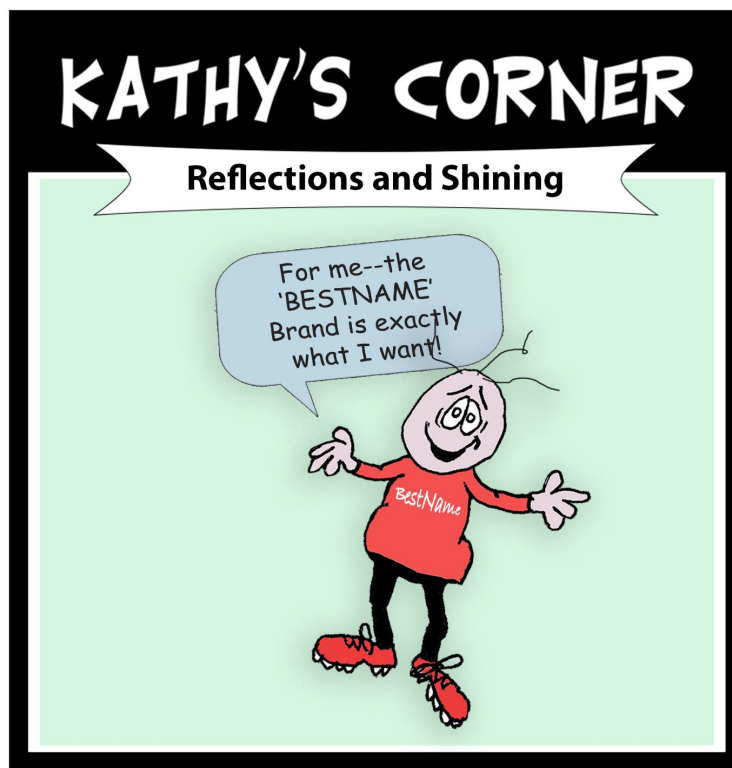


Reflections and Shining

Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you.” I wonder sometimes if we really appreciate that preparation. In reflecting on times past when my parents were alive, as a child I had no idea of the work involved in preparing a place for those coming to Thanksgiving dinner. My mom cooked for several days preparing dishes that everyone would enjoy. She set a beautiful table with a centerpiece and candles. The love that must have gone into that one meal! Now, this meal has become my responsibility and joy. I want it to be pleasing to each one coming. My family is special to me. Over the few years that I have been preparing the meal, I have added things that weren’t part of our former traditional meal—mostly in terms of preferred deserts. It is truly a feast meant to be enjoyed by **each one**.



Here I present some portions from another article I wrote nearly three years ago—with its disclaimer 😊

Before I elaborate further, I think a disclaimer is necessary. I am not yet at the point where I can say for sure what I “hear” is truly God speaking, only that I think it is. I wrestled with this last night when thinking about writing this article. I don't want to write it in the third person when it came to mind in the first person. I don't want credit for something He may have said. He deserves credit for any goodness that may come through this article, and any life or hope that it may spark. At the same time, I don't want to misrepresent Him by saying this is truly Him speaking when I am not absolutely sure. I do my best to make sure it is in line with scripture. The Bible says to test the spirits, that the evil spirits will never say that Jesus has come in the flesh. Because this word states clearly that Jesus came in the flesh, I choose to share it with you.

“...There is a special place in My heart for each of My children. Each personality is special to Me. Yes; each will be conformed to the image of My Son, but each will have a unique expression—a special shining of what I have put in them. Just like the stars in the heavens, each one has a different name, but each shines. The important thing is authenticity, no cheap imitations. The discerning one can tell the difference. The quality of My kingdom is only through My Holy Spirit. He is the brand. Anything less is an imitation no matter how beautiful it may appear. He must live. Do not grieve Him. Do not quench Him. This is what is required. That Life will cause you to be everything I desire for you and from you. He sheds my love through each of My children. He makes your righteousness exceed that of the Pharisees. They knew My word thoroughly, yet they despised Me—My life. Pride and honor from men meant more to them than Me. You must go deeper than the words on paper. My words are not just language for the human mind. Your mind must be humbled and give way to the Holy Spirit to be the interpreter of

My Logos. Jesus was My Logos. My “Word became flesh.” He expressed all perfectly. You won't see it without losing your life, then stepping into the oneness We have for you. It is the real life. You will live on a higher plain. A plain above emotions and typical reactions to the temptations of the enemy. He will not have anything in you, just as he had nothing in My Son. The old you is dead. Take up the new you daily. Lay aside the common for the extraordinary....”

Some supporting verses:

“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)

“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.” (Luke 18:11-14)

“He tells the number of the stars; he calls them all by their names.” (Psalm 147:4)

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.” (Luke 9:23-24)

“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world comes, and hath nothing in me.” (John 14:30)

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:” (1John 4:1-2)

As we get together with friends and family, we should keep in mind Whose we are and Whose life should shine through us. In God’s eyes Jesus has made us white as snow, though we may not always reflect what He sees. We are taught “to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.” —

**No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.**
(Micah 6:8 NLT)

Humility is necessary. We should never become puffed up or feel superior to others in any way.

Humility is the way through which God is glorified, rather than us! So, in this season, *be thankful; be humble; and shine!*