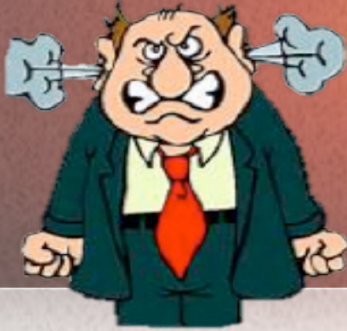


Crunch Time

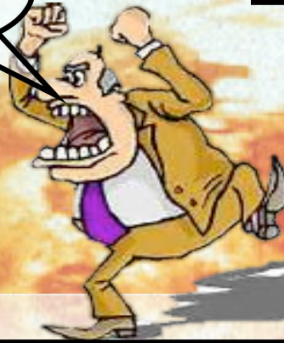
FROM ANGER



#@&%!

TO THIS

TO THIS



TO THIS !!



Hit a wall....

Not a Woman!!!

TO THIS !!!!!



Rooooaaaaa!



sdnf,sdnf,klds
Honda --bowtie



Why will you die
Turn ye, Turn ye...
(Ezk 33:11)

Live my son !



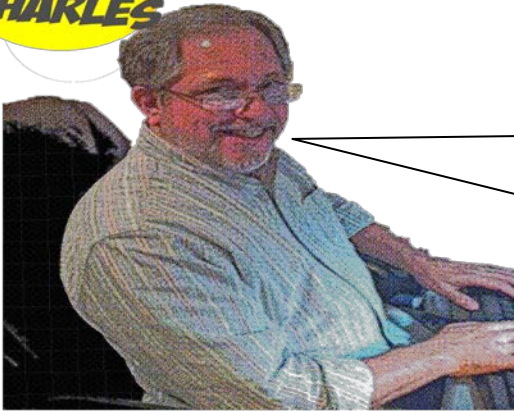
I AM ALIVE! THANK
YOU JESUS !



I'M ALIVE!!!

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" AND A VERY "HAPPY NEW YEAR" !!!!

DR DOUG
CHARLES



*"Crunch time" is
coming and I am as
Serious As A
Heart Attack!!"*

December

"JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON"!! And, every
"SIGN" is pointing to the truth that JESUS IS COMING BACK SOON!

**PRAISE THE LORD, MEN OF GOD! Wow!!!!!! Can you believe
that "ANOTHER YEAR" has come and gone ALREADY????!?**

**Well, it has! And yet, if you are reading this "December Newsletter", then you already
know that YOU certainly do have something to be extremely "Thankful for"**

"YOU ARE ALIVE"!!!!!!

JUST THINK ABOUT IT!!!! As long as you are breathing, you still have

a chance to **REPENT, CHANGE AND BE READY WHEN JESUS COMES! AMEN?**

Notice the heading of this Newsletter! "Crunch Time"! Well, the definition of **Crunch** is: *To crush, grind, or tread upon noisily; A decisive confrontation; A "critical moment" or "situation", especially one that occurs because of a "shortage of time" or resources.* **ONLY GOD CAN "DELIVER" YOU FROM A "CRUNCH TIME"**. You are between a "Rock and a Hard" place BUT we can AVOID most of them! God sends us help when He gives us warnings! Most of the time, we simply IGNORE them. "Dangerous"!!!!

Think about "Eating something"!! Crunch! Crunch! Crunch! Grind! Grind! Grind! Between your teeth! Listen, "**Crunch time**" occurs in everyone's life, at some time or another. All crunch times do not have to be "BAD". When we do "Crunches" as an exercise, it is to strengthen our backs or to tighten our abdomen. However, we as a people can be "warned" so much about the SAME THING, until we push God to formulate a critical moment or situation that will "**crush**" us, **grind** us or **tread** upon us (noisily).

