Pressed on every side.

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to "Try Jesus!" If this is your first time joining us, it’s great to have you with us. I would like to thank all the new members for joining "Try Jesus." Also welcome those in Kentucky, Oregon, Nevada, Indiana, and Missouri.

What a great last week to know that many of you are walking in the freedom and liberty of forgiveness. Being happy without grudges is like walking without crutches after a healed ankle sprain. Continue to walk in the joy of the Lord.

Many of you may have witnessed the eclipse on April 8th. I saw people with chairs out in front of their businesses as I was driving to the grocery store. They were gazing in the sky to witness the moon cross in front of the earth.

Some through eclipse parties, others took off work, and some schools had early dismissals. I wasn't moved by the hoopla surrounding the event. However, it did make me think about an event called the Ascension.

After Jesus had risen from the dead and was with his disciples, and spoke to them about being baptized by the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke to them about receiving power to witness in Jerusalem, Samaria, and the world.

After speaking these words he was taken up in the clouds out of their sight. And just like some of you who stared at the eclipse, these disciples kept gazing up in the sky. But unlike the eclipse science gazer's, these men were met by two men in shining white clothing.

These two men (angels) then said to them, "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11 KJV).

Now that is something to gaze and be excited about! They should have been excited about the news of the Holy Spirit instead of when Israel would be free from Rome. The Kingdom Jesus spoke about was, a spiritual Kingdom.

His Kingdom would be established in the hearts and lives of believers (Luke 17:21). Since then until 2024, God’s presence and power dwell in believers in the person of the Holy Spirit.

The eclipse reminds me of the darkness (sin) we all are born with and the darkness has blocked the Son until repentance removes it. Ok, let’s move on and praise God by welcoming his Son in our midst today! I feel a praise song!

🎵 Heavenly Father, there is none like you, no one else can touch my heart like you do, I have searched for all, eternity long, and found, there is none like you.🎵
No eclipse can match the glorious presence of the Lord, our God, Amen?

Let's believe in God's presence and power today. "Heavenly Father, thank you for your majestic power. You came to live in the hearts of your people. Father God, we praise you for your love and faithfulness towards your children.

We praise you for being a perfect, holy, trustworthy God that is bigger than all the evil we experience here on earth. We ask that you give us eyes to see when evil is before us, hearts to hate evil and the desire to flee from its presence.

Lord open our understanding of today's word. Draw hearts to "TRY JESUS" that are surrendered to your Lordship over their lives. May your living word penetrate the hard hearts in attendance today.

Give us a heart of wisdom to hear your voice, and make us strong by your huge favor and grace. Your word continues to be stronger than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Draw in your audience, In Jesus name, Amen."

How many of you have ever wore some clothes that were double wrinkled? I mean they were so wrinkled they looked like one of those beautiful Shar Pei dogs’ faces (Smile). I guess my next question would be, how many of you can use an iron?

I remember a very long time ago, when I was learning to iron for the first time, I thought I was the best one in my family at Ironing clothing. It took me awhile to get past setting up my parents ironing board.

Once I defeated that hurdle, I was ready to go. Pressing my clothes was difficult to start. I couldn't figure out where the crease should be. Again, I thought I was doing it all correctly until I showed up in high school.

Kids have this focused eyesight of letting you know when something is out of line in your appearance. I found out that the creases in my pants were sideways and not in the front of my pants.

The pleats in my dress pants looked double folded. My shirts were ironed the same way. I looked like the shirts that are pinned to the wall at fashion clothing stores. I thought I was the pressing professional in my home.

There were also times when my mother would notice a smell coming from my pants after I ironed them. I used to the think the hotter the setting and the harder I pressed on them would make them look better.

Boy was I mistaken. Something pressed harder doesn't equate to looking better. I had shiny glowing marks on my pants. I thought looking in that mirror, I was sharp, cool, and ready to dress to impress. "Uh, No.”

When your clothes smell hot on the school bus kids can smell you out. After all the pressing I received at school, I decided to give up ironing and ask my mom for better assistance (Smile).

After high-school and getting my first job, I decided to take my dress clothes to the dry cleaners and have them professionally pressed, and starched. Some of you can certainly relate to my story.

When you are pressed for time some of you will move that iron so fast across your clothing, you miss all kinds of wrinkles. It's great that today they make irons that have automatic shut-off capability.

It seems today, people's lives are the way I used to press my clothes. Even though I thought I looked fashion ready, I was unkempt all over. Today, people's lives seem to be pressed from all sides and look worse for the wear.

