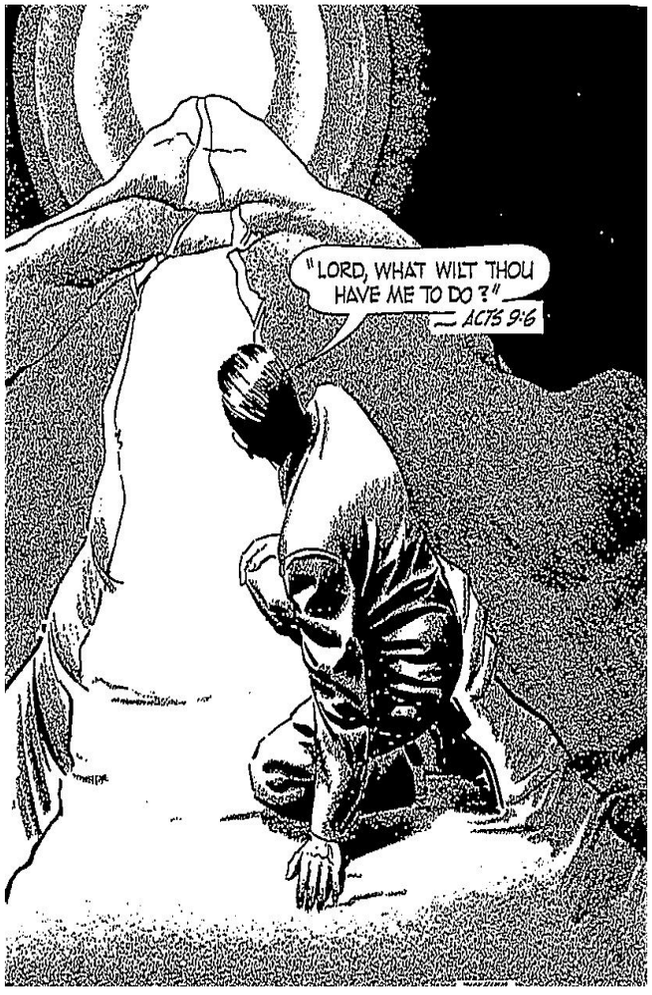
AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

May-June 2023

OUR GOAL: REACHING FOR LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST WHILE THERE IS TIME

IF....



IF, It's such a big little word. Easy to, say often abused. It leaves us frustrated at times, after we follow it with apparent impossibilities. It can also attack us with a sharp challenge. At other times it floats into our subconscious conversation with ourselves during meditation. A thousand noble wishes have begun with "if."

If sinful men could only see their need of the Savior ... If only our preaching could rea the masses of our nation . . . If only our gospel were falling like rain upon America millions . . . If all our churches could see the value of a consecrated assault up strongholds of our spiritual enemy ... If the vision for evangelism could take a determin grip on every layman's heart ... If we could only have a Pentecostal witness in every c How many times have these and similar desires found their way into your thoughts? Th are they swept away by the icy winds of present realism?

Let's dig those "ifs" out! Look at them "square in the face." Accept them as challenge Examine them for Scriptural commands and for the personal wishes of Christ. What ca be done with them? What bridges the swirling waters between "if" and reality? Since "i is indicative of some degree of inward vision, is there any way of transforming that visi into action and accomplishment? Surely there is and we must find it. Simple wishin accomplishes little. Great achievements never occur without great effort. There is a gre mission field in America who needs the gospel of Jesus Christ! One visit will so move yo that you will most likely utter, "IF only .... " If only what? A hundred missionaries pastors, teachers, personal workers, soul winners. NOW! If they could only come now before the doors of opportunity close. Which of you reading these lines could put them aside without praying for America. Pray for pioneers, laborers in the harvest,

J R Ensey

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CHRIST IS THE ANSWER

Greetings to the Saints of God!

