

The Way of Truth



Vol. 83

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

No. 5

HAPPY Mother's Day



May 2025

MOTHER'S DAY

MOTHER'S DAY was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Her campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she believed that they were "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world."

Owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all US states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday, the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Although Jarvis was successful in founding Mother's Day, she became resentful of the commercialization of the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day, and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards. Jarvis protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and at a meeting of American War Mothers in 1925. By this time, carnations had become associated with Mother's Day, and the selling of carnations by the American War Mothers to raise money angered Jarvis, who was arrested for disturbing the peace.

In 1912, Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "Second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day," and created the Mother's Day International Association. She specifically noted that "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world." This is also the spelling used by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in his 1914 presidential proclamation, by the U.S. Congress in relevant bills, and by various U.S. presidents in their proclamations concerning Mother's Day.

FOLLOWING ARE SOME QUOTES

"The sweetest sounds to mortals given
Are heard in Mother, Home, and Heaven."

—William Goldsmith Brown

"If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been."

—Robert Brault

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."—Author Unknown

"All mothers are working mothers."

—Author Unknown

"Mother-love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible."—Marion C. Garretty

"The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men"—from *mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms*.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

"God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers."—Jewish Proverb

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."—Abraham Lincoln

"Mother, the ribbons of your love are woven around my heart."—Author Unknown

Who fed me from her gentle breast
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses pressed?

My Mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?

My Mother.

—Ann Taylor

On Mother's Day I have written a poem for you. In the interest of poetic economy and truth, I have succeeded in concentrating my deepest feelings and beliefs into two perfectly crafted lines:

You're my mother,
I would have no other!

—Forest Houtenschil, c.1979

"Mom, when thoughts of you are in our hearts, we are never far from home.—Author Unknown

"Children are a great comfort in your old age—and they help you reach it faster, too."—Lionel Kauffman

"A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

—Washington Irving

"This heart, my own dear mother, bends,
With love's true instinct, back to thee!"

—Thomas Moore

"The influence of a mother in the lives of her children is beyond calculation."—James E. Faust

"Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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No. 5

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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They worked for me, both night and morning;
They helped to smooth away my fears,
For never were these dear hands idle;
I think of them with love and tears!

My mother's hands to me were precious:
I thought their beauty was sublime;
I felt no harm on Earth could touch me
If they were near me all the time!

—Gertrude Tooley Buckingham

"It's such a grand thing to be a mother of a mother—
that's why the world calls her grandmother."

—Unknown

"Mothers are like glue. Even when you can't see
them, they're still holding the family together."

—Susan Gale

"There is no velvet so soft as a mother's lap, no rose
as lovely as her smile, no path so flowery as that
imprinted with her footsteps."—Archibald Thompson

"Mother: the most beautiful word on the lips of
mankind."—Kahlil Gibran †

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## MOTHER'S DAY---MAY 11

roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters,  
aunts and cousins, comrades and friends—but only one  
mother in the whole world."—Kate Douglas Wiggin

"When you are looking at your mother, you are look-  
ing at the purest love you will ever know."

—Charley Benetto

"There is no influence so powerful as that of the  
mother."—Sara Josepha Hale

"If I had a single flower for every time I think of  
you, Mother, I could walk forever in my garden."

—Claudia Adrienne Grandi

"My mom is a lifelong smile in my heart, her  
voice

Before a day was over,  
Home comes the rover,  
For mother's kiss—sweeter this  
Than any other thing!"

—William Allingham

Motherhood is priced  
Of God, at price no man may dare  
To lessen or misunderstand.

—Helen Hunt Jackson

"A mom's hug lasts long after she lets go."

—Author Unknown

My mother's hands, so thin and work-worn,  
Were loved by me as jewels, rare,  
For they had rocked me in my cradle,  
And, lovingly, they'd stroked my hair.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

|                                                       |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Poetry Page</b>                                    | <b>Page 2</b>  |
| <i>Tributes to Mother</i>                             |                |
| <b>Praying for Mothers</b>                            | <b>Page 3</b>  |
| <i>Full-length sermon by the late A. A. Craig</i>     |                |
| <b>The Children's Corner</b>                          | <b>Page 6</b>  |
| <i>"Who Is Missing?," by Rebecca Bland</i>            |                |
| <b>Winning a Crown</b>                                | <b>Page 7</b>  |
| <i>Part IV of the book by the late C. W. Naylor</i>   |                |
| <b>Hagerstown Revival Report</b>                      | <b>Page 9</b>  |
| <i>March services with David Goble</i>                |                |
| <b>The Trojan Horse</b>                               | <b>Page 10</b> |
| <i>Part one of a two-part message by David Goble</i>  |                |
| <b>Bible Lesson of the Month</b>                      | <b>Page 15</b> |
| <i>"The Brotherhood of Christ"</i>                    |                |
| <b>Young People's Page</b>                            | <b>Page 17</b> |
| <i>"Jesus' Love for All Sinners," by Diane Little</i> |                |
| <b>The Question Box</b>                               | <b>Page 18</b> |
| <i>Our monthly feature</i>                            |                |
| <b>In Sin Did My Mother Conceive Me</b>               | <b>Page 19</b> |
| <i>Article by the late Hoyt Matthews</i>              |                |
| <b>The Strength of Faith</b>                          | <b>Page 21</b> |
| <i>Comments by the late Charles Spurgeon</i>          |                |



## **MOTHER'S DAY**

**Unknown Author**

Love to you, dear Mother,  
We think of you today,  
Our hearts can name no other  
Who holds so great a sway.

Our love for you will ever flow,  
Our hearts be always true,  
No greater love we'll ever know  
Than that we hold for you.

Your many virtues we need not name,  
They are well-known to all,  
Your love for us will be the same  
Whether we stand or fall.

Our innocence to you is clear,  
But if you found us wrong,  
You'd be the first to send good cheer  
And help us to be strong.

## **MY ANGEL**

**LaVerne P. Larson**

God granted me an angel  
To call my very own,  
Whose constant love and comfort  
Are the greatest gifts I've known.

There is everlasting sunshine  
In her smile, sweet and shy,  
And her eyes reflect the bright stars  
Of a quiet evening sky.

Voice so soft and gentle  
It chases every tear,  
She's my happiness on Earth  
And all I hold most dear.

Though I search around the world  
I'll never find another  
Who will compare in word and deed  
With the "angel" I call Mother.

## **MY MOTHER**

**Author Unknown**

If I were asked to give a thought  
Which in one word would speak  
A unity of brotherhood,  
A sympathy complete.

A hundred happy cherry ways,  
A mind that knows its own,  
Contented 'midst a throng of folk,  
Yet peaceful when alone.

A heart that sheds its silent glow  
To brighten many another,  
Without a moment of delay, I'd say,  
"You mean my mother."

## **DIVINE**

**Jessie Moody Orwig**

I held my little first-born  
Gently as mothers do,  
And then I think I understood  
How Mary—loved You too.

I softly hummed a lullaby,  
My form in reverence knelt,  
And oh, I like to think that I  
Knew just how Mary felt.

Cradled in my loving arms,  
Words whispered—age-old, true.  
Perhaps they were the very ones  
Which Mary said to You.

## **MOTHER**

**Author Unknown**

Your love is like an island  
In life's ocean, vast and wide,  
A peaceful quiet shelter  
From the wind and rain and tide.

Above it like a beacon light  
Shone faith and truth and prayer;  
And through the changing scenes of life,  
I find a haven there. ✚

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**A MOTHER'S LOVE IS EVERYTHING!**



# PRAYING FOR MOTHERS

Message by the late Bro. Alvin A. Craig



**M**OTHER'S DAY is a special day, at least in our nation. There are things that make us happy when we think about mothers, and there are things that make us sad. But I think it is proper and fitting to honor mothers.

I have two different passages of scriptures that I'd like to read this morning. First of all, Proverbs, chapter 31, verses 26-28. This is talking about a virtuous woman whose price is far above rubies: "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." Then, in I Timothy, chapter 2, verses 1-3: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."

## RULES FOR HOME EDUCATION

I have a reading that I'd like to share with you. Of course, this is not just for mothers. It is good for fathers as well. It is entitled, "Rules for Home Education"—

- *From your children's earliest infancy, you must include the necessity of instant obedience.*
- *Unite firmness with gentleness; let your children always understand that you mean exactly what you say.*
- *Never promise them anything unless you're sure that you can give them what you promised.*
- *If you tell your child to do something, show him how to do it, and see that it is done.*
- *Always punish your children for willful disobeying you but never punish in anger.*
- *Never let them see that they can vex you or make you lose your self-command.*
- *If they give way to petulance and temper, wait till they are calm, and then gently reason with them on the impropriety of their conduct.*
- *Remember that a little present punishment when the occasion arises is much more effectual than the threatening of a great one should the fault be renewed.*
- *Never give your children anything because they cry for it, and under no condition give to them or allow anything that would open the door to loose living or thinking however harmless it may seem at the moment.*
- *On no account allow them to do at any time what you have forbidden under the like circumstances or another.*
- *Teach them that the only sure and best way to appear good is to be good.*
- *Accustom them to make their little recitals with perfect truths.*

- *Never allow of talebearing.*
- *Establish yourself in their confidence that they can come to you voluntarily with their problems and questions, and welcome your advice and counsel on matters that they will ultimately face.*

- *Keep before you one purpose and goal; that is, to guide their feet in the path that leads to Christ and the service of the church.*

I consider those as very good, sound advice.

In our text from I Timothy, the apostle Paul tells us that we are to pray for all men, for kings, and for those who are in authority. I would say to this congregation that at a time like we are facing as a nation and world, we need to take this more seriously. It is true in any age, but especially, it seems to be so now. There is so much division in our nation, so much squabbling, accusations, and malice. We need God's help. Notice that Paul said to pray for all men. Since this is Mother's Day, I've entitled my thoughts, "Praying for Mothers."

It isn't just the president or the congress or the judges of our land or the mayors and the governors who are rulers, but there are rulers in the home. Fathers and mothers are rulers. Do you agree? Since this is Mother's Day, let me emphasize the fact that we need to pray for mothers.

## TEACH YOUNGER WOMEN TO LOVE

One of the things that we need to pray for mothers for is that they love their children. Well, don't all mothers love their children? No, sad to say; no, they do not. When you hear about mothers forsaking their children, murdering and aborting their children, we cannot say that all mothers love their children.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to Titus, said that the elderly women should teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, and to love their children. To teach them. You elderly mothers here have a grave responsibility. All the teaching is not to come over the pulpit. All the teaching is not to come in a Sunday school class. Paul said that you older women are to teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, and to love their children. How greatly that is needed in our nation today!

You're not going to break up a home where the husband and wife love one another as God teaches in His Word. You're not to hear of children being abused and locked up somewhere and starved to death when mothers and fathers love their children. I have said before, and I say again this morning, my parents were not all that profuse in saying to us children, "I love you." But I'll tell you one thing, they said it by their actions. We did not question their love.

