

Dearest Child of the Most High,

God's richest blessings to you in the magnificent name of our Living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We at Frontier Christian Ministries continue to pray for the families and loved ones of those lost to the tragedies of September 11th. My wife and I are especially grieved by the pain inflicted upon the residents of our wonderful city of New York. There remains a void in our hearts which can only be filled by Almighty God. We, like you, have moved on but we will NEVER forget the fallen nor the valor demonstrated by the brave souls who labored hour after hour on behalf of their fellow countrymen. We also regard with sorrow the grievous loss at our Nation's Capitol as well as those who perished aboard the airliners hijacked by the wicked enemies of righteousness. But, being native New Yorkers and having spent so many years ministering the marvelous Word of God in and around the boroughs of New York City, the sting of the horrific catastrophe at the World Trade Center seems somewhat more excruciating. We have in our Teaching Center a framed lithograph of the Manhattan skyline as seen from Brooklyn. The central images in this print are the Twin Towers. This was given to us in 1985 by the Bronx believers. It was a "going away" present when we left the Bronx to go and minister to the saints of Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. It has always been one of our favorite wall hangings and as you might well expect, has recently taken on new meaning for us. It used to occupy a wall in our hall but now can be found in the Teaching Hall proper. On the left side Sue has placed a red, white and blue ribbon and on the right a black one. It remains a memorial which we trust will in some small way honor the cherished memories of those dear souls lost prematurely to cruelty. If we had a dignified representation of our Pentagon you can be sure we would display it in like fashion.

We, like you, owe our full allegiance to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is to Him, His Son and His Word that we must pledge our heart, soul, mind and strength. Truly there is none other like our God who is worthy to be praised and adored by all mankind. Nevertheless, we also love our Country and the principles upon which she was founded. We are thankful beyond measure for the freedoms this Nation of ours has afforded us all our lives and we will NEVER, EVER forget the brave men who shed their blood to guarantee the survival of the blessings of liberty. Even at this writing there are Christians who do not have the freedom to speak openly regarding their beliefs but rather are persecuted and tortured for professing a love of Jesus Christ and the Bible. The Sudan is one such place. There Christians are mutilated and killed for refusing to denounce the Lord Jesus Christ and embrace Islam. They, like Justin Martyr, are noted as saying such things as, "We are Christians and Christians do not sacrifice to idols." One man was burned alive for refusing to become a Muslim and prayed before they burned him, "God I will never forget you!" He said, "I refuse to be a Muslim, because I know God is with me." It's hard for us here in America to imagine such cruelty and persecution. All we have ever known is freedom. Freedom to worship as we choose, freedom to speak openly, freedom to write without censor (as I'm doing now), freedom to pursue life, liberty and happiness. What unspeakable joy for us, but not necessarily for Christians in other parts of the world. Sadly, many of us take these things for granted. Brothers and sisters this should not be so. In the words of Patrick Henry, "Almighty God...give me liberty or give me death!" Let me further quote another of our Nation's Founders, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." --Benjamin Franklin. Certainly war and violence are not the Will of God, as Christians we can agree on that. But, neither is it the Will of God that unrighteousness should hold sway. Again I call our Founders to record, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.... Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God." --Thomas Jefferson. At first this seems contradictory but Jefferson in his role as President defined it simply, "Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it. But the temper and folly of our enemies may not leave this in our choice."

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Many Christians and others in favor of peace refer to the following passage to establish their position:

Matthew 5:38, 39 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

That's what was prescribed by the Mosaic Law.

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

The phrase "resist not evil" is somewhat difficult. Could Jesus want us to give in to evil?

James 4:7,8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

The above passage clearly indicates to us that we are in fact to resist the devil who is without question the source of evil. Furthermore, we are admonished to submit to God (be obedient to His Word). An evil attack is never a justification for us to sin. (Interestingly war is mentioned in the context of James 4, which we shall revisit shortly.)

Romans 12:17-21 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

You do not pay back an evil deed with an evil deed. If you wish to see godly things happen you must incorporate godly means. You cannot bring good to pass with the exercise of evil. Surely your mama told you that two wrongs don't make a right. Did she not?