What may be causing them to look so pressed? In today's society you can pick any topic. Is it inflation? The high cost of shopping? The gas prices. Higher utilities? Spikes in crime? Open boarders? Broken relationships?

Shall I continue? The breakdown of the educational system? Division among many groups? Broken judicial system? Suicidal increases? Did I miss some things? If I did, please call, text, or email me. It just strengthens my point.

Some might say, "My world is beautiful, everything is ok, I don't see all these things going on." Ok, maybe your world is gated. But even those who perceive themselves to be living in a utopia world have been pressed.

We have to remember; a fallen world is going to have these things. Please understand, I'm not the barer of 24-7 bad news. I don't shout every day that the sky is falling, that the world is doomed.

I'm really 100% just the opposite. Let me ask everyone a question. Do you believe the Bible is a positive book, or a negative book? Be careful with your answer. Try looking at it this way.

Have you heard the words, "Paradise lost, paradise restored?" What about "In the eyes of the beholder?" Let's look at our Bibles today to breeze through some words that God says are above our ways and our thoughts.

In the beginning, everything that God created, he said it was good. And on the sixth day, God emphasized his own words and said it was very good. (Genesis 1:31-2:1-4). In his creating, his greatest creation was man (human life).

This is also where we find the first press or pressure (temptation) if you will of faithfulness or disobedience. Sometimes the pressing can be a testing period.

My mother tested me to see if I could put up the ironing board and press my own clothes. Many times, she had to step in and show me what I did wrong. Sometimes she set up the board and see if I could do the rest.

Of course my mother warned me about the dangers of the iron. It got very hot and could burn my hands if I mishandled it. Following her instructions would keep me from being hurt by the board or the iron.

God placed two trees in the garden and gave instructions concerning them. So, why would God place a tree in the Garden and then forbid Adam to eat from it? God wanted Adam to obey him, but God gave Adam the freedom to choose. (Genesis 2:16-17).

Please note these instructions were given to Adam before Eve came along. After Eve was given to Adam as his bride, the press started to happen. As a person who played many sports, especially basketball, the full court press was coming to Adam and Eve.

Obviously, Adam failed at recognizing the press that Satan applied against Eve. I'm sure Adam had reiterated to Eve the instructions (spiritual game plan) God had first told to Adam (Genesis 3:2-5).

But later something went wrong. Adam was initially nowhere around when Satan pressed her on God's commands. Was he at Home Depot buying tools for the garden? Was he himself being pressed by the Home Depot credit department to open an account? (Smile).

[Satan tried to make Eve think that sin is good, pleasant, and desirable. Both good and evil seemed harmless to her. People usually choose wrong things because they have become convinced that those things are good.]

Satan comes with things and places them before our eyes as an enticement to disobey God. He did this with many great patriarchs in the Bible. David, Sampson, Eli's sons, and many others. He tried it with Jesus and failed.

He will always try to attack and press against our physical senses. Our sins do not always appear ugly to us, and the most pleasant sins are the hardest to avoid. So, prepare yourself for the attractive temptations that show up.

The press of evil will always be against us until Jesus returns. He has given us the only tool we need to defeat Satan's oppressive wicked devices, his powerful word. (1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 119:11).

Christians only stance against the continued onslaught press of the enemy is God’s word and God’s people to help you stand against it. God knew well in advance he would have to sacrifice his only Son to save the creation he loved.

Because humanity was stained with the seed of sin, they gave him the title "Prince of the power of the air." The devil is his name. He is the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is called the tempter (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Satan rules an evil spiritual kingdom, directing the demons and those who are against Christ and the rule of the Kingdom of God. In 2024, he continues to put on his full press of deception and darkness (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Everyday Satan is trying to tempt everyone away from God. But here's the good news of the gospel. Satan will not be the final victor. In (Genesis 3:14-15) God promises that Satan will be crushed by the woman’s offspring, "The Messiah."

When Jesus arrived on the scene Satan was still placing people in bondage. John wrote in (1 John 3:8) that he who practices sin (lives in it without repentance) is of the devil.

He then spoke and said for this reason was the Son of God manifested to destroy the works of the devil. This brought a visual divide of who belongs to Satan and who belongs to God. (1 John 3:9-10).

Jesus came to remove the weight of sin, that press and squeezing from the world's devilish system. I would ask again, as I did earlier in this message; how many of you are weighed down by different pressures?