When I said that today brings thoughts of sadness as well as joy on Mother's Day, my mind turned back to my own mother. My mother had a hard life. It wasn't

just my mother. There were many mothers during the depression that had hard lives. There were many families that had very little. My mother worked hard. Maybe harder than a lot of us children did, but I believe she did it because she loved us. So, you elderly women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be sober, to be discreet, and to be keepers at home. Someone has said, and it has been repeated over and over again: "No nation is stronger than its homes." Doubtless that is one reason why Satan attacks our homes so viciously.

God has made a beautiful plan for husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and anything God has done Satan tries to disrupt. Satan tries to change it. We're getting to the place where, seemingly, people don't even know what marriage is. They don't know what a family is anymore. But I still believe the Book, and I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman. Pardon me, but it is sickening to hear people talk about two men getting married or two women getting married. It's sickening, it's repulsive, it's disgusting! No, I don't have any hatred in my heart for anybody, but thank God, I have a hatred for wrong. The Bible tells us to eschew evil. I believe the more we hate wrong, the more we'll love right. The more we hate Satan, the more we'll love God. The more we love the Word of God, the more we'll endeavor to live it out in our lives.

### **BEING A MOTHER IS NOT EASY**

I know being a mother is not always an easy task. Again, with my own mother, I know from observation and knowledge that it's not always easy to be a mother. A husband once said that after having a hard day, he was able to go home to his wife and unburden his heart to her. Who does the wife have to unburden her heart to? Does she ever have an exasperating day? Does she ever have a trying day? Husbands, there are days when she has more trials than you have. It might be good to let her cry on your shoulder sometimes, rather than you crying on hers. You know what I mean by that. I say that it is not always easy being a mother.

Some wives need to be taught how to be housekeepers. Mothers, I'm not picking on you. Some mothers know just how things are to be put in order. Some don't know how anything should be in order. So then, they need to be taught. Whether you're a man or a woman, you're not born with the knowledge of everything. You have to be taught some things. Thank God for mothers who are willing to put up with husbands. We are trials and tests to our wives. They may be to us, too, sometimes, but the beauty of it is, God can enable us to love one another over each other's faults. I believe God intends for us to be happy. I do not believe God made a world and put people on it to be miserable and wretched, and to be fussing and fighting. He has given us a beautiful world to live in. He has given us richly all things to enjoy, and one of the things we should enjoy is family relationships. That should be right at the top of our Christian experience. It's good to see a family doing things together. Let your house be more than a boarding house. Let your house be a home. It takes more than mortar and bricks and electric gadgets to make a home. It takes people who love one another, who care for one another, and who are concerned for

one another. Since it's not so easy to be a mother, and since there are burdens and trials she has to face, that's all the more reason we need to pray for her.

Husbands should provide emotional and physical support for their wives. Yes, I know there are some women who are stronger emotionally than men are, but I think you will agree with me if you agree with the Bible, that in some respects they are the weaker vessel. That doesn't mean that they don't have as much brains as you have, men. They might have more than you have. Peter said, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them [the wives] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). Notice the last part of that verse: ... "that your prayers be not hindered." Speaking a moment to the saved wives and husbands: If you allow things to come between you, you're going to hinder your prayers. If you allow a little bit of bitterness, a little bit of resentment, you're going to hinder your prayers. In other words, it's going to affect your spiritual life. Peter said that we should give honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and we are heirs together, and that we should do this so that our prayers will not be hindered.

I have said in regard to offices like the president and other offices, the person who fills that office is to be honored and respected because of the office, but when you go beyond that, it's to be earned. I would say the same thing in regard to mothers. You are to be honored and respected because you are mother, but when it comes to honor and respect beyond that, it's to be earned. Very frankly this morning, the way some mothers live, the way they dress, the way they act, the way they drink and smoke, etc., those kind of actions and deeds do not call for honor. Yes, they are still mothers and should be honored as mothers, but beyond that, the honor is to be earned. There are a lot of mothers in the world today who are not really earning the honor that they should be given.

I still believe the Bible says, "God made man the head of the woman." I have said before, and I say again, being the head of the wife and home is not some honor or privilege that puts a man on a pedestal so others can bow to him, as it were. It's rather a responsibility. It's not merely a privilege. It's a very serious responsibility, because the decisions he makes are going to affect not only him, but his wife and children, and maybe his grandchildren in the future. One decision can make so much difference.

### **ONE DECISION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

I remember one time while preaching I used this as an illustration concerning decision making: Going back into the early 50s, Eisenhower was commander in Europe, but they wanted him to run for president, and Henry Cabot Lodge, Senator from Massachusetts, went over to Paris to persuade Eisenhower to come home and seek the nomination of the Republican Party, which he did. He got the nomination. Eisenhower asked Lodge to be his national campaign manager, which he agreed to do. The time was coming up for Lodge to seek reelection in Massachusetts, but traveling over the country as Eisenhower's campaign manager, didn't allow him



to spend a lot of time in his home state seeking reelection. There was a young congressman by the name of Jack Kennedy who was running for the Senate in Massachusetts to unseat Lodge. By a few thousand votes, he unseated Lodge and became Senator. I'm not going to take a lot of time, but if there had been a different decision made, and Kennedy had been defeated, he may never have become president and may never have been murdered. We may never have gone into war in Vietnam because Kennedy was the one who first sent troops there. His brother Robert may have never been murdered. I could go on and on, but do you get the point I'm making? A decision can have such far-reaching consequences.

A father as head of the home has many decisions to make, and those decisions can be so far-reaching. They can have a definite bearing on whether children are saved or lost. Some women, God bless them, are more or less forced into acting as the head of the home because the husband won't carry out his duties. Now pardon me, but there are some women who want to be the head, and they don't want the husband to be the head.

I believe, according to the Scriptures, that God created Adam a male and created Eve a female. He told them to be fruitful and multiply. I believe that God had a definite plan and place for Adam to fill. I believe He had a definite plan and place for Eve to fill, and I believe He had a definite purpose and plan for the children. I believe God has a plan and a purpose for every one of us. I believe, not because I am a male, but I believe that God ordained that the husband be the head of the wife. But I do not believe that makes her a second class citizen. In God's economy, there are no second class citizens. The husband, the wife, the children are all first class citizens. If we will fill our place as God has ordained, we'll have God's blessings, we'll have a family that God can be pleased with, a family that will be a blessing to the church, to the family, and to the world. God's plan is right. God's plan works. The heartache, the misery, the corruption, the evil that we have in the world today are not the result of obeying God's plan. They are the result of disobeying God's plan.

Children, if you have a mother that tells you what is right, you're blessed. God's Word tells us, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

It is not possible to go back and live life over. I've heard parents say, "Oh, if I could just rear my children over again." They're saying that on the basis of the knowledge they have now, but if they could go back to that time, they wouldn't have the knowledge then that they have now. If they could go back, they would have the knowledge they had then. In the world in which we live today, they may do a worse job the second time than they did the first. You don't hear me saying, "I'd like to go back and live my life over ..." But I will say this morning, I do wish I would have shown my mother more love, more affection, more honor. Don't take your mother's love and her labor for granted. Don't take the attitude, *well, she owes it to me*. Appreciate her love and labor. Many mothers deprive themselves of things

that they might have for their children. Many mothers go without to make sure their children have. Develop an attitude of appreciation.

Fathers, husbands, if we want our children to honor and respect their mother, we must honor and respect their mother. If they see us showing disrespect, they're going to feel justified in doing the same. Husbands, fathers, lead the way in honoring, in respecting, in appreciating your wife, your children's mother.

Many times mothers go down to death's door to give birth to their children. Sometimes some of them do pass through death's door. That's one of the reasons why they should be honored, respected, and appreciated.

Some of you have heard me say this before: Women demanding equal rights have actually lowered themselves. Again, in God's sight, when a woman fills the place He ordained for her to fill, she has her equal rights. It's whenever she gets out of her place, tries to fill someone else's place that she is not equal, because she's out of God's divine order. So let everyone fill the place that God ordained, and all will be first class citizens.

## CONCLUSION

Mothers, put God first in your life. That's the most important thing of all. You cannot possibly be the wife you should be, you cannot possibly be the mother you should be, if God is not first in your life. So the very first and the very most important thing is, put God first in your life. When you put God first in your life, then you will tend to put other things in their proper place. Love your children. If you really love God with all your heart, you're going to love your children. If you love God with all your heart, and the husband is what he ought to be, you will command his respect. You'll also have the respect of your children unless their minds are warped and blinded by sin.

We thank God for mothers. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for mothers. We thank God for all godly mothers. We thank God for mothers who do love their husbands, their children, their home, and who are seeking to fill the place that God would have them to fill.

Remember, we need to pray for our mothers. It isn't always easy being a mother. It isn't always pleasant being a mother. Everything doesn't go smoothly. There are things that try their patience. There are things that perplex them. So don't forget to pray for mothers.

Amen. †

## OUT OF BOX 88

The Way of Truth,

I am so thankful for *The Way of Truth*. It helps me on my daily walk with Christ. I have enjoyed the February and March issues of *Winning a Crown* Parts I and II. I have gone back and read some of the past issues of the magazine. When I feel weak, it always helps to have lessons to help me along my walk. Thank you.

—L. P., Kentucky

# THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



## WHO IS MISSING?

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Tell me about school," I said recently to Emily\*, a fourth-grader whom I had not seen in a while. "What are you studying?" Emily told me about the books she was reading, and she told me what she was learning about in math.

"How is your teacher doing?" I asked.

"My teacher is doing all right," she answered. "We have a boy in our class that has been very sick and is in a wheelchair," she added. "Our teacher lets us take turns playing indoor recess games with him."

"That's very nice," I told her. "I'm sure it helps the student feel like he is part of the class."

Emily was quiet for a few moments, and then she said, "I remember the teacher I had when I was in Pre-K."

"Did you enjoy your time in Pre-K?" I asked.

"Yes," said Emily, "and I liked my teacher." She paused, and then continued. "But she still owes me a prize."

"Your Pre-K teacher still owes you a prize?" I asked. "And you remember it after all this time?"

"Yes," said Emily, "but it makes me sad every time I think about it, because I didn't really want to win that prize."

I wondered what kind of prize would not be attractive to a little four-year-old.

"How did you win it?" I asked.

"Well," said Emily, "one day our teacher said we were going to play a game. She told us that we were going to scatter ourselves around the room. Then we were going to close our eyes. While our eyes were closed, our teacher was going to tap one of us on the shoulder. If we were tapped, we were supposed to get up very quietly and go out into the hallway and stand where we could not be seen by our classmates.

"Then our teacher was going to tell the rest of the students to open their eyes and look around the classroom. They were supposed to guess which student was missing. If they guessed correctly, then the student who had been standing in the hallway would not win anything. But if they couldn't guess who was missing, that student would receive a prize."

"So you won the prize," I said.

