

The Way of Truth

Vol. 76

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

No. 5

*Godly Mothers are the
Light of the World* See Page 3

May 2018

Mother's
Day
May 13



(This is the last editorial that Bro. Alvin Craig wrote before his passing on March 7, 2018).

MY MOTHER

IN PROVERBS 31, we have a picture of an ideal mother. I'm not sure there ever was a mother who fulfilled what Solomon describes in this passage of scripture, but there are some very good points to be found here: "Who can find a virtuous woman? ... her husband doth safely trust in her, ... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. ... She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

My mother was the daughter of James Cook, vet of the Civil War. He was captured by the North and released on June 26, 1865. My mother was the sixth of seven children. In those days, children were not registered, so when she applied for social security, she was given August 15, 1890, as her birth date.

I was born on what we called "the cotton farm." We had sold a smaller farm to buy a larger one. Then we borrowed money to build a house and barn and other small buildings.

Dad pastored two small churches. The one I remember best was called "Unity's Chapel." There was a back door of the chapel that led out into the woods. One time Mother, for some reason, smacked me during a sermon Daddy was preaching. (Mother told me about this after I was married and living in Maryland.) When Daddy finished preaching, he asked her why she had smacked me. He hadn't seen me do anything wrong. She explained that I had bit her. Of course, it hurt her, and her first reaction was to smack me. Her reply to Daddy was, "If he had bitten you like he did me, you would have smacked him, too."

She said I raised my hand to her after she smacked me. "I didn't do anything but pick you up, take you out back, break off a switch from a tree, and give you a good switching. From that day to this, you've never raised your hand to strike me." So I owe my mother a great debt of gratitude for her willingness to punish me that way.

They told me that when my younger brother was born on my second birthday that I said, "I want to take him down to the barn and feed him to the mules."

The Great Depression came, and we lost our farm, so we moved to Wilkes County. We tried to have a "corn shucking" like we did before, but it didn't work very well. Anyway, the next morning, my brother, Elbert, and I were sent to milk the cows. We were throwing

small ears of corn at one another, and Mother told us to go on and milk the cows. We did not listen at the time and Mother called out to tell us that she was going to whip us for disobeying.

When we got back to the house, Mother whipped Elbert, but I ran. Later, as I was drawing water, I saw Mother coming with one arm behind her, so I ran again. Her reply was, "All right, I'm going to get you if I have to get you in bed!" I thought, *I won't have my clothes on, so it would be better to take my whipping now.* Again, my mother taught me an important lesson: mean what you say.

I do not mean to give the wrong picture of my mother. I had a very loving mother who would do whatever she could for her children. Having ten boys and one girl was not all that easy for her. While on the cotton farm, she would take her hoe and work along with the rest of the family. In addition, she had her garden from which she fed her family and canned much for winter. She also made clothes for the family. We got one new pair of shoes each year. Daddy repaired them with old automobile tires. In the summer, we went barefooted.

During our corn shucking days, Mother made "chicken biscuits" for those who came to help us. They were special and went over well with the people. Normally, for the family, they were large, but for this occasion, they were small and filled with chicken which was ground up with the grinder. Some farmers served apples and peanuts. Mama's "chicken biscuits" were still popular.

While still on the cotton farm, we had two large trees under which Mother did her washing. Two pots—one for heating the water and one for washing. Monday was wash day, Tuesday meant ironing all those clothes. She had an old ironing board and two or three irons. In the winter, she heated them in front of the fireplace. In the summer, she heated them on the stove.

Later in life, my parents didn't have to work as hard as they did in the Depression years. Daddy continued preaching some and also teaching an adult Sunday school class. He made one missionary trip and that was to Cuba. Both lived until they reached their eighties.

I truly thank the Lord for the Church of God home that I was born into. The Church of God is all I have known through my life. I was saved at the age of 17 when my parents took me to a tent camp meeting in western North Carolina, so I have sought to serve the Lord for over 70 years. Thank the Lord! †



Bro. Alvin Craig's parents

The late editor, Bro. Alvin A. Craig, passed from this life on March 7, 2018. He had been editor of this magazine for 39 years. He will be greatly missed. We are planning to have a special tribute to his life in the June 2018 issue, Lord willing. If anyone would like to share a brief tribute of his influence, you can send it via email to truth@fred.net, or send a hard copy to The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741. All submissions must be received by May 5, 2018.

—Bro. Greg Tyler, Editor

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Devoted to the gospel of our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave freely His life-blood, to save us from our many sins, to sanctify our fallen nature and to bring into one body all true believers, by whose stripes we are healed.

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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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Ed. note—Following is a poem which was read at Bro. Alvin A. Craig's funeral service, March 11, 2018. It was composed by his nephew, Bro. Ralph Craig. In the June issue, we will have much more about the life and labors of the late editor of this magazine, Lord willing.

EXTRAORDINARY

This is the story of a man who God placed upon the earth;

A man who started his humble life from an ordinary birth.

And after ninety years of life, the Lord called to take him home;

The lives that this man's life has touched, only in heaven will be known.

He gave his heart to serve the Lord at the age of seventeen; And at 90, God found him faithful, and all the years in between.

Not one time did he turn his back on the Christ who set him free; And now, like those who have gone before, he will live eternally.

If you could ask him now, "Alvin, do you have any regrets?" "That I didn't give my heart to God sooner" is what he'd say, I guess.

"And that I wasn't able to witness all my children being saved; But I believe I'll meet them all again, for that I earnestly prayed."

Yes, this man prayed, so faithfully prayed for God's favor to gain; He prayed for you, he prayed for me, his prayers were not in vain.

Those prayers have all been bottled up and in God's chosen time; He will pour them out one by one, for your burden or for mine.

This man traveled the world spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ; Telling souls of God's great gift, persuading them to pay the price.

From the Philippines to Great Britain, from Africa to Cayman; And much time in our own nation spreading good news across the land.

I don't know of a man on Earth with more knowledge of God's Word; His teaching on Revelation was the best I've ever heard.

Almost any Bible question, he could answer right away; His ability to remember still astounds me to this day.

Not only did he love God's Word and the souls of every man; He loved his precious family as much as any person can.

So often we've heard his children speak of the blessing they received; When Daddy said "no," it was for their good, even though they were grieved.

His love compelled him to tell the truth, although at times it hurt; He showed us how to stay true to God, and faithful to His Word.

The congregation that he pastored so richly has been blessed; There is no doubt he will be missed by his family and all the rest.

But if he were here today, he would tell us "Please, don't mourn; Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be forlorn.

"For in my Father's mansions, there's a place prepared for me; Just make sure you get to heaven, so together we can be."

Only time can reveal the affect this man had upon the earth; This man who God sent down through just an ordinary birth.

But we do know that this extraordinary man that we all loved; Will reap an extraordinary reward from his Lord and Master above!

—Ralph Craig, March 7, 2018



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*For
Poetry
Lovers*

MOTHER'S DAY

Grace V. Watkins

More beautiful than May-bright skies,
Than hills where golden sunshine lies,
Is love within a mother's eyes.

Softer than dawn across the land,
Than little waves against the sand
Is healing of a mother's hand.

And oh, more largo-sweet and fair
Than chapel bells in twilight air
Is music of a mother's prayer.

THE WATCHER

Margaret Widdemer

She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we are late—
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate.

And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe
Because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget!
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.

Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we were late,
Watching from Heaven's window—
Leaning from Heaven's gate.

MOTHER-LOVE

Unknown

Over the forest and treeless plains
And over the heights above,
'Tis ever the same, the heart of the home
Is the throb of the mother's love.
It kneels by the bed of the drowsy head,
And whispers a lullaby
That softly streams thru the baby's dreams:
"Fear not, for Mother's nigh."

It flows from her lips to her fingertips,
Caressing the baby's curls;
It shines in her eyes that sympathize
With the tears of her little girls;
The sorrows and joys of her little boys,
It only can understand,
And it hallows the touch we love so much—
The pressure of Mother's hand.

It mends the ball and the broken doll;
It finds the missing knife,
And all the day long it weaves a song
'Round the wearisome tasks of life.
On every sea and on every land
Beneath the sky's blue dome,
The Mother's love is the life and the light
And the throbbing heart of the home.

MOTHER

Gloria J. Aylesworth

It must be part of God you see
When you look in a mother's eyes.
He must be living in her heart
To make her so gentle and so wise.

It must be He who helps her
Make it through each day,
To teach little children
Of loving and of play.

It must be He who gives her patience
Whenever they are bad.
It must be He who helps her comfort them
When they are hurt or sad.

And He will help her to realize
When her raising them is done,
That they are now no longer
Her little daughters or her little sons.

It is He who watches over them
When this world she must depart,
And He who keeps her memory fresh
In their minds and in their hearts. †

Godly Mothers Are the Light of the World

Mother's Day Message by Bro. Greg Tyler, delivered 05/08/11

WE CERTAINLY wish all mothers a very happy Mother's Day. You are greatly appreciated, not only by your family, but by those of us who know you. The world needs more godly mothers.

I heard about this little girl who was about to say her part in an old-fashioned Children's Day program. When she got in front of the crowd, the sight of hundreds of pairs of curious eyes focused upon her threw her into a panic. Every line that she had rehearsed so carefully faded from her mind and she stood there frozen in her tracks, unable to utter a single syllable.

