



YOU BETTER RECOGNIZE

Pastor Bonita Sams

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the death and resurrection of our Lord and King this month. I am always moved to tears by this awesome act of love. *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13* He made the ultimate sacrifice for us. That's why I'm so offended when I hear others refer to him as “just” a man or “just” a prophet. He was and still is “THE” man among men. He was and still is “THE” prophet among prophets.

But what I really want to zero in on is the time leading up to his crucifixion. Allow me to paint a picture for you. Jesus knew from the beginning that he would be sacrificed for the sins of the world and was “sent” to do so. In John 17, he makes references to the fact that he has been “sent” six times. I kept wondering why does Jesus keep mentioning in his prayer to God, the Father, that he was sent. It wasn't a surprise to God. After all, he mapped out the plan from the start. Was this a nervous reminder to God? Was this a small cry for help? If it were me, I would've made a big cry for help mixed in with a lot of hollering and trying to pretend that my name is not Jesus! Thank God the world was not depending on Pastor Bonita Sams for eternal life. I'll take Let's Die Another Day for \$500 Alex!

In answer to my inquiring mind, Holy Spirit took me back to the beginning of John 17. Jesus makes a request of the Father. “...Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.” (vs.1) There can be no true glorification unless there is a sending by the Father. One of the many meanings of the word glorify in the Hebrew is the word *kabod* which means “heavy in weight”. When we say glorify someone, we are saying we want to recognize the importance or the weight of the uniqueness that person possesses. Jesus was requesting that the Father recognize him and in that recognition the Father could be recognized through him.

The other piece I'd like to point out is that he continues on in his prayers by praying for others. He prays for the disciples. “I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.”(vs.9) He prays for all believers. “...I pray for those who will believe in me through their message.”(v.20) This struck me to the core!

So let me get this straight...Jesus is about to die a horrible death, yet his thoughts are turned towards two places; (1) towards the Father being glorified; and (2) towards others. That in and of itself deserves recognition and eternal adoration of our Savior. He unselfishly thought not of himself but of others. Let this be our example of true love and humility. He knew his suffering was eminent, yet he doesn't pray for himself or pray for an easy death. (*I totally would have...but you know how I am. Weak for chocolate. A strong tolerance for torture? Not so much!*) This is clearly a message to us that it has never been about us, who we are, our calling, our gifting and our own glorification, but rather his glorification through our own sacrifice of obedience. I am exhausted with the spirit of “my” gift, “my” purpose or “my” calling. To say because we've been called exempts us from sacrifice and doing the needful things in the earth realm is just plain false. If we think that, then we are fooling ourselves! In our walk with Him, we have to be sensitive to the needs of others and make it our duty to pray for them. After we've shown concern and compassion for others, we must take it further by laying our sacrifice of time, talent and treasures before him, then comes the glorification.

As you celebrate Resurrection Sunday with your family and friends...recognize our Lord's thoughts were towards the heavens and towards you. He really is the lover of our souls! So, let's give him his due recognition as the true, unselfish Savior of the world that he is!



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PASTOR SAMUEL SAMS, SENIOR PASTOR

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 A.M. LIFE APPLICATION – 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP AND THE WORD

(INCLUDES ALPHA ANGELS CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

TUESDAY QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE BIBLE STUDY: 7:30 P.M.

IN THE KNOW



JESUS REVEALED

BY JASON NELSON

Just released in January 2015, Jason Nelson has once again ushered us into the very presence of God! The saints of the Lord are raving about the anointing on this CD and rightfully so! *"I call it spiritual turbo hype."* and *"This album is refreshing and electric."* These are just a few comments about this revelatory expression of worship. It features one of our favorite artist, Tasha-Page Lockhart. Together their voices intermingle for a sound that touches your very spirit. Run, don't walk to get this one!



THE TRUTH

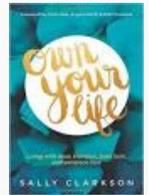
BY CASEY J

This fresh, new artist, Casey J is cranking out the heavenly sounds of worship that are sure to bless you. At 28 years old, she does not consider herself to be a traditional gospel vocalist but refers to herself as a "Flower Child". She respects God's creation in nature and all things that originate from the earth. She is no stranger to music and is a former member of the girl group 4LOVE. Her first single, Fill Me Up has been at the top of the charts. Have You Way features Jason Nelson and it stirs the heart. It is now available for pre-order as it will not be officially released until April 21, 2015. The Gospel world is already declaring that she will change the face of Christian music as we know it.

OWN YOUR LIFE

*LIVING WITH DEEP INTENTION,
BOLD FAITH, AND
GENEROUS LOVE*

BY SALLY CLARKSON



There comes a point in every one's life when you somehow end up on the corner of Exhausted and Damaged. Sally Clarkson's book is rich with wisdom and spiritual guidance concerning taking back your life. She emphasizes that we should be living in the fullness of blessings which is what God intended. She takes a deep dive into the subjects of settling for mediocre, mapping out your purpose, partnering with God and so much more. This book puts you in mind of I Samuel 30 where God told David to pursue all that he had lost. Sally Clarkson brings that command from God to life in her latest book, Own Your Life. Read, Pursue and Recover!

AROUND TOWN

House of Blues Gospel Brunch

329 North Dearborn Chicago, Illinois

Every Sunday 10:00 – 12:30

Purchase tickets online

Selah Worship Conference

July 15-17, 2015

Christian Life Center

6363 W. 183rd Street Tinley Park, Illinois

Purchase tickets online:

www.selahworshipconference.com

Upcoming New Birth Events

Sunday, April 5th – Join us for Resurrection Sunday

Tuesday, April 14th – 12th Year Church/Pastor's Anniversary Celebration

Guest Speaker: Apostle H. Daniel Wilson

SAVE THE DATE WOW SPRING LUNCHEON – SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015

"Committed to the Cause"

Guest Speakers: First Lady Karen Washington and Pastor Veronica Evans