



The Salvation Army – Petersfield Corps
Service Sheet – 9th August 2020

Song – Teach me to dance

*Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
Teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
Teach me to walk in the light of your presence,
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.
Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
Teach me to trust in the world of your promise,
Teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
Teach me to dance to the beat of your
heart.*

You wrote the rhythm of life,
Created Heaven and earth;
In you is joy without measure.
So, like a child in your sight,
I dance to see your delight,
For I was made for your pleasure,
pleasure,

Let all my movements express
A heart that loves to say 'yes',
A will that leaps to obey you.
Let all my energy blaze
To see the joy in your face;
Let my whole being praise you, praise
you

Graham Kendrick & Steve Thompson



2 Corinthians 13 : 5-14

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong – not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority – the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Message

Tico Rice recently said some significant things about spiritual health. He writes and presents Christianity Explored material and I assume, from the context of his comments, that he involved at All Soul's, Langham Place; following the death of a health professional who was part of the congregation, he speaks to some of the other health workers in the fellowship.

You get an idea of the size of the church by the fact that there are almost 200 members connected with health services. One says;

“As a Christian medic, I long that these patients, who's respiratory systems are being decimated, have spent some time asking themselves spiritual questions before they're wheeled through the doors of ITU. At this stage, it's often too late. We care a lot about our patients and knowing they've asked themselves spiritual questions before they become sick would make a big difference.”

What a fabulous introduction to our scripture.

We are used to taking our cars for an MOT – and it has become commonplace to describe a regular physical check-up – blood pressure, weight, cholesterol etc., as a personal MOT. But what about a spiritual MOT?

In this passage (v5), Paul emphasises the importance of spiritual check-ups. We should look for a growing awareness of Christ's presence and power in all aspects of our lives. The reality is that if we are not taking steps to grow closer to God, we are growing further from him. Standing still doesn't work.

Growth recurs in v8,9. Parents want certain things for their children – and part of that involves letting them make mistakes and learning lessons. Similarly, Paul wants his readers – and us - to grow into mature believers. As we share the gospel, our goal should be not merely to see others come into a shallow understanding of faith but to see them mature, growing deeper and richer in their understanding of and relationship with God.

Paul closes with these words (Living Bible)

I close my letter with these last words. Be happy, Grow in Christ. Pay attention to what I have said. Live in harmony and peace. And may the God of love and peace be with you.

This is a kind of summary and the introduction of a new element. An echo of Romans 12:16, there is a challenge to work together – to be an harmonious fellowship.

These are things that do not come by ignoring or glossing over problems, conflicts or difficulties. The people of Corinth – like many other people had their share of conflicts. Paul addresses church divisions in the first chapter of the first book. Just as Paul and the Corinthians had to hammer out difficulties to bring peace, so we must ensure that we don't simply hear His Word but that we understand and live the life of love.

In these days, many people are re-evaluating their lives. The change brought by Coronavirus has caused people to reassess their priorities and values. What are the things they want to restart, when the regulations allow, what are the things they want to leave behind?

Where does your spiritual wellbeing sit in your priorities?

In what ways are you committed to growing your faith and living in peace and harmony?

Song – When I ponder o’er the story

1. When I ponder o’er the story
Of my life’s defeat and grief,
How much misery and blindness
I can trace to unbelief!
O how many fights I’ve lost,
All for want of faith to trust!

2. Can I wonder I have faltered?
Can I be surprised to fall?
When my faith could most have
saved me,
I have trusted least of all.
When my own resources fail,
Then his power should most prevail

3. If to grace there is no limit,
Why should I be slow to plead?
If thy power is not restricted,
Why not speak my every need?
All the treasures of his throne,
Faith will make them all my own.

4. Yes, dear Saviour, I will trust thee
Live by faith and not by sight,
Knowing thou art close beside me,
Giving victory in the fight.
Jesus, while thou art so near,
I will never, never fear.

*O for a deeper, O for a greater,
O for a perfect trust in the Lord!
O for a deeper, O for a greater,
O for a perfect trust in the Lord!*

Cornelia Ida Ernestine Booth

Prayer

Lord, we only have to look in our gardens to see that growth can be a problem. The weeds don’t seem to wilt in the heat – but they do sometimes strangle the plants we want to grow or steal the nutrients from the soil. Help us to be focused on your light and fed by your word. May we take the time to learn and to become all that you want us to be.

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – ²⁵ to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.