Pastor Junior & Brenda Tingle



Hello Christian Friends
So good to be able to visit with you again through the newspaper, I wanted to share with you today thoughts from the sermon I gave on Sunday April 23rd

My sermon title was God's Final Count I was telling our congregation that when everything is summed up and we come to the end of all things that there will be a final count, a count that shows the continued faithfulness, of God's people "When a man knows the end is near – only the important surfaces. Impending death distills the vital. The trivial is bypassed. The unnecessary is overlooked. Tough turns and sharp curves. These are just the normal bumps and bruises to be expected. And then there are the crashes. At times we all crash on the track of life. It's not a matter of if we fail but when we fail. It's a part of life. Everyone who has succeeded has also failed many times, we must learn from our losses. We must admit our failures if we are going to learn from them. Failure is never final. God wants to give us the power to begin again. God is calling us to hear his final, decisive, inexhaustible Word — to meditate on it and study it and memorize it and linger over it and soak in it until it saturates us to the center of our being. Christ will return to Earth exactly has He has promised! This may take place at the least expected time. The world will not be prepared for this event, since Jesus Himself said that it will be like the days of Noah - the world at large will all be busy eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, fighting and doing business right up till the very moment of the Second Coming.

But we who love the Lord Jesus Christ must be prepared for Him to come at any time. This is absolutely required of us and commanded of us. It is actually part and parcel of Christian living. Titus 2:11-13 tells us that besides teaching us to deny our past life of sin and live righteously, the grace of God must also teach us to look for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. To be in God's Final Count are you committed to wait patiently for Christ to return? Are you like the five wise virgins in the parable, who made absolutely sure that they would be ready to go forth and meet the bridegroom when he comes? We should be occupied with serving Jesus until His return, if you have grown slack in your service, then perhaps it is time now for you to reconsecrate your life fully for God's use. Surrender yourself completely to Him now and lay down all your personal ambitions for His sake. We have God's power available to us each and every day. (Eph 1:19) and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Let us not run this race in vain Phil 2:16 Every person has to make his or her own preparations for Christ's coming. On that great day will you be in that final count?

Thank you as always for your continual support ! Brother Junior Tingle

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The Christian Tabernacle Church



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Madisonville, Kentucky
42434

Phone:
270-584-4248

Service Schedule:

Sunday Morning Word & Worship 10:00 a.m.

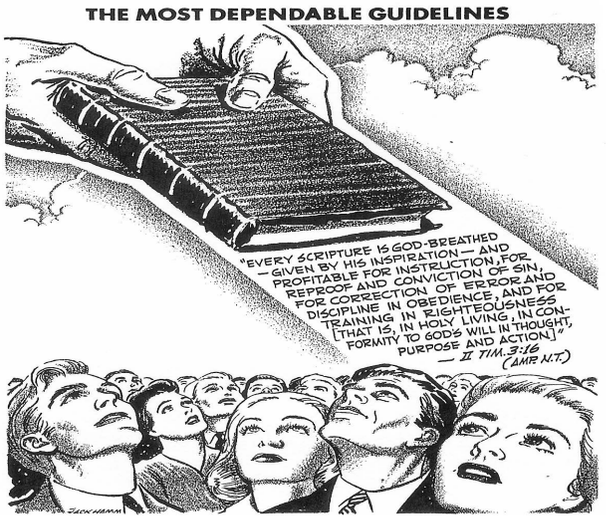
Sunday Evening Word & Worship 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Service 7:30 p.m.

Please remember To pray for this Newspaper!

Don't Forget!

To write to America's Christian Newspaper if you want to be on our mailing list.
You can also text us your name and address to **270-339-0873** and we will be glad to send you the next issue.
Oh Yes! Don't forget to send a donation to keep this great paper alive.



A More Excellent Sacrifice

"God help us not to get so wise that we know more about what to offer as a sacrifice to God than what His Word teaches us is acceptable to Him."

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he ob tained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).

It is impossible to separate the element of sacrifice from Christianity. God must have those who will sacrifice if the work of God is to go forward. I believe Abel's example still speaks to us today concerning the degree of sacrifice needed in these very perilous last days. Let us examine Abel's sacrifice to help us better understand what is involved in the more excellent sacrifice God is looking for today.

