

Welcome to Week 5 of The 2020 Lenten Positive Acts Challenge!

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***"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength;
but with the trial He will also provide a way out,
so that you may be able to bear it"
- 1 Corinthians 10:13***

Dear James,

Welcome to the 5th week of Lent... and of the Lenten Positive Acts Challenge!

We're so glad you decided to take this Lenten Journey with us!

These 47 days could improve the rest of your year.

If you haven't visited the website recently, please do so every now and then. You can even visit on your phone or tablet.

There are now over **1,969** people performing Lenten Positive Acts in **34** Countries, and in **48** States of the U.S.!!

Such a diverse group of people and locations...all with something powerful in common: *The desire to praise God...help people...and make the world a little bit better.* All at the same time!

If you've completed your recommended number of daily Lenten Positive Acts, you have at least **68** so far. As a group, we've performed over **107,000!**

Starting Monday, March 23th, we perform 5 Positive Acts per day.

If you need some help with ideas for Positive Acts, please visit "[I Need Ideas](#)".

If you'd like additional help in identifying opportunities for Positive Acts, or if you have any questions, please send us an email at info@LentenPositiveActs.com - we'll be happy to help you.

Please visit the "[Track My Positive Acts](#)" page - to download a chart for tracking your Positive Acts. You can print it, or use it on your computer or phone.

Thanks for the comments you've been giving us. We appreciate your thoughts, and love to hear how The Challenge is going for you.

If you have comments, please let us know - post them on the website, or send them to info@LentenPositiveActs.com

Many people love stories, so we're going to start today's mail...with a story.

Once upon a time, there was a fluffy little caterpillar named Grace. She lived an ordinary, caterpillar life – crawling around slowly...eating...sleeping...and simply relaxing.

Grace always had this feeling that God intended more for her life. More than what she was. However, she just couldn't figure out what He wanted. After all, what else could she do? She didn't have arms ... or legs, she was slow ... her only visible talent seemed to be eating leaves, and she didn't appear to add much value to the world. Still, in the back of her mind, there was that hope – that God would help her.

Then, one day, things went from ho-hum to worse.

Her life, as she knew it, started to fall apart. She wasn't able to go out ... get food ... see her friends ... or do anything she used to do. In fact, everything went dark...and she couldn't even move. Grace thought that was the end. Her life was over. Things were dark...scary...and uncertain. And they continued that way for what seemed to be a very long time.

During that dark, uncertain time, Grace was changing in ways that she didn't understand. She thought about the things she could no longer do. And then began to see that, perhaps, some of them no longer seemed as important as they used to.

She remembered the hope she used to have – that God would help her to become what He really wanted her to be. And she wondered why God would just *leave her* in this dark, scary, uncertain place.

When Grace woke up one morning, she felt a need to stretch, and...when she did, she heard a slight cracking sound. Then she saw a pinpoint of light. To her, it was

a ray of hope.

So, although it hurt to do it - she stretched some more, and ...was able to see a little more light.

Although it was uncomfortable, and sometimes painful...she continued to stretch, and slowly break through the walls that were keeping her closed in. Each struggle brought more light into her world.

And, when she finally managed to climb out of the chrysalis God had wrapped her in...while he transformed her life – she realized her world wasn't falling apart all that time. It was falling into place!

Grace had turned into what God had planned for her all along – a beautiful, graceful, butterfly! And, by going through the uncomfortable, painful process of breaking out of her chrysalis – she was now stronger...and able to actually fly, instead of crawling around like she used to.

God *didn't* abandon her. And He *didn't* forget her...or the hope He placed in her – that she was meant for more.

However, to get her where she should be, He needed to basically take everything away from her - except her thoughts...and her life itself – while He transformed her life, through a metamorphosis.

Does Grace's story sound familiar?

Think about our current situation. You could say we're all caterpillars – like Grace.

We were living our lives the way we thought they should go. And many of us had

that same feeling as Grace – the hope that God intended more for our lives...and that He would help us to become what He wanted us to be. But how?

And then, one day, like Grace, our lives as we know them - start to fall apart. We're not able to go out ... get food ... see our friends ... or do the things we used to do.

It can be a dark, scary, uncertain time.

Here's the thing: Grace had no control over anything that happened to her while she was in the chrysalis God placed her in – while He transformed her life. We do.

We have free will, and powerful minds – that we can use during this time in our own “chrysalis”.

While this is a scary situation...it's also an exciting opportunity. And it can be a blessing in disguise.

Our world has been turned upside down, and inside out. Many aspects of our old lives have been taken away from us. And we're surviving without them. We're also able to see a little more clearly what's *really* important in our lives...and in the world - and what's not.

The world will *not* be the same when the pandemic is gone...and all the restrictions are lifted. It can't be.

The real question is: *Will we be the same person?*

Or will we *allow God to transform us* during this time – so that, we entered into this pandemic as a *caterpillar*...and we emerge from it as a *beautiful, graceful*

butterfly?

God wanted Grace to be more...and to live a life according to His purpose. However, He didn't simply transform her from a caterpillar to a butterfly – while she was crawling through the grass.

God wants *us* to be more...and to live a life according to His purpose. However, He doesn't simply transform us while we're sleeping...sitting in a classroom...or coaching soccer.

He has now put us all in our own "chrysalis" during the pandemic. Whether we emerge from it as a caterpillar...or a butterfly – is up to *us*.

What's it gonna be?

Today's Question:

Q. Why do the weekly emails always contain the same "administrative-type" information at the top?

A. Good question!

First, not all participants are able to read every weekly mail. So, when they're able to read it, it gives them a quick update of where we are...and some general guidance .

Second, there are updated statistics on who and where we are, and what this new week brings.

Third, and the most exciting reason is that new participants join every week. **In fact, 383 people have joined us in the last week!**

And we now have 1,969 participants around the world! To borrow a line from the [Lenten Positive Acts Challenge Letter](#) on our website: We we can imagine that Jesus is smiling from East to West... and that He'll say something like "*Now THAT'S what I'm talking about!*"

And, to us NY Mets fans, 1969 is a special number! :)

If you're one of our new participants - Welcome! Please take a moment to look at the world map on the ["Where in The World?" tab of our website](#). It contains a red pin in the location of each participant. It's exciting and inspiring to see all those people around the world - actively looking for opportunities to help others!

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

If you know *anyone* you think could use a little inspiration during this trying time, please forward this mail to them. And encourage them to sign up & join us!

Today's Song:

When you get a chance, listen to the song "*Just Be Held*" - by Casting Crowns, which contains the lyrics:

***"So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away
You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held***

***Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place
I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held "***

The song is so applicable to our lives right now!

***"And we know that God causes everything to work together
for the good of those who love God,
and are called according to His purpose for them"
- Romans 8:28***

Until next time...

Have a Blessed Week!

God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Lenten Positive Acts

www.LentenPositiveActs.com



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You are receiving this mail because you opted in to participate in the Lenten Positive Acts Challenge. We're so

glad you joined us!

Our mailing address is:

Lenten Positive Acts

PO Box 44

Lincroft, NJ 07738

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