

# The Way of Truth

Vol. 84

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

No. 8

*“That Ye Bear Much Fruit”*

*See page 13*



September 2025



## 16 DESCRIPTIONS OF TRUE LOVE

**F**ROM THE WORD of God, our generation can learn what true love is. Unfortunately, the modern understanding of love is little more than the lust of the flesh. But true love is so much more. It is the glue that holds relationships together. Charity or love is what this old world needs more of in its purist form.

I remember reading the comments of the late Adam Clarke concerning I Corinthians 13:4-8, featuring the sixteen particulars emphasized by the apostle which are the following—

**Verse 4. (1.) Charity suffereth long**—Has a long mind; to the end of which neither trials, adversities, persecutions, nor provocations, can reach. The love of God, and of our neighbor for God's sake, is patient towards all men: it suffers all the weakness, ignorance, errors, and infirmities of the children of God; and all the malice and wickedness of the children of this world; and all this, not merely for a time, but long, without end; for it is still a mind or disposition, to the end of which trials, difficulties, etc., can never reach. It also waits God's time of accomplishing His gracious or providential purposes, without murmuring or repining; and bears its own infirmities, as well as those of others, with humble submission to the will of God.

**(2.) Is kind**—It is tender and compassionate in itself, and kind and obliging to others; it is mild, gentle, and benign; and, if called to suffer, inspires the sufferer with the most amiable sweetness, and the most tender affection. It is also submissive to all the dispensations of God; and creates trouble to no one.

**(3.) Charity envieth not**—Is not grieved because another possesses a greater portion of earthly, intellectual, or spiritual blessings. Those who have this pure love rejoice as much at the happiness, the honor, and comfort of others, as they can do in their own. They are ever willing that others should be preferred before them.

**(4.) Charity vaunteth not itself**—This word is variously translated; "acteth not rashly, insolently; is not inconstant, etc." There is a phrase in our own language that expresses what I think to be the meaning of the original, does not set itself forward—does not desire to be noticed or applauded; but wishes that God may be all in all.

**(5.) Is not puffed up**—Is not inflated with a sense of its own importance; for it knows it has nothing but what it has received; and that it deserves nothing that it has got. Every man, whose heart is full of the love of God, is full of humility; for there is no man so humble as he whose heart is cleansed from all sin. It has been said that indwelling sin humbles us; never was there a greater falsity: PRIDE is the very essence of sin; he who has sin has pride, and pride too in proportion to his sin. True humility arises from a sense of the fullness of God in the soul.

**Verse 5. (6.) Doth not behave itself unseemly**—Love never acts out of its place or character; observes

due decorum and good manners; is never rude, bearish, or brutish; and is ever willing to become all things to all men, that it may please them for their good to edification. No ill-bred man, or what is termed rude or unmannerly, is a Christian. A man may have a natural bluntness, or be a clown, and yet there be nothing boorish or hoggish in his manner. I must apologize for using such words; they best express the evil against which I wish both powerfully and successfully to declaim. I never wish to meet with those who affect to be called "blunt, honest men;" who feel themselves above all the forms of respect and civility, and care not how many they put to pain, or how many they displease. But let me not be misunderstood; I do not contend for ridiculous ceremonies, and hollow compliments; there is surely a medium: and a sensible Christian man will not be long at a loss to find it out.

**(7.) Seeketh not her own**—Is not desirous of her own spiritual welfare only, but of her neighbour's also. Love is never satisfied but in the welfare, comfort, and salvation of all. That man is no Christian who is solicitous for his own happiness alone; and cares not how the world goes, so that himself be comfortable.

**(8.) Is not easily provoked**—Is not provoked, is not irritated, is not made sour or bitter. How the word easily got into our translation it is hard to say; but, however it got in, it is utterly improper ... The apostle's own words in I Corinthians 13:7, are a sufficient proof that the love of which he speaks can never be provoked. However favorably we may think of our own state, and however industrious we may be to find out excuses for sallies of passion, etc., still the testimony of God is, Love is not provoked; and if I have not such a love, whatever else I may possess, it profiteth me nothing.

**(9.) Thinketh no evil**—"Believes no evil where no evil seems." Never supposes that a good action may have a bad motive; gives every man credit for his profession of uprightness, godly zeal, etc., while nothing is seen in his conduct or in his spirit inconsistent with this profession. His heart is so governed and influenced by the love of God, that he cannot think of evil but where it appears. The original implies that he does not invent or devise any evil; or, does not reason on any particular act or word so as to infer evil from it; for this would destroy his love to his brother; it would be ruinous to charity and benevolence.

**Verse 6. (10.) Rejoiceth not in iniquity**—Rejoiceth not in falsehood, but on the contrary, rejoiceth in the truth. At first view, this character of love seems to say but little in its favor; for who can rejoice in unrighteousness or falsity? But is it not a frequent case that persons, who have received any kind of injury, and have forborne to avenge themselves, but perhaps have left it to God; when evil falls upon the sinner do console themselves with what appears to them an evidence that God has avenged their quarrels; and do at least secretly rejoice that the man is suffering for his

### ABOUT THE COVER

It is required that every child of God bear much good fruit. We testify as to our heart's condition by the outward manifestation of our actions. Our former editor dealt with this subject through a radio message he preached many years ago.

# THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 83

September 2025

No. 8

*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.*

Published by the Church of God which assembles at 12819 Point Salem Road in Hagerstown, Maryland. Publishing office: 12811 Point Salem Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

*The Way of Truth* is published without any given subscription price, and is supported by freewill offerings from our readers and funds supplied by the local congregation. It is sent out free to anyone who is interested enough to ask for it. We shall continue this policy as long as God sees fit to make it possible. FOREIGN READERS are requested to write us at least once a year if they wish to continue receiving the paper the following year. Address all correspondence to: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741, U.S.A. Always when writing, give your name and address clearly, please.

—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

Our telephone number is 301-739-2980

Our e-mail address is [truth@fred.net](mailto:truth@fred.net)

Visit our website at [www.wayoftruth.org](http://www.wayoftruth.org)

sation of the providence of God; and never says of any trial, affliction, or insult, this cannot be endured.

**Verse 8. (16.) Charity never faileth**—This love never falleth off, because it bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things; and while it does so it cannot fail; it is the means of preserving all other graces; indeed, properly speaking, it includes them all; and all receive their perfection from it. Love to God and man can never be dispensed with. It is essential to social and religious life; without it no communion can be kept up with God; nor can any man have a preparation for eternal glory whose heart and soul are not deeply imbued with it. Without it there never was true religion, nor ever can be; and it not only is necessary through life, but will exist throughout eternity.

Paul closes *the love chapter* thus: “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

Does your love measure to the Bible definition? †

**“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (I John 3:18).**

misdeeds? Is not this, in some sort, rejoicing in iniquity?

**(11.) But rejoiceth in the truth**—Every thing that is opposite to falsehood and irreligion. Those who are filled with the love of God and man rejoice in the propagation and extension of Divine truth—in the spread of true religion, by which alone peace and good will can be diffused throughout the earth. And because they rejoice in the truth, therefore they do not persecute nor hinder true religion, but help it forward with all their might and power.

**Verse 7. (12.) Beareth all things**—This word is also variously interpreted: “to endure, bear, sustain, cover, conceal, contain.” We well know that it is a grand and distinguishing property of love to cover and conceal the fault of another. A person under the influence of this love never makes the sins, follies, faults, or imperfections of any man, the subject either of censure or conversation.

**(13.) Believeth all things**—Is ever ready to believe the best of every person, and will credit no evil of any but on the most positive evidence; gladly receives whatever may tend to the advantage of any person whose character may have suffered from obloquy and detraction; or even justly, because of his misconduct.

**(14.) Hopeth all things.**—When there is no place left for believing good of a person, then love comes in with its hope, where it could not work by its faith; and anticipates the repentance of the transgressor, and his restoration to the good opinion of society and his place in the Church of God, from which he had fallen.

**(15.) Endureth all things.**—Bears up under all persecutions and mal-treatment from open enemies and professed friends; bears adversities with an even mind, as it submits with perfect resignation to every dispen-

## IN THIS ISSUE:

<b>The Poetry Page</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<i>See, “Out in the Fields with God”</i>	
<b>The Mystery of God’s Riches</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<i>Full-length sermon by Harley McClung</i>	
<b>Winning a Crown</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<i>Part VII of the book by the late C. W. Naylor</i>	
<b>The Question Box</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<i>Our monthly feature</i>	
<b>The Unsearchable Riches of Christ</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<i>Full-length sermon by Peter Ramsay</i>	
<b>Seek Good Counsel</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<i>Radio message by G. E. Tyler</i>	
<b>Young People’s Page</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<i>“I Am the Bread of Life,” by Jillian Gossard</i>	
<b>That Ye Bear Much Fruit</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<i>Radio message by A. A. Craig</i>	
<b>The Children’s Corner</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<i>“The Strength We Need,” by Rebecca Bland</i>	
<b>Bible Lesson of the Month</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<i>“Sons of God”</i>	
<b>The Holy Spirit and the Christian</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
<i>Article by the late R. L. Berry</i>	
<b>Deliberating on the Book of Psalms</b>	<b>Page 20</b>
<i>Expounding on Psalms 93, 101, and 103</i>	

# **THE POETRY PAGE**

## **COMPENSATION**

**John Kenrick Bangs**

I never knew a night so black  
Light failed to follow on its track.  
I never knew a storm so gray  
It failed to have its clearing day.  
I never knew such bleak despair  
That there was not a rift, somewhere.  
I never knew an hour so drear  
Love could not fill it full of cheer!

## **IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR ME?**

**Margaret Bogart**

Just last week as I was praying  
I opened up God's Word  
And saw the biggest question there  
That I had ever heard.  
For right in my opened Bible  
In letters black and bold  
I read the greatest challenge that  
A Christian heart could hold!  
"Is there any thing too hard for me?"  
That's what my Bible said,  
And now ever since I read it  
It's been going thro' my head.  
"Is anything too difficult,  
Or is it too severe  
That I, the Lord, can't work it out  
If you will persevere?"  
And now, no matter what comes up,  
I can't get on my knees  
And say, "Dear Lord, this is too hard,  
Will You excuse me, please?"  
For there hasn't been a problem,  
There hasn't been a need,  
That wasn't fully answered as  
My faith took hold indeed!

## **TO CLIMB TO HEAVEN**

**Albert Emerson Brown**

With Thy dear love to be my guide,  
Kind Lord, whatever ill betide,  
I know I shall arrive at last—  
All labor wrought, death overpast,  
Beside the radiant, crystal sea,  
To dwell eternally with Thee.  
  
Then let there come whatever will  
Of earthly good or seeming ill;  
Thy mercies shall encompass yet  
Thy servant's path, 'til he forget  
The rugged steeps which all must plod  
To climb to heaven and to God.