Quantity or Quality

Abel's sacrifice certainly did not equal Solomon's sacrifice during the dedication of the Temple as far as numbers are concerned. Solomon offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep as compared to Abel's small offering of the firstlings of his flock, but Abel's offering is called the "more excellent sacrifice." Many others have given much more than Abel gave and yet their offerings somehow lacked the element that qualified them as a "more excellent sacrifice." It must not be so much the quantity as the quality of the sacrifice that matters as far as God is concerned. Let us examine the quality of Abel's sacrifice that made it a "more excellent sacrifice."

Quality of Sacrifice

Many try to live for God on their own terms, but this is not acceptable to God. Neither is it acceptable when we try to offer a sacrifice to God on our own terms. Abundant proof of this is found in that Cain offered what he considered a perfectly good sacrifice, but to God it was unacceptable.

There are at least two elements in Abel's sacrifice that made it the "more excellent sacrifice" that it was. They are faith and obedience.

The Element of Faith

"By faith Abel offered" is a key to the acceptability of his offering. The essence of faith is following when you do not know where the path will lead. This is illustrated for us in Hebrews 11:8: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed: and he went out, not know-ing whither he went." God is asking us to sacrifice our very lives for the cause of the gospel (Romans 12:1), but the question in many minds may be, "Where will it lead me?" Abel did not know that his sacrifice would cost him his life, but he was willing to offer what he felt would please God, no matter where it took him. Why not place our lives in the hands of an all-knowing God and let Him lead us where He will? This is an element of the more excellent sacrifice!

The Element of Obedience

The other element of sacrifice which pleases God is obedience. You cannot separate faith from obedience. The essence of obedience is surrendering your will when you do not understand why. Cain was not willing to surrender his will to God. In his self-will, he could not understand why Abel's lamb was any better than his fruit of the ground. Abel, on the other hand, offered what God required, not understanding, perhaps, all the significance of a blood sacrifice, but simply obeying God because it was His will.

Some people will not submit to the will of God unless they understand all the reasons why. Maybe this is why the Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 1:26, "Not many wise men after the flesh ... are called." God help us not to get so wise that we know more about what to offer as a sacrifice to God than what His Word teaches us is acceptable to Him.

The Importance of Sacrifice

Satan has always tried to remove the element of sacrifice from the people of God. This is very clearly illustrated in the lives of the Children of Israel under Egyptian bondage. The first com-promise Satan tried to get Israel to accept is found in Exodus 8:25: Pharaoh said, "Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land." This is a call to serve God in harmony with the world. This we cannot do. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate ... " is still the will of God today as it was then. Next, Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away" (Exodus 8:28). As with the first compromise, this offer was not acceptable to God. We cannot live half in the church and half in the world. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters." We must decide to leave the world com-pletely and live for God with all our hearts if our sacrifice is to be accepted by Him.

Pharaoh's third attempt was to allow only the men to leave Egypt: "Go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD" (Exodus 10:11). He wanted them to leave their wives and children in Egypt, knowing that they would return to their loved ones. Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth ... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

(continued page 4)

A More Excellent Sacrifice

We must confess with the Old Testament heroes of faith that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, allowing nothing in this world to draw our attention away from our heavenly goal.

Perhaps Pharaoh's most subtle attack against Israel illustrates to us the importance of sacrifice in our lives. Pharaoh said, "Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed" (Exodus 10:24). He was saying, "Go ahead, serve God, just don't make any sacrifices." We hear it today as, "Go ahead, be a Christian, just don't be a fanatic about it! Don't sacrifice any of your time, talent, or money. Go to church reg-ularly, pray before you eat, drop a dollar in the plate, call yourself a Christian and everything will be all right!"

Thank God for a man like Moses who was willing to say no! His answer, "Thou must give us also sacrifices," depicts the necessity of sacrificial living and sacrificial giving. Thank God for men and women today who will say no to Satan! We cannot serve God with-out our sacrifices. We must put some sacrifice into our walk with God!