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

There is a possibility, however remote, to live peaceably. Nonetheless, it is possible.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

That's the key! Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Generally evil seeks to bait us hoping to exacerbate our involvement. Our reaction (by way of fighting against or resisting) to evil can concoct a potentially volatile situation. The preferred course of action is found in the Scriptures.

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins

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Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Ephesians 4:26,27, 31,32 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Neither give place to the devil.

Anger in and of itself is not sin. It is, however, a temptation to sin. Giving in to sin is giving place to the devil who will be happy to fill said place.

Verses 31 & 32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

It's up to us to put away things such as wrath, anger and malice and replace them with tenderheartedness, love and forgiveness. Hence the conclusion of the passage we began to consider earlier in Matthew:

Matthew 5:43-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Now we can understand, at least partially, what Jesus meant by "resist not evil." But what did he mean by "... but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."? For the sake of brevity I offer a simple explanation. Jesus was speaking to men from the East who found it a grave insult to be smitten on the cheek, which is true for men in general and most cultures. We are not to respond to insults by retaliating in kind. Remember, a soft answer turns away wrath. But when you return an insult for an insult you escalate matters greatly and turn the proverbial molehill into a mountain. Thus, a simple insult can erupt into a violent event which is evil's desired intent. An insulting situation permitted to accelerate will have for its fruit consequence, which generally develops into entanglement. For those of us desiring to serve the Lord this is entirely unacceptable.

II Timothy 2:4

No man that warreth [serves God in any capacity] entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier [a servant].

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Please don't misconstrue the above verse to mean you should enlist in the U.S. Military. The Scripture is using the terms of war and soldier in a figurative way, not literally. The point is, when you are a soldier everything and everyone takes a "back seat" to your orders!

God's Word is quite clear as to the origin of war:

James 4:1-6

From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Obviously, in war your enemy could be a Christian. That in an of itself is reason enough to be a non-participant. That is, of course, if that were the persuasion of your enemy. In a Civil war you might very well be shooting at the son of your mother. While I am not an advocate of war, we must note that these days the aforementioned is not the case.

I would like to go on record at this juncture regarding my position in the matter of freedom of religion. I am a staunch advocate of free will and thus believe in freedom of "religion." I will vigorously defend your right to worship in accordance with your personal dictates and that regardless of your beliefs. However, I do not believe that to be a guarantee of spiritual equality. Nor do I believe that the voice of Islam is equal in authority to that of Christianity. I believe the same holds true for Judaism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Hinduism, or any other "isms" you can think of. Furthermore, as pertains to the laws and decision making of this our Country all the "isms" are, in my opinion, invalid. This is a Christian nation founded upon Christian principles which have their roots in the Holy Bible, period. They can re-write history all they like it will NOT alter the truth one iota. And may I add, there is only one God and His name is NOT Allah and only one mediator between Him and man and his name is NOT Muhammad. They (Allah and Muhammad) represent nothing more than a renaming of Baal and those misled fools who met up with the judgement of Elijah's sword, the keenness of which brought new meaning to the term "spiritually sharp!" In short, Allah and Muhammad are facades for the devil.

The Word speaks:

I Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

I like to keep the record straight, if you know what I mean and I know you do! But I'll sum up my thoughts. It is wrong to murder, it is not wrong to defend yourself and your family. Those who seized the airplanes on September 11<sup>th</sup> were murderers. It is our Government's duty to defend the American people even as it is the duty of law enforcement to bring

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criminals to justice. War comes of lust and lust is sin. Self defense is not sin, it is prudent and often obligatory. I would defend my family with my life if need be and most of you would do the same. It would be folly for our Nation to ignore these happenings. A bully will never leave you alone until he fears you. People of this ilk have no fear of law and righteousness, therefore they must be taught to fear us. While it is true that at times military conflicts have Christians pitted against Christians, this cannot be said of our current situation as those responsible for the atrocities in question are sworn Muslims. They are the enemies of righteousness. It is good to be patriotic but better to serve God. We have but one shot at life, we would be well advised to make it count. The best way to do that is by serving the Word of Life. To do that requires our survival. The best investment of your life is in service to His Highest! And finally, things will wax worse and worse, until Jesus Christ returns at which point this old planet begins a conversion which will culminate into Paradise! Hallelujah!!!