"Yes," said Emily. "We played the game for a little while. Each student that was tapped was guessed because the other students noticed that they were missing. Then the next time we closed our eyes, the teacher tapped me on the shoulder. I was eager to take my turn! I was sure I would be missed right away when the other students opened their eyes. I tiptoed very quietly out of the classroom.

"I heard the teacher tell the students to open their eyes. I waited and waited for someone to notice that I was missing, but no one did. It seemed like a long time before the teacher came to the door and said I could come back in.

"The teacher sounded very excited. 'Emily,' she exclaimed, 'you have won the prize! No one guessed that you were the missing student!'

"She told me she would give me my prize before I went home that day, but she must have forgotten."

"Did you remind her?" I asked.

"No," Emily said slowly. "I didn't feel like reminding her. I was sad that no one missed me when I was gone."

Emily and I sat quietly for a few moments after she had finished her story. Even though it was only a child's game, Emily's heart was saddened by the knowledge that she had not been missed.

It is only human to want to have our presence acknowledged and valued by others. People of all ages tend to feel sad if they think family, friends, or acquaintances have forgotten about them.

Almost everyone feels lonely or forgotten at some point in their lives. But if you are God's child, you will never need to wonder if He has forgotten about you. He has promised that He will never leave you or forsake you. He will always hear when you call upon Him in prayer. He will never hear your prayer and wonder, "Who is that praying to Me?" He knows the sound of your voice, even when you whisper.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 8:17, which says, *I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.* It is a comforting thought to know that we can always find God if we search for Him with all of our hearts.

Children, you are in the "early" time of your life. It is the very best time to ask Jesus to come into your heart. Then you can look forward to an entire lifetime of being close to Him, knowing that He will never forget you. He will be right there beside you, loving you and guiding you every single day—in the good times and in the bad times.

\*not her real name

## Activity

Which prophet in the Bible says that God cares so much about us that He has written our names on His hand?

## Answers to Last Month's Activity

Did you locate three scriptures (besides Ephesians 4:32 and Proverbs 31:26) that tell us to be kind? Here are the ones I found:

1. Matthew 7:12—"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."
2. Colossians 3:12—"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering."
3. Micah 6:8—"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is

The Way of Truth



good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" †

## WINNING A CROWN

By the late

C. W. Naylor



Part  
IV

### Submission

**T**HE SINNER is a rebel against God. He has lived in open rebellion all his sinful days; but if he will find God, if he will be reconciled to Him, then he must submit himself to God in wholehearted surrender. "Submit yourselves therefore to God" (James 4:7). Self has been the king upon the throne of the heart. Self must be dethroned. All its rule must be overthrown, its government entirely demolished. Christ must be enthroned; He must be above all and through all. His will must be law. The soul must yield true allegiance to Him. It must yield glad and full obedience. He must be supreme and the soul rejoice to have it so. The yielding must be not only a passive submission, but an active submission. It is good if we shall say, "Not my will, but thine, be done." But this is not enough. We must dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of His will, to the task of carrying out His will. "I delight to do thy will" is the language of the submitted heart.

We are not fully surrendered so long as we require one condition. Christ cannot be master so long as we offer terms. Our surrender must be unconditional, or it is not real. Here is where many fail. They have their way mapped out before them, and have their ideas of just what kind of Christians they want to be and what they want to do. That leaves them the masters, and if their terms were accepted, they would never be submissive. Some will not yield to God lest He should call them to preach; others, lest they should have to be missionaries, leave home, testify, pray in public, or do some similar thing. Others have plans that they wish to carry out, or things which they desire to continue in, such as dancing, taking part in worldly amusements, and the like. God will let us have a form of godliness, if that is what we want, and He may let us be pretty well satisfied with it, even if we are not really surrendered; but if it is real salvation that we want, that is to be had only on condition of an absolute surrender so far as we can understand what that means. We must throw away our maps and plans, and say: "Here I am, Lord, body, mind, and soul. All I am or ever shall be is Thine unreservedly forever. Not my will, but Thine, be done." This must be said, not with the lips alone, but from the heart's remotest depths. This, and this alone, is surrender. This is real submission, and this is one of the steps in finding God.

### Believing

In reply to the jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas said, "Believe on the Lord  
May 2025

Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Faith is the hand that reaches out to God and lays hold upon Him through His promises. Without it we cannot find God; without it we cannot be saved from our sins; but by believing we may be saved. There are, however, two kinds of believing, and both are necessary to our salvation. Jesus said to the Jews, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Many people believe in Christ as a historical character, as a great and glorious teacher, even the Son of God; but that faith affects nothing for their salvation. It is, however, the ground of the other and more important faith. We "must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Many people believe in Christ who never receive Him as their Savior. We must not only believe in Him, but believe on Him, that is, confidently rely upon Him for our salvation, trusting Him to forgive our sins and make us all that He has promised to make us. Believing is no hard thing. It is not something that is strained, not something that is forced. It is something that operates naturally and easily. The soul that has done what has already been noted under the previous steps, is in a position to rely upon Christ for his salvation; that is, to confidently trust in Him that He does now save him. It requires no effort of will, no straining to do this; it is natural, just as natural as breathing.

He has said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Is this true, or is it false? If it is true, then it is true for you, and for everyone else who will come to Him in the way of His truth. His promise is, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (I John 1:9). Is this true? If it is true for anyone, it is true for you. Just simply believe it, and you will know that His Word is true; you will within you have the consciousness of that fact. But until you do believe it, that is, until you accept it not only as being true but as being true for you, it will count nothing. But when you do so accept it, it will count all, and you will find that your soul reaches out and finds God true and knows Him for itself.

### Assurance

Belief brings assurance. Peter said, "We believe and are sure" (John 6:69). Effectual faith, that is, faith that reaches out and appropriates God's promises for salvation, brings to the heart a knowledge of the forgiveness of sin. We are not left to uncertainty as some suppose. John says, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (I John 5:10). What is this witness? Paul tells us in Galatians 4:6—"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." The work of the Spirit in witnessing is stated in Romans 8:16—"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

The Christian has a twofold witness of his acceptance with God. First, this witness of the Spirit, who testifies to him of his acceptance. This is the voice of God Himself to the soul. It speaks in the believer's inner consciousness in language that cannot be misunderstood. He knows that he is God's child. He realizes from the testimony of that sacred Spirit that the work of God

has been wrought and that he is now a child of the divine Father. He is no more a rebel, but a son. Secondly, there is that inner consciousness known and realized as any other definite fact of human experience. He knows that he is no more what he was; he knows that he is no more a rebel against God, but is at peace with Him. He no longer feels the guilt of his sin. He is conscious that a great change has taken place. Everyone who truly becomes a Christian, has this inner consciousness that he is God's. This is a sure product of saving grace.

This twofold witness within our souls continues as long as our faith continues. Only doubts can silence its voice. When faith fails, the voice of this testimony becomes weakened and finally silenced. It is dependent upon faith, and as long as we believe we may expect its testimony; but we must believe in order to retain this glorious realization of divine sonship. John was very positive in his knowledge and assertion on this point. He said, "We know that we have passed from death unto life" (I John 3:14). Again, he says, "We know that we are of God" (I John 5:19). In every case, however, saving faith must precede this witnessing, and saving faith must always accompany it, or it is made void.

### Regeneration

The Bible does not observe the hair-splitting methods and fine theological distinctions of either modern or ancient theologians. These methods may be necessary to philosophic study; but when we interpret the Bible by them, we narrow it down and lose its real significance. It speaks many times in broad generalizations. Often the thing meant is broader than the term used. Sometimes part is put for all, sometimes all is put for part; and we have need to use our judgment and intelligence most carefully in order to arrive at the true meaning. This is true of the subject of Regeneration. For the work of God's grace in saving the sinner from his guilt, there are many terms, most of which respectively apply strictly to only one particular phase of the work, but which, because of their necessary connection in operation and in time with other parts of the work, are used to represent the whole. As instances of this the following may be noted: *Redemption*—"Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things ... but with the precious blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:18, 19). *Forgiveness*—"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (I John 1:9). *The new birth*—"Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (verse 6). *Reconciliation*—"God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them" (II Corinthians 5:18, 19). Isaiah thus expresses this reconciliation: "Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me" (chapter 12:1). *Adoption*—"That we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:5). We "have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

All these are but differing phases of the one great work of divine grace. By this means we are brought

nigh unto God. We are made His dear children; we partake of His Spirit, of His love, of His goodness, and we rejoice in Him with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

### Sonship

Of all the wonderful and gracious promises of God, none are more wonderful nor more gracious than His promise of fatherhood. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:17, 18). John says, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (I John 3:1). What infinite condescension that God should permit us who were once so sinful and vile to bear His name, to be called the sons of God, and not simply to be called the sons of God, but actually to be such, for John says in the next verse, "Now are we the sons of God." Jesus said to the wicked Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil" (John 8:44); but "now are we the sons of God." What a marvelous change! How glorious the thought—the sons of the Most High! And now that we are sons, we can say in the language of our Lord, "Our Father who art in heaven." This is then to us not mere words, but the outpouring of our hearts, the answering of our spirits to His.

Have you not heard prayers beginning somewhat as follows: "All-wise and Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth"? We may speak to God in such formal language, but we can never draw close to Him in this way. The great God, the Creator, the Mighty One who inhabiteth Eternity, He who stretched out the heavens and placed their galaxies, He whose splendor and majesty are too great for human vision—what can we do before such a one but fall down in awe and fear? It is not such a one that we can love, in whose presence we can come with rejoicing and to whom we can make known our petitions; but it is to "our Father who art in heaven" that we can come, before whom we can bow and up into whose face we can look and make known our wants. It is He whom we can love; it is He to whom we may come boldly in every time of need to receive help and grace and mercy.

When a king sits upon the throne, who may approach him familiarly? All must recognize his majesty and his honor; but when he comes down off the throne and goes into the nursery, the children may play about his knees and climb upon his lap and put their arms about his neck and caress him and receive his caresses in return. To them, he is not the King, he is not His Majesty; he is father. Such God would be to you and me. He wants to be our Father; He will be our Father; He is our Father. He wants to bestow upon us all the affection and tenderness that a father feels for his dear children. This is the relation into which we are brought when we become His sons. All the riches of His love will He lavish upon us, all the tenderness of His fatherly affection. We may approach Him with the utmost confidence and the utmost freedom. He loves for us to pour out our hearts in tender devotion to Him. He loves to know what troubles us. He loves to minister comfort and help to us in all our needs.



Can our hearts today say “Our Father” instead of “Almighty God”? He is the Almighty God, and as such we reverence and adore and fear Him. But He is still our Father and we draw near, forgetting His majesty and greatness in the realization of His lovingkindness. “I will be a father unto you,” He said. Whatever He may be to others, whatever terrors His presence may inspire in them, whatever fears they may have, it shall not be so with us, for He is our Father and we are the children of His love. †

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## HAGERSTOWN SPRING REVIVAL

MARCH 27-30, 2025

We certainly do thank the Lord for His divine presence with us during our Spring Revival. It was our privilege to have Bro. David Goble, Pastor of the Church of God of Carmichael, California, as the evangelist. We were also happy to have his wife, Sis. Helene, with us.