In the front row her mother was almost as frantic as the little girl. She gestured, she moved her lips to form the words that her daughter was to speak, but it availed nothing. Finally in desperation the mother whispered the opening phrase, "I am the light of the world." Instantly the child's face relaxed. A smile appeared where there had been clouds before. And with supreme confidence the little girl began, "My mother is the light of the world."

Of course, we know that Jesus is the light of the world. But through the years mothers have beautifully reflected the light of Jesus in their countenances and in their lives. Godly mothers are indeed the light of their children's world.

I've entitled my few thoughts this morning, "Godly Mothers Are the Light of the World."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." But He also said to His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world."

For the purpose of this message, I'd like to paraphrase Matthew 5:14-16 just a bit, and make it focus on Mothers: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do [women] light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before [your children], that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

We live in a dark and wicked world. I'm made to wonder sometimes how is it possible that our world has gotten to the condition that it's in. Part of the reason, I believe, is the lack of spiritual light that's in our world, and the lack of godly women who have to set the example for their children. Women who smoke, drink, curse, and live immoral lives will produce children who will do the same; but godly mothers, who pattern their lives after Christ, leave an example to be followed by their children. Our world needs more of such mothers. We thank God for every godly mother that's here this morning. We trust that God will richly bless you.

Women have been essential to the progress of the nation and the church in particular. Someone has written—

Many feminists today blame Christianity for the plight of women in the world. They point to biblical passage that seem to limit women in leadership roles and consider it evidence of Christianity's culpability in holding down women. This is historical revisionism. No other religious system in history has elevated women in society like Christianity has. Consider the plight of women in the eastern religions, in Judaism, and Islam, the worst of all.

Paul praised women in his ministry. Phebe (Romans 16:2; Euodias and Syntyche (Philippians 4:3). Consider Jesus' relationships with women. He always offered respect and equality. It was women who ministered to Him during His life. Women stayed to watch the crucifixion. ... Women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ, and by that were the first witnesses of the resurrection. Jesus recognized the worth of women, appreciated their efforts, and received their following.

Jesus showed compassion to the woman at the well, forgiveness to the woman caught in the act of adultery, healed the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, and raised Dorcas from the dead, among other things. We can see through the ministry of Christ how important women were and are to society. But there's nothing so powerful in womanhood as the office of being a mother. In the office of being a mother, being filled with the light of Jesus Christ, she is a reflection of all that is good in life.

Phil Whisenhunt once wrote—

The most important occupation on Earth for a woman is to be a real mother to her children. It does not have much glory to it; there is a lot of grit and grime. But there is no greater place of ministry, position, or power than that of a mother.

REFLECTING LIGHT IN MOTHERHOOD

Mothers, are you reflecting the light of Christ in your motherhood?

The well-known Bible teacher had just finished speaking to a large class of people on the Christian's responsibility to be a "light" in the world. He emphasized that believers are to reflect the Light of the world, the Lord Jesus. After the class, one of the members related to him an experience she had in her home which had impressed upon this same truth. She said that when she went into her basement she made an interesting discovery.

Some potatoes had sprouted in the darkest corner of the room. At first she couldn't figure out how they had gotten enough light to grow. Then she noticed that the cook had hung a copper kettle from the ceiling near a cellar window. She kept it so brightly polished that it reflected the rays of the sun onto the potatoes. The woman said, "When I saw that, I thought, I may not be a preacher or a teacher with ability to expound Scripture,

but at least I can be a copper kettle catching the rays of the Son and reflecting His light to someone in a dark corner."

Mothers, brighten the corner where you are! You have a great responsibility to bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Godly mothers are the light of the world.

THE LIGHT OF LOVE AND CARE

Godly mothers are the light of love and care. The Bible says that God is love, and a godly mother will reflect that love to her children. Someone has said: "Love comes to the heart through the arms of a mother."

Erich Fromm once wrote—

The child, in the decisive first years of his life, has the experience of his mother as an all-enveloping, protective, nourishing power. Mother is food; she is love; she is warmth; she is earth. To be loved by her means to be alive, to be rooted, to be at home.

Part of the reason why our world is so dark is because there's a lack of true love, but godly mothers, who have the love of Christ dwelling within them, are able somehow to reflect that love to their children, and fill their children's lives with the love of God.

Someone has written—

*Dear Lord, it's such a hectic day
With little time to stop and pray,
For life's been anything but calm
Since You called on me to be a mom.
Running errands, matching socks,
Building dreams with building blocks;
Cooking, cleaning, and finding shoes,
And other stuff that children lose.
Fitting lids on bottled bugs,
Wiping tears and giving hugs;
A stack of last week's mail to read,
So where's the quiet time I need?
Yet when I steal a minute, Lord,
Just at the sink or ironing board
To ask the blessings of Your grace,
I see then, in my small one's face
That you have blessed me all the while,
And I stop to kiss that precious smile.*

Mothers share their love with their children.

When I think about the light of love that is reflected in the life of a godly mother, I think about I Corinthians, chapter 13, the Love Chapter. I want to paraphrase that just a little bit. Starting with verse 4: "**Mother** suffereth long, and is kind; **Mother** envieth not; **Mother** vaunteth not herself, is not puffed up, **Mother** doth not behave herself unseemly, **Mother** seeketh not her own, **Mother** is not easily provoked, **Mother** thinketh no evil; **Mother** rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **Mother** beareth all things, **Mother** believeth all things, **Mother** hopeth all things, **Mother** endureth all things. **Mother's love** never faileth." Godly mothers are the light of the world. Godly mothers are the reflection of the love God in the home.

I read this before, but I'd like to read it once again. It's called, "Favorite Child"—

Every mother has a favorite child. She cannot help it. She is only human. I have mine—the child for whom I feel a special closeness, with whom I share a love that no one else could possibly understand. My favorite child is the one who was too sick to eat ice cream at his birthday party—who had measles at Christmas—who wore leg braces to bed because he toed in—who had a fever in the middle of the night, the asthma attack, the child in my arms at the emergency ward.

My favorite child is the one who messed up the piano recital, misspelled committee in a spelling bee, ran the wrong way with the football, and had his bike stolen because he was careless.

My favorite child is the one I punished for lying, grounded for insensitivity to other people's feelings, and informed he was a royal pain to the entire family.

All mothers have their favorite child. It is always the same one: the one who needs you at the moment. Who needs you for whatever reason—to cling to, to shout at, to hurt, to hug, to flatter, to reverse charges to, to unload on—but mostly just to be there.

—written by Erma Bombeck.

We have a lot of examples in the Bible of Mother's love to her children, but one of those I'm thinking about is the woman spoken of in the Old Testament in Solomon's time. A friend of hers had a child who died, and that mother whose child died, stole her child and wanted to claim the child as her own. The controversy went before King Solomon. Solomon, in his great wisdom, figured out who was the child's real mother. They both claimed to be the mother. To find out who was the real mother, Solomon told one of his servants to take a sword and cut the baby in half and give half to one and half to the other. Of course, one woman said, "OK, that sounds fair to me," while the other woman who was the true mother, said, "Not so, King; let her have the child." A mother will sacrifice herself for the benefit of the child. Godly mothers are the light of the world. Godly mothers are the light of love and care.

THE LIGHT OF COUNSEL AND WISDOM

Mothers are also the light of counsel and wisdom. The book of Proverbs refers to wisdom as *she* and *her*. I thought that was interesting. It doesn't refer to wisdom as he, but as her. Proverbs 1:20, 21 says, "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words." In chapter 7 of Proverbs, it says in verse 4, "Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman." Proverbs 8:1-3a, "Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates."

Mother is full of wisdom and understanding. We all do well to consider the counsel of a godly mother. All of us need counsel from time to time; and who could we refer to, or ask counsel of, with more wisdom and grace than our godly mother?

Mom, I loved you yesterday, I'll love you tomorrow and every day.

You were there for me at my first day of school, to hold my hand and give me courage to go.

You listened to me when I needed to talk, you talked to me when I needed to listen.

You let me grow and learn from my own mistakes.

You never left my side when I was feeling down, I knew you would be there to pick me up. I wish there was a way I could repay you for all the things you have done for me,

But there's nothing great enough to repay the greatest mother of all.

Godly mothers are an example of the light and counsel of God. They are the light of the world.

THE LIGHT OF CORRECTION

Godly mothers are the light of teaching and correction. God teaches us through His Word and corrects us when we're out of order, and so do mothers likewise. In Titus 2:4, 5, the apostle Paul wrote unto the older women of the congregation in Titus' time, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Correction and teaching might not be the easiest part of a mother's job, but it could be one of the most important parts. Someone said, "If it was going to be easy to raise children, it never would have started with something called labor." It is a labor to raise your children right, but if you have a godly mother this morning, you need to be thankful for her correction and guidance in your life.

There are some familiar sayings that somehow have been handed down from mother to daughter through the ages. How many of these did you grow up with?—

"Look at me when I'm talking to you."

"Don't you roll your eyes at me!"

"Don't pick it, it'll get infected."

"You'll put your eye out with that thing!"

"Don't put that thing in your mouth, you don't know where it's been."

"Don't EVER let me catch you doing that again!"

"Your father is going to hear about THIS when he gets home!"

"If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

"How many times do I have to tell you, don't throw things in the house!"

"Do you think your clothes are going to pick themselves up?"

"I don't know is NOT an answer!"