Certainly you are familiar with the Ten Commandments. There's one I would like to look at with you briefly.

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

The English word kill in this verse has been translated from the Hebrew word *ratsach*, which would be more properly translated as murder. Particularly since this word emphasizes the aspect of premeditation. This explains, at least in part, the many Old Testament records where Israel fought with and killed her enemies. This she was permitted to do in defense of her people, property, borders and of course, her freedom to worship God. As you well know, there's a huge difference between self-defense and premeditated murder. Without a doubt this commandment should be understood as, "Thou shalt not murder!" We are not to take another human life in a murderous act of any kind but nowhere in the Scripture are we commanded to forsake self-defense. Rather survival is paramount for us and for our children and for reasons greater than the obvious. Consider this, if you do not survive who will speak God's rightly-divided Word? The Muslims? Just how many people do you suppose really know the accuracy of God's Word? Do you think we are among the majority? If yo do, think again. Oh, there's more than enough religion to go around but I'm not talking about religion. So, taking the aforementioned into consideration along with the fact that you only go around once, what do you suppose is the best expenditure of your life? It sure isn't military service! As needful as that is, there are so few of us around we dare not squander our lives in pursuit of lesser (yes, I said lesser) goals. Baby, we've got bigger fish to fry!!! You have only one life to live and only one life to give in service to His Highest. If you don't give out His Word, who will? And what better time than now? I want to tell you, the recent tragedies have made believers out of multitudes. But it's not enough to be a "believer." God expects and deserves more, namely EVERYTHING. It's up to us to take these new "believers" and make disciples of them. Yes, not just Christians but followers of Christ. Men and women dedicated to the Master, ready at a moment's notice to serve at His pleasure. Are you ready? I am! Now is the greatest time we have ever seen to speak this wonderful Word of God, for the darker the night the more brightly shine the stars. People need to know about the future, the REAL future! Isn't it wonderful! We are closer now than when we first believed, one day closer. And what a day that will be, when Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords. Then he will set things right, for he will be in charge and God's Kingdom will be set up here on earth. Oh baby, what a day that will truly be!!!

### **Revelation 22:20**

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

### \*ALL HAIL KING JESUS, LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS\*

In His love,

Linus A. Mathis III

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### THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

**Privacy Vs. Supervision** 

There's a growing contingency in our public school system. That of privacy and children. It seems the educators and administrators are pushing the issue of "personal privacy" among our kids. Perhaps you have noticed a developing resentment towards parental "intrusion" in the attitude of your offspring. Part of this is inherent to the maturational process. As your child matures there will be an increase in the desire for independence. This is healthy and to be expected. However, the idea that a child has the same rights to privacy as does an adult is absurd. Yet, this is the very ideal that's being promulgated in our education system. Certainly, personal modesty should be respected and supported appropriately and in consideration of age. This is NOT what I'm concerned about!

I firmly believe that a child should also be afforded a reasonable amount of undisturbed personal time. I do not believe that means unlimited protection against oversight. I, as a parent, am commanded of God to oversee my child's behavior. At least until said child has reached some measure of adulthood. Furthermore when living under the roof of another, regardless of age, you must adhere to the rules of the household and bring your life into conformation with same. Now, as a parent and the head of my household, children living under my roof MUST comply. Should I ever find myself living as a single adult in my child's household, the roles will be reversed. At such time I will be forced to mold my life around

theirs. BUT NOW, I AM IN CHARGE. Consequently, I reserve the right to go on a "search and destroy" mission in my child's room ANYTIME I see fit. This is a must if I am to competently carry out my responsibilities as a parent. Consider the following:

Proverbs 29:15b . . . a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

Sadly, many children today are left to themselves. In fact, the psychology of our day requires just that. After all, you don't want to interfere with your child's development. Do you? YES, YOU BET YOUR LIFE YOU DO. If you don't "interfere" with your child's development, someone else is sure to.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Most children will do their very best to hide foolish behavior. This is why at times you don't get your child's progress report on time, or perhaps learn after the fact that your signature has been forged. If I do not search for this hidden foolishness I may not find it. I'm not suggesting you begin a witch hunt or begin to mistrust your child's every move. You shouldn't even think like that. After all, you know your child and should be somewhat aware of what to expect. If you feel like you are in the dark here, you might possibly consider checking out their "private" behavior. Unless of course, they are so open with you as to never hide anything. The fact is supervision requires diligence. You may even "catch" your child doing

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something good, in which case they should be rewarded.

