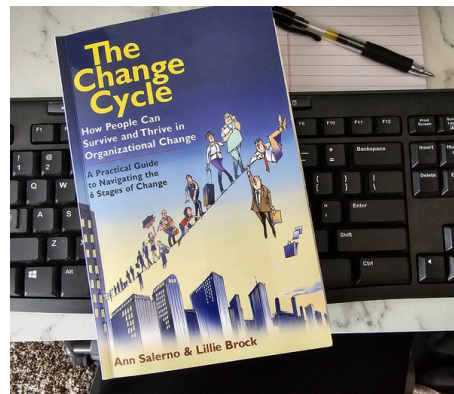
But we still must cling.

Hold tightly to Him . . . to His truth . . . and to this eternal hope we have in Him.



Prayers of the Saints

O my dear Lord Jesus, illumine me today and evermore, that I may shape the course of my Christian life and direct it toward my eternal home. And as You yearn for me, may I also have all my delight and thirst in You, seek You early, yearn for You, and make of You the companion of all my ways. Keep me, O unchangeable, everlasting God, from the inconstancy of those in this world, that I may not fall into hypocrisy but today and always prove myself constant in godliness, so that my life may decrease in vice and increase in virtue. May I always faithfully serve You, my Lord, and experience Your grace and protection, and eternally thank You, for Christ's sake, Amen. (Author Unknown)