"I know it's not fair. Life isn't fair."

I'm sure many of us have heard them while growing up and even in the rearing of our children.

The writer of Hebrews said, speaking of God's chastening toward His children, but it can also be applied to a mother's chastening of her children: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11). Children, if you had a mother who corrected you and cared enough to teach you right from wrong, you were blessed indeed. Our world is full of mothers who couldn't care less. They let their children do just anything. Sometimes it might seem hard or

cruel, but a mother who loves you will take time to correct you and teach you in the right way. Godly mothers are the light of the world.

THE LIGHT OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

There is a light of guidance toward the spiritual. Mothers, your children that you've brought into this world have a soul. You have a responsibility that's greater than just clothing and feeding your child and teaching your child right from wrong. Your child has a soul that is eternity-bound. A godly mother cares about that child, not only physically and materially, but spiritually as well.

Someone has written—

Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well. She wipes away a tear, whispers a word of hope, eases a child's fear. She teaches, ministers, loves, and nurtures the next generation of citizens. And she challenges and cajoles her children to do their best and be the best. But no editorials praise these accomplishments—where is the coverage our mothers rightfully deserve?

Someone else said—

Let your home be your parish, your little brood your congregation, your living room a sanctuary, and your knee a sacred altar.

I remember gathering around the family altar when we were raising our children and hearing their young voices praying one by one. Those are some of the most precious memories that parents have of their children. Even after their children are gone their own way, they still tug at the heartstrings. Godly mothers are the light of the world. They are the light of guidance toward the spiritual things in life.

Mother always seems to see a deeper meaning of a thing—the moral of a story, as it were. Paul wrote to Timothy, and this is what he said in II Timothy, chapter 1, verse 5: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." So that faith of God was passed down from Grandmother to Mother to child.

It is the plan of God that children be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. I believe my children have a heritage in their grandparents and their parents loving the Lord. If you're brought up in a Christian home, you have something to be thankful for. You have an advantage that many in the world don't have. To think that a mother loves and cares for a child is something that is sacred to the heart of a child.

THE LIGHT OF A GODLY EXAMPLE

Godly mothers are the light of a godly example. Godly mothers put the Bible into operation, into action. Satisfaction comes from having a lasting, positive impact on the lives of others. Nobody on Earth even comes close to a mother for having the potential for that kind of influence. A mother—an example of sacrifice, of love, of doing one's best, and an example of helping others in need; an example of following Christ's steps, being a light in this world of darkness. Truly, godly mothers are the light of the world. Again, I want to say how thankful we are to each mother of our congregation who is endeavoring to be a light to her fam-

ily, a light in the community, in the congregation, and a light in the world.

When I think of godly mothers being the light of a godly example, I think of Jesus' mother, Mary, and how she was told by the angel that she would bear the Son of God. That was not an easy thing to do, but Mary was consecrated to do the will of God. I believe every godly mother is consecrated to do the same.

I want to read a few verses of scripture found in the first chapter of Luke that Mary spoke, beginning with verse 46: "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever." Mary had a devotion to God; and I think one of the great responsibilities of a godly mother is to have devotion to God, to set the example for her children, and to be the light of the world in her home.

Bernice Maddux wrote this—

Thank you, God, for pretending not to notice that one of Your angels is missing and for guiding her to me. You must have known how much I would need her; so You turned your head for a minute and allowed her to slip away to me. Sometimes I wonder what special name you had for her. I call her "Mother."

Godly mothers are the light of the world. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do [women] light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before [your children], that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mothers, the future of the world depends on you, upon your faithfulness, upon your success in motherhood!

We have quite a few young mothers in our congregation. We thank the Lord for each one. It is our prayer that God will be with you, Mothers, and help you in the great task that is at hand, that you will always be a light to your children, to your family, and to the world.

Children, let me say to you before I close: Take good care of your mother. She is precious. She will always be your mother, and you need to take care of her.

Jesus took care of His mother. In His last moments while on the cross, He took care of His mother. Reading from St. John 19:25-27, "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

Today is Mother's Day, and I think children should express their love and appreciation for their godly mother; not just today, but each day that you live, Children, develop a devotion toward your mother and care for her. Don't let too much time lapse before you call or contact her. Let her know that you're thinking about her. It means a lot to your mother. Respect her, love her, take care of her. You only have one mother. She is precious.

*Another Mother's Day is here,
Bringing joy and pleasures new,
On this special day, Mother dear,
I want to remember you.*

*I cannot give you costly gifts,
And I've told you this before,
No matter what I give to you,
You give back much, much more.*

*I'm giving you a pure, sweet rose,
Gathered in the early morn,
This rose you planted in my heart,
The day that I was born.*

*In kindly, loving thoughts of you,
And with the faith you still impart,
The rose I give to you today,
Is the love that's in my heart.*

CONCLUSION

Mothers, can your children say about you as the little girl said in the opening story that I read, "My mother is the light of the world"? I trust that your children are able to say so.

If you are a mother here this morning, you need the Lord's help. It's a great task that you have. God is willing to help you, but you need to ask Him.

If you're unsaved, let me say kindly: You cannot be the mother you ought to be without Christ as your Savior. As long as you're unsaved, you cannot be the light of the world that I have been speaking about this morning. What a wonderful time to seek God and to find His help on this Mother's Day!

If you're an unsaved child, won't you let God answer your mother's prayer? Your godly mother has been praying for you to be saved, but He won't save you against your will. Won't you let God save your soul this morning? †

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at

www.wayoftruth.org

where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live.

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



FIGURE IT OUT

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Are these all the eggs there were this evening?" my mother asked. She stared down into the egg bucket, a look of surprise on her face.

"I didn't see any more," I answered. That was the exact truth, but it wasn't the entire truth. I had taken all the eggs I had actually seen, but I hadn't looked in all of the nest boxes.

My mother looked at me sharply. "What do you mean, you 'didn't see any more'?" she asked. "Did you look in all the nest boxes?"

My mother had a way of narrowing down her questions in such a way that I was forced to make the explanations she needed.

"I didn't look in three of the nest boxes," I admitted. "The chickens wouldn't get out of them."

"How hard did you try to get them out?" my mother asked.

"I tried hard," I told her. "But those stubborn old hens just pecked at me every time I tried. My hands still hurt!" I frowned as I recalled the unpleasant experience.

"Well, we need the eggs," said my mother. "You're going to have to go back out there and gather the rest of them."

"How?" I asked her.

"Figure it out," she said as she turned back to her sewing. "The hens have gotten 'broody.' This time of year, they want to hatch the eggs, and so they'll sit on them all day long if you let them. You're going to have to find a way to get them out of the nest boxes every time you gather the eggs, so you might as well start now."

"I hate those old chickens," I muttered to myself.

"Now, now!" said my mother. "Watch your attitude!"

I was still grumbling to myself as I opened the chicken house door and stepped inside. The broody old hens glared at me from the nest boxes.

"I'll get you out of there!" I threatened. But the hens just settled themselves more firmly in place.

Maybe they'll get out of the nest boxes for food, I said to myself. *They've been sitting there for hours. They're probably hungry.*

I took a pan of chicken feed over and set it just below the row of nest boxes. The boxes were nailed to the wall about two feet above the floor. All the chickens had to do was jump down, and then I could get the eggs. But the hens showed no interest whatsoever in the pan of chicken feed I had set before them.

I sighed and thought some more. The worst part about trying to get the eggs from underneath the chick-

ens was the pecking they were prepared to give me. It was ferocious! If I could keep their beaks away from my hands, my problems would be over.

Suddenly, I had an idea. I ran outside and picked up a long, heavy stick. Carefully, I walked over to one of the occupied nest boxes and used the side of the stick to push the chicken's head away from my hands. Although she tried hard, the hen could not reach my hands with her beak. I reached down under the hen and grabbed her legs. Quickly, I flung her off the nest and reached for the eggs that she had been warming. In seconds, the hen was back in the nest box, but I had already retrieved the eggs. Clucking angrily, the hen straightened her feathers and settled back in her place. So strong was her brooding instinct that she seemed satisfied to sit on the empty nest. I repeated the process with the other two nests and returned to the house in triumph, all the eggs gathered.

"I got them all!" I said to my mother.

"How did you do it?" she asked me. I told her how I had gotten the hens off their nests, and she nodded. "I guess that will work," she said. "Just don't be too rough with them."

For the rest of the season, I kept the stick handy in the chicken house. Day after day, the hens and I battled over the eggs. In the end, however, the eggs always ended up in my egg bucket. I got more than eggs out of that experience, however. I got a valuable lesson—a lesson that I'm still grateful to my mother for teaching me. I learned that sometimes we have to figure things out for ourselves. My mother could have gone with me to the chicken house and taught me how to remove the chickens from the nest boxes. But she knew that finding my own way would strengthen my problem-solving skills.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 1:11, which says, "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." To be "preserved" or "kept" means to live a life of peace and safety. Not only do we need peace and safety in our physical lives, but we need to live in spiritual peace and safety, as well.

God is always there to help us when we call upon Him, but we need to do our part, too. We need to study the Bible for ourselves in order to "figure out" how to stand against temptation. We need to watch the way godly role models handle difficult situations so we can do the same. Each time we "figure out" another way to be successful in our fight against evil, we become a stronger Christian. Then we are in a place where we can help others be successful, too.