# **OUT IN THE FIELDS WITH GOD**

**Elizabeth B. Browning**

The little cares that fretted me,  
I lost them yesterday,  
Among the fields, above the sea,  
Among the winds at play;  
Among the lowing of the herds,  
The rustling of the trees;  
Among the singing of the birds,  
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what may happen,  
I cast them all away  
Among the clover-scented grass,  
Among the new-mown hay;  
Among the rustling of the corn,  
Where drowsy poppies nod,  
Where ill thoughts die and good are born—  
Out in the fields with God.

## **TO AN INCONSISTENT CHRISTIAN**

**Charles B. Templeton**

Some like to hear you testify,  
Others like to hear you pray.  
There are some who rather do enjoy  
The scriptural things you say.  
But the ones who know your daily life;  
They're an unsaved crowd, it's true  
Would think a good deal more of grace  
If they saw more grace in you.

## **NATURE**

**Author Unknown**

There is a God, all nature cries,  
I see it in the painted skies.  
I see it in the flow'ring spring,  
I hear it when the birdlings sing.  
I see it in the flowing main,  
I see it in the falling rain,  
I see it stamped on hail and snow,  
I see it when the streamlets flow.  
I see it in the clouds that soar,  
I hear it when the thunders roar.  
I see it when the morning shines,  
I see it when the day declines,  
I see it in the morning height,  
I see it in the smallest mite,  
I see it everywhere abroad.  
I feel—I know—there is a God. †

---

*"He that cometh to God must believe that he is ..." —Hebrews 11:6.*



# THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S RICHES

2025 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Harley McClung

I AM TRULY delighted to be a servant of God and to be a spokesman for Him. That is a rich, rich vocation God has given me. It's not to be taken lightly, for I know what I speak tonight, I must give an account to God.

We will look into Colossians. Paul says in chapter 1, verses 26 and 27, "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." My thoughts are entitled, "The Mystery of God's Riches." Of course, it could be said *God's riches, His mercy, His goodness, power, and victory.*

I looked at the list that's displayed below our theme, "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ," and I saw the word *forgiveness*, meaning, "the pardon of sin." How much is that worth? What is the value to know that God has totally and completely forgiven you? The whole burden of sin has been lifted. There's no guilt. There's just peace. How much is that worth? To so many people in the world, that little bit is a mystery. A *mystery* is a secret. It's something that's encrypted; unknowing.

Some people in the world are readers. Some love mystery novels, and they read these novels with the anticipation of this mystery being solved. They want this mystery to be revealed. Sometimes in those mystery novels, that mystery keeps going on and on and on until the last few pages of the book.

Do you know there is a Book that has mysteries in it, and there are people who read it from cover to cover and never find the mysteries? They never solve them. Don't have the solution. Tonight, do you want to solve the mysteries?

## SOLVING THE MYSTERY

Well, let's look at what Paul said: "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to [whom?] his saints." Now, do you want to know the mystery, or do you want to solve the mystery? All you have to do is to be saved, because that is what a saint is. A *saint* is one who has been saved from sin, one who has been taken out of the horrible pit of sin. David described his condition as a sinner, and he described himself as being down into a place where he was blind. He couldn't see anything around him because his surroundings kept him from seeing. But he cried to the Lord. The Lord heard his cry and lifted him up.

The apostle Paul talks about being lifted up so we can sit in heavenly places with Jesus our Lord. We come up to a place where we have a better vision, for whenever we are in sin, we just can't see or comprehend it, because in that state we're blinded. But to be free from sin, our eyes are opened. We become new creatures. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17b). We are no longer

sinners. Now we are saints. Thank God for that.

The mystery is made manifest to those who are saved. So tonight the question is, Do you want to have an understanding, or do you want to know what this mystery is? Let's go on. Paul continues, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles [There it is. Are we listening?]; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

We'll go over to Ezekiel. When Christ raised David up out of the horrible pit, when He made him a brand-new creature, Christ did this because He changed his heart. Ezekiel said, "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness [sin; when Christ comes into the heart, He changes that heart from being a sinful heart or an evil heart to a new heart.], and from all your idols, will I cleanse you."

## UNDERSTANDING THE RICHES OF CHRIST

In the beginning, it says in Genesis that God created, God created, God created, and after each one of these creations, God said, "This is good." Then when God created man, He said, "This is *very* good." So when God created us, He created us in His own image, in His likeness, but when man sinned, he died spiritually. Paul said, "The wages of sin is death." That's not an annihilation. It simply means we were separated from the Source of spiritual life, and when we were separated from the Source of spiritual life, we couldn't realize or understand the riches of Christ or the things that are really good that God provided for man to know.

When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they knew some good things. That was paradise. They had a taste or a little bit of knowledge of God's goodness. But then when they sinned, it all changed.

When Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, He came with the power to save mankind. This is what He'll do: "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean [Thank God for that cleanness. Thank God that we no longer have to live in that horrible pit. He's lifted us up out of that horrible condition. He's lifted us out of that mindset.]: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart [that heart that's very difficult to be dealt with; unreasonable, actually] out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

It took something to change that stony heart. God had to bring something to all of us. This is His grace. God's grace was what enabled David to come up out of the horrible pit. He couldn't get out by himself. David had a hard heart. Even though he wanted to get out, he had come to a place where he was able to be dealt with



or to be reasonable with God. So when God took David up by His grace, He put him in a place where He could establish his goings and put him on the solid Rock. God will put a new spirit in you and cause you to walk in His statutes. Why? Because He changed your heart.

Have you ever thought about the wrangling that goes on in politics? I am absolutely sure that the Democrats believe that the Republicans are unreasonable. I am absolutely sure that the Republicans believe that the Democrats are unreasonable. And they both are. Why? Because of their hearts. They don't have any desire to be reasonable. They don't want to be pliable. They want to have their own way and their own will. God has to bring people to a place where He can show and help them to see the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Again, Jesus said, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

### **THE MYSTERY: CHRIST IN US**

Paul said that the mystery is solved when Christ is in the heart. The question is, Do we really want Christ to live within us? Christ wants to live within us. We read in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Jesus Christ is here tonight standing at doors that haven't already been opened unto Him. He's knocking and asking, "Will you let me in?"

Many times when people come to a service, they feel a tug at their hearts. They feel a little bit of discomfort. They feel a little bit of something that God has to bring upon them. It's called conviction. He has to bring them face to face as to how they are before Him. He has to help them to see and comprehend that they need to have Him come in. Now, this uncomfortable feeling might feel like He's pushing people, but in reality, He's just tugging at their heart's door. He is saying, in effect, "Will you let me come in? I'm trying to show you the state of your heart. I'm trying help you see that you're living far below your privileges. You're living down here in the beggarly elements of sin when you can be elevated where you can sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus." He's knocking and knocking, but the fact remains that He's not going to force the door open. If you want Christ to come in, you have to open the door. You have to open it and bid Him to come in. Give Him a welcome.

I appreciated Bro. Brian's thoughts so much this morning. He said, "We want to make the Lord feel welcomed. We want the Holy Spirit to feel welcomed." Why? The Lord and the Holy Spirit are not going where they're not welcomed. God is not going to force Himself into any heart. If you want to know and taste of the unsearchable riches, you have to open your heart's door and give Him a welcome.

This mystery is so unknown to many people. In Matthew, chapter 13, verse 10, Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" He answered them, "Because it is given unto you to know

the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Some people actually believe they have solved this mystery by becoming religious. I heard someone say today that all some people want to do is to be baptized. All they want to do is to turn over a new leaf or sign a decision card. If you want to come to the place where you understand and know a little about the unsearchable riches, you have to open your heart's door and bid Him to come in. This is called conversion. This is a complete change of life. You have to have a new heart and a new spirit.

Paul said in Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 16-19, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Verse 20 says, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

To tap into the unsearchable riches opens the door for us to experience the power. It opens the door to opportunities to ask for whatever we want. Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Again, Paul said, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." How much can we ask for? I think sometimes because of God's unsearchable riches and the mystery of it, even we saints are scratching the surface of what is actually available. It's not just for me, but it is because Christ is within me. God has made a way so that He could live within us. Thank God for that privilege. We can be the house of God. We can have the privilege of asking Him whatever we will.

Now, if Christ is within us, if we've opened the door for Him to come in, He is in our hearts. The Scriptures teach that all power in heaven was given to Him. Nothing was withheld from Christ. If He's living within us, then He is in there empowering us, enabling us, and giving to us everything that we need. He said that He will supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory. Listen to me, we as saints surely stand in need of a lot of things. I need His help. Quite frankly, we need to see souls saved.

### **FISHERS OF MEN**

Bro. Greg was at Craigsville a few weeks ago, and while we were sitting on the porch, I said to him, "If you had more time, we could go down to the pond and catch us some fish." He said, "Bro. Harley, I'm a fisher of men. I want to see souls saved." Will you show me a true Church of God minister who doesn't want to see souls saved? We're living in a time where people's hearts are hard. I'm not talking about in our human strength. I can't save people. You can't save people. All we can do is to submit and surrender to Him, and the way we do that is by opening our heart's door and letting Him come in and have full and complete control. That doesn't mean God doesn't give us the opportunity to enjoy some



things in life. He does. He said that we could enjoy the fruit of our labor. He has given to us richly all things to enjoy, except that which is detrimental and harmful to us. God doesn't withhold anything good from His children.

I believe with all of my heart that Paul was tapping into something here. He was tapping into something here that we need to know more about. I really believe there are some unsearchable riches God wants to impart to us. He wants to help us. Dear Sinner Friends, God wants you to tap into this. It is not His will that any should perish. Jesus left the glory and splendor of heaven to come down this sin-sick, sin-cursed world to willingly shed His blood for your redemption.

The mystery is the kingdom of heaven that Jesus speaks of in parables. The mystery is revealed only to those born of the Spirit. This is what Jesus was telling Nicodemus about. He said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Nicodemus couldn't see or comprehend the kingdom of God. When people can't comprehend the kingdom of God, they can't have any understanding at all about the mystery of God's great unsearchable riches.

### **MYSTERY: A TREASURE HID IN A FIELD**

This mystery holds the knowledge of great treasure hid in a field. Matthew 13:44 says, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field. David said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Jesus said that this kingdom is like a treasure hid in a field. It's something that is so valuable. It's something that is worth giving up some things for. It's worth giving up anything and everything that is a detriment to you to get this that is so beneficial to you.

Whenever people look at a field, they think of some things. All don't see it the same way. The farmer sees a field different from someone in a city. Some see a field as hard labor, low wages, few benefits, no pleasure, no status. I don't see it that way, but to the wise investor, he sees the field as a representative of golden opportunities. The field reveals the worth of a soul. The field reveals that there is something there that the soul can tap into and reveal this glorious treasure.

There are some things people don't like to hear, but if they want to know something about the unsearchable riches of Christ, this is still what the Scriptures say in Mark, chapter 8, verses 35-38: "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

I mentioned a little bit ago about people becoming very uncomfortable when they come into the presence of God. Paul was called Saul at one time, and he was

a very zealous man. He actually believed he had everything right. He was a Pharisee. He had in his mind that he was serving God and doing everything that God wanted him to do. Saul came to a place where he actually witnessed someone giving up everything for the cause of God. When he saw Stephen being pelted with those stones, he was pricked in his heart. God was dealing with him. He really saw what true riches can enable a person to do. It enabled Stephen to have that power within. This is what the grace of God will do for us. Come what may, we can face anything out there. Stephen saw this field as something so valuable that he was willing to give up his life.