Warning comes before destruction. Why do we wait until we see that there is a "shortage of time" to make a painful decision TO CHANGE? Especially about our lives and we know that we are NOT doing right? It's time to Stop sinning and Live HOLY! **The biggest "LIE" satan ever told is that "YOU HAVE GOT TIME"!** Don't "fall" for that lie! I don't want to be ground to POWDER! **"HEED" the warnings!**

"A TRUE STORY"

One of Pastor Carmen's brothers, "BA-BA", was an alcoholic. Like many of us, he also did quite a "few things" that was displeasing to the Lord and was warned continuously to STOP! He loved the Lord, was very "kind-hearted" and was raised up in the fear of God! **However, he continued to do his own thing.** One day, he became "very sick" and the doctors gave him up to die, (within hours on that Saturday). After much prayer, God told Pastor Carmen to go to the hospital on that following Monday. **Bookie**, another of

her brothers, called Pastor Carmen. You could hear the “FEAR” and “PAIN” in his voice.... **“Kitty, come on up here, now! The doctors say he is dying”!** Pastor replied, **“I acknowledged God and he told me to come on Monday. Go on home and get some rest. He can not die today, not if God told me to go to the hospital on Monday”.** Well, on Monday, she and Co-Pastor Joyce walked into the hospital room. The room was dark and packed with gloomy faces of mourners. He looked up at her, smiled and just above a whisper, he said, “I knew you were coming, Sis. I prayed that you would”. With tubes, ports and lines all over his body, she told him that God had sent her with an **“ultimatum”**. **“Accept Him today and live for Him or Die”.** (Now, that is hard to say to someone that you love. **However, for everyone who knows Pastor, you know that she will ONLY say what “GOD” says).**

Quickly, he threw up his hands and said, **“I am ready”**. Pastor said, **“No, let me make this really plain to you. See, you are in a CRUNCH right now, and you want to get OUT of it.** So, you will quickly say “YES”. But, even if God heals you today, and you go back to your OLD WAYS, you will still DIE”. He said that he understood, then he said the sinners prayer and gave his life to Jesus. Pastor Carmen and Co-Pastor Joyce anointed him with oil, prayed for him and set his healing upon him, **IN JESUS NAME**. Then, they left.

The next day, Pastor sent Sister Corliss and Sister Cheryl to visit him. He was sitting up on the side of the bed (EATING A FULL COURSE MEAL), with NOT even one TUBE, port or line in him! **Hallelujah!** He finished eating and even WALKED THEM TO THE ELEVATOR! The **next day,(WEDNESDAY)**, he was released from the hospital, with not so much as even an aspirin. A few months later, Bookie came to Pastor, **upset and crying real tears**. He said that “Ba-Ba” had returned to his old ways. Pastor said, “Go and find him right now! Get up in his face and tell him that I sent you to **REMIND him of what God said in that hospital room**. When he came back, he said, **“Sis, I told him and very humbly he said, “She’s right. I remember”**. Well, **exactly one YEAR to the very day that God healed him, Pastor was praying and the phone rang**. It was yet, another Brother “Boomie”. He asked what she was doing. She responded, “Praying and taking the Lord’s Supper”. He asked, **“You do that everyday don’t you”?** She answered “yes” and added, “And since you are on the phone with me, let’s pray and do it together, now”!

As they were praying, PROPHETICALLY, a voice spoke up out of Pastor saying, **“Today! Today! Ba-Ba must make reconciliation with me, today”!** It frightened them both. Boomie asked, “What was that”? She replied, **“God”**. He said, **“I know that! I mean what did “HE” mean”?** She said, “God just gave Ba-Ba a deadline for repentance”. **Immediately**, she asked God could she go find him and WARN him. God said, **“NO”**. So, with a feeling of **“trepidation”** she prayed, and prayed and prayed.

Unexpectedly, the very next day, (A Wednesday) during a Church service, the phone rang. God told her to answer the phone. She did. **AFTER A WHOLE YEAR, BA-BA was now calling Pastor**. He expressed his “love” for her, told her he “missed” her and “confessed” that the reason he had not called before, was **because he knew** that he had not been “living right”. (But, he had been trying to hide from the wrong one. Didn’t he know that God saw everything that he did?)

Well, he named friends that he used to hang with, that had gotten “saved” as a result of their seeing how God had healed him. He even let her speak to one or two of them that was with him, right then. Then, he said, “Sis. I know that I’m supposed to be **right over there with you** “Praising the Lord”! **We all are! The whole family!** As a matter of fact, I am going to get all of them and bring them all over there to service. Pastor laughed and told him, **“NO, Ba-Ba”**, God never told you to bring them. He simply told **YOU** to “Come”, then, *when they see you living right, they will come*. Whosoever will, let him come. He said, *“You’re right”*. Pastor told him what God had said to her, the day before and **prayed with him for “Mercy”, (just in case he had missed his deadline)**. He promised that he would be there the next day. But, he never came. Seven days later, he walked, **by himself**, into Princeton Hospital, signed himself in and