Many people today are looking for relief from everyday problems. They are searching for peace in any way they can grasp it. They are tired from the weight of the world being on their **shoulders.** But they are looking for relief in all the wrong places.

Satan offered to Jesus in the wilderness all the things he still offers to us today. (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus told everyone he is the only one you can unload your burdens on. He is the only way, truth, and life for the broken. (John 10:10; 14:6).

While many people search for what they think is a utopia world, the devil is sending them strong delusion and false hopes of a world soon to be destroyed by the wrath of God. People are trying to fix a world that is decaying from within.

It is the heart of sin that destroys everything. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23 KJV). You see my friends, the world can only offer you death.

If you feel overcome and pressed by the endless failures and depression of life, here's your only answer and relief. Jesus said these words, 28} "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30} For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV).

The word yoke (zugos) means to join. To have a coupling. I see it as the yoke and white of the egg coupled together as it is fried in the skillet. When individuals become followers of Jesus, they still must walk through the world's press.

Our responsibilities and the effort of staying true to God still weigh us down as we work. So how does the yoke of Jesus make things easier? Well, just like my mother made the load of pressing my clothes for me easier, I took her yoke of instruction, and it made my load light.

[Jesus’ yoke remains easy compared to the crushing alternative of dead-end legalism and self-powered effort. Jesus doesn’t offer a life of luxurious ease. His yoke still implies hard work. He shares the yoke with us.]

His bigger shoulders carry the greater weight when we are pressed down. He has more pulling power to help us. He alleviates those pressures from the world and Satan. There are many people who suffer from all kinds of mental stress.

I'm sure many of you know people, family, friends, or close associates that struggle with physical illness, suicidal thoughts, financial burdens, depression, loneliness, marital and children issues, and other societal issues.

We must remember and look at Jesus as our only and fully complete burden bearer. He did not come to take us out of the world’s decaying hardships, but to come and walk us through it. Like the footprints in the sand picture.

4} "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5} Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6} Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. (Psalm 23:4-6 KJV).

If Jesus had to endure all of the world’s pressures, why shouldn't we? Just as he did, we are participating in life’s responsibilities. Once you except him as Lord and Savior he becomes your great partner (Mark 3:10; Luke 5:1; Hebrews 13:5).

Then all your struggles, battles, and press, and grimaces can turn into smiles, and your tears and sorrows into songs of joy (Psalm 28:7; 30:5; 118:14; Nehemiah 8:10; Exodus15:2; 2 Samuel 22:33; Isaiah12:2).

When Paul arrived on the scene, and was changed by the power of God's redemptive love, he well understood what pressing and persecution was all about.

When writing in his epistle to Timothy, he encouraged him to trust in the Lord. Paul further wrote these words to Timothy. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12 KJV).

Paul emphasized that because of the doctrine of Jesus he taught, he would face persecutions and afflictions. But he emphatically stated it was the Lord who delivered him out of them all (2 Timothy 10:17).

Paul was also pressed by the Holy Spirit to testify to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 18:5-6). The word pressed (sunechō) in this context means "to hold, or compel. To take hold of the hand.

A great loving example of the Holy Spirit’s loving press would be that of a loving mother who holds her son’s hand as she walks through the department store. Her light press is not to afflict or hurt him.

Paul faced many trials and afflictions while serving his Savior. He knew his trust was not in his own religious abilities, but in God. While his life was pressed even to those who wanted to take his life, Jesus stood by Paul (2 Corinthians 1:7-11; 12:8-10).

The Greek word pressed (kata) is different than the press he felt with the Holy Spirit (sunechō). The word (kata) means to be burdened down. Someone who might distribute intense actions. To be in opposition against something.

Paul could boldly stand and say these powerful words as he was hard-pressed daily. 8} "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9} Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10} Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." (2 Corinthians 4:8-10 KJV).

The word troubled simply means to be hard-pressed. But notice Paul's words after each negative connotation. It is followed by how the power of the Lord's life lifts our spirit to endure and overcome.

Please stay uplifted and encouraged in your spirit when reading these passages. (Romans 8:35-39; Matthew 10:19-23; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 2:3; 4:5). If God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31).

Before we close, here are a couple of individuals that put themselves in tight situations that needed God's deliverance. They are lessons we can learn from the press we saw them go through.

Lot knew what it was like to be pressed upon by evil doers. (Genesis 19:3-9). Lot did himself no favors by lingering around after the angels told him God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 19:16).