### **SAUL EXPERIENCED A MYSTERY**

Saul saw Stephen's testimony, but he was determined to go on and fight against Christ and against God. He got permission to go to Damascus to further his persecution against God's people. On the road to Damascus, a bright light shone, and Jesus favored him with this glorious light. Saul got a little glimpse of the great love of Christ. Jesus said, "Saul, it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." In other words, He was saying, "It's so hard to keep being rebellious. Why don't you reason with me a little bit here? Why don't you think with me a little bit?" Saul fell to the ground. He said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" This is the beginning of Paul's great life as the apostle Paul. Paul found the pearl of great price in the field of treasure and said in Philippians, chapter 3, verse 7: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." What did he actually mean? That he might have Christ within his heart. That he might have the unsearchable riches operating within him. Paul gave all to gain Christ. Not just within his heart, but he gave all to have the privilege of knowing more about Christ who is the brightness of God's glory.

The writer of Hebrews says, "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3). This treasure far exceeds anything the world has.

I was listening to the sisters singing, and I heard these words: "All of the treasures of this world are not ours." None of those are ours. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). Even if we are successful in accumulating large amounts of what people consider as treasures, things that are very valuable in this time world, the moment we leave this world, they all belong to someone else. So none of the riches that we have in this world belong to us, but we can have riches. We can have something in our hearts that belong to us, that we can claim is ours. We can have within our hearts a claim that Jesus Christ is our Savior. We can claim Him as our Lord. We can claim Him as our Master. We can claim Him as our King. We can claim Him as the One who is going to help us in every situation if He's within our hearts. If He is in there, He is our Lord, and He is

our present help in time of need. The scripture says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." He's within there to help us, no matter what we face and no matter what we encounter. The question is, Do we want Him in our hearts? Do we want to find this field that holds the unsearchable riches of Christ? Do we want the benefit of these riches of Christ in us, the treasure of God's glory? D. S. Warner found it. He said—

*My soul in trouble roamed  
Upon a weary plain,  
And, ever restless, longed  
A perfect bliss to gain.*

*Oppressed with guilt and woe,  
With fears of hell o'ercast,  
My soul no comfort knew  
Until I came to Christ.*

*I have found it, Lord, in thee  
An everlasting store  
Of comfort, joy, and bliss to me:  
How can I wish for more?*

D. S. Warner found the field. He found the treasure. He found the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Jesus has given us everything. Again, if you want Him to come in, He's standing at your heart's door. He's here tonight knocking. He wants to come into every heart. Just open your heart. He's not going to force His way in. Jesus is passing by.

### **ZACCHAEUS FOUND TREASURES**

Paul found the pearl of great price. He found rich treasures, and so did Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a short man, but he had a determination to see Christ. He wanted something. I think about Zacchaeus, I think about the woman with the issue of blood who wanted to touch Christ. She wanted a cure for the problem she had, and she was determined to press through the throng so she could just touch the hem of His garment.

Zacchaeus pressed through. He wanted to see Christ. He wanted to take the great opportunity to see Jesus so He could help him. He climbed up in a sycamore tree. Jesus came along. This is what I picture: Jesus was passing along and He stopped. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down." That's all Jesus wants you to do. Just come down. You have to humble yourself to come down to the altar. Zacchaeus had to humble himself, and he did. He came down very quickly. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, I'm going to your house."

Here tonight, you can take Jesus home with you. All you need to do to have Him to go home with you is to open your heart's door. As He knocks, He's trying to get into your heart. You can go home as a changed person. Old things will pass away, and behold, all things will become new. You can become a brand-new creature. That's exactly what Zacchaeus became, and he started right away saying, "Jesus, Jesus, if I've taken anything from anybody, I will restore him fourfold." This is a changed heart. This is a new way of thinking. This is a new way of behaving. Zacchaeus found something

that was far more meaningful to him than all the money he had collected as a tax collector. This is the unsearchable riches he was just getting a taste of. If you don't already have Jesus in your heart, why not? David said, "O taste and see that the Lord is good."

So many people never ever solve the mystery. So many people never have any understanding at all of the unsearchable riches of Christ. So many people never find the field, let alone the pearl of great price. Stephen did, Paul did, and Zacchaeus did. You can, too. You have to open your heart's door. How about it? If you are here tonight and don't have Christ within your heart, won't you come? Do you want Him in there?

### **CONCLUSION**

Before I finish, reason with me just a moment. If Christ is not in your heart, who is? If Christ and His riches are not in your heart, what is? I can tell you this, the world is not your friend. It's not to your benefit. Certainly, Satan and evil are not things that are going to help you. Only Jesus Christ is going to help you.

We do everything we can to try to make an appeal to help people see the goodness of God, the unsearchable riches of Christ, but now it comes to you. If you're willing to open your heart's door and let Him come in, He'll start showing you the unsearchable riches. How about it tonight? †

---

## **WINNING A CROWN**

**By the late C. W. Naylor  
Part VII**



### **Why Some Have Better Experiences Than Others**

**I**T IS A FACT commonly observed that some Christians have better experiences than others. This is true even from the beginning of their Christian life. The difference may be due to a number of things, but the most important cause for anyone's experiencing a lack of that abundance of grace all should have is no doubt found in the fact that he fails to yield himself to God as fully as he should.

This, of course, does not imply a refusal to yield fully, for that would be rebellion; and the soul could not be saved at all under such conditions. But in most instances it is undoubtedly due to the fact that the person does not comprehend the meaning and the necessity of complete surrender. He goes as far as he can see, and stops there, even though there are great fields of his nature that are as yet not fully yielded. Should rebellion spring from any of these, it would prove fatal to his soul life. When a question arises that involves this unyielded territory, he must immediately make a decision. He must either yield to God's will, or become a rebel. He cannot consciously refuse to conform himself to the will of God without grieving the Holy Spirit.

God yields Himself to us as we yield to Him and open the channel for grace. A full and complete yielding of ourselves opens wide this channel, and then grace

The Way of Truth



flows into our hearts in abundance. It is in our power to close this channel and thereby hinder the flow of grace. Any reluctance on our part, therefore, to submit to the whole will of God obstructs the channel of grace, and results in a lack of spirituality in our lives. The Spirit works freely where there are no hindrances. Self-surrender is the hardest but most necessary thing. The more complete that surrender is, the more perfect is the working of God in the soul, and the more Christ-like we become.

It is not enough to surrender self to God; but surrender must be maintained. We must carefully guard ourselves lest we permit the channel of grace to become obstructed. It may become obstructed at any time and in a great variety of ways. Self is liable to assert itself; and since it is possible at any time for us to withdraw our submission to God, no matter how spiritual we may have been or how much God may have worked in us, we must therefore be on our guard. We are so constituted that we naturally like our own ways; and if we are not careful, we shall unconsciously choose our ways in preference to God's. But doing so cannot but react upon our spirituality.

Some are more spiritual than others because they exercise more diligence in their endeavor to conform themselves more perfectly to the will of God. Some grow very careless in this respect, and just drift along any way. They take it for granted that they are the Lord's. They seem little concerned about becoming more perfectly His, or about conforming themselves more perfectly to Him. They allow their attention to be taken up by the daily round of duties, by business affairs, by the ordinary things of life; and they give little thought to their drawing nearer to God. They, therefore, make little progress in the divine life. Many people are now not as spiritual as they were when they first began the Christian life. They have professed for years; but today they bear less of the fruits of the Spirit than they bore years ago. They have less of earnestness and power, and experience fewer of the manifestations of God's grace. Their zeal and their love have grown cold. What is the trouble? Is not the grace of God able to cause them to abound in all these qualities? It is not God's fault if they are not prospering—it is their own, because they have let the channel of grace be filled up. Keep open this channel in your soul. Seek day by day to get closer to God and to conform yourself more perfectly to Him; then you may increase and develop, and be enriched in God. But the key-note of spirituality is ever and always self-surrender.

### **The Retention of Grace**

In order to retain natural life, we must conform to the laws of life. We cannot violate them without reaping the consequences. The principle here involved is as truly applicable to our spiritual life. There are certain laws we must obey, or spiritual death will ensue. Grace can be retained only by one's living a holy life. Sin is fatal to spiritual life; sin brings us under the condemnation of God's law and Spirit. "The wages of sin is death," both spiritual death and eternal death, death now and hereafter. Now, what is the true standard of the justified life? John says, "Whosoever is born of God

doth not commit sin" (I John 3:9). To be justified means to be accounted free from guilt, or innocent. Is one who commits sins free from guilt, or innocent? There are many people who point to the seventh chapter of Romans and say it represents the Christian life, or is the true standard of the justified life. Many say, "I do not expect to have a better experience than the apostle Paul had." The fact is, however, that what he relates in the seventh chapter of Romans is not a narration of his Christian experience. Let him tell in his own words what his experience was. "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe" (I Thessalonians 2:10). Shall we receive or reject his testimony?

The picture drawn in the seventh chapter of Romans is not the standard of the Christian life. Paul neither asserts nor suggests that he is speaking of a Christian's experience. Throughout the New Testament we find, both in precept and example, something very different from this. I called your attention to Paul's life and to his testimony of his Christian living. Let us now hear the voice of inspiration: "That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:10-12). Again: "That he would grant unto us that we ... might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:74, 75). Now, God is not an idealist; He does not hold up before us a standard impossible to be reached and then expect us to aim at it only to miss. He does not demand us to try, when He knows we should fall short continually. He does not require too much of us; nor does He place the standard of right living higher than He will help us to live up to, if we trust Him and use the grace He offers us.

We should avoid the idealism that represents the Christian life as a constant, onward-and-upward progress, accompanied with a cloudless sky and most blissful emotions. Such idealism is incapable of being translated into life. The Bible is essentially practical. It raises no such standard. Life in no condition is always cloudless, nor are the emotions always joyous. Life is made up of sunshine and clouds, of joys and sorrows. There will be tears and sighs as well as joys and smiles. There will be temptations and trials as well as victories and exultations. We should, however, avoid the extreme of presenting life as being a series of dark and sinful days or as being composed mostly of short-comings. It is not such. The normal life of a regenerated person is one in which God reigns, and in which grace to live above sin abounds. This life will not be without its temptations, its perplexities, its cares, and its disappointments. Its pathway will sometimes be rugged and thorny. But God will ever uphold us and give us grace to be obedient to Him if we trust Him. No man is compelled to sin. If he sins, it is because he chooses to do so. And when he sins, the relation of his soul to God is changed. He is brought under condemnation. His conscience accuses him; he knows that he has done wrong, and he knows what he has done. His peace and joy are gone. A cloud is between him and God. It is true that

if he will repent God will be merciful and will restore him; but God does not expect him to disobey over and over again. He expects us to live right; and we can do so if we will. Those who plead for sin dishonor both themselves and God. The language of the regenerate heart is, "I delight to do thy will, O God." Can we even conceive of one's holding such an attitude toward God and His law, and then breaking that law continually? If we will be God's, we must live above sin; and this we can do by His grace. †



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

**Q**UESTION: II Corinthians 8:8 says, "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love." What is this scripture speaking of?