This is how God deals with us:

#### Genesis 6:5-8

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

God knew about the imagination of the thoughts of man's heart because He looked into it. Was this an invasion of man's privacy? We see that man proved to be "all wet" but not Noah, he was rewarded.

II Chronicles 16:9a For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him.

God's motivation for looking is to reward, but let's not forget He's not blind as to not see when we do evil. Thankfully, He doesn't reward us according to our iniquities. He is a God of grace and we must never forget that in our dealings with our children, or for that matter with anyone.

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Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

We want to drive foolishness from our children so at times we will be required to look for it in "hidden" places. That will mean an invasion of privacy but in this case the end definitely justifies the means.

Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

The alternative is unpleasant!

Proverbs 17:25 A foolish son *is* a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

When it comes to kids, sorry but privacy will have to take a "back seat" to diligence.

I'll leave you with the following consideration:

Hebrews 4:12,13

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

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## Sue's News

The Tithe

The tithe was instituted by God with strict guidelines. One-tenth of all the first fruits were to be offered to God. This was a practical confession and acknowledgment that the whole land and all possessions belonged to God. It was God alone who gave these things to those who benefitted from them.

The first tithe is recorded in Genesis where Abram gave a tenth of all the spoils he took from the battle of Chedorlaomer. He gave this tithe to Melchizedek, the King of Salem who was also the High Priest. The tithe was given because Abram recognized that it was God who gave him the victory in the battle and prospered him with the spoils.

Genesis 14:18-20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

And blessed be the most high God, who hath delivered thy enemies into thy hand. And he [Abram] gave him [Melchizedek] tithes of all.

Leviticus then records the institution of the tithe as a part of the Law of Moses. Very specific rules governed the tithe. One-tenth of all the seed of the land, the fruit of the tree, the herd and the flock were to be offered to God. Every

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tenth animal that passed under the shepherd's or herdsman's rod while counting his flock or herd were to be offered to God. He was not allowed to switch a good animal for a bad one. If he did this, both animals were to be offered. If a man wanted to redeem, or buy back, that which he tithed, he was required to add a fifth-part (onefifth) to the price. God left nothing to man's interpretation.

Leviticus 27:30-34 And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S: *it is* holy to the LORD.

And if a man will at all redeem *any* of his tithes, he shall add to it the fifth *part* of it.

And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy to the LORD.

He shall not search whether it is good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he shall change it at all, then both it and the change of it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed. These *are* the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai.

As we can see from the record above, this was a commandment of God, not a suggestion. The children of Israel obeyed the Law of Moses and were blessed in doing so.

The Levites, who had no inheritance, were given the responsibility of the care of the Temple. They were also required

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to tithe one-tenth of everything they received from the people. Their tithe was to go to the care of the High Priest. But even though they did not tend to flocks or fields, they were not exempt from tithing. A commandment of God is to all men.

Numbers 18:25-28 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Thus speak to the Levites, and say to them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an h e a v e offering of it for the LORD, *even* a tenth *part* of the tithe.

And *this* your heave offering shall be reckoned to you, as though *it were* the grain of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering to the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give of them the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

Today, not many of us till the land as our chosen professions. We all work though, and therefore are required of God to tithe from our first fruits. The abilities that we use to make a living are as much from God as the land and the possessions the children of Israel had. Why then, do we think we do not owe God what is due Him? Do we think throwing a buck or two into the horn every now and then is tithing? This is done more out of compulsion than true obedience to God. Just because we put something in a horn when it is passed does NOT mean we are tithing. Who do we think we are fooling anyway? God knows and He is not mocked.

The first and great commandment tells us we are to love God with all our heart, soul and might.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

To love God is to obey His commandments. The tithe is a commandment. If we love God, we are to tithe.

God promises in His Word to prosper those who walk in truth. We do not want God to withhold His blessing from us in any way. We should not withhold our obedience to Him in any way.