Activity

Can you "figure out" the ending to each wise piece of advice from the Bible?

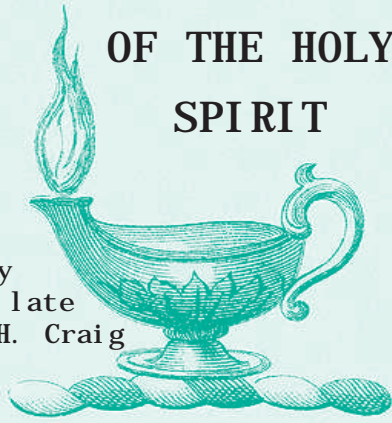
1. "The fear of the Lord is . . ."
2. "Children, obey your . . ."
3. "Honor thy father and . . ."
4. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you . . ."
5. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man . . ."

Answer to Last Month's Activity

Abraham loved God so much that he was called "The Friend of God." †

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By
the late
M. H. Craig



shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13). The truth is the Word of God. Christ said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). So it is the truth that the Holy Spirit guides people into. How much truth? All the truth. Jesus also said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32). These are blessed promises which are for all of God's children. God is no respecter of persons. All of His children are alike to Him. What He does for one, He will for another.

Today, we find division among the true people of God; among those who are saved and sanctified (having the Holy Spirit). Is the Holy Spirit having His rightful way in the hearts and lives of those who are having strife and division among them? No. Paul had that to deal with at Corinth. He asked the saints there: "Is Christ divided?" (I Corinthians 1:13).

We know God is grieved. The Holy Spirit doesn't lead in contention and strife. I wonder if there is a solution that would end this division and strife and unite the beautiful bride of Christ into one great bundle of love and sweet fellowship. I believe God would do this if all His children would follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. It can never be truly said that the Holy Spirit caused division between true saints of God.

God never leads contrary to His Word and never leads two people to see the Word differently. Whenever two disagree on the Word of God, one, or both, are wrong, and one or the other is not being led by the Holy Spirit on that matter. Men who have unquestionable character and are filled with the Holy Spirit have erred in judgment, thinking they were led by the Spirit, but by some means failed and have started a contention over something, which in reality, may be of minor importance; yet, they think they were being led by the Holy Spirit and refuse to submit to the brethren, failing to see "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

Now, let us go back to the test. God promised, by the Holy Spirit, to guide us into all truth. If the thing one is holding to, it will harmonize and agree with all other truth found in the Bible, and if it does not, it will pay that one to disregard that idea or opinion. No one who is saved is willingly preaching or defending false doctrine. One who is saved can come under the influence of false doctrine, not knowing it is false; but if light comes, he will give up the err for the truth.

If the instruction of Paul was heeded to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit, and if it was kept, men would and could be brought into the unity of the faith; but if the unity of the Spirit is broken, then the unity of the faith will never be obtained. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments" (Psalm 133:1, 2). So unity makes us walk together and sit together in heavenly places. It is a pleasant experience to work together under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and it is worth putting forth the greatest effort possible to obtain it. †

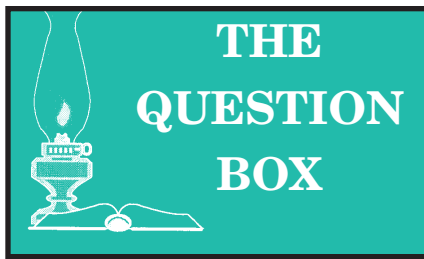
LET US consider the need of the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is generally admitted that man is a fallible being and is subject to mistakes and to err in judgment. This being true, the need for an infallible guide or leader is very apparent. This need for an infallible guide for man is needed in anything that man may attempt to do, but much more important in the reading and study of the Bible. As the Bible is an inspired book, and that holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, it is of the greatest importance that we have the leadership of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Bible, and to be able to teach it correctly and rightly divide it.

There are various questions that could be introduced here in regard to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We do not feel that anyone would question the infallibility of the Holy Spirit to lead, but the question may be asked: Does the Holy Spirit always lead one in a correct and unmistakable way? We would say He does.

One important thing we wish to consider is, whether men who are filled with the Spirit are always led unerringly by the Spirit, or is it possible for men to make mistakes and err in judgment? This is no little thing. Are we justified in saying that men filled with the Holy Spirit have made mistakes? If this be true, let us be careful as to how we judge our brother and set him at naught for some possible err he has made.

Do we find any record in the New Testament where any man claimed to be infallible or claimed to always be under the direct leadership of the Holy Spirit? Paul did not make such a claim in his writings. He gave advice that he said was of his own thinking and not from the Lord. It seems he may have made a mistake in refusing to allow John Mark to go with him on his second missionary trip. Paul openly rebuked Peter for something he did which was not right. We may look at the human race from the beginning, down to the present time, and not find a single one (but Jesus, of course) that did not make mistakes. But that does not change the fact that the Holy Spirit is infallible, and so it is important that we seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Let us notice what God promised in regard to the Holy Spirit: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that



Editor's Note: These questions and answers in this issue are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book, 1946-2001*.



QUESTION: I would appreciate your explanation of John 17:3.

ANSWER: In John 17, we have the Lord's prayer, the prayer He actually prayed. In verse 3, He states that to know God (that is to know God as your own heavenly Father) and Jesus Christ (that is to know Christ as your own personal Savior) is to know or to have spiritual life. Life eternal! "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. We retain this "life" only as long as we maintain a true Christian experience. Let no one think that this verse means a person cannot backslide, for he can!

QUESTION: How did Satan go in front of God with the sons of God? (Job 1:6).

ANSWER: Satan, or the devil, is a spirit and he came among the sons of God for the purpose of hindering them in their worship to the true God. He, doubtless, did not take on a human form.

QUESTION: Why did Jesus say to Simon Peter, "Lovest thou me," three times? (John 21:15-17).

ANSWER: The Bible does not say, but possibly it was because Peter denied knowing Him three times.

Peter had boldly said he would not forsake the Master, even if all others did. Now he shows a more humble attitude, was even grieved, because Jesus asked him the third time. We learn some lessons the hard way! It does not pay to put confidence in the flesh, but rather, put it in the Lord.

QUESTION: What does it mean to be spiritual?

ANSWER: A spiritual person is one who is eagerly walking in the light of the gospel, seeking with all his heart to hear and do the will of God. He who is filled with the Spirit of God and is being led by the Spirit in his daily life is spiritual.

QUESTION: What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

ANSWER: A disciple is a "learner," one who is being taught by a teacher. It also carries the thought of doing what they are taught. An apostle is a "planter." The original apostles were those who had personally seen Jesus. Paul said he was an apostle and that he had seen Jesus "as one born out of season." I assume Paul was referring to his vision of Christ when he was converted.

The secondary meaning of apostle is one who goes into a new field, especially where the true gospel has never been preached, and there builds up a congregation of God's true church.

QUESTION: How can I know that the Bible is true?

ANSWER: There are a number of ways. First of all, study the prophecies of the Old Testament and see how they came to pass just as God revealed to His servants they would. Also, study the words of the Master, what He told the disciples of the destruction of the temple—not one stone left upon another—and see how these things came to pass just as He said they would.

Study how Paul taught that some "shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Timothy 4:1).

Secondly, obey the Word of God and see how the promises will be fulfilled in your own life. Repent of your sins, let God make you a "new creature," see how your heart and life will be changed.

Thirdly, when you learn to know the Author of the Bible, then you will know the Bible is true. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and He inspired holy men of old to write the Bible.

However, let me add, I am speaking of a correct understanding of the Bible. I am not saying you will find everything people say the Bible teaches is true. False prophets claim the Bible teaches many things that it does not. This does not make the Bible untrue; it only means they do not rightly divide the Word of truth.

QUESTION: What is the difference between the "peace of God" and "peace with God," which we read in Philippians 4:7?

ANSWER: Every sinner is at war with God. When a sinner comes, with true godly sorrow, and repents of his sins, he has "peace with God." Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Having made peace with God, then the "peace of God" is to continue with the child of God throughout his Christian life; it is a source of comfort, strength, and encouragement to him.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

QUESTION: Did the devil ever try to take God's place?

ANSWER: Isaiah 14:12 has no reference to the devil. The fourth verse plainly states that it is a proverb against the king of Babylon. We understand it to be King Nebuchadnezzar, and referring to how he exalted himself, and God removed him from the throne for seven years, during which he lived like an animal. Verse 16 says, "Is this the MAN that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?" The devil was never a man!

Ezekiel 28 speaks of “the prince of Tyrus” (verse 2), not the devil. Verse 17 is still speaking of the prince, not the devil.

Revelation 12, the “great red dragon” is speaking of Pagan Rome, the fourth world ruling kingdom of Daniel 2 and 7. It was the kingdom that was ruling the world when Jesus was born. During this time is when the “stone was cut out without hands” (Daniel 2:34), this being Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44; Mark 1:15).

The woman of Revelation 12 is the early morning church. The dragon, which was “called the Devil and Satan” (verse 9) opposed the truth. The “war” was not in heaven where God’s throne is, but here on Earth; “heaven” here meaning an exalted state. There is no “child-bearing” in heaven. The “seed” of this woman is Christians which “keep the commandments of God” (verse 17).