**A**NSWER: Paul here was speaking in reference to giving. He makes it clear he was not commanding them to give a stated amount (This has no reference to the paying of tithes, but to the giving of a special offering.), and as others had given liberally ("the forwardness of others"), he was suggesting that they do the same and thus prove the sincerity of their love.

**Q**UESTION: Can you explain Acts 10:47 and 48?

**A**NSWER: Peter had gone to Caesarea to explain the way of the Lord more perfectly to some Gentiles. While he was doing this, the Holy Spirit was poured out on them, so Peter asked, even though they were Gentiles, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days." We must remember this was not so very long after Jesus had been crucified and the Old Covenant had expired, thus many, especially among the Jews, did not yet understand that in this, the New Covenant Age, God made no distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles.

**Q**UESTION: John 21:15-17—Why did Jesus say to Simon Peter, "Lovest thou me," three times?

**A**NSWER: The Bible does not say, but possibly it was because Peter had denied knowing Him three times.

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

**Q**UESTION: In Mark 6:5, we read of Jesus laying on hands and healing some. The disciples anointed with oil. Is this the order Jesus followed?

**A**NSWER: I do not recall Jesus anointing with oil. The Bible speaks of Him anointing one man's eyes with clay when He told him to go wash in the pool. I do not recall that the disciples always did it during Jesus' sojourn with them, but James gives instructions for the elders of the church to do so. See James 5:14, 15.

**Q**UESTION: The Savior performed many miracles. Why did He instruct His men not to tell anybody?

**A**NSWER: He did not instruct all that way. In fact, He instructed some to tell what He had done for them—see Mark 5.

Some have felt He did this in the early part of His ministry lest the people try to make Him a literal king over them, which some did try to do, and thus hinder His ministry.

**Q**UESTION: Is gossiping permitted among believers?

**A**NSWER: The dictionary says *gossip* means, in part, "idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others; a false report maliciously uttered and intending to injure the reputation of another."

The Bible says, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (I Peter 4:15). "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips" (Proverbs 20:19). See also I Timothy 5:13 and II Thessalonians 3:11.

The word *busybody*, as used in the above text, means a "meddler." Gossip has no place in the life of a true Christian.

**Q**UESTION: Would you kindly explain what the feasts of charity were that Jude speaks about in the twelfth verse?

**A**NSWER: "Feasts of charity" is an apostolical name for a real spiritual prayer and testimony meeting. The spots he speaks of in those feasts of charity were crooked professors, whose presence hindered the spirituality of the meeting because of the works of darkness in them.

**Q**UESTION: If when one is born again his sins are washed away through the blood of Christ, how could the disciples have been born again as the Bible says they were (John 1:12) before Christ shed His blood?

**A**NSWER: The blood of Christ was effectual for the sins of the whole race. His sacrifice reached back to all those who had faith in God and had obeyed Him in former ages. All who are saved are saved through the sacrifice of Christ, from Adam down to the end. He died for all, including those who were under the first testament (Hebrews 9:15); therefore the only salvation that exists is through the blood of Christ, both for people who lived after the crucifixion and those who lived before. †



# THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

2025 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Peter Ramsay

I AM SO HAPPY that we have a very outstanding theme for this convention: "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ." Something that's unsearchable is something that's unable to be clearly understood; hidden. I think that's why Proverbs 3:5 and 6 says to us: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

I'd like to read from Ephesians, chapter 3, verse 8: "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

I looked into that text of scripture (Ephesians 3:8) and recalled that Paul at one time persecuted the Church of God and wasted it. When I think of the statement he made here in verse 8, it really caught my attention, because he said, "I am less than the least." So to be *less than the least*, where did he fall? But this showed me that Paul was very humble in his approach to the gospel. Humility is one of the characteristics of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

As I considered Paul, it seems that he realized what he had done to the church, and he knew he was in trouble. Whenever you persecute the Virtuous Woman, you are in trouble. Because of what Paul did, it caused him to have a deep concern about being in the presence of the other brethren and working with them, thus he considered himself to be less than the least. As Paul stated *the unsearchable riches of Christ* that he was to preach to the Gentiles, it took great humility. It took love and appreciation. It took deep concern for the souls of men. It also took courage.

## JESUS GOT PAUL'S ATTENTION

Considering Paul, and that which he encountered daily on his missionary field, he had been through a lot, but he wasn't deterred. I also considered the thought whether Paul had ever met Jesus before, because as he persecuted the church and wasted it, he had plans to do more damage to the church, but Jesus met him on the road to Damascus. Jesus got his attention by showing him a mysterious event. This stirred Paul's heart. He had no defense because Jesus knew him. Maybe he didn't know Jesus, but Jesus knew him. As Paul asked the question, "Who art thou, Lord?" the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Paul surrendered and said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Paul, in his pursuit of winning souls to Christ, purposed in his heart to do so, because he had found something he didn't have before. If he did, he would have been more concerned about the people he destroyed. He would have been able to have more compassion and love for their state.

One of the greatest things in trying to win others to Christ is to understand where they are coming from. People have reasons to do things, and sometimes the reason they do things is because they have no real knowledge of

what they are doing, and for some reason they think it is right. But the Bible says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Paul recognized his failure. He surrendered to God, and God used him mightily, although he once said, "I am less than the least of all saints." There is also a statement where he said that he was well-learned, having been taught at the feet of Gamaliel the perfect manner of the law. He had a wide knowledge of experience in different things where the law was concerned, but when he came to Christ, the law and grace were of two different natures. He unlearned that which the law stated and began to build himself in grace. As Paul continued in grace, and what it had to offer, he was able to bring across the truth of God's Word without compromise. Regardless of who he came in contact with, Paul knew he had a mission. This mission had to be accomplished.

We are told that one day as Paul was on a missionary journey, a young lady came to him. In Acts 16, she said to Paul, "You and these men are the servants of the most high God." In reality, she was speaking the truth, but the way she was saying it, the enemy was using her to interrupt, to disturb, and cause annoyance to God's servants. Paul became grieved. He commanded the evil spirit to come out of her. Paul was accused of causing trouble in the city. The council got against him.

## SURRENDERING TO GOD

When we surrender to God, we don't know what we will have to go through and where God is going to lead us. I believe that's the reason a lot of people who have a desire for God tend to worship Him at a distance. You've traveled to various places where people have different types of concepts about how to worship and how they worship. Their whole manner of attire, and you name it.

While Jesus Christ was being crucified, those who were there with Him and saw what was happening to Him, stood afar. They wouldn't come near because they would have been shown as being a part of Him. Today, there are persons who still worship Christ from a distance. But Paul who learned Christ, and who wanted to fulfill his mandate with Him, purposed in his heart that whatever it took, he was going to perform the task that God had given him.

From the book of Acts, chapter 16, I spoke to you earlier about the young lady who spoke to Paul which caused an annoyance to God's servants. After her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they cast Paul into prison. But to the mysterious God whom we serve, He knew that there was somebody somewhere that Paul hadn't preached to. Paul hadn't preached to

the jailer nor his household, because it was God's purpose to use this channel to get to the jailer. This man was placed to guard the prison. God used the situation of that young lady being troubled. She lost her fortune and all who supported her, but He was using it to convert a soul and his family.

There are times, Saints of God, when we are in a condition and take comfort to ourselves saying, "This is not for me, I must not be in this condition," but we must surrender to God. For us to find the unsearchable riches of Christ, we have to pass through some things. We have to pass through some things for the glory of God to be seen and felt.

Bro. Doug spoke yesterday about us being in our comfort zone. I can attest to that. I know I came to work for God, so when I was asked to speak this morning, my heart was willing, by the help of the Lord, to speak. But I was frightened. I reflected on what Bro. Doug said. We have to leave our comfort zone and step out into the deep.

God has a place for each and everyone of us. Unless we fill our place, we are going to lose the reward that is awaiting us. We will have an unfinished task. How painful it would be for us who have been serving God for 20 years, 40 or 50 years, that when He reveals there is work for us to do, we say, "No, Lord, this is not for me!"

Many of us worship, and we worship because of what we can get from the hand of God, but in reality, true love is not there. Job was put to the test. The good thing about it, Job knew who God was, and God knew who Job was. Because of that, when Satan told the Lord, "If you touch him, he will curse thee to thy face," Job knew the unsearchable riches of Christ, in which longsuffering was his theme. He knew after all his loss and everything Satan had diminished, his soul would remain. So Job said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." This happened to Job, but he knew where to place things. The Bible says he was rich. He had possessions, family, servants, and he lost them all, but his integrity was still intact. I wondered if Job knew that the Lord would supply all those things that he lost and give him more than he had. Job trusted in the Lord. He trusted Him because he knew God was more than enough.

### THE EXAMPLE OF STEPHEN

I considered also the thought of Stephen. When I first learned of the theme, it came to me about Stephen, how he endured the contradiction of sinners, and how he was opposed, but yet maintained his integrity with God. There are times when people look on us and we misinterpret their looks. We take it very seriously and have a heart of vengeance. But the Bible says that Stephen was filled with the Holy Ghost. I didn't read where Stephen was being rebellious or speaking in other tongues, but he was a man of wisdom. He was chosen to lead in a capacity among the servants. Because of the wisdom of Stephen, they disliked him. They took him to the council saying that he was using blasphemous words against God and Moses. The Bible says as they reasoned with Stephen, he was unfolding the love and the mystery of God as he reflected on the prophets of old. He said, "You have killed them, and Jesus whom ye have crucified." They took Stephen. They hurled

stones upon stones upon him, but he knew where his hope was. He knew where his heart was, and so he looked up and saw Jesus sitting on the right hand of God.

Jesus told us in His Word that we should arm ourselves likewise, for we will undergo suffering and persecution. "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." He also said, "Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Stephen pledged allegiance to God. The Bible says, "He kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." He fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. He had that sweet peace. He exercised salvation, patience, longsuffering, and contentment. In spite of what he was facing, he endured.

Someone wrote the song, "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb." Here are a few lines of the song:

*I have heard how Christians long ago  
Were brought before a Tyrants throne.  
They were told that he would spare their lives  
If they would renounce the name of Christ.*

*But one by one, they chose to die;  
The Son of God, they would not deny.  
Like a great angelic choir sings,  
I can almost hear their voices ring.*

*I pledge allegiance to the Lamb,  
With all my strength, with all I am.  
I will seek to honor His commands,  
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.*

*Now the years have come and the years have gone,  
And the cause of Jesus still goes on.  
Now our time has come to count the cost,  
To reject this world, to embrace the Cross.*

*And one by one let us live our lives  
For the One who died to give us life.  
'Til the trumpet sounds on the final day,  
Let us proudly stand and boldly say:*

*I pledge allegiance to the Lamb,  
With all my strength, with all I am.  
I will seek to honor His commands,  
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.*

### CONCLUSION

Everything else around us will fail, and it's only that which we have done for Christ that will last. As we pledge allegiance to the Lamb, let us trust Him, let us honor Him, and lift up His holy name.

