

Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes

Luke 2:12 AMPC

[12] And this will be a sign for you [by which you will recognize Him]: you will find [after searching] a Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

TPT version

You will recognize him by this miracle sign: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a feeding trough!"

On a freezing cold night January 18th 2019 in Newport N.H., A neighbor reported hearing what sounded like crying at 4 a.m. It was eight degrees below zero and it wasn't until 7 a.m. that a neighbor found a child dead on the porch steps from exposure and hypothermia. She was barefoot and wearing pajamas. 2 year old Sofia Van Schoick died with no wrapping of winter wear on her body. All indications are the child left home on her own in the course of the night without the parents knowing," said Newport Police Chief Jim Burroughs. The mother Courtney VanSchoick, was devastated beyond any words could describe waking up the next morning to this unconscionable tragedy.

The condition of little Sofia's death by hypothermia describes the word picture of God's people who struggle to wrap themselves in the swaddling word of God daily on their minds, their flesh and their spirit. Swaddling means to keep someone you love warmed, protected and preserved with a special parental love.

Jesus was the Word made flesh. This word swaddle means to intertwine tightly with warmth and tenderness a child by its parents. This is what the word is for. To swaddle and wrap you in God's word and intimate arms. As an astronaut depends on his space suit to survive, as a scuba diver depends on his swim suit to breath and survive. We must have the swaddling of God's word intertwined on us to survive this wicked lustful and anti-Christ generation. For example, we measure reality and interpret our moods and emotions by the word of God and not the social media websites or by the climate of society here in America. This means my conduct, my passions and my affections are all under the subjugation of the word of God.

This is not an easy thing to do when you are bombarded all day long with information overload. The explosion of information is a defining feature of the modern media landscape; and many Americans find this transformation daunting." The last 30 years have seen some of the most rapid technological advancements in human history, thanks to life-altering creations like the internet and the iPhone. Mobile broadband brought the massive scope of the internet to the portable package of a cell phone. It took awhile for the mobile experience to become comparable to using a full computer, but the convenience of having access to vital information like maps and emails has since become necessity for countless working professionals around the world.

The creation of the internet, or the world wide web as it was first known, has changed billions of lives by providing access to a nearly limitless source of information. By allowing people in different countries to instantly transmit messages to one another, the internet has completely transformed the way we communicate as well. Lets go a little further on information explosion that challenges our daily word application.

The United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Today, more than 43 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country, accounting for about one-fifth of the world's migrants in 2017. This means we are inundated with more religious, political and domestic philosophies that now rival Bible

teachings. The population of immigrants is also very diverse, with just about every country in the world represented among U.S. immigrants.

Over the past 100 years we have witnessed more inventions than any other time in our history we've come such a long way when it comes to the gadgets that shape our lives. From the jet engine, car radio the zipper to the America toaster you and I are living witnesses to both technology and information explosion that now rivals your memory and concentration capacities for retaining and applying the swaddled word in our lives.

Did you know that Americans are exposed to up to 10,000 advertisements every day. This information and data overload causes us to rationalize and emotionalize wrong behavioral choices against the word of God. Largely because we are either too tired, too busy or disinterested in renewing our minds in his love and word to the degree of the pressures we face everyday. We cannot grow in convictions if we do not know the word of God for a particular subject. So like little Sofia if I'm not swaddled by the word over my mind daily these statistic can produce spiritual hypothermia in my life.

SWADDLING CLOTHES TO YOU AND ME MEANS INTENTIONALLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY KEEPING THE WORD BEFORE ME

This means swaddling the word over and around this very stubborn independent flesh of mine. Look how Paul puts the swaddling of God's word in his life in ***Romans 7:18 AMPC*** [18] For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.]

Romans 7:21-25 AMPC [21] So I find it to be a law (rule of action of my being) that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me and I am subject to its insistent demands. [22] For I endorse and delight in the Law of God in my innermost self [with my new nature]. [23] But I discern in my bodily members [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh] a different law (rules of action) at war against the law of my mind (my reason) and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in my bodily organs [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh]. [24] O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death? [25] O thank God! [He will!] through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One) our Lord! So then indeed I, of myself with the mind and heart, serve the Law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

The swaddled Jesus came to swaddle His word around you to help you with Romans chapter 7.

Jesus relates to the wretched nature of our flesh.

1. He was born in a manger.
2. He had No place to lay his head.
3. People talked about his mother while he went to school.
4. His own people rejected his teachings.
5. He was betrayed and denied by his very own followers.
6. He was brutally crucified.
7. All of this to get you to exercise confidence when fighting your wretched sin nature.

We are called living epistles or swaddling word read among men. Our happiness, our joy and our fulfillment comes from the creative working active word operating through both our flesh and our character. I'm not referring to studying the Bible clinically. I'm talking about praying, speaking, obeying, and living the Word to where it impacts our relationships, And changes our destinies and generational bloodlines. This is the swaddling

Word. But it first begins with a new commitment to be intentional with the word in your daily life. This is where conviction and faith to change your circumstances come from. For example a lady approached me by letter saying I needed to move my flower bed. That it was on her property. Until i saw it in writing at city hall I felt justified. I truly was on her property line and had to change my lifestyle.