The word “Satan” means adversary and “Devil” means destroyer. The dragon was empowered by the devil to oppose the true church. Wherever you find the dragon spoken of in Revelation, it is speaking of one and the same thing; never the personal devil.

There never was, and never will be, a “war” in heaven where God’s throne is. The devil, doubtless, would find greater torment in heaven than he would in hell! Remember, demons were tormented in the presence of Jesus. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

SIN, MAN’S GREATEST ENEMY

THE SIN OF INDIFFERENCE

Scriptures: Matthew 7:21-23; 21:28-31; Revelation 3:16.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 21:28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard.

29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Memory Verse: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 7:21.

Aim: To bring to light the tendency of being half-hearted in Christian endeavor.

INTRODUCTION

The apostle Paul informs us that in the last days perilous times would come. Many may think Paul was speaking primarily of peril to physical life. But as we read his words in II Timothy 3, we see that he speaks of people putting their own selfish interests first, being proud, children disobeying their parents, people who would not keep their word, even despising those that are good, and yet having a form of godliness.

It is made clear in the last verse of our scripture text that God will not tolerate careless, lazy, half-hearted devotion to the cause of Christianity. A man of this description very soon will find that all the grace of God has leaked out of his heart, and that Christ has taken His departure. There are two distinct families in the earth, and be sure there is no neutral ground. We all are of one camp or the other. The cause of Christ deserves the very best that we can put into it. Therefore, let us go the limit in our generation with our time, our talents, and our substance in pressing the fight against sin.

MEDITATIONS

SINCERITY REQUIRED—Matthew 7:21—Saith, Lord, Lord—We have a multitude of people including preachers, who today say, “Lord, Lord,” but do not do the will of the Father. They are very forward in their saying that holiness is an impossibility. Then there are those who are working a work of insincerity by using the power of the devil. None of these will be able to make it through.

THE DEVIL AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT—Matthew 7:22—In thy name—The devil has nothing that corresponds to the Bible; so he uses the Bible, appearing as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:12-14), thus deceiving millions. He even uses the name of Christ in the performance of his works. Jesus said to beware of false prophets and that by their fruits we would know them. Their words may not reveal their identity, but the lives that they live will.

CHRIST NOT DECEIVED—Matthew 7:23—Profess unto them—God is not mocked. He knows who the true and false are, and the false if not uncovered in this world will be at the judgment. They will try to stand on their works, but Christ will say, “Depart; I know you not.”

RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN—Matthew 21:28—Go, work—If we would have our children to grow to be trustworthy, diligent citizens, we must train them to work. The mind and the hands must be kept busy in order to exclude indifference and wickedness.

A CHANGE OF HEART—Matthew 21:29—Repented and went—The flesh rebelled against the thought of labor, but this son had enough moral character to bring the flesh in line with just principles, and he turned in his path and did that which he should.

THE REVITALIZING POWER OF THE WORD

D. J. De Pree

IRRESPONSIBILITY—Matthew 21:30—And went not—Here is seen a vast difference in two characters from the same family. The thought of labor became very repulsive to this son as he considered it, and he cared not what the consequences might be. Therefore, he decided not to go. His condition, resulting from indifference, was much more deplorable than that of the first.

JEWISH INDIFFERENCE—Matthew 21:31—Go into the kingdom—The Jews thought far more of the traditions of the fathers than they did of the life-giving words of the Lord Jesus. Thus, their indifference shut them out of the kingdom.

REJECTED BY GOD—Revelation 3:16—Thou art lukewarm—We find people putting forth the greatest effort in trying to get that which they esteem the highest. So it is evident that the words of Jesus in our day are little esteemed, for few people, comparatively speaking, are treasuring His words in their hearts. True, they have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. No one can be truly serious in the matter of this Christ and be found dividing his time on Sunday between church services and the movies, or any other of the evils of this world. If men are indifferent about their God, He will separate Himself from their company.

CONCLUSION

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26).

It would be far better to be deprived of every earthly ambition, if need be, as the result of serving God and go to heaven, than to enjoy the best that the earth can give and be lost for eternity. To obtain the "Pearl of Great Price," it is necessary that we "sell" all that we have, for it takes all to be able to get it. Some view the Christian life as being drab and lifeless, but anyone who submits without reservation to the leadership of God, in the person of the Holy Ghost, will live the most thrilling, invigorating life of any. A life lived on the surface is a life of indifference and void of any true pleasure.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Describe the condition of a person who is hot or cold religiously.
2. What will very soon happen to the indifferent Christian?
3. What two families are there in the earth?
4. Is there a middle or neutral ground?
5. How can we avoid the sin of indifference?
6. What is the responsibility of parents to children in regard to work?
7. Are all the miraculous works done today the work of Christ?
8. Why should the harlots enter the kingdom of God ahead of the Pharisees? †

STUDY THE BIBLE EVERY DAY!

1. We must Read it

I Timothy 4:13—"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

2. We must Eat it—that is, take it into our very being.

Job 23:12—"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

Jeremiah 15:16—"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

Jesus is the Bread of Life!

3. We must Bathe in it for Spiritual Cleansing

John 15:3—"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

4. We must Look into it as a Mirror to See Our True Self

James 1:23-25—"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

5. We must Meditate on it

Psalm 1:2—"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

I Timothy 4:15—"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

6. We must Memorize it

Deuteronomy 11:18—"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes."

Psalm 119:11—"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

7. We must Study it

II Timothy 2:15—"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Hebrews 5:12-14—"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

8. We must Teach it to Others

Deuteronomy 11:19—"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Colossians 3:16—"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

9. We must Talk about it

Joshua 1:8—"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

10. We must Live It Out in Our Lives

II Corinthians 3:2—"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."

II Corinthians 5:20—"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

The daily practice of these scriptural admonitions will keep you in a state of perpetual revival.†



Blessings to you, dear Young People!

My thoughts are centered on "Love" this month: God's love towards me, my love for God, the love we share as brethren, and the love we are to show towards those who know Him not.

Those who knew me before I came to the Lord, know just how undeserving I am of the great mercy and love He has shown towards me. I have not forgotten either, and that is why I cannot cease to be thankful to Him for this great gift. My love for Him has grown these past six years and has come to penetrate and influence every part of my life. He is everything to me, and I am nothing without Him.

I will share with you some verses on which I have been meditating. Deuteronomy 7:7-9: "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, ... hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, ... Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." Where would we be without the love of God?

Our article this month is the beginning of a very condensed version of Henry Drummond's *The Greatest*

Thing in the World. It is expounding on I Corinthians 13 and the love we are to have towards the brethren and the world. Lord willing, we will continue next month with this same thought.

May the Lord richly bless each one of you as you endeavor to live for Him!

Humbly yours,

Sis. Crystal Gossard

"Paul, in three verses, very short, gives us an amazing analysis of what Love is. I ask you to look at it. It is a compound thing, he tells us. It is like light. As you have seen a man of science take a beam of light and pass it through a crystal prism, as you have seen it come out on the other side of the prism broken up into its component colors—red, and blue, and yellow, and violet, and orange, and all the colors of the rainbow—so Paul passes this thing, Love, through the magnificent prism of his inspired intellect, and it comes out on the other side broken up into its elements. And in these few words we have what one might call the Spectrum of Love, the analysis of Love. Will you observe what its elements are? Will you notice that they have common names; that they are virtues which we hear about every day; that they are things which can be practiced by every man in every place in life; and how, by a multitude of small things and ordinary virtues, the supreme thing, Love, is made up?

"The Spectrum of Love has nine ingredients:

Patience—"Love suffereth long."

Kindness—"And is kind."

Generosity—"Love envieth not."

Humility—"Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."

Courtesy—"Doth not behave itself unseemly."

Unselfishness—"Seeketh not her own."

Good temper—"Is not easily provoked."

Guilelessness—"Thinketh no evil."

Sincerity—"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth."

"Patience; kindness; generosity; humility; courtesy; unselfishness; good temper; guilelessness; sincerity—these make up the supreme gift, the stature of the perfect man. ...

"There is no time to do more than make a passing note upon each of these ingredients. Love is *Patience*. This is the normal attitude of Love; Love passive, Love waiting to begin; not in a hurry; calm; ready to do its work when the summons comes, but meantime wearing the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Love suffers long; beareth all things; believeth all things; hopeth all things. For Love understands, and therefore waits.

"*Kindness*. Love active. Have you ever noticed how much of Christ's life was spent in doing kind things—in *merely* doing kind things? Run over it with that in view, and you will find that He spent a great proportion of His time simply in making people happy, in doing good turns to people. There is only one thing greater than happiness in the world, and that is holiness; and it is not in our keeping; but what God *has* put in our power is the happiness of those about us, and that is largely to be secured by our being kind to them.

“‘The greatest thing,’ says someone, ‘a man can do for his heavenly Father is to be kind to some of His other children.’ I wonder why it is that we are not all kinder than we are? How much the world needs it. How easily it is done. How instantaneously it acts. How infallibly it is remembered. ...

“Where Love is, God is. ‘He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God.’ God is love. Therefore *love*. Without distinction, without calculation, without procrastination, love. Lavish it upon the poor, where it is very easy; especially upon the rich, who often need it most; most of all upon our equals, where it is very difficult, and for whom perhaps we each do least of all. There is a difference between *trying to please* and *giving pleasure*. Give pleasure. Lose no chance of giving pleasure. For that is the ceaseless and anonymous triumph of a truly loving spirit. ‘I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.’