We are going to be surprised some day by some events, and it's only a heart that's purposed to serve God through it all that is going to make it.

If there is someone in our midst today who has not surrendered your heart to God, remember, you don't hold your life in your hands. God is going to charge you for rejecting Him. Today, because He loves you, He cares about you. Give Him your heart, and He will give you His Father's kingdom.

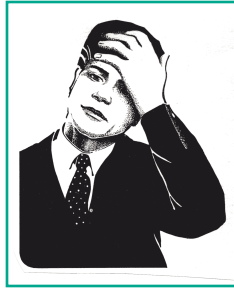
God bless you. †



# SEEK GOOD COUNSEL

Radio Message by Bro. Greg Tyler

**F**OR A TEXT of scripture, I call your attention to the book of Proverbs, the nineteenth chapter, verses 20 and 21: "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand." I'd like to entitle my few thoughts, "Seek Good Counsel."



*Counsel*, according to the dictionary, is "guidance or advice." Sometimes *counsel* means "recommendation."

There are people who think that they can go through life needing no one else's counsel. But I want to tell you, Beloved, it is not in man to guide his own steps. No matter how proud some might be, it is a reality that from time to time, every one of us needs some counsel. The people of the world, as a general rule, like to pride themselves in thinking that they are able to do their own thing. Do things their own way. But normally, an individual who is so stubborn that he will not seek good counsel will end up in despair and hopelessness.

The book of Proverbs tells us a lot about counsel. In Proverbs 11:14, we are told that we need the advice of experience. There are some things that cannot be gained outside of experience. How wise we are if we endeavor to follow the voice of experience! It seems that young people, in particular, are stubborn when it comes to this subject. They don't want older people to tell them what to do, but listen to me, it is a wise young person who will listen to the advice of those who are experienced.

People follow their own counsel and conscience, not taking heed to anyone else's advice. But the general rule is that most of us seek counsel. The problem is that too many people seek counsel in the wrong place.

We read in the very first Psalm, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." We are told here that "Blessed [or Happy] is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." Be careful from whom you seek counsel. There are unbelievers and scoffers who mock righteousness, mock the Bible, and make light of the thought of a supreme Being. Don't seek counsel from those types of persons.

There are educated people out there in the world that have doctorate degrees from colleges who are psychologists, and the such like. They fill the minds of their clients with morals that belong in the garbage pit. Beloved, morals have been thrown out the window today, it seems, and anything goes. Be careful from whom you seek counsel or advice or guidance. This is true, even in a religious sense, because some people seek counsel from false prophets, and they put their

confidence in false prophets. Beloved, you should not seek counsel of the ungodly, and that is included in the religious realm as well, for false prophets who live ungodly lives are not worthy of your confidence. If you're going to seek counsel from a representative of God, make sure that he is a man of God, and especially, don't seek counsel from the world. The world and God are opposites. The world and worldliness, and God and godliness, are at the two extremes of the spectrum. If you seek counsel from the world, you'll gain the favor of the world, but you'll lose the favor of God, for we are told in James, chapter 4, verse 4, "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

We should seek sound counsel. What is "sound counsel"? The voice of experience. We should seek the counsel of our parents, of elderly ones, of people who are genuinely interested in our eternity-bound soul. Back in Psalm 1, we read, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord." Here we find sound counsel. We find the words of our Master. We find the words of heaven. We find the words of God to be sound counsel.

Dear Listener, it behooves you to seek sound and good counsel. Seek counsel that would be a benefit to you and is given to you from a heart of love and not from a heart of selfishness. God's counsel is good counsel, for God is good. His counsel is always for our own good.

In Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6, we are told, in speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ... and his name shall be called ... Counsellor ..." He is the great Counselor, Beloved. He counsels us through His Word. He counsels us through our pastors and teachers. He counsels us through personal checks. He counsels us when we pray. He counsels us when He sends us His Holy Spirit to direct our paths.

Seek good counsel today. When you seek good counsel, accept it. Some people seek good counsel and receive good counsel, but they don't take it and accept it and act upon it. Oh, Beloved, not only should you seek good counsel, but when you receive it, you should accept it, and put that counsel into action. It seems that it's easier to seek and accept bad counsel than it is to seek and accept good counsel. But God gives you good counsel.

In Revelation, chapter 3, verse 18, we read, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." Dear Ones, you can be rich in the things of God by paying the price and receiving the salvation of your soul.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus counsels us: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

My Friends, we all need counsel, and we need good counsel. You can be stubborn and say that you don't, but in reality you need good counsel. Don't seek the counsel of the ungodly. Don't seek the counsel of the world. Don't seek the counsel of false prophets, but seek sound counsel. Again, God's counsel is sound counsel. We find in the Word of God that the Savior can solve every problem.

Pray for us as we pray for you. †



Dear Young People,

Greetings! This month's article is a continuation of exhortations given by the young people in a special Sunday morning service. The thoughts are centered on the IAM's given by Jesus while here on Earth. He was made flesh to bring the truth that God is, was, and always will be the great I

AM! Sis. Jillian is sharing on "I Am the Bread of Life." So many are hungering and thirsting for things that will never satisfy. The things of this world won't fill the longing in our souls. Only Jesus can truly satisfy and give us true contentment.

May you be blessed and encouraged by her thoughts!

Blessings!  
Bro. Doug

---

## "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"

By Sis. Jillian Gossard

*"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*—John 6:32-37.

As I was thinking about Jesus being the Bread of Life, one word kept coming back to my mind over and over again: contentment. There's a verse I learned in high school that says, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). That real peace and contentment can only be found when we give ourselves wholly to God.

In these verses, Jesus said that He came and He giveth life to the world, and whoever comes to Him with an honest, genuine heart shall never hunger or thirst. We will be filled and satisfied with Him. Therefore, spiritually speaking, the Bible is clearly showing here that we will never be satisfied or full or content until we have made that decision to follow Christ and to leave the world behind. We must ask Him to lay a foundation in our lives, to build His house in our lives so that He can build us a beautiful, meaningful life and help us to be content.

Once we've established that commitment to God where we have peace with Him through salvation, that's when He can bring that contentment into our souls and can spread it out into other compartments of our lives.

We all, saved and sanctified people, too, have goals and dreams that we long to achieve in life. There's nothing wrong with that, of course. Perhaps we find ourselves working hard to achieve a goal, or in a season of waiting for the next step in our lives, or even in difficult circumstances that we cannot necessarily change. In these circumstances, it can be very difficult to be content.

As I considered this, I thought back to times in my own life where I just felt like I was really struggling to be content or feel full in my soul. When I go through times like that, I ask myself, how am I spending my time? What am I filling my mind with? Am I consuming things that are bringing life into my spirit through what is good, true and holy, or am I getting distracted by what's going on around me? Am I thinking more about what I want, or about what God would have me to do? How much time am I spending with God?

And so, when I'm struggling with contentment and I ask myself these questions with an honest heart, I often realize that I need to do better in some of these things. That is when God can bring the peace and contentment. I like to ask myself all the time, am I filling my thoughts with Him?

In these verses in John 6, Jesus is comparing Himself to food. We all physically have to eat to survive and we plan our days around when we're going to eat. We prioritize our food. Once I heard a brother mention in a prayer service that his desire was to think about nourishing his relationship with God the same way that he daily nourished his body. If we prioritize physical food with such urgency, we should prioritize spiritual food with even more urgency. We need God more than the next meal we eat or the next breath we take.

We cannot have contentment without commitment to Jesus. Since Jesus is that Bread of life, He can help us to have contentment and peace, even when our circumstances are perhaps unfavorable. In those moments when I feel stuck or struggling to find fulfillment, sometimes I wonder if God is trying to open my eyes to see the needs of others, rather than prioritizing my own wants or desires. When we find ourselves going through a season of a lack of peace, endeavoring to focus on loving other people will supply a blessing for us.

In the hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," some lyrics are *Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in thee I find*. When we see Jesus as the Bread of Life, our complete spiritual sustenance, I believe that this can be our testimony. When we have Christ, what more do we really need to be content?

I'm grateful for the knowledge I have by faith that God wants us to have a beautiful life. If we can fill our minds and hearts with Him, prioritizing our lives around Him where everything else revolves around our Savior, He can give us fulfillment and contentment through every season of life. †

### POSTAGE RATES INCREASE AGAIN!

**There is no charge for this magazine, but our readers should be aware of the rising costs involved. Please remember this ministry in your prayers and your giving!**



# THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT

*Radio Message by the late Bro. Alvin Craig*



OUR SUBJECT for today's broadcast is "That Ye Bear Much Fruit." Our text of scripture is found in St. John, chapter 15, verses 1-8: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."



The conversion of a sinner is the work of the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins, and also through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, according to the Scriptures. Not only did Christ die for our sins, but He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures.

Once a person has been saved, he is to be fruitful. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away," Jesus said in the second verse of our reading today.

Now, one of the fruits of the Christian is to produce converts. Whenever you have your sins forgiven, and you know that you are a child of God, a part of the family of God, you naturally would want to see other souls saved. We read in Proverbs, chapter 11, verse 30, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." It not only is a wise thing to win souls, but it takes wisdom to win souls. People can do harm to the cause of Christ in their effort to win souls to the Lord by saying the wrong things or taking wrong attitudes. So "the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

Paul said in Romans 7:4 that we are dead to the law (the Old Covenant law) that we might be married to another, that is, to Christ, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. One of the purposes God ordained for marriage is that the husband and wife be fruitful and multiply. That's what He told Adam and Eve after He had formed them. Down through the ages that has been, and still is, God's purpose. So whenever we are dead to the law of sin and death, and alive to Christ, married to Christ, then we are to bring forth fruit unto God.

Also, in Romans, chapter 1, verse 13, the apostle Paul spoke of desiring to have fruit among the Romans. He desired to go to Rome for quite sometime, but things had hindered him. In his letter to the Romans, he told

them that he desired to come to Rome that he might have some fruit among them. I dare say he wasn't limiting that to just edifying the saints who were there, but his desire was to preach the gospel and see precious souls saved, for it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. So Paul expressed the desire to come to Rome that he might be able to have fruit among them.

The Bible speaks of different fruits. In Philippians 1:11, Paul speaks of being filled with the fruits of righteousness. "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Whenever you are truly saved, you stop the life of sin. You no longer bear the fruit of sin, but you begin to bear the fruit of righteousness.

In Romans, chapter 6, verse 22, Paul speaks of our being made free from sin and become servants to God. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Once a person is saved, he is to live a holy, a godly, and a righteous life in this present world. Let no one tell you that you cannot live holy, for without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. The pure in heart shall see God. You cannot bear the fruit of holiness while still living a life of sin. You must be saved, your sins forgiven, and be translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son before you can bear the fruit of holiness, and at the end have everlasting life.

In Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 15, we read about "the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." We don't have to come to a house of worship leading a lamb or an ox. No, that's not the fruit of our sacrifice today. The sacrifice of praise to God continually is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. Every one of us who can speak can bear the fruit of praise and of thanksgiving. Is not God worthy and deserving of our praise? Of course! Let the righteous praise God. The Bible teaches us that everybody should praise the Lord. All ye people praise the Lord, especially should those who are redeemed from a life of sin be able to bear the fruit of righteousness which is praising almighty God. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4). Every blessing you have ever received, or ever will receive, comes from the hand of almighty God. Therefore, why should we not praise Him? The Psalmist said, "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised." The Psalmist also said, "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

We're talking today about bearing much fruit. We read in the writings of the apostle Paul to the Galatian brethren in Galatians 5:22 and 23, about the fruit of the Spirit: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." There are many laws about many things, but when it comes to bearing the fruit of the Spirit, there is no law against it. You can just bear as much as you possibly can. Isn't there a great need of love in this sin-cursed world today, where there is so much wickedness, so much hatred

and malice? Whenever we become a child of God, filled with the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit sheds abroad in our hearts the love of God. In fact, the first and great commandment is that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. If we love God with all our heart, we're going to love others also. This love for God, living a righteous and a godly life free from all malice and ill-will, will produce joy in our hearts.

The love for God will also produce peace. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). And then, longsuffering and gentleness. Isn't there a need of gentleness today? There's so much harshness, swearing, evil thinking and evil feelings. The spirit of gentleness and goodness is greatly needed in the world today. Of all the people in the world who should bear this particular part of fruit, it is the Christian. Paul also says "faith, meekness, and temperance." All of these are the fruit of the Spirit, and we are to bear much fruit.

Heavenly wisdom produces good fruit. Look at this passage of scripture: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (James 3:17, 18). The first part of this passage says that wisdom produces this fruit. Before this, James said, "This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish."; but I repeat again, "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Jesus said, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." That's the eighth verse of our text today. And, Paul said that whatever we do, we are to do all to the glory of God.

In the book of Luke, Jesus gave us a parable about a person who went out to sow seed. Let me read a few verses of scripture here. Luke, chapter 8, verses 5-8: "A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." If we're going to bear good fruit, then we must plant in good soil. It must be watered. The Psalmist said in Psalm 1:3, "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." A tree that is planted by the river has roots that go out and draw moisture from that river. It will bear fruit and not wither. So it is with us. If we're going to bear fruit for the Master, we need to first of all, plant in good soil, and it needs to be watered.

We are planted in Christ whenever we are saved. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. Psalm 92:13, "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish

in the courts of our God." The house of the Lord is the church of God. The apostle Paul in writing to Timothy, said, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." So "those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God," and they will bear fruit.

There is a purging, according to the scripture passage that I'm using as a text today. There is that need of purging out the old carnal nature. After you are truly saved and you become a child of God, you need to present yourself "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). And be filled with the Holy Spirit. You do not receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit at conversion. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a separate work. The Spirit of God comes into our hearts when we make a complete surrender to the will of God, and invite Him to come in and take up His abode in our hearts and lives. "If ye then, being [of this time world], know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). You don't have to beg and beg and go through a bunch of contortions. You need to make that consecration and invite the Spirit of God to come in. God is more willing to give you the Spirit than you are to receive Him. In receiving the Holy Spirit, you receive added power. Jesus told the disciples before He ascended back to heaven, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." He was talking about the infilling of the Holy Spirit which came to pass on the day of Pentecost.

Water the soil by studying the Word of God and prayer. Keep the thistles and the weeds out of your garden and bear good fruit, for in bearing good fruit you'll glorify the Father. The more fruit we bear, the greater the glory to our heavenly Father. †

---

## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



### THE STRENGTH WE NEED

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Well, there's the end of that!" said my father, shaking the last drop of ketchup from the bottle. He had even poured a little milk into the bottle and shaken it around to salvage every bit of the ketchup. Tomato ketchup was my father's favorite sauce. According to him, there were very few foods that couldn't be improved by a drizzle of ketchup.

My mother sent me to the basement pantry for a new bottle of ketchup. On my way upstairs, I worked to open the bottle. Try as I might, I could not get the metal cap to budge. It held tightly to the glass neck of the bottle, almost as if it had been glued in place.



"I can't get the lid off," I said to my father, handing him the bottle of ketchup.

"Well, let me see," he said, taking the ketchup from me. The cap on the bottle was no match for my father's muscles. The instant he twisted the lid, it came off the bottle with a whoosh and a pop.

"Daddy, you're strong!" said my little four-year-old sister, Rosemary.

My father grinned. "Would you like to see me blow up my muscles?" he asked.

"Blow up your muscles!" said Rosemary in amazement. "Like blowing up a balloon?"

"Watch this!" said my father.

He rolled up his sleeve and bent his arm at the elbow. He stuck his thumb into his mouth and pretended to blow into it as though it were a straw. He blew until his face turned red. Sure enough, his bicep muscles began to bulge as though he were inflating them with air.

"Look!" Rosemary shrieked, turning to our mother. "Daddy blew up his muscles!" Mom laughed.

"No wonder he is so strong!" said my sister, Esther. She was two years older than Rosemary, but still young enough to believe that a man could inflate his muscles by blowing into his thumb.

My father "blew up" his muscles a couple more times for our benefit, and then we went back to eating dinner.

I forgot all about the incident until a few days later when I was outside in the yard watching over Esther and Rosemary while they played.

"Push me on the swing!" cried Rosemary. "I want to go up high!"

"I can't push you anymore," I said to her. "I'm tired. My muscles hurt."

"Just blow them up," said Rosemary.

"Blow them up?" I repeated, confused.

"Yes," she said. "Blow them up like Daddy does!"

Suddenly, I remembered the scene at the dinner table a few days before. *She really believes Daddy was blowing up his muscles!* I thought to myself. *She doesn't know he was teasing.*

"You can't really blow up your muscles," I told her.

"Yes, you can!" insisted Esther. "Daddy did!"

"He was just pretending," I told her. "It was like a game." I showed her my thumb. "Look at this," I said. "There is no hole the air could go through to get to the muscles in your arm."

Esther looked at my thumb, and then she looked doubtfully at me. "Then how did Daddy's muscles get so big when he stuck his thumb into his mouth and blew so hard?" she asked.

"He flexed his muscles," I explained. "He bent his elbow, and then he squeezed as hard as he could to make his arm muscles swell up. He did that right while he was pretending to blow through his thumb. It wasn't air that was making his muscles swell up. It was the squeezing."

"Oh!" said Esther. She sat quietly on the swing, thinking it through. "He tricked me," she said at last.

"Actually," I said, "he was using a trick to tease you."

My father's strong muscles were not magically created by blowing air into them. They were created by daily exercise. He worked hard on the farm from morning until night. That was why he was so strong.

It is good to be physically strong. There is much to be done each day, and we need strength to do it.

But it is even more important to be spiritually strong. We need strength to resist the temptations that come our way each day. We need strength to be good Christian examples. We need strength to carry out the plan God has for our lives. This kind of strength is not found in muscles. It is found in our hearts. It is the determination to please and serve God no matter what.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 10:29, which says, *The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.* An "upright" person is one who is obedient and faithful—one who follows in the way of the Lord. God has promised strength to those who follow Him with all of their hearts.

### Activity

Unscramble the words to find the names of Bible characters who had great spiritual strength.

1. SOMES had the strength to patiently lead the Children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land.

2. LADEIN had the strength to pray to God even when the law said he would be thrown to the lions if he did.

3. MAARHAB had the strength to leave his homeland and go to an unknown land when God asked him to do it.

4. PHOJSE had the strength to forgive his brothers even after they tried to kill him.

5. PHNESTE had the strength to forgive the men who hated his preaching so much they stoned him to death.

### Answer to Last Month's Activity

Jeremiah 29:13—"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." †

### Putting Talk Into Action

*During the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 an American reporter was flying over the Sinai desert with an Israeli officer, and they spotted some fifty thousand stranded Egyptian soldiers who obviously were dying of thirst. When the situation was reported in the newspapers, a number of world leaders and organizations tried to do something to help. But every time a plan was suggested, some military, diplomatic, or bureaucratic obstacle prevented its being carried out. By the time help came, thousands of the soldiers had died.*

*How equally tragic it is for churches to spin their wheels in programs and committees while thousands around them are desperately in need of the spiritual water of the Word.*

—The Bible Illustrator

## THE FAMILY OF GOD

### SONS OF GOD

**Scriptures:** John 1:12, 13; I Peter 1:23; I John 3:1, 2; John 3:1-5; Romans 8:14.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

I Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

I John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

**Memory Verse:** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.—Romans 8:14.

**Aim:** To give the student an understanding of who the sons of God are.

### INTRODUCTION

“No knowledge is of such vast importance to the individual as that he is personally accepted of God, that his sins have been pardoned, that God looks upon him with pleasure, that he is born of the Spirit, that he is a child of God, and that he is on the way to eternal blessedness. It is reasonable to suppose those who are thus saved are conscious of their salvation. The infinite cost of salvation is grounds for the expectation that God will give definite assurance of acceptance to those whom He saves. He so loved men that He spared not His own Son; that He sent His Holy Spirit to convict, convert, sanctify, and guide them; that He inspired holy men to write the sacred Scriptures for the revelation of the way of salvation; that He calls, qualifies, and sends ministers to preach salvation to sinners; and that He instituted His church as a means for the propagation of the gospel. Surely after doing all this He has not failed to make possible to the individual Christian the knowledge of that most important fact—that he is a child of God.” R. R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*.

May the Lord bless each one as you study this important subject, and if you are not a child of God now, consider becoming one.

### MEDITATIONS

**HOW TO BECOME SONS—John 1:12, 13—As many as received him**—To all those that believed Jesus was the Christ, He gave power to become sons of God. There is no other name given under heaven whereby men can be saved.

**BORN AGAIN BY THE WORD OF GOD—I Peter 1:23—Being born again**—The Jews believed that because they were the seed of Abraham they would make it through to heaven. Peter plainly tells them in this verse that they must be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, which is the Word of God, which lives and abides forever. In the previous verse, Peter was telling them to love one another with a pure heart fervently. It is the born-again experience that enables us to love with a pure heart fervently. Salvation will most certainly change a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. I got saved while I was working away from home. When I came home, I did not say anything about it to the family, but they began talking among themselves, saying, “I wonder what has come over Pop, for he is not like he used to be.” I do thank and praise the dear Lord for the great change that He wrought in my heart. I have never regretted my born-again experience, and I have determined with the help of God to go through, regardless of the cost.