David recognized the importance of sacrifice when he came to the threshing floor of Araunah to build an altar unto the Lord. Araunah offered to give David all that he needed to worship God, but David refused: "Nay, but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (II Samuel 24:24).

The times in which we live demand a more excellent sacrifice if the work of God will go forward. We need to give as the widow of old gave, not just of our abundance, but out of our want! (Mark 12:44). She gave money she needed to live on, not knowing where it would lead her or why she was compelled to give sacrificially. She was willing to do the will of God. Let us follow her example! end....

Can The devil Be Saved?

Marcus V. Hand



The question was asked, tongue in cheek, but with a great deal of intensity, "Well, what about it? Is it possible? If all one has to do to be saved is believe, can the devil believe and be saved?"

Indeed, the devil is already a believer. The Bible says, "Thou believes! that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19).

"Does this mean, then, that the devil is saved? Just what are the conditions for salvation? Is believing enough?"

The Bible talks a lot about believing and a lot about faith. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31); "Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

Saving faith is more than intellectual assent. lt is more than merely knowing something or believing with the mind that a certain something exists. The faith that saves is more than believing that God is great and God is good. It is more than merely sharing the opinion with others that Jesus died for the sins of the world. Faith is personal, powerful, and exclusive. Believing is enough only when it is the right kind of believing.

Jesus made faith conditional when He said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said" (John 7:38). Believing is enough when we believe according to the Scriptures. No creed is correct when it is contrary to God's Word. The Bible is the standard. The Word of God is faith's touchstone. God's law is the criterion for all men. If we are saved, we must believe according to His Word.

Believing is enough when it accompanies confession of sin. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Any amount of believing, without a confession and a forsaking of sin; is null and void. But when a man confesses and believes, then God graciously forgives. Faith must be firm, forthright, and persistent. "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that waverelh is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:6).

When we go to God, we must go boldly and without hesitancy, believing that God "is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Finally, faith is enough when believing is accompanied by obedience. Another translation renders James 2:19, 20 as, "Are there still some among you who hold that only believing is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too so strongly that they tremble in terror! Fool! When will you ever learn that 'believing' is useless without doing what God wants you to?" Faith is vain unless you are willing to forsake sin and obey God. Believing that He can forgive you is not enough unless you accept Christ with obedience and trust Him completely.

No, the devil cannot be saved. He believes; that is true. But not according to Scriptures. He knows that God can and does forgive, but he never confesses his sin. He is the personification of doubt. He always changes his mind, and he is not willing to obey God and do God's will.

Though the devil cannot be saved, you, if you are not already a child of God, can be. Is Christ calling you today? Is His Spirit speaking to you right now? If so, do not doubt. Be willing to obey Him completely. Believe on Him, according to the Scriptures.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3

Questions & Answers



By O.F Fauss

Question.

What is the place, or responsibility, of the pastor's wife in the church?

Answer:

First, she is a partaker of her husband's ministry, as heirs together, by virtue of the fact that she is married to a minister. She is his "help meet," the same as any other woman is to her husband. If she had married a farmer, she would have performed the duties of a farmer's wife; and this is true of any other position or profession. I have told ministers' wives, "Never say, 'I'm not called to the ministry; my husband is the one who is called,' for YOU are married to the call or profession of your husband."

Naturally, the burdens of the pastor are shared by his wife. If her abilities allow, she can be a leader of other women, teach the younger their responsibilities and duties, and be a living example, both in the home and in the church. Her position as such should be honored by the church, as they honor her husband. She may, or may not, be a talented singer or musician, but she can be a blessing in her godly life, encouraging other women by her pattern of holiness, and by her devotion to God and to her hus-band. And as she ministers to the limit of her capacity, she should never be imposed upon, just because she is the "preacher's wife."

Remember, the preacher's wife is just as human as any other woman, and it is natural for her to de-sire a nice home, and enjoy living the same as any-one. It is to be appreciated when a pastor's wife tries to be neat and commendable in appearance.

As she shares the blessings of her husband's ministry, let it be remembered that she also shares his heartaches (they are many).