answered all of his own personal questions (with a Massive head bleed at the brain). In their triaging, Doctors could not believe that **his case was THAT SERIOUS** as, medically, they could not see how this could be. So they simply put him into a room, while they saw what they called, “REALLY sick patients”! You see, **All the signs were there, but he was RESPONDING NORMAL! HOW Could this really be happening for real?** “REMEMBER THE PRAYER FOR MERCY”? God honored it! (Hallelujah)!! He gave Ba-Ba time by himself, in that room to repent, again. This time, God never allowed Pastor to go. **In a few hours, (As a “very” young man) HE WAS GONE!** Men of God, fall on the stone and you will ONLY get Broken. If God puts you in the **“CRUNCH”** you will be *ground into powder!* **(Matthew 21:44 and Luke 20:18).** As most of you already know, during the month of **November**, we, the HOUSE OF PRAISE, nearly had a **SEVERE TRAGEDY!** We almost lost one of our “Dear Brothers” in the ministry! **(Dr. Doug).** So, in his own words, here to tell you about it, we introduce him to some and simply present him to others, as he shares with you, his own **“TRUE STORY”** entitled:

“Serious As A Heart Attack!”.

Praise The Lord, Men of God! How many of you have ever heard the phrase “SERIOUS AS A HEART ATTACK”? Well, last month, on **Thursday afternoon, November 7, 2013**, I was given a new and deeper appreciation for that expression. You see, at approximately 2:30pm that afternoon, right in the middle of me working on a patient, **I had a heart attack!** It was pretty much like you read about. First, I felt **pressure all across my whole chest.** I thought, “What is this... indigestion”? But, this feeling quickly intensified with an **increasingly uncomfortable** “tingling” in my upper arms. Again, I thought, “This is **NOT** indigestion.” Then, when I broke out in a **“cold sweat”**, God gave me a quick realization of what was happening. I said to my patient,

“Something is wrong...excuse me...”. Then I opened the door to my treatment room, got my wife, Sharon’s, attention and said to her, **“Block out the afternoon and get Pastor Carmen on the phone, now, please...”.**

I did **NOT** tell Sharon what was going on, so when Pastor Carmen got on the phone with me, I knew that **anything** she said would be “straight” from God. So, when she immediately said to me, **“Dr. Doug, God has got me praying for your body. Go to the hospital RIGHT NOW!”** I knew these words were straight from the Throne Room of God, especially since I did not tell her anything! I told her, “That’s what I needed to hear...thank you, Pastor!” **Then, I said to my precious wife, “Sharon, call 911 and get me some baby aspirin, please.”** As I walked the short distance to my waiting room, I asked the Lord, **“Lord, please don’t take me now; it’s not my time to die and I’ve got too much to do”.** After that, all I could pray was, **“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.....”.** Thankfully, *the Lord agreed with me* and I’m still here to tell it.

But I’m getting ahead of myself.. **By the time I sat down in my waiting room**, I was soaked through with sweat and I could hardly sit still. I was not exactly in pain, but still, the *discomfort was very pre-occupying.* It was plain to me that **I COULD DIE**, yet I wasn’t scared. The EMTs {emergency medical technicians} (paramedics) got there pretty quickly, and they knew their job, working very efficiently and professionally. They got me hooked up to the EKG and put an IV line in me, got me on the gurney and into the ambulance in a short time. Then, during the ride to the emergency room, I asked one of the EMTs if I was having an MI (myocardial infarction, aka heart attack), he told me **“yup”**...suspicion confirmed! Thank God, they got me there **“just in time”**. If I had NOT heard God through Pastor Carmen and waited around, I probably wouldn’t be here now! Thank God for a Pastor who can “HEAR” from GOD!!

Arriving at the emergency room, almost immediately, there was a beehive of activity around me. They whisked me off to the catheterization lab, pronto. **Then**, they put an IV line into my right femoral artery and injected radioactive dye. This helped them to visualize the arteries going to my heart. They were able to

clearly see which artery was causing the heart attack and that it was 100% blocked. The doctor put in what's called a "stent". This stent provided an opening in the artery, for the blood to reach the part of my heart that had been temporarily blocked. I received **some** relief and they brought me to the **CCU(Coronary Care Unit)**. However, once I got in the CCU, it wasn't long before I started to feel **more and more distress! This time it was even worse than the first heart attack!** Watching me, the nurses saw that there was a problem and they quickly got me back to the "cath-lab". The doctors discovered that a blood clot had been loosed in the same offending artery, **causing heart attack #2**. My doctor, repeated the same "catheterization procedure" and put in 2 more stents, in the same artery. Thank God! I experienced **100% relief** the very second that the (3rd) third stent was in place! All of a sudden, I could take a deep breath and ALL symptoms were GONE! **WOW!** It's hard to capture in words the relief that **I felt instantly**.