The singing portion of the services and the messages sent from the Lord were indeed a blessing to our souls.

May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Goble as he endeavors to do the Lord's will in proclaiming the truth of the gospel.

Below are a few excerpts of the messages—

March 27—Title: “Where God Is, There Is Life.” *In Genesis 1, there was nothing, and then there was light. A life of sin is chaotic, but God puts our lives in organization. Where God is, there is life. We want to be found where He is and not where He is not. God is where evil is not.*

*God bent in my direction and heard my cry. He didn't pass me by. Why would people not want to be brought out of the horrible pit of sin? Sin is chaotic. He takes the sinner out of the pit and puts him on the Rock. Where God is, there is purpose. Sin is an absurd way of living. Tomorrow will not be better. Salvation gives meaning. Tomorrow will be better. God means business and keeps His promises. We need to live to the high calling. Make no excuses.*

*God is toward light—“eastward” (Ezekiel 47:1). The enemy empties, God fills. Depression runs toward despair—a desert where no water is. Don't stay there. Stand where God has put you. Stand on the Rock, on the teachings.*

March 28—Title: “When God Is, There Is Meaning.” *Meaning is important. Everything that is worth anything comes from Christ. Righteousness comes from heaven. We all need meaning—saints and sinners alike. God is the great I AM. That means He is in every moment. Paul had a thorn in the flesh. He asked God to take it away three times. Every moment with God is “now.” In heaven, it will always be “now.” God is the great “present tense.” My problem is now, so my help is now. The enemy wants to get us in the future or in the past.*

*Worship is always going on in heaven. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. We are meant to do that right now. God wants us to be in His image. We can't be if we are walking in sin.*

*God is not bound by time. Where God is without time, evil cannot be there. In hell, evil will reign without end. A time-bound world without God is a life without meaning. A world without God is also a world without heaven. Almighty God is here with us. He is not small or far away.*

*When God is, there is hope. When God is, there is no fear. When Peter lost sight of Jesus, fear came back. When he cried out for help, Jesus reached out His hand. When Jesus is in the boat, the wind has to stop. The people in the boat worshiped. Perfect love casts out fear.*

*Take no thought for tomorrow. “Now” is where God wants you to stay. He's a present help. Anxiety is undefined fear. When God is, there is help. When problems do come, God is right there. Stay in the boat with Christ.*

March 29—Title: “The Trojan Horse”—Part I. This full-length message begins on page 10.

March 30—A.M.—Title: “The Trojan Horse”—Part II. Lord willing, this message will be printed in our June issue.

March 30—P.M.—Title: “Conformed By the Spirit.”  
(1) *Reasonable service—God has called us to a reasonable service (Romans 12). The world is getting darker. When we present God to the world, it needs to be in a language they understand. God intends for life to be holy. We can't do this without the Spirit of God. We need to be honest with ourselves. Are we walking after the flesh or after the Spirit? Walking after the Spirit is an “other-centered” walk, not a self-centered walk.* (2) *Transformation—If the Spirit is my governor, I will change my walk to be like Him. He will help us turn. A renewed mind is guided by the Spirit. A metamorphosis of character—it can be happening.* (3) *Proof—People have a right to see a person whose mind has been transformed and renewed.* †

### SPRING REVIVAL CD'S

We have audio CD's available of the messages preached by Bro. David Goble during the Spring Revival. These include the singing portion also. Price \$3.00 each postpaid. Please write in the blank before each title how many you would like to receive. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088. (No international orders, please). *We accept credit cards for payment.* Please allow two weeks for delivery.

\_\_\_ #1694 Where God Is, There Is Life

\_\_\_ #1695 When God Is, There Is Meaning

\_\_\_ #1696 The Trojan Horse (Part I)

\_\_\_ #1697 The Trojan Horse (Part II)

\_\_\_ #1698 Conformed by the Spirit

# THE TROJAN HORSE (Part I)

2025 Spring Revival Message by Bro. David Goble



**W**E HAVE HAD a good meeting. We appreciate the Lord being with us. If anything was accomplished, it was because God did it. All we did was to make ourselves available and be obedient to His commandment.

I had on my heart a couple messages that have been delivered. We're going to sort of draw on some of those thoughts and see if the Lord will help us to bring them into these next messages. You may turn your Bibles to Genesis, chapter 1, where we started to draw our thoughts.

The Lord has impressed me to title this "The Trojan Horse." You might say, "That's an unusual title for a gospel message." I have been interested in this notion of, What happened to us as human beings that we are inclined to sin, that we just can't seem to help ourselves, that we're born, and babies have this cute disposition? The Bible tells us that the angels always behold the face of the Father, and Jesus called the children unto Him and said, "Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." So, we know that little children have a special place before God, but somehow the human existence is born into this exile from God.

## ALL HAVE SINNED

At some point, even a cute little child, inevitably, is going to willfully sin. Now, if it weren't that way, then that individual would not need a Savior. If it weren't so, sooner or later, because of his disposition and inclination he could choose not to sin, sin would never be imputed to that individual. He would never be guilty of committing a moral wrong, he could go on about his business and make heaven his home, and he would not need the blood of Jesus to save him. But the Bible tells us that all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. All of us need a Savior. All of us, at any one point in time, would recognize that. Some of us, like me when I was in my 20s, did not know that I needed a Savior. I knew I was lost, but I didn't know that there was a Savior who could save me from my sins. I know that now, but back then I didn't.

If a person is of a sound mind, there's going to come a time in his life when he realizes that by willful choice, he's going to disobey the law of God. Even if he didn't know the law of Christ, his conscience would convict him that he's committed a moral wrong and is separated from God. Everyone of a sound mind will come to that realization unless he's a child that never comes to the knowledge of willful sin. But for the rest of us, if we're around long enough, there's going to come a time in our lives when we realize "I'm lost. I'm separated from God." I studied this carefully, because there are different understandings of all these things, even among good people.

As I said before, I didn't start out the most clever person in terms of gospel understanding. I was a blank

slate. I didn't know anything, and the Lord had to teach me. He had to write His law on my heart. What has helped me through the years is just an intense desire for truth. If we have that intense desire, then I believe we'll never go wrong, because truth, and the desire for truth, will always lead us to God. It will never lead us astray.

Now, the heart is desperately wicked, and who can know it? So we're not talking about desperately wanting to know our own way. That will lead us astray. I really don't care what the outcome is regarding me. But I care more about what is truth. Even if truth is going to cause me some discomfort, and I'm desperately seeking truth at every moment in my life, I'm not afraid of what the answer will be, because it will always lead me to God.

As I thought about the human nature, the origin of sin, the problem of evil, I thought, *let's start at the beginning and see what we can figure out together*, but can we hide behind the Word? Is that okay with you? We'll let the Word stand in front, and we'll hide behind the Word. If we can hide behind the Word, we'll find our way through. Let's find out what the Word has to say about these things and where it leads us. Eventually, this weekend, Lord willing, I think we'll be in Romans, chapters 6, 7, and 8. That's where we're headed, but I wanted to begin in Genesis. Before I got there, I'd like to tell you why I've chosen this title.

## WHERE MY TITLE CAME FROM

So, there's this story in ancient Greece about the Trojan war. Most of it is probably fabled in myth, but anyway, the way the story goes is that the Greeks were besieging the city of Troy. They'd been there a long time, and the siege wasn't lifting. To conquer the city, they decided this ruse to trick the Trojans. They built this wooden horse. It was big enough to hold a company of soldiers—18, 19, 20 men (Greeks). They left it outside the city gates of Troy, and they showed the Trojans that they were all getting in their warships and leaving the coast of Troy, as if they were to go back to Greece. They did so one day, and the Trojans saw all these ships leaving with all the soldiers, and they thought, *aha, the war's over*. And then when they saw this horse outside the city gates, they thought, *Oh, the Greeks have left an honor to the gods. They've left the gift (the big horse) to the gods*.

As they saw the boat sailing away, and figuring they were safe, they opened the city gates and brought the Trojan horse within the city. They closed the gates. The horse stayed that way until nightfall when the soldiers inside opened the belly of the horse, and they climbed down by ropes to the ground. Well, in the meantime, the boats had turned around, as the story goes, and all the soldiers made their way back to the shore and were



now headed back towards the city. Those Greeks who were inside the city opened the gates of the city, and all the soldiers, all the Greeks entered the city and conquered Troy. It happened through this trick, this ruse, of the Trojan horse.

Today, when we speak of a Trojan horse, oftentimes it is in combination with some sort of hidden thing that can cause real harm, like a computer virus. It's often used with computers where there is some kind of program that is hidden in the network or in the software of the program that comes from the outside. It can lay dormant for days, weeks, and months until one day it is activated, and then that Trojan horse can cause great havoc to the enterprise in which it is hidden. So, it's this idea that something is hidden that's not meant to be there, and has potential to cause great damage. Guess what? It doesn't have to activate right away. It can stay there for some period of time before it's activated. Let's think about that.

Go to Genesis, chapter 1, verse 26, and you'll see what I mean by this image that I've drawn with this Trojan horse: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Now, this is the sixth day of creation. Verses 27 and 28: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, [Now, this is important:] Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

### THE HUMAN HEART AFFECTED

On down to verse 31 to the end of the chapter, God said He wanted humanity to be able to dominate the earth, to have dominion over it. Later, He would say He wanted to see what Adam would call the animals. There was no death in what God created, was there? We don't read anything about death. There's nothing about Adam and Eve there that says they were going to die, that it was inevitable that they would die. There's nothing in there about death. The only part of creation in which this is represented is humanity. It's only to humanity that God gives His image. It's not in any of the other animals. It's not in the plants and the trees. Now, this is important, because there are theories that one day will say that what went wrong was just released into the world and not the human heart. But it is the human heart that is the subject of this matter right here. It's not the animals, the rocks, the trees, the ether, and the air. It's the human heart in which God created His image. If something goes wrong, it's going to be wrong in the human heart. It's not going to be wrong in the dogs and the cats. They're going to continue to behave like dogs and cats. It's not the furry bunnies. They're going to continue to be furry bunnies, and they'll create other bunnies after their kind. Sometimes that's a lot of bunnies. So it is not those animals that will be corrupted.

But what happens from the story here, and we know this, is that there is a corruption of what is good, because

what God made was good. He said it was good. But because of disobedience, man corrupts the good. So it's not the other animals that changed in their nature, it's not the other animals that changed in their kind, it's not the other animals that changed in their mind. It's the human that changed. This is important. So man is created in the image of God. I know that we all understand these things, so bear with me.

Let me ask you a question: Is it possible then in any service that there's somebody who doesn't know these things? Is that possible? Then we can all be patient together. We may have heard these things many times, but for someone this might be the first time that they're hearing this. Truth is truth, and there comes a point when we all need to hear truth for the first time.