These all speak of her responsibilities-to the church and to other people. But she also has a place and responsibility in the personal life of her hus-band, the pastor. She can be his greatest encourage-ment, or his greatest hindrance. She can be a bless-ing to him, or his most difficult problem. She can say the kindest and most encouraging word to him, or say that which will cut deeper than anyone else. She can be his greatest strength as he goes to his pulpit to preach the burden of his soul to those whom God has placed under his care, or she can be the cause of the greatest pressure that anyone has ever labored under. The same Devil that caused Mother Eve to persuade her husband to fail God, is still the enemy of God's man, the pastor. And even the pastor's wife must always keep herself dedicated to God, and to God's church, lest she be drawn away by a wrong influence.

I fear that the pastor's wife is many times over looked when people are passing out compliments. The minister is generally complimented and commended for his labors, and the blessing brought to the church. But nearly always there is the wife of that minister, who bears the burden to keep him encouraged, and who keeps the light shining when his hours are the darkest.

When you pray for your pastor, never forget to pray for his wife, for they, together, share your burdens and sorrows, as well as your blessings.

Please permit me to refer to my personal life and ministry. In my hardest battles, the darkest days, and when facing the most difficult problems, my greatest encouragement, my strength in the times of weakness, and the brightest light in the darkest hours, has been the woman who vowed to take me for better or worse, pledging her loyalty to me, her husband, more than a half century ago my wife, Jewel.

QUESTION:

What do you think are some of the false teachings we should be especially on guard against? How could false teachings get in when we have been given the true revelation through the Word of God of who Jesus is? My pastor says that false teaching can get in, and that some will be deceived. How can we know what is false and what is true?

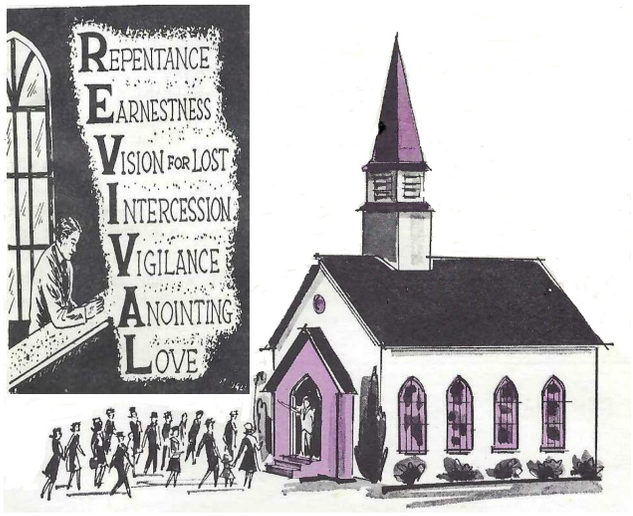
ANSWER:

Your pastor is a wise and godly man, and he has told you the truth. It is important to understand that these are the last days, and Satan is determined to destroy the faith of everyone he can. His sharpest arrows are aimed at God's true church. Jesus warned us, "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:23-24) What should we do? Go back to the "old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16).Examine our preaching, our teaching, our philosophical leanings. Are they totally scripturally grounded or have we accepted human philosophies that sounded good? It is important to remind ourselves: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25)

Bro David Gray

Revival

By F.J.Turley



IN 2 CHRONICLES 7: 14 is one of the greatest verses of promise for revival and restoration in the whole of the Bible.

God is a God of revival, as we can see by tracing the many times that He sent quickenings and deliverances to His people Israel. Under Moses, we see the mighty Exodus; under Gideon, Israel with a few, restored to power. There were revivals under Hezekiah and Josiah, and the period of restoration under Nehemiah and Ezra, when the worship of Jehovah was restored, the Temple again occupying a strategic place in the nation.