This time when they brought me back to the CCU, I felt like I was coming back "*victorious*" after some battle! All of these nurses telling me how much better I looked, my color had come back, now, I felt relaxed, and etc. Also, this time, I could pay attention to the nurses and my surroundings, rather than having my focus "**strictly inward**". Because of the procedure that I had just had, I had to keep my right hip and leg straight. I also had to be careful with all the different wires attached to me. And, I had to "pee" in a bottle! Aside from those things, it felt pretty good being attended to and being able to sleep whenever I felt like it. *Yeah, it was awkward sleeping on my back*, and after a while I really wanted a shower, but overall, it was like being on "**some weird vacation**" in a really *expensive and restrictive spa*. But again, I'm getting ahead of myself...

My main cardiologist, in telling me what had happened **and** where things stood after the two (2) rounds of stents, was both, giving me the big picture AND trying to influence my decision as to what to do next. Of the three arteries that give blood to the heart, the one that caused the heart attacks had been 100% blocked, while the (2nd) second one was 90% blocked, and the third one was 40% blocked. **He was strongly recommending that I get heart bypass surgery**, telling me NOT to worry about the money (he never did give me an amount), telling me that he was a "man of science" and there was really nothing to think about...**your basic hard-sell approach**. I answered him that I too am a man of science, but I am ALSO A MAN OF GOD, and I needed to be led by the Lord in this important decision. Up until this point, everything was done by others to and for me...but at this point, the challenge really began *for me...I needed to hear from God for myself!*

Now, after this **dramatic "wake-up call"**, the obviously correct response would have been to pray like crazy, without ceasing, until I heard from God, right? That would have been the correct way to handle the circumstance...but, is that what I did? No, I am afraid not. So, what did I do, then? Well, I did pray...some, but truthfully, not enough and definitely NOT without ceasing until I got an answer from the Lord. Now, Sharon, on the other hand, **went into serious prayer mode**, mostly in the hospital chapel...**even to spending the entire night on the floor at the altar**. Which is what I SHOULD have been doing (or, at least some laying-on-your-back-in-a-hospital-bed-with-wires-sticking-out-of-you version of it)...but, did I? **Uh-uh, nope!** In fact, nothing like it. But wait...before you get all "**holier-than-thou**" on me, let me give you the full extent of it, **so you can have plenty to be in disbelief about.....**

Allow me to rewind to the night **BEFORE** all of this occurred. This was **Wednesday night, the 6th, at about 8:30 p.m.** We were in chapel service at Elmore Correctional Facility, in the 3rd night of a 7-night revival. Pastor Carmen was preaching and the Lord had her share a vision that He had given her. In this vision, she had been preaching with all of her might but it seemed like it was to **NO avail**. Suddenly, the Lord instructed her to step down. Obediently, she stepped down from the pulpit and went and sat in the back of the church. She thought that she would be allowed to stay in. The Lord stepped up in her place, behind the pulpit and told her and the rest of the women to "Get up and get out.... Leave". He said, **"I am about to deal with the men myself"**. In other words, He didn't want the women present. He knew that he was about to give "HARD SAYINGS" to the men and didn't want the women there, interceding on our behalf, (getting in His way). You see, men, most of us, especially the men in our group, myself foremost,

LOL

“A wife and a husband are at the dinner table. The wife asks, “**Now isn’t this nice, just the two of us here at the dinner table? This is the best conversation we have had in years**”. The Husband responds, “**It sure is, so let’s NOT spoil it now, by TALKING**”.

have been “**coasting**” in our walk with the Lord for quite some time. **God, mostly through Pastor Carmen, has been warning us, cajoling us, encouraging us, admonishing us, rebuking us, and “REBUKING US”...you get the picture...for a number of years.** Truly, I couldn’t imagine a man being as patient with us as GOD has been! With that said, it seems that the Lord came to the end of His rope with US MEN. And who should be the first partaker of His “dealing with the men” Himself? **Why, yours truly, of course!** (ME).