Genesis, chapter 2, verse 7. We're starting with what's going wrong here. This will matter to all of us. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Do you remember the other night when we talked about God's nature is to create order out of chaos? That's what He does. He takes void and nothing and makes something. Can you see God's nature here? He's taking dust, which has no order, and He's forming it into something. So we see once again God is making order out of nothing.

### HUMANITY UNRAVELED THE ORDER OF GOD

What happens when this story goes wrong is we (humanity), unravel the order of God. We take the order that God has created and turn it once again into chaos. That's why we read in Psalm 40 that He took us out of a horrible pit and set our feet upon a Rock. How did we get in a horrible pit from the image of God? What happened? Something happened. I don't think it was one person who found himself in a horrible pit. It was all of us at one point in time who sinned and found ourselves in a horrible pit. So all of us have taken the order of God and made chaos out of it—everyone here who has a knowledge of good and evil. Now, a little child is not guilty of sin. It's not imputed unto him because he has no knowledge of what he's doing, but all of us who knew right from wrong, and one day we did the wrong, knowing it was wrong, that put us in a horrible pit. So something went wrong from this part to where we ended up. I thought about it, and I thought, *What went wrong? Why did we get here?* Because this is the human experience. Sometimes I struggle when good people start to argue over scripture. I'm thinking, *No; stop it. Let God be true first, and the rest of us a little bit confused.* The Scriptures say, "And every man a liar." I like to say, let God be true, and the rest of us trying to figure it out, because not one of us is quite so clever that we have it all figured out. I think about that.

In verse 7 here of Genesis 2, God created man and he became a living soul. That idea—a living soul. The Hebrews understood *soul* a little bit differently than the Greeks. The Hebrews understood *soul* as part of the body. The body was animated by the soul. It was almost like a unit. That's how the Hebrews understood it. That's a bit important when we start to look at what's going on here. But regardless, God breathed. In John,

chapter 20, after Jesus' resurrection, He breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit." Even the word in Hebrew for *spirit*, it sounds like the action of breathing. *Ruach* is the Hebrew word for spirit. God breathed life into people. Adam was made of the dust of the ground. If we go to Ezekiel, there were a bunch of old bodies and none had life in them, and God breathed life into those old bodies. So God breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul. His body was animated.

Genesis 2, verse 8: "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." This is just the beginning, just a foundation. What's going on? So far, can anyone see anything wrong with what's happened? There's no corruption, right? It's all good. Man has not disobeyed. Everything that's done here so far is the plan of God. As I said the other night, He puts the man in a garden eastward in Eden, and that word *eastward* is the same word which is used for eternal. I love this image that God put man in a time world in an eternal place. God puts man eastward in a garden where there's no sin. It's an eternal presence that's there, and man is communing with God. He's walking with God. It's almost as if he's in a time world that God has created, but there's this eternal connection between man and God in this garden.

### THE ORIGINAL CHOICE

Genesis 2, verses 16-18: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." So, God said, "You can take advantage of everything, but you cannot eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because the day that you do that, you're going to die." There was no death yet in the garden. In the garden was only life. And God said, "I'm giving you a will. I'm going to allow you to make a choice. I'm going to allow you to choose to obey me, even though I realize you will disobey me." The man didn't know that, but God knew it. He said, "I'm going to allow you to have a will," and God still allows each one of us to have a will. We can choose to obey God or we can choose to disobey God. So far so good, right? Furthermore, there's no evidence that man was created destined to disobey. God didn't say, *I'm going to give you free will, but guess what? You are destined to disobey me.* If that were the case, then it's not free will, is it? That's predestination, but man has free will. That means he can choose to obey or choose to disobey. The same is true today. We can choose to obey or we can choose to disobey. But my question is, Why does humanity, inevitably, choose to disobey God? As we said, if it were any other way, then somebody doesn't need a Savior, but all of us of a sound mind, and at such an age of knowledge, we are going to disobey. That's where we're headed. That's what we want to find out. Why is that?

Verse 8 of Genesis 2 is important. It's this connection with the eternal. Verses 16 and 17 are important, because they demonstrate that we are created with will.

By the way, free will is redundant. We either have will or we don't. I never thought of this: the word *free* is actually redundant. Anyway, we can choose to disobey, but we don't have to.

Somebody asked me recently, "Do you think it's possible that Adam and Eve could have stayed in the garden forever? They would still be there today. They would have had lots of children, populated the earth, and would have been in harmony with God. Do you think that's possible?" I would say yes. It has to be yes. Otherwise, they would be predestined to fall. But that is not how God created us. Let me ask you a question: Did God create Adam and Eve in His image? And when God was done on the sixth day, did He say what He had done was good? That means that there was no corrupt inclination in what God had created at the end of that sixth day. That means what God had done was perfect, and there was a will there to obey, and man didn't need to disobey. That's going to be important. There's no Trojan horse yet in this story. There's nothing lurking in the shadows that one day is going to mess all of this up. That hasn't happened yet.

### RETURNING TO THE GARDEN EXPERIENCE

In verse 28 of Genesis 1, God said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." I don't think God gives promises that He doesn't think we can achieve. I think He gives promises that can be achieved. If He told Adam and Eve, "I want you to stay here and make lots of children and name all the animals and there's never going to be death," I believe that was possible. That's important, too. All of this is important. Why? Because one day God gives us a chance to get back into this garden experience. That's the end of the story, that even as we're living here today, there's a way for us to get back into a kind of eternal place with God, even in a time world. There's a way for us to have this corruption undone. That's important. So it's important that we understand *in the beginning* what God did was perfect. It was good. There was no corruption. It was inevitable that Adam would sin. Think about it. Can you imagine a garden on this earth today where there's no sin, no death, and everything is as God ordered it, and there's no chaos, and nothing has been undone, and everyone is walking with God? This was possible. We don't think about this, but what God did was perfect. He said, "Bless them. Be fruitful, and multiply." I don't think this was sort of a false promise. I believe this could have been realized. The thing the Lord impressed me with was, at some point, Adam now makes a big mistake.

Let's keep going. Genesis, chapter 3. Most of us are familiar with the story. The woman eats first of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil has been explained in various ways, but I understand it this way: God retains the exclusive right for what is right and what is wrong. He doesn't delegate that right to us. We don't get to determine what is right and wrong. Only God can do that. So the knowledge of that belongs to His tree, and we don't pluck it, and now determine we'll become as



He is. Because why? Because human beings, inevitably, since the fall of Adam, will corrupt what is good. God does not leave that in our domain. That's why He told Adam and Eve, "You can't eat from that tree." But the woman is deceived by the serpent.

### MAN HAS A FREE WILL

Someone asked, "Is the serpent the Trojan horse you're talking about? Is it just lurking and kind of hidden in the garden?" I would say no. The serpent is there to determine whether the man has free will or not, because without the serpent, there is no temptation. Without temptation, the man doesn't have to choose wrong. There would be no reason to choose wrong. There would be only reason to choose right. But the serpent is there that the man might have a choice to choose wrong. If we have the choice to do right, we also need the choice to do wrong. Otherwise, it's not free will.

Well, "the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise. She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6). Many times sin is not the desire of what is evil, but the desire of what is good. Think about it. Read that verse. Were they tempted of the evil? Were they tempted of wrong? Were they tempted of something bad? No. They were tempted to partake of something good. Some people say, "Sin sometimes is not so much that we want what is bad, but we corrupt what is good." That's the human experience. It tends to corrupt what is good. Food, relationships. They are good things. They are human things. But when the human sometimes desires that which they shouldn't have, they corrupt it, and the corruption of the good becomes evil. So Eve gave to her husband.

Verse 7 of Genesis 3: "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked." Now, they had knowledge of evil, and when they had knowledge of evil, sin was imputed unto them. They became accountable for their sin. Verse 8: "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves." When we know that we've done wrong, and become aware that we committed a moral wrong, we don't want to be in God's presence. Romans, chapter 8, tells us the natural condition of the human before we're regenerated, and before we're occupied by the Holy Spirit, is to hate God. It's enmity against God. So when Adam and Eve sinned, they did not want to be in God's presence. That's what it feels like when somebody sins. We don't want to be around God. We're ashamed.

Verse 9 of Genesis 3: "And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid." The first time we read about fear is after sin appeared. That's why fear is so important to understand. That's why God said, "Perfect love casteth out fear," because when God is, there is no fear. But Adam is fearful. Why? Because he is not *when God is*. Do you see? Because he's not when God is, he's not where He is. He's hiding from God. He doesn't want to be where God is. Why? Because he sinned. He disobeyed.

God asked Adam, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" He said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." The Lord God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

### ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED FLAWLESS

I don't think the serpent is the Trojan horse. Why? Because that would imply that God created humanity with an inherent flaw, an inherent corruption that we call the serpent. That's not what happened in the creation. God created man and woman in perfect harmony with Him without any flaw whatsoever. The Trojan horse is Adam's disobedience. It's Adam's inclination to disobey the law of the God. If we look at the garden as the city of God, when Adam disobeyed (I use Adam and Eve collectively), in this garden, or what we can call the city of God, the perfect place, sin cannot remain there. This is a holy place. This is a place that God walks in. God told the man, "When you eat of this, you're going to die." There is no death in this garden, so the man had to go.

The Trojan horse, if you will, this virus that will infect humanity, was Adam's disobedience. He created it. He built the Trojan horse in the city of God. He built the Trojan horse in the Garden of Eden by his disobedience. But this Trojan horse cannot remain in the garden. So God expelled the man and his wife and the Trojan horse that they had built.

Verses 23 and 24 of Genesis 3: "The Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." So man was expelled. Man was placed in exile from the presence of God. This Trojan that Adam had built by his own disobedience, he was forced to take with him.

Let me go to Romans, chapter 5. To really give the scriptures justice, we have to read chapters before and after to get context. Our intent is not to do damage to any of the scriptures. Let me pause here before I read this scripture. There is a way to read the Bible which tends to help us and not hurt us, and it's called *inductive reasoning*. Inductive reasoning is looking at a text as it's written and allowing the text itself to bring the conclusion to us. The reason it's better this way is, we don't bring our own biases into the text. If we start with a theory, and this is sometimes called the scientific method, we start with a hypothesis (theory), and then we investigate that theory and then we try to determine if the theory is true by our investigation. That's generally called *deductive reasoning*. Some people call it *talk-down reasoning*. But if we allow the text to speak to us and not insert our own opinion in it, we're not trying to prove anything. Let the text prove itself. That's called *bottom-up reasoning* or *inductive reasoning*. I've learned to be very careful not to bring my own theories, my own biases, my own preferences, even my own experiences, and then try to prove it by reading texts.

Sometimes what people do is that they take what's called *proof texts*. They go all over the Bible and grab a scripture here and a scripture here and grab a scripture here. That's called proof texting, and what they're trying to do is they're trying to back and fill into an idea that they have created. That will bring error into truth. But if we allow the Word to just speak to us off the page, sometimes we do better. So I say that to let you know we're not trying to come up with anything new here.