All these incidents show that God is a 'God of revival; and that in the most unlikely places and at the time least expected, He breaks through the darkness of religious and moral apostasy and lightens the sky with His delivering power and blessing. But in all these mighty dealings of God, human conditions have been met, and thus the channels prepared for the surge of divine power. It is in this verse that we have shown to us how revival may come to the people of God. In the previous verse (13) we read of tragic - conditions. "If I shut up heaven, that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among the people. . . . " When these things exist, verse 14 can become operative.

As we look into the moral, social and religious conditions, we find these things in existence. To receive no rain brings barrenness, the land is parched, and we are soon unable to grow anything in the hard, barren soil. How we love to sing "Showers of blessings we need them," and we certainly do. There is a hardness in the hearts of many so called evangelical believers. Much of the Christian activities of today bring very little real, lasting fruit. There is a barrenness in the land today. We read also of locusts coming and devouring the plant life, the fruit of the labours of the people. When these insects come, they sweep over everything and leave the land empty and wasted. Locusts in the Scripture are illustrative of false teachers and doctrines (see Revelation 9). We see how greatly the church of Christ is being plagued by false doctrines, and by teachers seeking to draw away disciples after their heresies.

They deny the deity of Christ, the precious blood, the personal return of the Lord Jesus, and the authority of the Scriptures. Only a mighty revival will restore the great truths of Scripture in hearts. and minds of the people outside the church.

We read next of pestilences among the people. These are diseases which come and cause physical weaknesses and illnesses. There is also a spiritual counterpart to this. The spiritual diseases which come to many of God's people also cause spiritual and soul weakness, thus the work of the Lord is hindered, and often completely ceases. The pestilence of the critical spirit the backbiting tongue, the inner sickness of jealousy and pride these are the causes helping to weaken the people of God and sap away their spiritual strength. If these things are there, then verse 14 becomes imperative.

The Cause for Revival

"My people, which are called by my name, . . . " Those who are called by the name of the Lord, the people of God, are the cause for revival. So many people love to be called by their denominational name Anglican, Methodist, Pentecostal, Nazarene, etc, The cause for revival is found among those who have the name of the Lord called upon them. God transcends the boundaries of sects and denominations. It is His name that counts, the precious name of Jesus. We are saved through His name (Matthew 1: 21; Acts 2: 21); we are healed through His, name (Acts 3:6,16; Mark 16: 17,18); devils are cast out in His name (Mark 16: 17; Luke 10:17; Acts 16: 18); we are baptized in His name (Acts 2: 38; 8:12-16; 10: 48); we receive the Spirit through His name (John 14: 26); prayer is answered in His name (John 14: 13; 16: 24}; we meet together in His name (Matthew 18: 20); and we are sanctified in His name (1 Corinthians 6: 11). It is all through Jesus' name. Can we really say that we are those who are called by His name? The responsibility rests upon us, we "who have named the name of Christ!"

The Conditions for Revival

"Humble themselves .... " Some of us put prayer first; God puts humility first. Humility is one of the characteristics of the Christ life. Christ humbled himself ... unto death .... " We must allow the spirit of God to melt us, and mold us, until we are pliable in His hands. Then God can work through us toward revival and restoration. How proud we get with our work for Christ, our church attendance (if it is good), our giving to the cause of Christ here and abroad! It is through humble saints that God works and sends revival.

Read carefully, on your knees humbly before God, Isaiah 57. There is the secret of revival. Let us be clay in the hands of the Divine Potter, for that is the first step to personal and collective revival.

"Pray and seek my face. . . . " We all recognize the great need for prayer. But here God wants us to seek His face. Earnest, positive supplication; not a prayer here and there, but something that burns in our hearts. Revival is a burden of the soul, and this burden itself should drive us to our knees, for there is NOWHERE ELSE to go to get an answer. The same God who puts the cry for revival in our hearts is the One who alone can meet that cry in its deepest need. "Turn from their wicked ways

This means to forsake all known sin, allowing the blood of Christ to cleanse our deepest failings, shortcomings and open and secret sins. The Psalmist says, "Search me and see if there be any wicked way in me .... "We must get rid of the sins that beset us!