III John 2-4 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

If we are to walk in truth, we must obey His commandments. Tithing is as much a commandment as not stealing or lying or killing. It should be as easy for us to tithe as it is for us not to steal, kill or lie. We know what the benefits of obeying these commandments are. There should be no question then to the benefits of tithing.

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I'd like to cite one practical, if not unusual, example. We here in Alaska receive a Permanent Fund Dividend each year. This is a dividend paid back to Alaska residents from a fund set up by our Government with revenues from the oil companies. Is this increase? Is this part of our first fruits? You bet it is. The oil belongs to God. The oil companies merely pump it out of the ground, refine it and sell it. Alaskan's benefit from a smart idea someone had to bank the revenues earned and give some of it back to us. We did nothing to earn this money other than reside in Alaska. Should we tithe from this increase? Of course. What makes this increase any different from our salaries? Nothing.

God is faithful to His Word.

I Corinthians 1:9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called to the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be faithful to God. Give back to Him that which you owe. None of us want God to shortchange us in His blessings. Don't shortchange Him! That's not news, but it is Sue's!

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### I AM A NEW YORKER

(Reworked by Linus A. Mathis III)

I am a New Yorker. I may not live in the five boroughs or on the Island or Upstate. I may live hundreds or even thousands of miles away, or I may live just over the G.W. Bridge. But I am a New Yorker.

Whatever took me out of New York, did not take New York out of me. My accent may have faded and my pace may have slowed, But I am a New Yorker.

I was raised on Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Rockefeller Plaza, The Yankees and the Dodgers. I went to Jones Beach, Rye Beach and Orchard Beach. I thrived on egg creams, Coney Island hot dogs, pizza and bagels. I played stick and stoop ball, the manhole cover was home plate to me. I know the only place paddle ball is played is in New York. Manhattan is the City to me and I know "THE END" means Montauk. I avoid the L.I.E. like the plague and When someone asks how far a certain place is I tell them in time, not miles, Because I am a New Yorker.

In the City I never look up,

Skyscrapers are something I take for granted .

The Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty are part of me, I visited them while still in my mothers womb. Taxis, sirens, car alarms, subways and "get outta heah" don't rattle me. Because I am a New Yorker, I understand "fagedaboudit."

I was raised on cultural diversity before it became politically correct. I eat Greek food, Italian food, Jewish food, Middle Eastern food and Chinese food, Because they are all American food to me. And I know Frankie and Johnny's will not take reservations or credit cards, don't even think about it! I am a New Yorker.

I don't get mad when people speak other languages in my presence, to me that's normal. Some of my relatives came to this country through Ellis Island, they stayed, they worked, they loved America, they became citizens . . .

They were New Yorkers.

People who have never been to New York have misunderstood me and at times my idea of humor, but know this: My friends and family work in the industries, professions and businesses that benefit all Americans. They have built this country and made her strong. They are all New Yorkers.

My firefighter friends died trying to save New Yorkers and non-New Yorkers, Americans and non-Americans, Because THEY were New Yorkers.

I feel the pain of my fellow New Yorkers.

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I mourn the blow dealt to our fabled city, my heart bleeds for her losses, I hear her children crying for their parents. At times I feel New York will never be the same, But then I remember: I am a New Yorker.

And New Yorkers have: Tenacity, strength and courage above the norm; Compassion and caring for their fellow man; Love and pride for city, state and country; Intelligence, experience and education par excellence; Ability, dedication and energy above and beyond; And Faith! Boundless faith!!!

If you hit New York you strike America in her heart. But America's heart is still beating strong! You may demolish the steel in a building but you cannot dent the steel in a New York soul. You may hurt New York in her pocketbook; but she'll parlay what's left into a fortune. You may end innocent lives leaving widows and orphans, but we'll take care of them, Because they are New Yorkers and New Yorkers take care of their own. You'd better not touch my family!!! I am a New Yorker!

Wherever we live, whatever we do, today Americans are all New Yorkers and: That means there are New Yorkers in every state and every city of this great nation. We will not abandon our cities, We will not abandon our brothers and sisters, We will not abandon the beauty, creativity and diversity that New York represents, We will not abandon our God nor His Word. We will not abandon our faith! Not now, not ever! Because we are New Yorkers! And more proud of it then ever!

I am a New Yorker!

FOR REAL, YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!!!

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**