Reading from Romans, chapter 5, verse 12 and 13: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law." We just read this: "Wherefore, as by one man [Adam's fall] sin entered into the world." Now, I might call a person that I respect my brother, but I don't agree with some of the ways this scripture is interpreted. So I want to be respectful of people and how they come to their opinions. I can only teach what I know to be truth. We can only believe what we believe to be truth. We're not going to believe a lie. We can't adopt someone else's teaching just because he says he's right and we're wrong. That's why I say, let God be true, and the rest of us try to figure it out. So when I read, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world," to me, that one man is Adam. Adam disobeyed. When he disobeyed, he was exiled from the garden. When he was exiled, he brought his Trojan horse with him, because God was not going to allow some virus to stay in His garden, some shadowy thing that might cause harm later. So everything that Adam did, it needed to go out into the world with him.

The Bible tells us, when Adam went out into the world, things changed. His wife would conceive in labor, he would till the ground, and there would be thorns and thistles. It was not a garden. The exile of life that we are born into is not a garden experience. You don't have to be a scholar to know this. We're not born into the Garden of Eden, are we? We're born into the exile that was caused by Adam's disobedience. "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin."

Some people have said, "Brother, it wasn't by Adam's disobedience that the rest of us now have some Trojan horse that's causing us to sin." No, no! It wasn't by that. I can't agree with that. It's when we willfully sinned. That's when our nature changed. Adam sinned. The Trojan horse that he created is this disobedience, and it went out into this exile from God with him. Everyone since then who is born into this world is born into this exile from God. That's why we all need a Savior, because the Savior will return us from exile, back into the garden with God. That's the gospel story. The gospel story from beginning to end is a story of exile and return. Exile from Egypt, return to Canaan; exile from Babylon, return to Jerusalem; exile from the presence of God, return to the presence of God. We are born into this exile of the world from the presence of God.

Now, somebody says, "Brother, look at the word *world*. What happened is, Adam corrupted the world. He didn't corrupt the next human heart." That's a misreading of the Scriptures. When Adam sinned, it is

the world which is corrupted, all of the creation of God which can be corrupted by Adam's sin. It's the cosmos. Remember, God is the God who takes chaos and makes order out of it. When a person sins, he takes that order and makes chaos out of it. He reverses it. So the world that God's talking about here is not the rocks, the air, the animals, the sky, and the stars. That's not the world. The world is the human heart. We are part of the creation. We are part of the cosmos of God. So when Adam sinned, sin entered into this cosmos. This is not recognized by some. This is not being taught by some. It's not fair to somehow say that when Adam sinned, he sort of released this Pandora box, this Trojan horse, but all that it did it was sort of release death into the world. That makes no sense. It's not consistent with the story we read.

We read about an image that was perfect, and a free will that could stay there and be fruitful and multiply, and now we're reading about disobedience that puts us out in exile from God. So it's not about some nebulous death. When Adam sinned, what happened was, his Trojan horse opened, and it released this exile in the human experience that all of us now begin with.

Let's go to Genesis, chapter 6, verse 5: This is obviously after Adam is out into the world and his children and his children's children. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." And so, this Trojan horse that Adam has brought with him into the exile of the world, has released something in the human heart, because now the imagination of the human heart is only evil *continually*. The Hebrew word for this is "inclination." You might say "imagination," but you could also say "inclination." Since Adam has released this Trojan horse into our world, what has happened to our hearts is that when we were born, we were inclined to evil. That's what the word *imagination* means. In the Hebrew, it's *yitsira*—inclined to evil. So, the human heart, the experience of humanity can be exiled from God, from the garden, and is now inclined to evil. That's what this Trojan horse does. It inclines us to evil, and Adam released it upon us.

### AN INCLINATION TOWARD SIN

Everyone who is born has this inclination. If it weren't so, then some of us would either be neutral or inclined to good. If that were so, that person doesn't need a Savior. So, it must be true that all of us of a sound mind, of such a knowledge, are inclined to evil, and one day we're going to act upon that temptation, and when we do, we die. Sin is not imputed where there is no knowledge, but when we have knowledge of right and wrong because we are inclined to the evil, we will die. At that point, we need a Savior.

Well, the reason all of this is important. We have two problems, don't we? One of our problems is that at a point in time, we realize we have committed sin in violation of the will of God. For those, we need a Savior, and we need to be forgiven for those sins that we've committed against God. That's what we do when we come to the altar and we bow and say, "Lord, I'm sorry for the mess I made in my life because you gave me a good start, but I chose to sin." God forgives us. In that



moment, we come out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.

The second problem is, we've had this inclination to do evil. That, too, has to be dealt with. It's sort of like, Bro. Brian and I are walking (*illustration on rostrum*). He's coming this way toward me down a hallway. Imagine if you would that we're coming at 90 degrees and we're going to round the corner. I don't see him, he doesn't see me, and we're walking, and "Oh, I'm sorry." I don't want to make him mad. Look, he might have run into me, but if I injured him in some way, what should I do? You don't pass by people and say, "Hey, no problem. Watch where you're going." We apologize, right? That's what people do when they realize they've sinned against God. They come and apologize. It's no different than if you hurt somebody else. We apologize. It's normal. It's ordinary.

But now, listen to this. Let's say the reason Bro. Brian and I collided was because I have a habit of being careless. I'm going to keep running into him. I'm going to keep causing him injuries. Why? Because I have a careless habit of not paying attention to where I'm going. So I have two problems. The first one I took care of when I apologized, but now I have a second problem, and that is, I have a habit which is going to cause this to keep happening. This is where we're headed in the book of Romans. The apostle Paul said, "I had a habit of causing injury to God. Yes, I can apologize, but I need more than that. I need some way to deal with this." We would say, "No, I'm not going to have this problem." The apostle Paul is saying, "I need some way to deal with this inclination." That's the solution to the second problem. I'm just looking at this in the human perspective.

### PEOPLE HAVE TWO PROBLEMS

People have two problems. One is, they cause harm or injury, but the other one is, they have this inclination that tilts the wrong way. God says He has the solutions to both of these problems. Now, the reason that I tilt the wrong way, the apostle Paul says, "It's because of my flesh." In other words, I have a material mind that is enmity or is hatred toward God. That's how I'm wired. It came from Adam. I know some folks won't agree with that. That's my experience. That's how I read it. I have an inclination. It came from Adam. He released it into my human experience. Somebody may ask, "How did that happen?" I don't know. I'm not a biologist. Does it matter? Some of this seem self-evident to me, so I say, "Lord, I need a solution for this second problem. My flesh tends to dominate your Spirit. I want to not injure the brother, but I keep doing it." So God says, "I have a solution for that as well. If you'll invite my Spirit to dominate you, and not only to dominate, but to neutralize your flesh, then my Spirit will keep you in harmony with me."

I have been paying very careful attention lately to what my spirit is. Am I conscious of the Spirit of God? Is the Spirit of God truly directing my walk? We can say we have the Spirit of God, but if He's not truly directing our walk, then this inclination can once again rise up and dominate. That can happen. A person can backslide.

May 2025

What is the apostle Paul saying to us in the book of Romans about this second problem? We kind of get the solution to the first one, which is "I apologize for the sins I've committed." But what about this spirit? That's important. I think we know enough as we close this service. If a person feels like, "You know, Brother, I really want to make heaven my home. I want to be okay with God, but Brother, I wonder if I have this inclination to do evil." I believe if we invite God to sit on the throne of our hearts as His Spirit, then He can deal with that inclination to do evil.

### CONCLUSION

This will make more sense to some, perhaps, as time goes on, but we have to introduce it somehow the first time. So we'll leave this much with you, and let the Lord do the rest. Pray for us that He'll help us to get through the rest in the next message.

Thank you for your attention. †

## BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

### THE FAMILY OF GOD THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST

**Scriptures:** Romans 8:17; Matthew 12:46-50; Hebrews 2:11; Matthew 28:10; Romans 8:29.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Matthew 12:46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Hebrews 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Matthew 28:10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Memory Verse:** And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.—Luke 8:21.

**Aim:** To show the brotherly characteristics of Christ in the family of God.

### INTRODUCTION

Did you ever stop to think that we who are saints of God are sons of God and brothers of Christ, that we are joint-heirs with Christ to the realms of eternal

glory? This truly should make us shout and praise God for His goodness unto us. What have we done to merit such a priceless favor? Nothing. It is just the goodness of God. The Word says, "Fear not, little flock: for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Dear Ones, this should thrill our very souls and put new determination in our hearts that we may stay on fire for God and be faithful unto the end.

## MEDITATIONS

**OUR INHERITANCE—Romans 8:17—And if children, then heirs**—We cannot imagine what our part of the inheritance will be like; but we know that it will be more wonderful and more glorious than anything our finite minds have comprehended in this time world. Let us note the latter part of the verse: "If ... we suffer with him ..." How little modern Christendom knows about suffering! It has resorted to sectarian organizations to avoid the pressure of persecution and remove the reproach of Christ. If we shrink from God-appointed suffering, there is danger of our losing God out of our soul, thus bringing about the loss of our inheritance and of our being "glorified" with Him.

**HUMAN USE OF PRESTIGE—Matthew 12:46—While he yet talked**—Fleshly relationship does not give any priority in the sight of God. Belonging to a powerful organization dominated by man does not, either. Wealth, fame, or learning is no indication of divine approval. It is the change of heart that makes us all brethren in the sight of God. This is the only thing that God recognizes. First, seek the kingdom of God, and the necessary things of life shall be added as needed. There are no "big I's and little you's" in the kingdom of God. We are all brothers, and all are equal in the great family of God. We are all interested in one another; for when one member of the body suffers, we all suffer. Galatians 6:2 tells us, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." **Verse 47—Then one said**—The multitude was, seemingly, of the same opinion, that fleshly relationship granted special privileges. The same is true today with the multitudes; they think that relationship gives special privileges. But not so with God, for He is no respecter of persons. We all receive the same consideration under like conditions.

In James 2:9 we read, "But if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

**WE ARE ALL BRETHREN IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD—Matthew 12:48**—Who is my mother and who are my brethren?—He asked this question to set them to thinking so that they would be ready for the truth of His answer. The Word tells us that we were created for God's own pleasure. The world affords everything that is needful for material happiness and pleasure, if it were only put to the use God intended it should be. If all the people would obey God, those who have much would give more to help those who have little. He has given us richly all things to enjoy. **Verse 49—And he stretched forth**—There was a short pause, giving the people an opportunity to think upon His question. His answer showed that He placed emphasis upon spiritual relationship rather than fleshly

relationship. He pointed toward His disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren!" How impartial He was! His disciples, His brethren in the Spirit, were just as dear to Him as His real mother and brethren. This is still true today. We do love our brothers and sisters in Christ, for there is a warmth of fellowship existing between us that the world knows nothing about. Praise God.