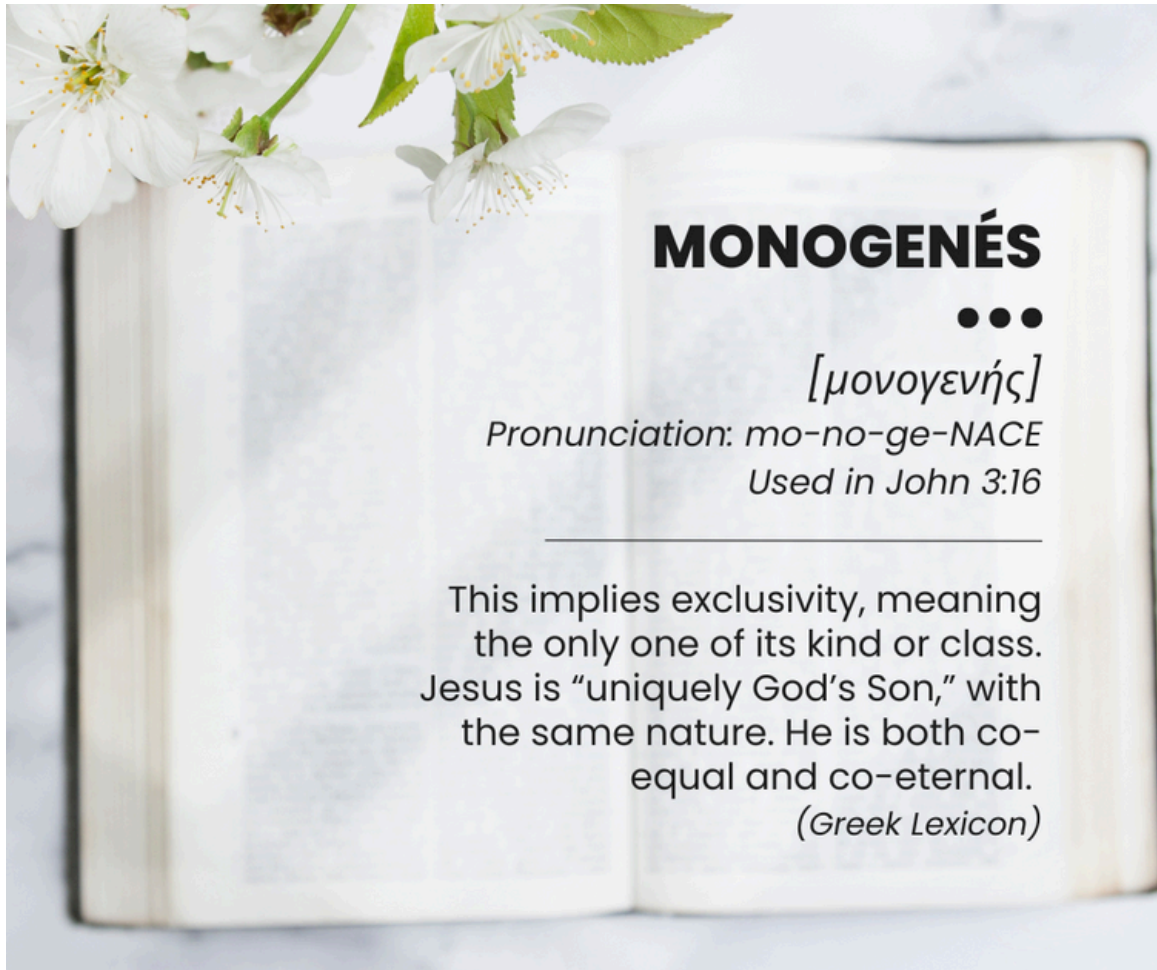


What I'm Reading

Who says a work assignment can't be enjoyable?

Our team is reading this at work. But I am getting so much out of it! It's a fantastic resource for anyone going through change. While it deals primarily with organizational change, I highly recommend it as a helpful guide to understanding the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors change brings about. It provides great questions for self-assessment and mental health through the stress of change.

Greek Highlights



A Journey to Easter

We are still on the sacred journey to our celebration of Resurrection Sunday. Posts in the series will continue through Sunday, April 20th on my blog and Facebook page.

I hope you’ll travel along!



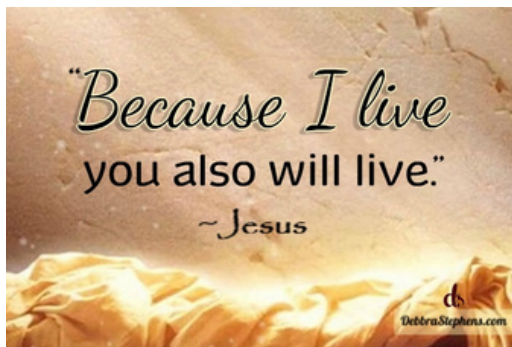
Getting Realistic about the Weight of Temptation
@Renew.org

Renew.org

Did you know that I have written dozens of articles for Renew.org?

I’ve selected the one above from the archives - should you want to hop on over and search one out.

For Your Encouragement

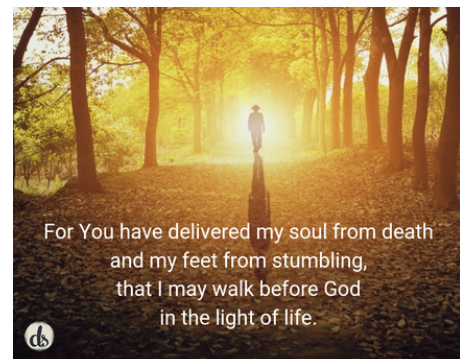


John 14:19

This divine truth is also a promise.

Hebrews 2:15 further assures us that Jesus has freed “those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

We need not fear death, but cling to Jesus, the Risen Victor of death.



Psalm 116:8-9

Borrow these words from David to praise God for your soul's deliverance, as *we walk before the LORD in the land of the living.*

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Pray, Praise, Give Thanks

Praise for the Kingdom's King

Praise the King of Kings with me -
for Thine is the kingdom!

Thine is the Christ,
Who formed the heavens and all that is in them;
Who stood guard in the fiery furnace,
Saved mankind with outstretched arms,
And defeated death.

Thine is our trustworthy Savior,
Of goodness, mercy, and compassion;
Our Righteous God,
Full of grace and truth.

A God Who came near,
To save wretched sinners;
Never to abandon or forsake;
Whose perfect love never fails.

Thine is the Holy I AM;
All power is His,
All glory is His;
Our Everlasting King of kings.

He is the God of the Kingdom,
Eternally to reign;
And the kingdom is His,
All His, and no other.

Lord of all lords, all praise be Yours and Yours alone. For Yours is the kingdom! Not ours. Nor anyone else's. YOURS! May more be gathered into Your kingdom before the King returns in glory and power.

◆ Thank you for reading! ◆



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