**THE SONS OF GOD—I John 3:1—Behold, what manner of love**—When we think of the greatness and majesty of God, how great must His love be that He would take notice of the men of the earth! This same thought must have run through David's mind, for as he beheld the starry heavens, he exclaimed, “What is man that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?” Truly the love of God is beyond our comprehension, and we ought to avail ourselves of the opportunity to become His children. As sons of God, we are not of the world, and in a spiritual sense, we have nothing in common with the world. We do not love the things of the world. Our affections are set upon things above. We have no fellowship with the children of the world, as the things that they are interested in do not appeal to the children of God. **Verse 2—Beloved, now are we the sons of God**—We know that we have been born again, having passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. The love of God in our hearts just naturally makes us want to love everybody, and the more of His love we have, the more we want to love others. It is this love that constrains us to work for the salvation of lost souls, and it is the purpose of these lessons to instill in your heart a burning desire to help in this great work. No man has ever seen God, so we don't know just what we will be like in the world to come; but we know by the Spirit which He has given us, and by our hope of eternal life that we shall see Him face to face.

**NICODEMUS SEEKS JESUS—John 3:1—There was a man**—Nicodemus was a man high up in the Pharisees' religion; and if Jesus had been looking for prestige or for a following, here would have been a



wonderful opportunity for increasing His favor with the Jews. It was not His mission to seek for fame or popularity, but to bring the pure gospel to the men of the earth. We are not to regard the person of man, for God is no respecter of persons. **Verse 2—The same came to Jesus**—The consistent life of the Christian man or woman is bound to witness for Christ. Nicodemus had been watching the works of Jesus, and he recognized that this was not the work of any mere man, but that Jesus was a man of God. Any honest and sincere person will have the witness within himself when he beholds the works of the Lord. Therefore, it is extremely dangerous to be rebellious against the manifestations of the Spirit of God. **Verse 3—Jesus answered and said**—Jesus looked right into the heart of Nicodemus and perceived that he was really desirous of knowing the truth, so he came right to the point and told him, “You must be born again, or you cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus did not know what Jesus was talking about. He did not know that there was a spiritual birth. Although he was a ruler of the Jews, still he did not know the first thing about salvation. The same can be said of the greater part of the church members of our present-day sects. This will help us to realize the weight of the words of Jesus, “Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth to life, and few there be that find it.” **Verse 4—Nicodemus saith unto him**—This verse brings to our minds how utterly ignorant Nicodemus was of the plan of salvation. He was making a profession but had no possession. He did, however, have one very important thing in his favor, and that was an honest heart and a sincere desire to know the truth, and we see him later on as he brought spices to help prepare the body of Jesus for burial—John 19:39, 40. **Verse 5—Jesus answered, Verily, verily**—In being born of the Spirit of God, we become members of the kingdom of God, which is the Church of God. To be born again is to be sorry for our sins and to come to Jesus, asking Him to forgive us. As soon as we believe, the work is done, and we become new creatures in Christ. “Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Praise God for His goodness to the children of men! It makes no difference how vile and wicked a person may have been, the cleansing blood of Jesus can wash away every stain of sin and make his soul pure and whiter than snow. How foolish it is for anyone to keep on carrying the burden of sin, which is daily growing heavier, when Jesus is so willing to relieve him of it! Can’t you hear Him saying, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”?

**DIVINELY LED—Romans 8:14—By the Spirit**—From this verse of Scripture we are confronted with the awakening fact that God will not claim as His own any that will not be led by Him. It is absolutely certain that the Spirit of God never led any man who was trusting Him, into sin. So all that claim they sin more or less every day (if they do so) are not the sons of God. We should consider it the very greatest privilege given to man to have the personal leadership of the Spirit of

God. As we study the Scriptures in search of God’s truth, let us make sure that the revelation of truth in this verse is fully applied to our lives.

## CONCLUSION

What greater honor could be bestowed upon any man than that of being admitted into the kingdom of God and becoming a son of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ? Consider the unbounded love of God for the men of the earth that would constrain Him to sacrifice the very Jewel of heaven on the cruel cross of Calvary that you and I might become His sons. Remember that today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time. Make peace with God now while you have time and opportunity. Tomorrow may be too late.

We trust the study of the lesson has impressed your minds with the desirability of being a son of God and getting the priceless reward at the end of life’s journey to be had by those who retain their sonship unto the end. Let us ever keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and keep in mind the great joy that will fill our souls when we hear Him say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord.” Just one glimpse of the dear Savior will be worth everything. Also, let us never lose sight of the awful sentence that will be passed upon us if we fail to make it through to heaven, and we have to hear Him say, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Dear Reader, one of these two rewards awaits you; so be wise and make your calling and election sure.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. In what way are we sons of God?
2. How do we know that we are sons of God?
3. Why didn’t the Jews receive Jesus?
4. How do we become the sons of God?
5. What is meant by being born again?
6. What is the all-pervading force of the gospel? †

### The Fragrant Flowers

My small son and I were taking a walk. In the far corner of the field we found a patch of beautiful and fragrant flowers. They were in the middle of weeds, almost completely hidden and unnoticed, yet these flowers were blooming in full beauty and we sensed their fresh fragrance. All of us have met persons unnoticed by many, but who in the middle of struggle and unlikely surroundings far from the center of attention live lives of beauty and fragrance. And living lives which seemed obscure they faithfully fulfilled God’s calling for them. God’s question on the last day will not be, “How much were you noticed?” or even “How much did you do?” Rather, His question will be, “Were you faithful in fulfilling your calling where I placed you?”

—The Bible Illustrator

# THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

By the late R. L. Berry

**W**E ARE ONLY beginning to comprehend the marvelous scope of the work of the Spirit of God. There is today an awakening, a hungering and a thirsting, for a better understanding of the works and the ways of the Holy Spirit in order that His divine power may find richer expression in our lives. What a kingdom, the kingdom of God, and how much it will bear exploration by all sincere Christians! There is an eternal kingdom also, but now and here, in the church of Jesus, there are spiritual blessings to be obtained and spiritual land to explore.

Jesus taught that conviction of sin is a work of the Spirit of God. "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). This statement accords with the human experience. What Christian is there who cannot remember that urgent insistent, heart-searching voice of the Spirit who spoke to him of his sins? In the silent night, after some indulgence in evil, after a holy song or a gospel sermon, how the Spirit earnestly wrought with us to turn us to God. And, do we not gratefully remember the encouragement the Spirit gave us as we made our humble confessions and sought pardon of God!

The Holy Spirit has a vital part to perform in the new birth. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5), and "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). Spiritual birth then, the new birth, is also a work of the Spirit of God. To create favorable opportunities for the operation of the Holy Spirit upon hearts is one of the best apologies for revivals.

When one is "born again" he is a "new creature," as Paul says, or is passed "from death unto life," as John puts it. This great work, this fundamental Christian experience, is witnessed to by the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). If we read the verse preceding, the thought is made plainer. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). This witness of salvation is something that has caused many sincere Christians untold grief and sorrow because they have expected it to be some tangible something that, once obtained, they always would have. But the "witness" is not a thing. It is not some exquisite feeling even, it is simply the communication to and with our hearts by the Spirit that we are "the children of God." This witness is preceded by faith. "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (I John 5:10).

I can enter most sympathetically into the troubles of those who doubt. For a few years I was torn between hope and despair. My feelings were so unstable, took such tremendous plunges down into the depths of despair or shot up to such heights of faith and victory. But most of my time was spent in the miasmatic low-

lands of doubt. Out of those depths I was clearly and surely led by the Spirit. I saw my fault, which was to expect a witness before I believed. When I gave way to doubts of course my witness fled. I saw that it was my privilege to believe steadfastly no matter what the state of my feelings, and believing, I had the witness. I learned too that sometimes this witness is clearer or at least it is more evident than at other times. But the Holy Spirit will bear His witness to our sonship if we have been born again.

The Holy Spirit was promised by Christ as the Comforter. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16, 17).

To lay a surer foundation for the faith of the Christian in its being God's will for him to be filled with the Holy Spirit, let us notice God's covenant with Abraham. In Genesis 12:1-3 is outlined God's covenant with Abraham, which contained two separate parts, the first of which related to the Jews and their inheritance in Canaan and the second to all men through Jesus Christ. This thought is brought out beautifully by Paul in Romans 5, especially in verse 16. In Galatians, Paul links the Holy Spirit up with God's promise to Abraham in a most encouraging manner. "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:14). "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29). We quote these texts to show upon what sure grounds the Christian has a right to expect the Holy Spirit in his own life and heart.

Moreover the coming of the Holy Spirit was a matter of prophecy. Ezekiel looked forward to and prophesied of a time when the Spirit would be given. "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Ezekiel 36:27). Joel was more specific, if possible. "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit" (Joel 2:28, 29). Peter, on the great day of Pentecost, referred to this prophecy and said of the outpouring of the Spirit, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16).

By holy prophecy, by solemn covenant, by loving promise, and by an actual outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is His outpouring vouchsafed to us. As Peter said, "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).

Therefore let every Christian believe and embrace this promise. Let him believe for and receive this Holy Spirit. Let him believe that the Holy Spirit awaits to come in as He came upon the disciples at Pentecost. He is for you, Dear Reader. In the words of Paul, we reverently ask you, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19:2).



Having established that fact that the Holy Spirit is the common heritage of all, let us notice how He will help the Christian in his daily life. There are many Christians who need the blessed assurance and witness of the Holy Spirit to their sonship. There are others who have that, but who would be glad to have more spiritual power, deeper grace, and a more even experience.

Perhaps there are thousands of readers of this magazine whose greatest desire is for more personal holiness, joy, peace, and spiritual power and victory. If so, may I call your attention to a few potent facts. Love, which Paul elevates as one of the greatest things, if not the greatest thing in the world, is a fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy," etc. (Galatians 5:22). "Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). Therefore, Dear Christian, if your desire is for more love and grace, get more of the Holy Ghost. As you yield and surrender to God, as you lay as an emptied vessel, as you consecrate yourself for service, let the Holy Ghost come in His fulness. There will ensue those virtues and graces that are the fruit of the Spirit. And Christ said the Father was glorified in our bearing much fruit. Grace and salvation are an impartation of the Spirit. As long as we are filled with the Spirit, the fruits of Him will be borne in our lives. At home we shall have more joy and patience, more love and peace. We shall find divine sustenance when all around seems whirling to pieces. In business life we shall have the love that is courteous; a sincerity that is obvious; of guile there will be none; but honesty and truthfulness and sober, righteous conduct, the normal life. The Holy Spirit will make His presence and grace felt in every department of our lives, for He will dwell with and in us.

Perhaps there are other readers who desire more help from God in their religious work. Sunday school teachers and superintendents, deacons, deaconesses, evangelists, pastors, lay workers and missionaries may feel the need of greater spiritual ability and power in their work. They may be having sore discouragements over results and their labor may seem dry, ineffectual, and lacking in spiritual vitality and unction. We have had some experiences along this line and can enter into these desires and experiences sympathetically. Do you feel the need of more soul burden, of a vitalizing of your evangelistic zeal? Do you feel that your messages lack the spiritual dynamic that will drive truth home to hearts, that your labors are too full of the human? Then let go, and let God work! Let the Holy Spirit take charge. Invite Him into your heart and into your work. Watch Him fan that smoldering flame of love, for souls until you cry, "Give me souls, or I die," as Knox cried out for Scotland. Watch the Spirit unctionize your messages whether delivered to one soul or to a thousand. Ah, the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you shall be blessed and become a blessing.