Sometimes the press we receive from the enemy can be the way we approach sinfulness. Do you rub shoulders with sins that can quickly pull you in and immobilize your Christian values? (Genesis 19:16).

The word lingered (mâhahh) in Lot’s case means he hesitated after hearing instructions. He was reluctant to move his feet. Like feet being in cement. He waited, tarried, delayed, before the angels took him by the hand.

Samson faced pressing evil intentions from Delilah. She pressed him so much that his soul was vexed unto death. I mean this was definitely a full court press to force Samson to speak his whole heart (Judges 16:16:20).

The word pressed (tsûq) has the Hebrew meaning of being compressed in distress and be constrained. To oppress, to put in a straiten position. Delilah had Samson in a spiritual headlock position.

The word vexed (qâtsar) means that Delilah curtailed his emotions. She cut them short and caused him much discomfort and grief. Her eyes kept seeing the "Dolla Dolla bills y'all! Ching, ching!" She was Satan's pawn and didn't know it.

Four times Delilah unleashes a verbal attack on Samson in order to subdue him and receive her payment. She broke him down like a house made out of cards. She played the "How can you tell me, I love you game."

Has anyone ever pushed you to the limit of telling all your life to that person? That's a bad position to be in. Why? Because they have now gained ultimate control over you. The Bible says a fool utters his whole mind. (Proverbs 29:11).

I'm certainly not applying this to the husband-and-wife relationship. Married couples should always have a round table discussion with Jesus being in the center of their joyful relationship. Communication is a most against evil.

Like our so-called news and media division, not all press is bad press. They certainly make it hard to believe them. Lord, please help them. There is a good press that God delivers to the body of Christ, his children. (Luke 6:38)

🗣📢 Last words: As our nation goes further into depravity, Christians must continue to put on the whole armor of God to withstand the assault of the enemies tactics.

You cannot win the battle by trying to burn the spiritual candle on one end and burn the world's candle on the other end. You will always get burned. (Acts 19:13-16). Those who are committed soldiers for Christ are battle ready.

Jesus is our General and will lead us to our new home as the press intensifies. He will not abandon us or leave us by the side of the road. When Jesus was raised from the dead, he was victorious over the devil and his power.

He demonstrated his own power even over death. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the permanent ruler of the whole world; the devil is only the temporary ruler of the part of the world that chooses to follow him (John 10:10).

You no longer have to be a worldly wrinkled mess. You can be pressed and smoothed out by the love of God and his living presence. The iron can help us be conformed to his image (I John 3:1-3; Proverbs 27:17; Romans 8:29; Philippians 3:20-21).

You can iron things out in your life today with the right hand of God, who supplies the right kind of heat. God is the potter; you are the clay. You don't have to be a lumpy mess anymore. Get smoothed out today!

🛐 Here’s a prayer you can pray to smooth out your life. "Heavenly Father, thank you for your living words of truth today. Lord, I'm the one this message has been directed towards. My life at times is beyond a wrinkled-up mess.

I cannot seem to unravel all the obstacles that have me stuck and sinking in despair. I'm calling from the depth of my heart, mind, and soul. Please deliver me from within. I want to yield my life into your hands.

My life seems to be falling apart at the seams and I am desperate. Oh Lord, only you can smooth away those treacherous potholes of life the devil has held me in. I don’t know which way to turn, nor do I know what to do.

Jesus, I’m coming to you confessing my need of you in my life, and pray that you will forgive me of my pride in trying to be the god of my own existence. I'm being pressed on all sides with depression and hopelessness.

I know it’s because I have made me the center of my life and not you, and I pray you would help me to surrender my life to your Lordship. I am coming to you in humility of heart to admit that I can do nothing in my own strength.

Lord, teach me how to submit my life to you. Show me how to abide in you day by day. Instruct me how to live-in spirit and truth. Help me Lord, to give control of my life over to you in every way. May your word be the light that guides me.

Thank you Lord, that you have not given up on me. I ask you to teach me your way from this day forward. Fill me with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Make every crooked path straight, In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

❤ "If you would like to know Jesus as your Savior, please read the drop-down page entitled "How to know Jesus."

📣 Help spread the word by sharing this web site and messages on your platform.

🙏 Please remember to pray for the people in Israel. They are God's people because of his covenant promises to them. (Genesis 12:1-3; Numbers 6:22-27; 24:8-9). ✝️

📲 Prayer Line- Text line- 1-412-616-3572
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