“*Generosity*. ‘Love envieth not.’ This is love in competition with others. Whenever you attempt a good work you will find other men doing the same kind of work, and probably doing it better. Envy them not. Envy is a feeling of ill-will to those who are in the same line as ourselves, a spirit of covetousness and detraction. How little Christian work even is a protection against unchristian feeling. That most despicable of all the unworthy moods which cloud a Christian’s soul assuredly waits for us on the threshold of every work, unless we are fortified with this grace of magnanimity. Only one thing truly need the Christian envy, the large, rich, generous soul which ‘envieth not.’

“And then, after having learned all that, you have to learn this further thing, *Humility*—to put a seal upon your lips and forget what you have done. After you have been kind, after Love has stolen forth into the world and done its beautiful work, go back into the shade again and say nothing about it. Love hides even from itself. Love waives even self-satisfaction. ‘Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.’

“The fifth ingredient is *Courtesy*. This is Love in society, Love in relation to etiquette. ‘Love does not behave itself unseemly.’ Politeness has been defined as love in trifles. Courtesy is said to be love in little things. And the one secret of politeness is to love. Love cannot behave itself unseemly. You can put the most untutored persons into the highest society, and if they have a reservoir of Love in their hearts they will not behave themselves unseemly. They simply cannot do it. Carlisle said of Robert Burns that there was no truer gentleman in Europe than the ploughman-poet. It was because he loved everything—the mouse, and the daisy, and all the things, great and small, that God had made. So with this simple passport he could mingle with any society, and enter courts and palaces from his little cottage on the banks of the Ayr. You know the meaning of the word ‘gentleman.’ It means a gentle man—a man who does things gently with love. And that is the whole art and mystery of it. The gentle man cannot in the nature of things do an ungentle, and ungentlemanly thing. The ungentle soul, the inconsiderate, unsympathetic nature,

cannot do anything else. ‘Love doth not behave itself unseemly.’

“*Unselfishness*. ‘Love seeketh not her own.’ Observe: Seeketh not even that which is her own. In Britain the Englishman is devoted, and rightly, to his rights. But there come times when a man may exercise even the higher right of giving up his rights. Yet Paul does not summon us to give up our rights. Love strikes much deeper. It would have us not seek them at all, ignore them, eliminate the personal element altogether from our calculations. It is not hard to give up our rights. They are often external. The difficult thing is to give up ourselves. The more difficult thing still is not to seek things for ourselves at all. After we have sought them, bought them, won them, deserved them, we have taken the cream off them for ourselves already. Little cross then, perhaps, to give them up. But not to seek them, to look every man not on his own things, but on the things of others—*id opus est* (that is needed.) ‘Seekest thou great things for thyself,’ said the prophet; ‘seek them not.’ Why? Because there is no greatness in things. Things cannot be great. The only greatness is unselfish love. Even self-denial in itself is nothing, is almost a mistake. Only a great purpose or a mightier love can justify the waste. It is more difficult, I have said, not to seek our own at all, than, having sought it, to give it up. I must take that back. It is only true of a partly selfish heart. Nothing is a hardship to Love, and nothing is hard. I believe that Christ’s yoke is easy. Christ’s ‘yoke’ is just His way of taking life. And I believe it is an easier way than any other. I believe it is a happier way than any other. The most obvious lesson in Christ’s teaching is that there is no happiness in having and getting anything, but only in giving. ... And half the world is on the wrong scent in pursuit of happiness. They think it consists in having and getting, and in being served by others. It consists in giving, and in serving others. ‘He that would be great among you,’ said Christ, ‘let him serve. He that would be happy, let him remember that there is but one way—it is more blessed [it is more happy] to give than to receive.’ ” †

(To be continued)

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"Lord, What Would You Have Me to Do?"

2017 Cayman Convention Message by Bro. Rupert Shippy



I INVITE YOU at this time to turn with me to Acts, chapter 9, verses 1-6: "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." I want to speak to you on the thought of "Lord, What Would You Have Me to Do?"

Saul, as we know as Paul, was a persecutor of the Church of God. Saul's intention was to destroy the church. His plan was to scatter the people of God. I believe the spirit of Saul is still around today. It alerts us, as the saints of God, to be on our lookout. Be on alert! Watch for that spirit. Saul sent "out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord," but he sought some help. Saul sought letters from the high priest as he was to journey to Damascus. If he found any worshiping God, whether men or women, he would bring them bound to Jerusalem; but the Lord did not want that to happen. As Saul journeyed near Damascus, something happened. This didn't happen before. Suddenly, a light shone about him.

Saul was a great man. He was a man of knowledge. He had something in him that God wanted to use. As cruel and wicked as his plan was, God counteracted the plan of Saul. He destroyed that plan. God wanted to turn this bad man in to a good man. God wanted to use Saul for His glory. Saul didn't know about God's plan, because he never had the experience of conversion nor the power of God. He knew that there was a God, and he saw what the people of God were doing. Saul saw that their determination was to serve and worship God. He wanted to stop them from serving God, but God turned him around.

We are told that Saul fell to the earth. He heard a voice, which said unto him, "Saul, why are you doing this? Why are you persecuting the church? Why do you have this kind of attitude and mind?" You see, if you trouble God, He will trouble you. When you trouble the people of God, you put yourself in danger, because God fights for His people. He stands by His people and gives protection to them. God defends His people with His mighty hand.

God protected the children of Israel when they were opposed by Pharaoh. Pharaoh's intention was to destroy

them, but God would not have such a thing to happen. God stopped Pharaoh, and He stopped Saul. He can do the same today if we only but trust in Him. The children of Israel groaned and complained and were afraid of what Pharaoh would do, but there was a man that God could use. Moses was a man chosen by God to lead the children of Israel. We have some good women and men among us that we don't even know what God's plan is for them, but in every area, God chooses a person to lead. Moses was a strong man of God. He was very much determined to please God.

Going back to the story of Saul, the persecutor, we find him answering the Lord: "Who art thou, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. I am the One who is responsible for this people. I am the One you are really persecuting." When Saul came in contact with the Lord's voice, he recognized that this was a voice he hadn't heard before; so when he recognized that voice, he said, "Lord," and then he realized it was the Lord's voice. Saul said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

I want each of us today to ask ourselves this question: What would You have me to do? We want to shake up some interest. When we are converted, we are to go and tell others the story. We are to do something for the Lord. It gives us some happiness and pleasure to desire to work for the Lord. Every day we should ask ourselves this question: Lord, what would You have me to do? After Saul asked Jesus what He would have him to do, He said unto Saul, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

What is your work in the Church of God? What is your job? Are you here sitting at ease in Zion? Remember, there is a "woe" against those who sit at ease in Zion. Children of God, we need to arise and work! We need to find ourselves doing something for the Lord. Whatever He calls us to do, we must be willing to say, "Lord, let your will be done in our lives." If it is to sweep the floor, then get to work; if it is to dust the house of worship, then get to work; if it is to conduct the services, then get to work. Whatever your work is, get to it. Put out every effort to do the work you are called to do. We are told by a songwriter, "Hark, the voice of Jesus calling." The Lord has a work for everyone of us here today. He's calling us to "Arise, and work." The Lord has a work for us to do.

Do you know what one songwriter tells us?

*Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe:
Forward into battle see his banners go!*

*Like a mighty army moves the church of God:
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have
trod:*

*We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity.*

*Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and
wane,*

*But the church of Jesus constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot
fail.*

*Onward, then, ye people, Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph
song,—*

*"Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King!"
This thro' countless ages men and angels sing.*

*Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

We must be determined to work. We must be faithful to the cause of Christ. We're all soldiers of the cross. Every Christian is a soldier. There is a job for us to do.

There is a battle that we have to fight. Do you know we are in a battle today? We are battling against spiritual wickedness in high places. We are against evil foes that gather around us; we are against spirits that rise up these days; we are against the sin of indifference. Yes, we are against falsity and wickedness, cruelty, lying, stealing, hatred, strife, and the many other things the Bible says to be against. We must fight with all our hearts; we must be winners; we must be victorious against the spirit of darkness that may come against us.

We must carry the message, and the best way to carry the message is to live it out in our lives. One of the easiest ways for the world to see and to hear the gospel message is by living it. Let the world see Christ in you. Let the world see Jesus in your life.

The songwriter has asked—

*Are you adorning the doctrine,
And making attractive the way,
Honoring Christ by your actions,
And by the words that you say?
Are you, my brother and sister,
Proving the Bible is true?
Are you, my brother and sister,
Proving the Bible is true?*

God wants men and women to work for Him today. Are we going to make ourselves available? Are we going to be willing to do what God wants us to do?

God's will must be done in our lives. We are to say with a determination that the will of God must be done in us. Don't depend upon Bro. James to do what you have to do. Don't depend upon the other brother or sister to do what you have to do. What you have to do, you have to do.

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses told the people what they had to do. Let's see what Moses told them to do. Deuteronomy 10:12, "And now, Israel, what doth

the Lord thy God require of thee, but to *fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*" These are the same things we have to do today. A half-hearted service will not do. We need to do the service of the Lord with all our hearts. We must be willing and obedient. You and I must have a desire and a determination to say, "Lord, let Your will be done in me." Verses 13-15: "*Keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes,* which I command thee this day for thy good. Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day."