If I’ve heard Pastor Carmen say this phrase once, I’ve heard her say it a thousand times...so, you probably want to take note of it:

GOD DOES NOT HAVE A PROBLEM FINDING WAYS TO

DISCIPLINE US! Do I need to say it *louder*? Do I need to say it *again*?

Or, are you *grabbing* hold of the obvious? I hope so! **Please be a wise**

man and learn from a (former) fool’s mistake!

Listen, men, the whole time I was in the hospital, God was dealing with me out of **Exodus 4, verses 20-26.** Although I want you to read this for yourself, I’m going to paraphrase it somewhat, so bear with me. It starts out with Moses getting basic instructions, from God, about what to tell Pharaoh.... “that Israel is God’s first born son and He wants His son to serve Him. Also, Pharaoh, you need to let His son go to serve Him, and if he doesn’t, then God is going to slay his firstborn. **Then, it says that Moses, his wife Zipporah, and their sons were about to spend the night at an inn when God sought to kill Moses!** Next, Zipporah circumcises their son with a sharp rock and throws the foreskin at Moses, saying “***Thou art a bloody husband to me!***”. These verses change direction so quickly and radically, that it’s easy to think that a few verses must have been left out in the translation. **However, the Lord gave us the breakdown of this a few years ago, so please allow me to reiterate.....**

Apparently, Moses **neglected** (on purpose) to tell his wife of many years, Zipporah, that he was Jewish, and that their sons needed to be circumcised, (*a commandment; not a suggestion*), according to the Abrahamic covenant (**Genesis 17:10-14**). (acting out a lie, is still a lie). Zipporah, on the other hand, thought her husband was an Egyptian prince, (for 40 years) and she thought they were traveling from their home in Midian to Egypt to finally meet her in-laws AND **to finally live the life of Egyptian royalty.**

So, when God caused Moses to have a “heart attack” in the inn, he was ***barely able*** to blurt out the truth to her and the need for their son to be circumcised or else Moses was a dead man! Because of Moses’ negligence and deceit, **SHE** had to perform this “sacred ritual” while their son was just standing there! Reaching into his robe (remember that he was grown, now), but still she had to do the “bloody deed” and without the benefit of a deadening anesthetic. (Can you just envision how that must have felt?) Small wonder that she was angry at him! So angry, until she and her two sons loaded up and left Moses! She went back home to Jethro, her father, in Midian. (I could only imagine that their son was rather upset at his father, as well)! **So, why was God dealing with me about these verses while I was in the hospital?** Well, as Moses was “disobedient” to God in **not telling his wife** about whom he was and what they had to do with their sons, and because God had a job for him to do, God had to give Moses a little “wake-up call” to remind him of “who was the boss”! Likewise, He had to do the same thing for “yours truly” (me). Remember the above-referenced axiom:

GOD DOES NOT HAVE A PROBLEM FINDING WAYS TO DISCIPLINE US!

Did the increased volume help? What about the underlining? Try this...substitute the word “US” with the word “ME”! But wait, Dr. Doug...YOU...DISOBEDIENT?! Ya think? But you’re a man of God! Don’t believe your own press! Better yet, believe God’s Word...

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins...” -Jeremiah 17:9-10

O.K. So, where was I? Oh yeah, my response to God’s wake-up call.....

Well, one would think, and I wish I could report, that my response was **100%** exactly as it should have been, without any hesitation. But you see, I am determined not to lie or to give the devil ANY place, especially in this testimony (“And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...” - **Revelation 12:11**). So, please put up with my revealing my own past mess...perhaps you can see yourself in this, and then you, too, can become an overcomer! Praise God!!! **Men of God! Most of the time that I spent in the hospital I was watching television. Not praying and seeking God after such a serious, near death experience!** Mind you, after that first 2 hours or so of heart attack-related pain, I was feeling just fine. I wasn’t at all acting as if I understood that God was trying to get me to repent, ***much to Sharon’s chagrin***, sorrow, and disappointment. (although she did her best to conceal it).

REPENT: To change the mind in consequence of the inconvenience or injury done by past conduct.