**THE WILL OF GOD—Matthew 12:50—For whosoever shall do**—No one can consistently perform the entire will of God without being in the family of God, without, at the same time, being a brother or sister to everyone in the family of God. Division in this time world that separates the family of God into unconnected groups is not of God and should be forsaken. The family of God, of all families in the earth, should be able to get along and dwell together in peace. This is God's desire, for He says in His Word, I Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Now what are we going to do about this command? Do you think God will permit us to do just as we please about it? No, we are going to have to answer to Him for disobeying this command just the same as any other. It is not the Father's will that Christians separate themselves into different groups and have different beliefs and creeds.

**ALL ARE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS—Hebrews 2:11—For both he that sanctifieth**—Though Christ is greater in power and might than we are, still He is not ashamed to call us brethren, for He says that the Sanctifier and the sanctified are all one, for we are in Christ, and He is in us. This is according to Jesus' prayer, "That they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be a brother to Christ, and we should strive earnestly to be worthy of the honor God has so unselfishly and lovingly bestowed upon us.

**BROTHERHOOD BEYOND THE RESURRECTION—Matthew 28:10—See me**—Christ had earthly brethren (which fact false prophets deny), but the reference here is to the spiritual brotherhood. There is no doubt that Christ left this earth in His physical body, but before He seated Himself by the Father, His body was glorified. This is evidenced by John's description of Him in Revelation 1. Brotherhood in Christ is further emphasized by the words of John when he said that we shall be like Him in the resurrection (I John 3:2).

**GOD DESIRES A LARGE FAMILY—Romans 8:29—Among many brethren**—The will of God is that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The likeness of the brethren unto Jesus is proven by the words that the brethren are to be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus. Many sons will enter into the kingdom of God, but the number is shockingly less than the number that will be eternally lost. "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, ... and few there be that find it!"—Matthew 7:13.



## CONCLUSION

I trust that the study of this lesson has made us more conscious that we as the children of God are just one family and that we should be interested in the welfare of God's children everywhere. Paul has instructed us to pray for all saints everywhere. Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How are we brothers in Christ?
2. How are we to be like Christ?
3. How can we show our appreciation of God's great favor in elevating us to the brotherhood of Christ?
4. Why did Jesus say that He was not ashamed to call us brethren?
5. What is meant by Christ's being our Intercessor?
6. Is God pleased with the division that is in the religious world?
7. How can this be avoided?
8. Quote one scripture that condemns division. †



Dear Young People,

Greetings! This month's article was an exhortation given by Sis. Diane Little in a Wednesday evening service. We thought we would share it with all our readers, not just the young, through the Young People's Page. It was such a blessing to the congregation, reminding us of Jesus' great love for mankind. It is good for us to endeavor to see people through the eyes of Jesus. He sees each soul with potential.

Jesus said in John 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Our prayer is that we will remember the great price that was paid for our salvation. May we each treasure our salvation. It is the pearl of great price. We exhort you to do as Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

—Bro. Doug

## JESUS' LOVE FOR ALL SINNERS

By: Sis. Diane Little

**W**HEN WE THINK of Jesus' love for the penitent sinner, our minds usually go automatically to Jesus' death at Calvary. However, His love covers much more than Calvary. Have you thought of the love that went into God's plan for the earthly experiences that Jesus endured, so that He could show us all that it is possible to live victoriously for God while on Earth? Can you fathom how great His love was for each of us that day He died? Are you truly aware of the precious lifelong and eternal gifts that were made available for us that day?

God was so angry because mankind had sinned against Him that He wanted to destroy man. Because of Jesus' great love, He volunteered to come to earth to die for each of us to appease God and atone for all our sins. Despite God's anger and because of His love for us, too, He sent Jesus, His Son, to earth. Jesus gave up all the comforts of paradise in heaven to be born in a damp, smelly stable with just a manger of hay for His bed. He grew up with loving earthly parents and siblings. But when it came time for Him to fulfill "His heavenly Father's business," He then left the comforts of His earthly home, too. Wherever He went, multitudes followed Him or gathered to listen to His message of love or to heckle Him. Many times He was so weary that He just wanted to get away from the crowds. Still the crowds followed Him, but never once did He turn anyone away. All because His desire and His great love was that they all should know redemption and have eternal life.

As the time drew near for Him to make the ultimate sacrifice, He went into the wilderness for 40 days and nights to fast and pray so He would have the strength to face Calvary. Nothing but His love and the desire for us to have eternal life enabled Him to brave the hunger and dehydration He experienced during this trial and to prevail over it. He showed us that we, too, can prevail over any obstacle or trial.

How would you feel if you were honored as King one week by the crowds and then the next week be treated as a lowly criminal and crucified? Would you still be able to love those people and not retaliate? Jesus was betrayed by His closest friends, falsely accused by many, whipped on His back, and adorned with a crown of thorns. He was made to carry His cross up Calvary's hill while in great pain from the stripes on His back and the thorns on His brow. He was nailed to the cross and someone even stabbed Him in His side. Through all of this He could have said, "You don't deserve my love. I'm done with all of you and I'm going home." And He could have retaliated at any time against them. Instead He stayed on the cross praying that God would not lay this sin to their charge. Even in such great pain, He had compassion for the thief who acknowledged Him as Christ and asked to be remembered. Jesus gave him the best answer a dying person could hear: "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise." Through Jesus' death and resurrection He provided salvation, healing, and life eternal for all who will believe. What greater love can be found anywhere?

Today, Jesus still seeks every sinner in the highways, byways, and wildernesses of life. When He finds them, He stands in the shadows whispering gentle reminders of His love and care, and He consistently knocks on their heart's door seeking entrance. When they answer, He graciously gifts them with forgiveness, mercy, compassion, sanctification, and eternal life. But His love doesn't stop there. He sends the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to guide them daily in the way of truth. Those stripes He bore on His back make healing possible for those who suffer afflictions. He gives God's power within and provides a daily supply of all sufficient grace, so they can conquer every fiery trial and have the strength to carry on in every time of weakness. Jesus also gifts

them with a hope for tomorrow, a peace that passeth all understanding, and an overflowing joy that puts a song in their hearts. Jesus' presence lives within them and surrounds them, providing a light for their paths, especially during the darkest periods of their lives. He becomes their guide, friend, companion, and personal instructor on the road to heaven with the promise that they will never travel alone. God's wealth of gifts available to the penitent sinners are too numerous to list, but the greatest gift Jesus bestows is His everlasting love—a love that is so wide, so long, so high, and so deep that the human mind cannot begin to comprehend it—and a love that continues for all eternity.

Aren't you glad that Jesus was willing to come to earth to experience humanity and to die for you? Aren't you glad that He searched and found you when you were a lost sinner? Aren't you glad that you accepted His great love and can now enjoy the many lifelong and eternal gifts He purchased for you with His blood and love? I know I am, and I am so thankful for His great love.

Remember, no matter what trials come your way, Jesus' love encompasses you and will see you through them every time. †



These questions and answers are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book* 1946-2001.

**Q**UESTION: I Corinthians 3:8 and other scriptures declare that God will reward people according to their works. Does that mean man will get his reward or punishment on Earth or after death?

**A**NSWER: God said of those who had forsaken all for Him that they should receive in this present world and also in the world to come, the reward of everlasting life. This is the universal language of the Scriptures. Men are punished in this life because of their sins. The Bible teaches that in the world to come men will be rewarded or punished according to their works in this world. So there is both a present and a future reward for the righteous and punishment for the wicked. May we keep our eyes on the Lord and be faithful to Him.

**Q**UESTION: Please explain whether there were any books Moses was referring to when writing the book of Genesis. (b) Was the family of Jacob learned before they went to Egypt? (c) What generation was Moses from Jacob? (d) Genesis 50:14—After the burial of Jacob, Joseph and his brothers went back to Egypt—why? Was the famine over in Canaan?

**A**NSWER: We understand the art of writing goes back at least 4000 years B.C. Moses would have had access to at least some “books” while living in Egypt.

However, I believe facts were what he wrote in Genesis that had been passed down from generation to generation, and things that God directly inspired him to write.

(b) The word “learned” covers quite a lot! I am sure they were *learned* in various ways, but to what extent, I am not able to say.

(c) The Bible, as you know, does not inform us as far as giving the genealogy of these families, so we cannot know for certain.

Adam Clarke quotes a Mr. Ainsword as saying the 400 year period, spoken of in Genesis 15:13, started when Ishmael mocked Isaac—Genesis 21:9. If Isaac was around seven at that time, it means Jacob was born around 33 to 35 years after the start of the four hundred year period started, for Isaac was 40 when he got married. (Rebekah could not conceive at first, and did not until after Isaac sought the Lord—Genesis 25:21—so we are not sure how old Isaac was when the twins were born.)

Assuming 35 years being close, then we have Moses around 80 when he led the children of Israel out of Egypt, which means he was born 80 years before the 400 year period was up. Putting the two together—or taking 115 years off the 400, you have around 285 years between the birth of Jacob and Moses. Of course we cannot say for certain.

(d) Because Joseph promised Pharaoh he would—Genesis 50:5. Also, doubtless, parts of their families remained in Egypt. In addition, many of those that went with Joseph were Egyptians—verse 7.

**Q**UESTION: In Mark 9:24, what does the father of the son with the dumb spirit mean by saying, “I believe, help thou mine unbelief”?

**A**NSWER: The man, doubtless, had heard of things Jesus had done, and he desired help for his son. But when Jesus told him, in effect, “The question is not whether I can do anything (verse 22), but whether you can believe,” the man did his best to believe, but still felt his need of help to overcome doubts. So he asked the Lord to help him, which the Lord did, for the son was delivered, thank the Lord.

**Q**UESTION: How do we treat sin in the church in the light of these verses: Galatians 6:1, 2; Romans 15:1, 2; II Timothy 2:24, in order not to cause disunity?

**A**NSWER: First, let me say, it is my understanding that no sinner is in the Church of God. “All her members are redeemed” (see John 10:9).

It is possible of course, that a person can backslide and still **claim** to be in the church, and it is possible for a person to profess and meet with the saints, without ever having been saved, but such are not really **IN** the church.

Galatians 6:1 speaks of one being overtaken in a fault. I do not understand the word fault here to mean he has committed an imputed sin. In an unguarded

The Way of Truth



moment, in a time of deep distress, he has made a mistake, possibly a serious one. Now he feels bad, he realizes he did something unwise, he needs help. He doesn't need to be pushed further down. He needs love, understanding and gentle correction. "Ye which are spiritual," you who are stronger help him, and do it in a "spirit of meekness."

If a person has actually sinned, still try to win him back to the Lord.

Romans 15:1, 2—Here again, I do not understand Paul to be speaking of sin. This instruction must be viewed in light of what has just been said in chapter 14, "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputation" (verse 1).

Do not use your liberty in the gospel in such a way that it will cause a weak brother to fall. Show love, concern, and interest in him.

II Timothy 2:24—Paul here is giving instructions to ministers, and I suppose we could say it is good for all Christians; but "servants of the Lord" should always keep in mind that they are to be soul winners, not soul destroyers, and they must not try to force or make people accept the truth. You cannot really force the truth on anyone, anyway. A love for the truth must come from within each heart. Now ministers are to contend for the faith, they are to be firm in their stand for the truth, but do so in a spirit of love and concern for souls.