God loves us. He cares for us. John tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God's has a great love for His people here on Earth. He has said, "They are a special people unto me."

Moses continues in Deuteronomy 10:16, "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked." We have some very, very stiff-necked people, hard-hearted people, people who refuse to allow God to have His way in their lives. There are people who want to do as they please. They want to do as they like. They are a stiff-necked people. God does not want such among His people at all. He wants people who are willing and obedient to His Word. Verses 17-20: "For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name."

Don't look on those around you and what they are doing. Look to God. Don't sway to the right nor to the left. Go forward! Work is to be done. Live completely for the Lord. Live a good life, a clean life, a righteous life. Fear the Lord, love Him with all your heart. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." If you love the Lord, you will see Him and Him alone. In loving the Lord, you will love one another. Deuteronomy 10:21, 22, "He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen. Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude."

We read where the children of Israel went down into Egypt, but God never departed from them. He was with them. He blessed and kept them. Although they were in slavery and under bondage, God promised to be with them wherever they went. He warned them, "Remember what God has done for your fathers." He helped them in every area. "Do that which is right in the sight of God." Deuteronomy 11:1, "Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments,

always.” We need to make sure that we walk step by step in God’s commandments. Just because someone might be doing otherwise, that does not give us the right to do what they are doing. We need to do that which is right in the sight of almighty God.

The church has some rules. The church has doctrines that need to be followed. Are you still with me? I’m glad that the doctrines of the Church of God are not made by man; I’m glad that the doctrines came from God; I’m glad that the doctrines came from where the Church of God’s headquarters are: heaven. It behooves us to follow them, for they are real, they are truth, they are life, and they are good. Are we still the people of God? “Lord, what would You have me to do?” We must do the will of God and please Him in all things. God is still with His people today. Can you feel His presence?

The songwriter wrote—

*I must have the Savior with me,
For I dare not walk alone,
I must feel His presence near me,
And His arm around me thrown.*

*Then my soul shall fear no ill,
Let Him lead me where He will,
I will go without a murmur,
And His footsteps follow still.*

In the book of Joshua, the first chapter, we read: “Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. [Listen to what the Lord says:] There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

The Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is with us; the living God is with us. “I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. I will be with thee wherever thou goest.” Every step you take, God is there. Everywhere you go, God is there. Are we not very fortunate to have such a One with us? He guides us day by day. Therefore, we must be happy. We must rejoice. “I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Listen, it takes courage. Some of us feel discouraged at times. Some of us face clouds of darkness from time to time. Disturbances come within our lives, but hear what Joshua says: “Be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.”

Do you want prosperity? It’s in God. Do you want to be prosperous? Then obey God. Do you know that we will have good success in such great and marvelous ways? One thing we are required to do, and that is:

obey God. You will be prosperous and have good success. Regardless of what you are going through, take courage in the words of God, for He means what He says. He will be with you.

Do you know what one songwriter says?

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross;

Lift high his royal banner; It must not suffer loss:

From vict’ry unto vict’ry his army shall he lead,

Till every foe is vanquished [regardless of what they are], and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict, In this his glorious day:

Ye that are men, now serve him against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in his strength alone;

The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye dare not trust your own:

Put on the gospel armor, And, watching unto prayer,

Where calls the voice of duty, Be never wanting there.

You have something to do. When the waves are beating high, get down on your knees in prayer. When the storms are raging, get down on your knees. The best way to fight this battle is on your knees. You might feel depressed and discouraged, especially when it comes to your loved ones, those you were looking up to. You felt they were so strong. Even some of your own brethren will rise up against you. Some in the church may criticize you and try to pull you down; but remember, you are not alone. God is still with you. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;

This day the noise of battle, the next the victor’s song.

To him that overcometh, A crown of life shall be;

He with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.

Do you know what Moses told the people? “Stand still.” Sometimes we grumble too much. Sometimes we fret and stress ourselves over things that we shouldn’t even be stressful over. That’s what the children of Israel were doing. They were looking behind them and seeing Pharaoh and his host. What are you seeing? Take your eyes off what is around you. Look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, for when you see the problems around you, they will cast you down even more. So there are times you have to take your eyes off those problems.

I remember a lady back home in Jamaica who was very sick. She was in the hospital. The doctor told her she had a fifty-fifty chance of recovery. I went to the hospital and spoke to her for a short while. I said to

her, "Take your eyes off your sickness for a while and what the doctor told you." She started to cry. I told her to set her eyes upon God, because I believe He's going to do something for you today. Beloved, I knelt down by her bedside and laid my hands on her. I called to the God of heaven, and He came down so mightily in that hospital room. I've never felt that before in all my life, believe me!

When I finished praying that lady was healed instantaneously. She started to glorify God. This happened ten years ago or more, and she's still alive today. God can do the same for us if we will only take our eyes off the problem and put them on God. It would be amazing to see what God will do. The hymn says: "Let me see Jesus only, Jesus only, Jesus only, Let me see Jesus only, Only he can satisfy."

Moses and Joshua were living examples for God. Let me continue reading from the book of Joshua. Joshua 1:8, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." You have something to do. When you obey God, He will bless you.

The psalmist David said, "[You] shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Joshua 1:9, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." In times of discouragement, the Lord will lift you up and carry you. You will have good success and be prosperous. The Lord will be with you, and that promise is sure. Take courage from the Word of God. Verse 10 and part of verse 11: "Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host." Take courage. Step over what you're going through. God is with you. Serve Him with all your heart.

In Joshua's farewell address, in chapter 24, I want you to look at verse 14: "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity [We need to serve God with all our hearts. Serve Him without reservation.] and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord."

You can't serve the Lord carrying weights. If we are going to run this race, there are some things we have to lay aside. "Lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us" (Hebrews 12:1). Put aside the gods of this world. There are some things we need to throw down. Make ourselves available to God. Hindrances need to be laid aside if we want to serve God in the right way. The more blessings we receive from God, the more we should praise Him.

It seems the poorer some people are, the more they

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serve the Lord. Sometimes I think we have too much luxuries; therefore, we tend to forget the Lord by looking at the things we have more than He who gave them to us. Let us take our eyes off them today and see them less, and serve God in sincerity. Put away the gods of this world, for anything you see greater than God, that is what you serve. Whatever God gives to you, use it to serve Him. Did you hear what I said, Church? Praise Him, serve Him, and thank Him.

Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord [Why should it seem evil for anyone to serve the Lord? I'd love to hear someone cry out today, 'Lord, I want to serve you.'], choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What a choice! What a privilege it is to serve the Lord!

The people answered Joshua, "God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods; For the Lord our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: And the Lord drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God" (Joshua 24:16-18). Beloved, let us serve the Lord. "What will You have me to do, Lord?" Serve Him.

Let us reason awhile with ourselves. God has taken us out of many difficulties. Look back at some of those He took you out of. I may not know them, but you know what they are. God has blessed us so much. Why shouldn't we serve Him? Sometimes we don't even recognize the blessings He gives us. Consider them. Endeavor to serve the Lord.

Let us take note of Isaiah. He was among a people of unclean lips. Isaiah 6:1-8, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. [What do you see today? Do you see how high and lifted up the Lord is? That's what Isaiah saw.] Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah was cleansed and purged. His sins were forgiven. God prepared him, and he made himself available to God.

If God has changed your life, you should thank Him.

Be ready to say, "Lord, let Thy will be done in me." God has done great things. God converted Isaiah and his desire was to live for Him. Jesus will touch your heart today.

The apostle Paul was ready to please God. Paul said in I Timothy 4:1-9, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance."

Thank God for godly ministers. Thank God for those who have the anointing of God to preach the truth to us. Let us not despise the good things we are hearing from the Word of God. Let us follow our godly ministers. "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:16).

Paul said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:6, 7). Do you know why? He had an experience with God. So we want to be encouraged today to stand up for truth and right. Be determined to say, "Lord, let Thy will be done in me." Give your best to the Lord.

God bless you. †

GRACE AND DETERMINATION— THE FORMULA FOR VICTORY

Radio Message by Bro. James Arch
(aired on Radio Cayman)

I AM thankful for the privilege of coming your way through this broadcast. I trust that some soul will be blessed and helped as a result of this service.

I am going to be speaking today on "Grace and Determination—the Formula for Victory." This is basically directed more or less to those who are serving the Lord. I trust some discouraged heart may be blessed today and continue on with the Lord.



I will be reading two verses from Psalms.

Psalms 37:7, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." Psalm 121:3, "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber."

The thought behind this subject is: *how to look at, or the approach to serving God*. Many times we take the wrong outlook on this. Many won't even begin to serve the Lord. In many cases, those who are trying hard are always despised and ridiculed and rejected, but I'm standing behind this microphone today to say that I am so thankful that I've found a better way. I thank God for the way of the old cross which leads home, and for what He has done for me all down through these many years. If it hadn't been for Him, I don't know where I would have been today. So it is a wonderful life to serve the Lord; it is a wonderful life to know that you belong to God, and you're free. Your sins have been forgiven, and you're enjoying a wonderful walk with the Lord. You have to have a relationship with God. Just going to church services is not enough. We have to be born again and have Christ as our personal Savior. That's what the Bible teaches us.