The real idea behind “true repentance” is CHANGE. *I did not change!* As soon as I felt better, I went RIGHT BACK to my OLD behavior! Listen, CHANGE begins in the mind, and includes the recognition that your actions have caused painful consequences **and it reflects that you don’t want more of the same!** My response, on the other hand, didn’t reflect even any idea of change. I was **so nonchalant** that one could have thought that I didn’t really belong in the hospital, especially after they transferred me from the CCU to a private room on the Saturday after the MI. Truth be known, **if I had possessed the level of faith that I used to think I had, I would have walked out of the hospital that day**, right after they released me from the CCU.

However, it became plain to me that I didn’t, so my options were limited to either bypass surgery or another “stent” placed in the 90% occluded artery before going home. And, because I wasn’t seeking God with any serious zeal, and therefore wasn’t hearing God, I wavered between the two options. For three days. Hold on...I’m getting ahead of myself again... **Okay, so how was I disobedient to God?** Well, this **list is a bit long**, and still it may not include everything, but I’ll try to “hit” the highlights”

Not studying to show myself approved unto God with any consistency, was a big one!
(2Timothy 2:15)

My Disobedient List

1. **Not consistently praying at midnight, something God called us to do over 12 years ago...He hasn’t withdrawn the requirement**
2. **Not acknowledging God in all my ways, implying that I don’t trust Him with my whole heart** (Proverbs 3:6)
3. **Watching far too much television, wasting much time and, presumably, many opportunities. Basically, making the TV an idol.** (Exodus 20:3)
5. **Not witnessing to my family. Thus far, I am the only one in my family to ask Jesus into my heart. In the 26+ years since I first got saved, and especially in the past 13+ years since I’ve been under Pastor Carmen’s teaching, I’ve wasted untold number of opportunities to share with them all that God’s done in my life. I can’t afford to continue acting as if I’m ashamed of Jesus before my family.** (Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26)

PLUS

The one who has been the “primary recipient” of this nastiness has been none other than the “very precious” help-mate that God sent me...my dear wife, Sharon.

I have **NOT** been walking in **complete deliverance** from a Jewish childhood history of **“verbal abusiveness”**. Listen, although I’ve received and have been operating in a significant measure of deliverance **from this accursed behavior**, it’s not totally gone! And, even though I know this, I have NOT fasted or sought God, (the way that I know I’ve needed to) for completion. This list could undoubtedly continue, but in the interests of trying to stay on task,

I’ve cut it short. Please understand...**God has been merciful and long-suffering toward me for so long**, I am truly thankful that He gave me this **“heart attack wake-up call”**. I am determined that it shall not have been in vain! Why? Because, first of all, **“JESUS IS COMING SOON”** and I will be **READY!!!!!!** However, with that said, I’m afraid that this testimony is not yet through, *so please bear with me just a bit more....*

Knowing that they couldn't throw me out of the hospital **until** I was done with whatever care I pursued, I **basically behaved like a squatter**. I'm not proud of this, but it's a *pretty accurate description*. Thankfully, I had gotten thoroughly fed up with myself by Tuesday morning, when I was praying with the men in our 7:00 a.m. prayer group. **I finally got on my face before God and cried out to Him for real!** It must have been an interesting sight for my doctors when they walked in, (me laying on the floor face down), next to the bed, no lights on..... I heard them come in and I turned my head and said to them, "I'm OK...I'm praying". They did a 180 degree turn! (LOL).

A little while later, the aide came in with breakfast; I told her "no thanks, I'm not eating...I've got to hear from God". Then, a little later, after I'd gotten off the floor, a caseworker came in, a sweet sister in the Lord, to talk and pray with Sharon and myself. I thank God that He used her to give me answers to all questions that we had, but more importantly, He dropped a scripture in her spirit which "clicked" in my spirit and I instantly knew the answer to my dilemma. This was, in a different way, almost as much a relief as I got when the blocked artery was cleared! Thank God for working it out for me! Oh, you want to know what she said? **Curious, huh? OK, I'll tell you...**

She said, **"I feel like the Lord is giving me a scripture for this...I'm not sure exactly where it's from, but I believe it's from Proverbs, and I think it goes something like 'Plant your seed', then build your house'. In other words, do things in order...get the stent put in the artery that's 90% blocked, go back to work, get really good health insurance, get the last artery done in a few months, and if you want to do the bypass in a few years, you can always do it later"**. As soon as she said this, I got an unction in my spirit and I KNEW that what she said was right. Then she asked if I had eaten breakfast, I said, "no" and she said she'd schedule the procedure for that afternoon and I would be able to leave the next day. We closed in prayer and hugged and I can truly say that God used **that lady** in a mighty way for me!