If these instructions are carried out, it should produce unity, not disunity. †

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## IN SIN DID MY MOTHER CONCEIVE ME

BY THE LATE BRO. H. R. MATTHEWS

### Carnality Defined

 AMONG THE countless spirits that exist in the spirit world, we find the spirit of carnality, and although it is a spirit it carries with it an absence of that which is spiritual in the sense of creating a pure and holy atmosphere. At the same time, it carries with it an influence of worldly and fleshly conduct. It is a spirit that plants the seed of sin in the hearts of the entire human race.

### Is Carnality an Eternal Entity?

Although carnality came into existence before time, as we know it, it is not an eternal entity, for it came into existence through an angel that was created before the world began. Both Peter and Jude allude to this in their epistles. "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Peter 2:4).

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 1:6).

*Adam Clark's commentary* on these verses is as follows: "The angels were originally placed in a state of probation; some having fallen and some having stood

proves this. How long that probation was to last them, and what was the particular test of their fidelity, we know not; nor indeed do we know what was their sin; nor when and how they fell." The fact that they fell placed them in a state of carnality which probably did not exist up to the time that they fell.

The understanding of the carnal nature is very limited and many would deny that it ever existed, but this we do know, the carnal nature did not come from the creative hand of a pure, holy God, and when He created Adam and Eve, He created them in His own image. The carnal nature, at that time existed only among the angels that kept not their first estate.

Although Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, their Creator, their pilgrimage on Earth was one of probation; in other words, they were free moral agents, meaning that they were created with the ability to make choices, moral, or otherwise. Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful Garden of Eden where they had sweet fellowship with their Creator, God. Nevertheless, God gave them a single command: they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### God's Image Lost by the Birth of Carnality Into the Family of Man

Unfortunately, the prince of devils, the fallen angel who was the father of carnality, was walking about as a roaring lion seeking to plant his spirit of carnality in the hearts of the newly created Adam and Eve. He had only the one command through which to tempt those whose lives expressed the image of God. Satan initiated this temptation by approaching the woman God had given Adam. God had warned Adam that in the day that they ate of the fruit from the tree in the midst of the garden, they would surely die. Satan, the father of lies, assured the woman that they would not surely die. When Eve saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she yielded to the temptation and did eat of the fruit and gave to her husband and he did eat. The image of God was instantly lost and the spirit of carnality was instantly born into the family of man, plunging the entire human race into sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Because of their disobedience, Satan was now permitted to plant the seed of sin into every conception occurring in the womb of all future mothers. This truth was fixed in the heart and mind of King David: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). King David was not implying here that his conception was the result of a sinful act on the part of his mother. What he was saying is that he inherited carnality at the time of his conception. "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Psalm 58:3). David was not saying in this verse that there is sin guiltiness within the breast of the newborn. It is true, however, that the wickedness of the wicked sprang from an inherited carnality that was present within the heart at the time of birth. Although man inherited the carnal nature, he does not bear the guilt for its existence within his heart; however, he does bear the guilt of sinful deeds he chooses to commit because of

the enemy within. It must be understood that God is in control. Only by God's permission is Satan able to perpetrate his evil deeds. A study of the book of Job makes it clear that all that Job suffered at the hands of Satan could not have happened without the permission of God.

### **There Is Hope**

Even though the penalty of sin is so severe, yet there is hope: "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" (John 3:16). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "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). Jesus paid the debt of sin we could not pay.

The sin by which Saul of Tarsus died as he emerged from the age of innocence we know not, but we do know that he became the vile enemy of the religion of Jesus Christ, and it was not until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus that he repented of his sins, but he was three days in fasting and prayer before God sent Ananias who laid his hands on Saul and he received his sight, and was baptized with the Holy Ghost by which he was cleansed of the carnal nature. Saul, now Paul, said this of himself, "For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died" (Romans 7:9). In paraphrasing Paul's declaration, it would read thus: "While I was yet at the age of innocence, I was alive spiritually, but when I attained the age of understanding right from wrong, the seed of sin [carnal nature] planted in my heart by Satan at the time of my conception within my mother's womb, was stirred, and I died a spiritual death."

### **Personal Sins Forgiven, but the Seed of Sin yet Remained**

As the spirit of evangelism flowed through the veins of Jesus and His seventy disciples, Jesus sent them out to preach the pure gospel and to heal the sick throughout the countryside. Jesus never sent an unclean vessel to proclaim the good news. When the disciples returned to Jesus rejoicing that demons were subject unto them and that the sick were healed, Jesus said unto them, "Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). At that time, the Spirit had not yet come and Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit was with them, and would be in them. For their names to be written in heaven meant that the guilt of sin had been removed, but the sin nature would remain until the second cleansing which would take place through Holy Ghost baptism. This was the promise that was to be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

In speaking of a cleaning taking place, Paul, in addressing the husbands, said, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:25, 26). Acts 2:47 informs us, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." If then the

church has been cleansed from committed sin, what must the second cleansing of the church comprehend? The Bible teaches a cleansing in justification through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament tabernacle had only two rooms, with each room having but one entrance. To enter the first room (justification), there had to be a blood offering at the brazen altar just outside the entrance to the first room. Just outside the entrance to the second room was located the golden altar. For the priest to enter the second room (sanctification), it was necessary for blood from the brazen altar to be applied to the four horns attached to the golden altar. From this we understand that the two applications of blood provided for two cleansings. How beautifully this typifies the blood of Jesus providing for the two cleansings, the first in justification or pardon for committed sin, the second for sanctification or a cleansing from the seed of sin, or the carnal nature. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12).

### **Does a Sinner Receive Holy Ghost Baptism at the Time of Repentance?**

It was not possible to enter both rooms simultaneously, nor was it possible to enter the second without first passing through the first room; justification therefore, must always precede sanctification. Sanctification may closely follow but never simultaneously. If justification and sanctification were received simultaneously, there would have been no need for the upper room experience on the day of Pentecost.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). The natural man is the man who is yet dead in trespasses and sins. The one hundred and twenty who were in one accord in the upper room on the day of Pentecost were not a bunch of sinners. They were believers in Christ who had been instructed to go to Jerusalem and await the promise of the Father, which was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Then and only then could their bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

### **Is it Possible for a Saved and Sanctified Saint of God to be Tempted by a Carnal Spirit?**

First of all, let me say that a road has a ditch on either side. On the one side the ditch is labeled compromise. The ditch on the opposite side of the road is labeled fanaticism. It is the intent of every carnal spirit to get the saint of God mired down in one ditch or the other. Let us find the center of the road and maintain our course there. To teach that a saved and sanctified saint of God is exempt from temptation is fanaticism. The source of every temptation is a carnal spirit. Show me a saved and sanctified saint of God who has never been tempted with ill-feelings toward a brother. In meeting this temptation, we must maintain the center of the road by going to the brother and to him alone and handling the offense in the Bible way; but of course, we will be tempted with carnality. Even though the

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enemy has been evicted and is on the outside, he is still our enemy and will be till this mortal shall put on immortality, but thank God, the Holy Spirit is still our Comforter in times of tribulation. The writer once heard a minister say that there is never a stir in the life of a sanctified saint. Beware of such teaching, for it is false holiness. Temptation is not sin; it is the yielding to temptation that is sin.

### **The Carnal Spirit Preys on the Fleshly Mind**

The fleshly mind is that mind that pursues the lusts of the natural man, thus becoming carnally minded. Let us consider the wisdom of the apostle Paul as he penned the following thoughts to the Church of God in Rome: "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ... Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Romans 8:5-13).

### **The Necessity of Putting Saints in Remembrance**

In his greeting to the Church of God in Rome, Paul addressed the brethren in the following manner: "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world" (Romans 1:7, 8). Paul could hardly have greeted the church with a higher recommendation than this. Why then did he give them the chapter eight discourse on the subject of carnality? Perhaps this can best be understood by considering the warning given by the writer of the Hebrew epistle to the Hebrew church: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we which have heard, lest at any time we should let the slip" (Hebrews 2:1). Let also consider the words of wisdom penned by the apostle Peter: "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance" (II Peter 1:12, 13).

### **The Interstate Highway is Broad and the Plazas are Attractive That Line the Heavily Traveled Highway That Terminates at the City of Carnality**

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Hebrews 2:1).

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). †

## **THE STRENGTH OF FAITH**

*"Tell me I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth.—Judges 16:6.*

Where lies the secret strength of faith? It lies in the food it feeds on; for faith studies what the promise is—an emanation of divine grace, an overflowing of the great heart of God; and faith says, "My God could not have given this promise, except from love and grace; therefore it is quite certain His Word will be fulfilled." Then faith thinks, "Who gave this promise?" It considers not so much its greatness, as, "Who is the author of it?" She remembers that it is God who cannot lie—God omnipotent, God immutable; and therefore concludes that the promise must be fulfilled; and forward she advances in this firm conviction. She remembers, why the promise was given,—namely, for God's glory, and she feels perfectly sure that God's glory is safe, that He will never stain His own escutcheon, nor mar the luster of His own crown; and therefore the promise must and will stand. Then faith also considers the amazing work of Christ as being a clear proof of the Father's intention to fulfill His word. "He that spared not His own Son, but [freely] delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Moreover faith looks back upon the past, for her battles have strengthened her, and her victories have given her courage. She remembers that God never has failed her; nay, that He never did once fail any of His children. She recollects times of great peril, when deliverance came; hours of awful need, when as her day her strength was found, and she cries, "No, I never will be led to think that He can change and leave His servant now. Hitherto the Lord hath helped me, and He will help me still." Thus faith views each promise in its connection with the promise-giver, and, because she does so, can with assurance say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!" †

—Taken from Charles Spurgeon's *Morning and Evening Readings*

## **IMPOSSIBILITIES**

Faith laughs at impossibilities, and says "it shall be done." Abraham's faith was adventurous when he went out, not knowing whither he went. Every promise claimed is a promise possessed. Believe, and thou shalt see. Those who are afraid of the deep will not catch many fishes. Have the courage to "launch out." We need pioneers in the realms of faith as well as in the dark places of the earth, and no other field of exploration can ever yield such rewards, for "every place where the sole of your feet shall tread upon shall be yours." †

—Selected

*"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."—Hebrews 11:6. †*

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|------------------------------|------------------------|
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| A divine Christ              | John 1:1, 14           |
| An infallibly inspired Bible | II Timothy 3:16        |
| Salvation from sin           | Matthew 1:21           |
| The new birth                | John 3:1-7             |
| Entire Sanctification        | Ephesians 5:25, 26     |
| 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      |
| Eternal life                 | Matthew 25:46          |
|                              | John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28 |
| Eternal punishment           | Mark 9:43-46           |
|                              | Revelation 20:15       |

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|                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
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| It has a good foundation           | Ephesians 2:20       |
|                                    | I Corinthians 3:11   |
| 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         |