Did you know the scribes, theologians, and bible teachers who told the wisemen knew where Jesus was but never sought Him for themselves? They told the wise men where they might find him-yet they themselves would not go to see the swaddling Savior. The wisemen sought the swaddling savior Through the rocky terrine of searching for God declaring I will hold onto the Word. They faced death and discouragement proclaiming whatever it takes, I will hold onto the Word. They faced loneliness and rejection of Herod and the religious world still declaring I will cling to the swaddling Word. The wisemen had a dream about Herod seeking to kill the baby Jesus so they went home another way. Will the swaddling Word give you that same desperate desire to go home another way with a commitment to lead your life by the Word? Because desperation leads to more revelation of the swaddling Word in your life. We need this desperation revelation to spill over into everyday living, from the bedroom to the job. I got desperate with the swaddling word at a BOTT when Anthony Mangun preached.

When Joseph and Mary sought a hotel for His birth the Bible says they made no room for Him. That is my challenge today saints. To make more room for this swaddled Word wrapped around my flesh and spirit for everyday living.

I believe people today struggle to make room for him because of the kind of clothes that Jesus wore. He laid in a feeding trough. Who puts their infant baby in a feeding trough?

He came in the flesh to identify the feelings of our infirmities. After the Holy Ghost comes upon you, you will be endured with power to overcome the flesh, sin, and evil. Only by the grace, the blood, and love of Jesus Christ through His Word. They made no room for him in the inn.

What areas have you ignored the word and made no room for the Word? Convictions for clothing, convictions for tithing, convictions for tv programs or certain bad friend influences, for fasting, for a secret sin or an addiction, and for submitting to God against battling fear and unforgiveness.

This is how the word must be in us. Swaddled. Let the Word of God be true and everyman a liar. He has exalted His word above His name.

You live and experience a higher dimension of love and become intentional with saddling the Word around you (you love others more sacrificially, you become a soul winner, you appreciate God's love for your life in a greater way, and you submit to relational suffering in a greater way)

Becky Knight flew all the way from New Orleans just to sit and write the word I gave her.

Swaddling clothes to you and me is:

- ❖ the fruit of the spirit
- ❖ the gifts of the spirit wrapped and swaddled inside of us
- ❖ It's the Rehma and prophetic living word operating through our intellect, our minds and our will.

For example God breathed into Adam the breath of life, He didn't do that with any of the rest of His creation. Your flesh without living the word in your life is a waste of carbon monoxide. But mixed with swaddling Word makes you extremely invaluable to the human race. This makes you more than just a social security number.

God never cursed man but He did the ground and the serpent. God shaped you in your mother's womb. He breathed His Spirit in you mixed with Word making you the Earth's highest commodity.

Jesus took on a visual of superior love by showing us His birth and the crucifixion experience so we too would willingly allow ourselves to be crucified. We got it backwards. We love animals more than people..Wrapped in swaddling clothes will cause you to treat your time differently because of the seriousness and finality with eternity.

Life is but a vapor. We must keep eternity in front of us. The urgency of the Gospel. Life is a vapor. We can only confront our own sin nature by the word as it points us to the life and purpose of Jesus Christ.

And there is a growing lawlessness ready to produce on the ignorant to boldly justify their stubbornness and rebellion towards God. Largely because they either do not know God's Word or they understand it incorrectly.

So there must be 1) intentional study time 2) meditation time 3) prayer time to become the word 4) teaching others the Word keeping you renewed, and 5) hearing the preached and taught Word to keep your flesh in line and your spirit growing.

The kings presented gifts looking for a demonstration of the Holy Ghost because nobody gave respect and appreciation of the Word coming into the world as real flesh and blood. (Frankincense, gold and myrrh). Worship, Word, and sacrifice makes up the swaddled word in your life.

We cry out for a greater manifestation of your character through us, for healing in our relationships, to fill people with your spirit, to deliver those of us in bondage. The Word grew up around oppression, rejection, hatred and much poverty. The Word grew in wisdom and stature around a community that made no room for it. For your joy and peace to be released on the people. For judgment on the wicked who refuse to repent and reject your love and grace. If hatred has gotten stronger than love must get stronger. We can impact our current living situations with getting swaddling clothes around us.

When I travel to New Orleans I eat sometimes more of what I shouldn't be eating and less of what I should be eating. I will eat more of beignets, pralines, spicy seafood etc, and less of salads and vegetables and I tell myself I'm on vacation. But when I come home my body feels it. Sluggishness, aches, and pains out of nowhere. All because I ignore eating what I should eat. And I'm very conscientious of what I'm doing.

We can do this to the Word. We know we should be eating and growing and praying with it but we choose the spiritual pralines and beignets called social media, seeking to cure our loneliness in people only and ever God, That's a praline. Or picking the juicy stuff in the Bible and staying away from crucified love principles. You will end up spiritually sluggish, and spiritual aches and pain with others.

We release the swaddling Rhema Word by first activating our worship, our faith in His love, our humility, our fear of God, the power of the blood and our tongues. This alters the time dimension. It alters relational battles. It's creative like Noah activating the prophetic Word for the building of the ark, and the mosaic temple, and bringing the ark back, or Elijah laying on a dead body.

All of this by the swaddling Word released as creative active power through us. The Word must be swaddled around our character.

DOES ANYBODY ENJOY PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS? WELL I WANT HIS PRESENCE FOR CHRISTMAS.

His presence that produces:

- ❖ For intercession
- ❖ For peace
- ❖ For deliverance/salvation
- ❖ For judgement
- ❖ For mercies and grace
- ❖ For reconciliation
- ❖ Miracles/signs and wonders
- ❖ For joy/liberty
- ❖ Change /conviction revelation of Jesus Himself
- ❖ For holiness living

DLR/ag