The next day, when my doctor came in to check on me "pre-discharge", he said to me, "You're a miracle! When you first came in, your labs told me that your heart had sustained significant damage...your enzymes were over 150 and normal is under 3. However, if I were to grade your heart strength today, on a scale of 55, I'd give you a 50...that's next to NO damage". Praise God!!! Guess what? God allowed me **to go back to work** the following Monday, the 18th, after I gave my "femoral artery" the necessary **time to heal** before doing any stressful physical activity. **Praise God some more!!!** Now for the important postscript:

Did this "almost catastrophic episode" change my life? **Yes and no.....**

Yes, in that I've been **"more appreciative" of my wife and "more humble" in my speech toward her**. This is most definitely *a good change* and I pray that it continues and deepens! Unfortunately, if I were to be *"scrupulously honest"*, my answer would have to be **"NO"** concerning the other items on my list!

However, I have gotten a little better in my studying. **Is this answer disappointing to you?**

Well, it is to me. However, I'm not by any means giving up, and I believe, **with all my heart**, that, because He hasn't given up on me, **I STILL have HOPE!** "I'm coming Lord. Watch my step. Keep my feet from going wrong. Put your bits in my mouth and your bridle on my tongue and lead me 'safely' on".

IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN. P.P.S. - I extend to you, **from the bottom of my heart**, my sincere best wishes to you for a Blessed and Merry Christmas as well as a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!! **Dr. Doug (PS).** To all of our **Precious Brothers Everywhere**, Pastor Carmen sends her love and appreciation for your "encouraging letters, drawings and cards throughout the year! Also, to the beloved Pastor J. Buchanan and all of you astonishing Brothers at Bibb County, she "Thanks-You" for being so **receptive of us on the 14th of December**. Remember, she prays for you daily! We really did enjoy our time of fellowship in the Holy Ghost, together! Everything was simply WONDERFUL! Eagerly, we look forward to seeing each of you again, as God permits. Please know that YOU are not forgotten! **WE LOVE YOU!**

Here is a “cute” little conversation between a husband and a wife:

Husband: When I get mad at you, you never fight back. How do you control your anger?

Wife: I clean the toilet bowl!

Husband:How does that Help?

Wife: Oh, I just use your toothbrush!

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

We remember receiving a letter from one of our dear Brothers in Christ, **Walter Shealey**, a while ago. He had been “denied parole” and set off..... AGAIN!! After receiving **the unfavorable news**, Brother Walter wrote that he went on about his day, doing his “normal routine”. He **did not** want to believe that he was angry. He didn’t think that he was angry **because he was NOT throwing chairs, cursing, punching the walls, etc.**

See, these are the actions that he had seen in other “outmates” that had been denied parole. So since he was not acting like them, then he told himself, **“I am okay”**. (Satan has tricks you never heard of). Eventually, Brother Walter had to come to “grips and terms” with himself, that he really was **angry with God**. (Although he loves Jesus with all of his soul, he still had to deal with his emotions and bring them under “subjection”). When he wrote those words, our hearts were **pricked**, not just because we “LOVE” him, but because many of us have had the same mindset. *“God, I’m not cussing and fussing. So, I’m not angry.”* **WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!** I cannot compare myself with how you express anger. That is just like a person wanting to see how they look in the mirror, but they use a person as the mirror, instead of the actual mirror! Guess what?! **YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SEE YOURSELF! YOU’RE TOO BUSY LOOKING AT ANOTHER PERSON.** Ask God to show you (to you). Stop seeing what satan wants you to see! Look into the perfect “Law of Liberty”. **James 1:25** –“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed”. How can you face what you can’t identify? One thing that Pastor Carmen taught us, through the Holy Spirit is: “You cannot conquer a spirit, until you first, **IDENTIFY** it. After identifying the spirit, you must **FACE** it, after **FACING** it, you must **CONFRONT** it, after **CONFRONTING** it, then you can **COMMAND** the spirit to be cast out in Jesus Name and then you must **CONQUER** it. Listen, sometimes researching the definition of a word will help you to “identify” a spirit.

So, LET’S DEFINE ANGER.