There are two commands of Jesus that are too often disobeyed and that by very earnest and well-meaning Christians. One is found in Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The other is in Acts 1:4, "And,

being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me."

These two commands, the one to "tarry," the other to "wait," both mean the same thing. They do not mean to strain and work oneself into an excited psychological state of overwrought receptivity as some have practiced, for such experiences have had bad aftereffects. These texts have a commonsense meaning, and they meant then simply what they say. "Tarry," "wait," do not go out to fulfill the great commission to go to all the world with the gospel until you have the divine endowment of power. That was to come at Pentecost. The lesson to us is that we too, on this nineteen hundredth anniversary of Pentecost, should wait for that divine endowment before we go. May it not be a tragical fact that too many earnest Christians have heard the call to go, but have gone to the field before the divine endowment came? Let such not desert the field now, no, but let each one seek that power now and here.

This endowment of power as promised in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," is not noise or physical demonstrations, or tongues, or things like that. Get it out of your minds that the "power" promised is noisy demonstrations. This promise of Jesus concerns something far more fundamental than such things. He said, "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8), last clause. This is what the "power" is. It is power to witness for Christ in our lives and by our testimony. And that is just the power that is needed. Oh, that every Christian were filled with just that kind of power which the Holy Spirit gives!

There are other things the Holy Spirit will do for us in our Christian everyday life. Take the matter of prayer. What is it that will make our prayers vital and effectual? James says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). We are commanded to "pray without ceasing," to "with thanksgiving make our request known to God," and the promise of Jesus is "Ask, and ye shall receive." Yet are we not satisfied that much prayer is unavailing? May the secret of power in prayer not be in relation of the Holy Spirit to prayer?

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27). Here is a deep and searching text. It seems that our daily prayers need the anointing and help of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever had the experience of the Spirit's causing you to feel that certain persons needed prayer? Once a party of evangelists was going across Colorado on the train. The brother a thousand miles away felt suddenly one day that this particular party was in danger and needed immediate help from God. He fell upon his knees and asked God to protect them. Later it was found that a

wreck was narrowly averted at that hour. This may be somewhat unusual and yet might we not have a richer, more effectual prayer life if the Spirit could use us to make intercession? Many things need changing. Let us all learn how to pray that prayer that will change them. I believe that many a home can be blessed by a praying mother. Ah, indeed, prayer does change things and it is a power and a force used too little in our everyday life.

There are, it is said, more heathen today in the world than when Christ died. The call of the soul of these millions who know not Christ pierces the veil of superstition and reaches our ears. Who will go? Who will give? Who will pray? A rebaptism of the Holy Spirit will rekindle the fires of missionary zeal in the heart of every Christian, for the Holy Spirit is a missionary spirit.

In these days of conflicting opinion we need a teacher of authority. The Holy Spirit is such a teacher. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit will guide us in our studies and give us blessed illumination of divine truth. We should love our teachers here, but the Holy Spirit is the greatest teacher of them all. As you read your Bible, He will flash light upon its sacred pages and reveal to you the deeper things of God.

Oh, how blessed is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the heart! He is the Comforter. He sheds love abroad in the heart, He leads in paths of duty. He teaches us, He helps our infirmities. He gives gifts that will enable us to serve our fellowman. The Holy Spirit in one's heart will convert him from a disinterested, indifferent disciple into a zealous soul-winner for God. And what is more needed today than that every Christian in all this broad world become active, earnest, personal evangelists, who will carry the gospel message to their "world"? When this occurs that great revival which we all are praying for will break out.

This year is the nineteen hundredth anniversary of Pentecost. Could it be any better celebrated than by every Christian tarrying and praying just as the apostles did in Jerusalem and having a fresh Pentecost? I think not. There is needed a revival of pure spiritual religion and this can come only by each one receiving a great revival in his own soul. Just as Pentecost changed Peter from man-and-maid-fearing disciple into a bold preacher of the gospel, just as it turned the despondent band of apostles into a group with great power, just so a new Pentecost will change us into better Christians, with greater grace at home and greater power in our testimony.

My soul thrills with expectancy! I shall myself consecrate as I never have consecrated, and I shall wait and pray and believe for a greater outpouring of the Spirit in my heart. Will you join with me and others in this? The Holy Spirit is promised.

*Let us let Him come in! †*

—Reprinted from December 1994 issue

# DELIBERATING ON THE BOOK OF PSALMS

(with emphasis on Psalms 93, 101, and 103)

By the late Bro. H. R. Matthews

**T**HE BOOK OF Psalms is the 19<sup>th</sup> book of the Old Testament and is known as the Book of Poetry. It has a number of authors, with David being the most prolific, having written 73 of the 150 Psalms.

Many of David's life experiences, beginning as a shepherd boy, are reflected in many of his psalms, while at the same time they are exhortations to sonship, trust, praise, and thanksgiving. Also, prophetic passages concerning the coming Messiah.

Psalm 1 sets the tone for many of the Psalms. It is beautifully introduced by pointing man to God, his Creator: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:1, 2).

Let us take a look now at an exhortation in trust: "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (Psalm 9:10).

For praise, let us consider Psalm 34:1: "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Shall we be thankful unto the Lord? "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).

David's exhortations cover a fairly complete spectrum. His exhortation in Psalm 19:14 is quite profitable to the blameless life: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Beautiful are the Psalms of David, but our deliberation must go beyond just enjoying the beautiful literature given to us by the heart and hand of David and others. David's Psalm 19 bears this out: "The law [His Word] of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony [His Word] of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes [His Word] of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment [His Word] of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord [respect, adoration] is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments [His Word] of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they [His Word] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honey comb. Moreover by them [His Word] is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them [His Word] there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11).

One of the most beautiful chapters in the entire Bible came from the heart and hand of David. We find this recorded in Psalm 23. In this Psalm, David portrays the Lord as the good Shepherd; that in His creativity,

The Way of Truth



He made provision for every need of man. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

A wonderful promise from the Lord is found in Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Let us rejoice also in the promise left us in verse 15 of Psalm 34: "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."

David was inspired by the Holy Spirit with a number of verses in his Psalms that were prophetic of Christ's suffering that would pay the debt of sin we could not pay: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring" (Psalm 22:1). This prophecy was fulfilled as Jesus was near to breathing His last as His blood stained the old rugged cross. In reality, almost the entire Old Testament pointed to Christ and the cross that would reconcile mankind to his Creator, God. It was the apostle Paul's schoolmaster that led him to Christ. (Galatians 3:24).

The book of Psalms is in lockstep with the precious gospel story that provides forgiveness and pardon for all who will plunge into the fountain filled with Jesus' blood. Volumes could not contain or fully tell the story that the book of Psalms holds, but it has been requested that emphasis be placed on that part of this wonderful story found in Psalms 93, 101, and 103.

Psalm 93 begins with "The Lord reigneth ..." This is a short phrase, but it speaks volumes. The fact that Christ reigns places Him on the throne from which He rules over heaven's angels. Not only so, but He reigns over that part of the family of God that has left earth's scene and is now dwelling in heaven. But what is God's family? In Matthew, chapter 16 we find Jesus referring to Himself as "this rock." In leading up to this declaration, He questioned His disciples, asking them, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Some answered him, saying: "Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elisas; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." Then Jesus asked, "But whom say ye that I am?" Then Peter, by divine revelation, said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Unto this revelation, Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It is this church that is the family of God.

The apostle Paul made this declaration: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Ephesians 3:14, 15). This is Christ's earthly domain over which He reigns. Christ as the Head of the whole family in heaven and in earth; but this does not exhaust, "The Lord reigneth." Paul speaks again: "For by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16, 17).

The author of Psalm 93 goes on to say, "He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength." To say that the Lord is clothed with majesty would mean that His majesty is limitless. *Majesty* is the dignity of a sovereign. He is Lord of lords, and King of kings. As for

being clothed with strength, Jesus Himself said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). "Wherewith he hath girded himself," is just another way of saying that He was clothed with majesty, He was clothed with strength. "Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting." This is not speaking of a literal throne but a place of great authority. The Lord's place of authority is eternal, just as He is eternal.

Verse five of Psalm 93 is extremely important: "Thy testimonies [the eternal Word of God] are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever." *House* as used in this verse is God's church, His family. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15). "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God, by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5). If this were a literal house of worship, it would eventually crumble and return to mother earth.

Let us now consider a few thoughts on Psalm 101. Inasmuch as David is dealing with his own conduct and behavior in this Psalm, verse one would be considering his own mercy to, and his judgement of his fellow men. "Unto thee, O Lord, will I sing." This would erase any carnal considerations from Psalm 101. Verse two is a continuation of verse one: "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way." How could David have acted more perfectly than by doing the will of God? "O when wilt thou come unto me?" This thought may seem a little disconnected from the rest of the verse, but we must consider that without God, we can do nothing. We can understand why David is inquiring of God for help in his behaving himself wisely in a perfect way. Did David not say in his younger years, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"? "I will walk within my house in a perfect way." What David is saying in effect, is, "I am not being hypocritical in my declaration." He also said, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Is David not saying, "I will flee from every evil temptation that may beset me"?

David concludes verse three with this determined thought, "I hate the work of them that turn aside [to evil]; it shall not cleave to me." Let us not misunderstand the remainder of Psalm 101. What David is saying, in effect, "I will not be partaker of the sinner's evil deeds." It is unavoidable that we rub elbows, as it were, with sinners daily. He is not saying that there can never be a friendship with the sinner. How can we reconcile the unrighteous to a righteous God if there is not some form of friendship? "Who [God] would have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4).

David knew well the many wonderful benefits of being a friend to God. Therefore, Psalm 103 opens with David's exuberant rejoicing: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

David was not unique as he fought the many battles of life. Every child of God is a soldier in God's army. He will have many foes to face. Nevertheless, the songwriter penned: *I'm on the winning side with Jesus.* †

Church of God (Universal), Inc.  
The Way of Truth  
P. O. Box 88  
Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Mercersburg, PA  
Permit No. 15

**THE CHURCH OF GOD  
STANDS FOR**

An eternal God	Psalm 90:2
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

**YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE  
ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD**

Jesus bought it with His own blood	Acts 20:28
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

**2025 PHILIPPINE CONVENTION**

**Paniqui, Tarlac, Luzon**  
**December 26-30, 2025, Lord willing**  
**Bro. Rey Fabian, Host Pastor**



*Revival Services*

**DEVILLE, LOUISIANA**

**October 9-12, 2025**

**Bro. Doug Koerner, Evangelist**

**Bro. Terry Deville, Pastor**



**HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND**

**October 31-November 2, 2025**

**Bro. Tim Crooks, Evangelist**

**Bro. Greg Tyler, Pastor**

**ADD A NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST**

If you know of someone you feel would appreciate this magazine, feel free to send us the name. Please make sure he/she wants it and it won't be refused.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_