In today's world, it is easy to lose sight of the spiritual side of life and focus on the world only. That's happening all around us. Do you know what Jesus said about that? "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" We know that no man will ever gain the whole world, but what Jesus was talking about was: that which becomes our world; that which becomes our God, exclusive of the real God. We will be surprised to see the little things that become people's god and people's world. It's easy to become complacent and don't think too much about a walk with God. It's easy to sit down at home and watch TV and listen to the radio, but to build a relationship with God, we need more than those things.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the little church at Colosse, said in Colossians, chapter 2, verse 8: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain

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deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." A lot of people seem to think that they're "gods" in the world today, but thank God, we serve the true and living God, the real God! He's not going to fail. He never fails. Mankind will fail and let us down, but God will never fail. The church is built on Jesus Christ, which is the solid Rock. Thank God for the great Church of God. Thank Him for the Cornerstone and the Foundation on which it is built, which is Jesus Christ.

It is a fact that there was a time, not too long ago, when greater emphasis was placed on instilling strong Christian principles in children and making family values a part of every day life. Our daily walk was based on the Bible as a guideline. The Bible was used as nighttime stories to children. Yes, not too long ago, greater emphasis was placed on spiritual matters. Material things were very scarce around Cayman in those days and in other parts of the world as well. People were very poor, materially speaking, but in another sense, they were rich.

The old songwriter says—

*My Father is rich in houses and lands,
He holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands;
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, he has riches untold.*

*I'm a child of the King,
A child of the King:
With Jesus my Savior,
I'm a child of the King.*

That's a beautiful old song. We sing it all the time.

Determination to live for God and to succeed in the race depends on the individual. I know people can help us. Ministers, pastors, loved ones, and others can help us along, but we need to remember that this is an individual walk with God. It is left to us how we make it and how we survive.

The apostle Paul said, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." He wrote that to the little congregation at Philippi. He had gone away from them, but he had confidence and assurance that they would do well. That was his whole purpose in life. Paul loved the work of God. He suffered untold, but he wouldn't give up. He kept on going, My Beloved Friends.

To be determined to live for the Lord and to succeed in the race is not a show on a platform for a couple of minutes, or for an hour and a half, or for two to three hours, but it is a life. Living for the Lord is a life. Thank God, it is a wonderful life. It's good for every day of the week. It will keep you. When you receive an old-fashioned dose of salvation, as the old people usually called it, it will hold you. You won't leave it. It's your choice. It's amazing grace! It's only by grace that we're saved through faith, and only by grace we're going to make it with the Lord through this life.

Look at the many saints who have gone on before us. They have made it to heaven. That's an incentive for those in the world today to make it. We hear all the time, "Oh, it's too hard for me to live! Christianity is too strict. I don't want anything to do with it. I have to sleep on Sundays. I can't be bothered with church." All

kinds of excuses. Let me tell you, Friends, the devil is one who will derail your life and keep you out of the service of the Lord if you listen to him.

The writer of Hebrews says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses [those who were strong witnesses; those who gave their lives for the cause of Christ], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." The Bible clearly teaches that we must put off sin. The Bible doesn't teach that we must live in sin and live a Christian life at the same time. You'll never find that in the Bible. It's not there. God saves people from sin, and He keeps them from sin. We see it in this very verse: "... let us lay aside every weight [or any hindrance that would hinder our walk], and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

There are obstacles on the way. There are barriers to Christian living. There are those in the world today whose only intent is to eradicate righteousness and Christianity from the world, but I believe this old Bible will stand. The Bible itself tells us, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:8). There are still those who are standing strong for God and mean to stand strong for Him. There are those who are determined to live this life and to exemplify it out into the world.

Paul said, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." It is a willingness to bear some reproach for the cause of Christ. Let me tell you something, Friends, this is a real world. If there ever was a time that we need to stand on the Word of God and truth, it is today.

The Bible tell us in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, verse 26, where it is said of Moses, "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." Moses left the palace and chose to serve the Lord and to follow Him. He led the people of Israel into the Promised Land. He made a choice: "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

It takes sacrifice and dedication for the cause of Christ. Jesus said, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." He made that very clear in Matthew 6:24. You cannot serve two masters. When we give Christ our lives, then He's our Master. He's our Savior and Friend. He's the One we live for and obey.

It is loving people and living in peace and getting along with one another. That's a big problem in our world. The Bible tells us, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." There is so much conflict in the world today. We have it in homes, schools, and everywhere we turn. Even in churches, we'll find it.

God has given us a promise that if we will live close to Him and stay with Him, He'll help us by His grace.

Grace and determination is an outstanding formula for living this life and winning the race. It is consistent pressing one day at a time. "One day at a time, sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking from You," the old song says.

Paul said, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." So it's not letting up nor letting down, but it's pressing on the upward way.

*I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying, as I onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

It is holding out to the very end. I mentioned Paul a number of times in this message. Do you know what he said at the end of his career with the Lord? II Timothy 4:6-8, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith [It wasn't just a talk. It was living it. It was grace and determination that allowed him to finish the race so victoriously as he did.]: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Stay true to the Lord, My Beloved Friends. It's better higher up! †

THE WITHERED BRANCH

By the late H. R. Matthews

"For without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). This statement would have been spoken out of arrogance had it been spoken by one other than Christ, for Christ is the eternal One, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). It is out of arrogance also that one would endeavor to control his own destiny, when it is Christ in whom we live, move, and have our being.

Though all the above may be true, yet Jesus did not make us robots. He made us free moral agents. We were created with the ability to make choices, to make decisions; some may be wise, some may be unwise. We may choose to bear spiritual fruit, or we may choose to bear evil fruit. Moses chose to "suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Joshua challenged the Israelites of his day to "choose you this day whom ye will serve." Judas chose to follow Jesus and chose to betray Him. Nevertheless, it is the will of God that all men be saved, but the Father has control of the timing in our choosing to follow the Lord. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). Doubtless, there have been multiple cases where individuals have chosen unwisely, even as the Father was drawing them, never to see the light of another day.

Jesus was not speaking idle words when He said, "For without me ye can do nothing." There is a line of

thought among those who have amassed wealth and have achieved in this world's social standing to feel they have done this by their own power and hard work.

As the nation of Israel neared the end of the forty long years of wandering in the wilderness and ere long would enter the Promised Land, God issued a warning of remembrance to them: "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day" (Deuteronomy 8:11-18).

Let us be reminded again of the words of Jesus: "For without me ye can do nothing." This involves the entire man, and why should this seem strange, for the scriptures say, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture"? (Psalm 100:3).

Jeremiah understood our total dependence on God, for as he prayed unto the Lord, he said, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

It is essential that we carefully follow the instruction of the wise man Solomon: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). An example of one who failed to carry out these instructions of Solomon was Solomon himself. In his later years, he disobeyed God, leaned unto his own understanding and, as far as we are able to understand, died lost.

The understanding of man is limited by our finite humanity. Why did God create man as such? God created man for His own glory. If God had created man to be complete in himself, he would be a god, glorying in himself, having no need of God; but we are complete only in God. It is a stubborn spirit that would insist on leaning on its own understanding. Leaning on our own understanding opens the flood gates for the suggestions of Satan.

There is a spirit world. In this spirit world, we find not only the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, but also many evil spirits with Satan as their master. We, God's creation, are constantly targeted by these Satanic spirits in an effort to bring us under the control of their evil influence so that we might join them on the last day when they are cast into the lake of fire.

If we were left to defeat these evil spirits by our own power and our own understanding, we would be hopelessly lost. King David as a shepherd boy well knew of his total dependence on God, for he said, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). David was not among those who declare themselves sufficient to work out their own problems. “I don’t need anyone telling me what to do.” In his writing of Psalm 121, we see David thinking, *Without the Lord, I can do nothing*, for he said, “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.”

The redemption of mankind cannot be achieved by man in himself. Even in eternity, before the foundation of the world, Jesus knew that man would lose the image of God and would need a redeemer. He knew also that He alone would be that Redeemer. “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9). “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought redemption to the souls of those who would repent and believe the gospel. However, the body will not be redeemed until the resurrection on the last day, but since the body is subject to sickness, because of the fall from righteousness in the Garden of Eden, Jesus made provision for the body by the stripes He bore in Pilate’s judgment hall.

It is God’s will that the crowning of His creation bear much fruit, but if we are not abiding in Him and He in us, this is not possible. What is a fruit-bearing Christian? A fruit-bearing Christian is one who is performing the life of service that God planned for him to perform. God sent the apostle Paul “far hence” to take the gospel to the Gentiles. In his travels on his three missionary journeys, Paul suffered great privations and persecutions, but he never wavered from his call to service. Paul’s labors are still bearing much fruit in our day.

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:5, 6, 8). †

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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

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A holy life	Titus 2:11, 12
	Hebrews 12:10-14
Unity of God's people	John 17:21
	I Corinthians 12:13
Divine Healing	James 5:14, 15
The ordinances	Matthew 28:19, 20
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	John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28
Eternal punishment	Mark 9:43-46
	Revelation 20:15

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Jesus bought it with His own blood	Acts 20:28
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Christ is the Head	Ephesians 1:22; 5:23
	Isaiah 9:6
Christ is the Door	John 10:9
	John 10:1
	Acts 2:47
Only the saved are members	John 15:2-6
	I John 3:8, 9
Membership is offered to all	II Peter 3:9
	Revelation 22:17
Membership is rewarded	John 14:2, 3