Anger: a strong feeling of displeasure and belligerence aroused by a

wrong; a feeling of great annoyance or antagonism as the result of some real or supposed grievance.

But as long as we stay in denial about being angry, the anger will intensify. (It builds up!) Living with “unresolved” and “ignored” anger, often leads to making some life altering decisions that render irreversible consequences. We’ve all been there! Unfortunately, anger is like a chia pet. CH-CH-CH CHIA! It doesn’t take much for it to grow after it’s been watered only a little. The smallest irritation can send you flying off the handle in a fit of “**RAGE**”...**CONGRATULATIONS!!! YOU JUST GRADUATED!!** To what? Another escalated stage of **ANGER**. Remember to confront in love. You can say anything to a person, in the right spirit and attitude of **LOVE**. Stuff happens! Get over it! Let it Go! Anger escalates to these different stages: **(1) THE “BUILD UP” STAGE (2) THE “SPARK” STAGE (3) THE “FIERY RAGE” STAGE (4) THE “AFTERMATH” STAGE.** There is a scripture in **Proverbs 14:1**, *“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands”*. **TO PLUCK** means to snatch, uproot, to pull with sudden force or jerk. Men, you may be wondering, *“How does that scripture apply to me?”* **I AM A MAN!** Well, **God styles the Church as a woman, the BRIDE OF CHRIST**. So if you are saved, this applies to males and females. This verse says that every wise Woman **builds her house**. (This is spiritually or naturally). God has supplied us with a firm foundation (Jesus Christ). And, HE has given us everything that we need to build these spiritual houses **IPeter 2:5** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.* Daily, satan throws fiery darts, to influence us, to pluck our own houses down. So, in order for the foolish woman to pluck down her house with her hands, she must have been wise at one time to even build a house, right? Because the scripture says **EVERY** wise woman builds her house. Notice that the scripture did not say tear it down. It takes time to tear down a house doesn’t it? But a “foolish woman” simply plucks it down with her hands. How long does it take to pluck something down? Just a matter of **seconds**. Sometimes, that devil will try to lure you into **ANGER** by causing you to “jump to conclusions, misinterpret a comment, incorrectly perceive a situation or statement, etc”. Amazingly enough, when Anger is

allowed to come in, Mr. Holy Spirit is right there “urging” you not to lean to your own understanding! **STOP! PRAY! JUST WALK AWAY! Or simply say, “NO”.** We can either take heed to His nudging us or we can be HAUGHTY and ignore Him and “suffer the irreparable consequences”. **So let’s choose to be wise and recognize** when we are angry, **so that it can be dealt with** before escalation. **We can read all the “self-help” books on anger and still not receive sufficient help until you have read THE BIBLE.** (God’s Word is Divine Authority on “EVERYTHING”, For everything, About everything!) **Remember Jesus got “ANGRY” but HE did not sin! He is our example! Let’s follow HIM!**

God has a lot to say about ANGER! LET’S LOOK AT SOME OF IT:

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools

Proverbs 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Proverbs 14:49 *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

Proverbs. 19:19 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver *him*, yet thou must do it again.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Be a “WISE MAN”(woman/church) and take a lesson from Doctor Doug. Do not allow anger to come in and begin to fester into “rage or wrath”. Many do not realize the damage they have done until AFTER the fact. **You have NOTHING to prove.** Just STAY SAVED. STAY ALIVE! And better yet, HELP TO KEEP SOMEONE ELSE ALIVE and WELL! **Why will you “DIE”? TURN YE, TURN YE and LIVE! (Ezekiel 33:11).** Hell and the grave is full of many “Pride filled” people that could not control their ANGER and refused to simply “HUMBLE” down. Anger/Rage/Wrath does not have a “JEWISH”, or “AMERICAN” nationality! It is an **emotion** that EVERYONE has but if it is allowed to get out of CONTROL, it causes much grief, annoyance and displeasure which leads to SIN! The wages of sin is death. The gift of God is eternal life. Which will you accept today? Simply turn ye, turn ye and LIVE! **God Bless All of You, And remember that we LOVE YOU! And, have a “A Glorious Happy New Year” !!!!**

House of Praise Church/Hedges and Hi-Ways
To all of our Brothers born in “December”
HAVE A VERY “HAPPY BIRTHDAY”!!!!
A “Merry, Merry Christmas”!
And, “A Glorious Happy New Year!!!!

And, A Wonderful New Year”!!!!!!