The Consequences

"I will hear from heaven ..... " Here we get the promise of answered prayer. God says He will hear; listen to our petitions, just as He did for Israel of old. "I have heard their cry and am come down to deliver .... " (Exodus 3: 7,8). How many of our prayers go unanswered! This fact alone should make us get right with God and each other, thus removing all barriers to the answers to our prayers. God wants to answer them more than we can fully realize.

" ... will forgive their sin. . . . " If we confess and forsake our sin, we know that " ... he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS .... " Holiness brings blessing and the power of the spirit. Without holiness, there will be no revival. It was when the inner Temple was cleansed in Hezekiah's day that revival broke out.

This is the way of revival!

Dedicated To Doctrine

Why Did Jesus Pray, If He Was God?

By E.G.Bass

The question has been asked, "If the Lord Jesus Christ was God, why did he pray to the Father?" We teach by the word of God that there is ONE GOD, the creator of the heavens and the earth and all mankind, manifest to man- kind as Father (Creator), Son (Saviour), and the Holy Spirit (Indwelling spirit). We believe and teach that there is but ONE GOD with three manifestations. "For there are three that bear record· in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost: and these three are ONE" (I Jn. 5:7). It does not say that they agree or work as one but that they are ONE. The Name of the ONE TRUE GOD is Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38}. Jesus is the Father, Jesus is the Son, Jesus is the Holy Ghost.

Now in asking the question, "Why did Jesus pray to the Father?" the Trinitarians try to prove that there is more than one in the Godhead. In this question they see Jesus, the Son, the second person, praying to the Father, the final person in the Godhead.

Briefly let me bring in at this point the doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine was the result of the Council of Nicea which was called by Constantine, the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire. This council was called to settle the question of the Godhead, and the result was the doctrine of the Trinity. Briefly the doctrine is: "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God." "And yet they are not three Gods but one God," but • these three persons, being truly distinct one from another." Also in this "trinity" of persons the son is begotten of the Father by an eternal generation, and the Holy Spirit proceeds by an eternal pro- cession from the Father and the Son, yet not- withstanding they differ as to origin, the persons are co-eternal and co-equal, all alike are uncreated and omnipotent."

This doctrine of the Trinity is nowhere to be found in the Bible. The Word of God plainly teaches THREE MANIFESTATIONS OF ONE

GOD, not three persons or Gods. Nowhere in the Word .of God can you find these words, "Trinity", "three persons", or "Holy Three." These are terms used by men to turn the hearts of men from the truth of God and who He is. Basically the doctrine of the Trinity has not changed since the council of Nicea.

When we say that Jesus is the ONE TRUE GOD and beside Him there is no other the Trinitarian will ask this question, "Why did Jesus pray to the Father? They often say, "If Jesus is God then He prayed to himself." I will do my best to answer these questions.

First, let me ask the Trinitarian a question. Their doctrine states that the Father and the Son are two persons and that they are separate and distinct one from the other, yet they are co• eternal and co-equal. In simple language this means that the Father has no more power than the Son and likewise the Son has no more power than the Father. The Father was not be-fore the Son or the Son was not before the Father. Now the question I will ask is this: "If the Father and Son are co-equal, why did the Son pray to the Father?" You pray to someone because you need help, If the Son is co-equal, with the Father he had no need to pray to Him for help because he has just as much power and might. Please think, Mr. Trinitarian, before you ask such a question.It is accepted everywhere that Jesus is the Son (Matt. 1:23-25}. but let us prove that Jesus is the Father as well as the son. . "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon. his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty GOD The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6)

Some say we are foolish to call Jesus both Father and Son, but this scripture calls him Father and Son in the same verse. A child would be born, a son given, but he would be called the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father. Jesus declared that He and the Father are one (Jn. 10:30). He does not say they work as one or agree as one, but He plainly states that they ARE one. Phillip asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father in John 14:7-10. Jesus told Phillip, "Have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip. He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then shew us the Father?" Some will say then if Jesus is the Son and also the Father then He prayed to Himself. It would not be unscriptural to say this. Before you go up in Holy Smoke let us look at the Word of God. There is nothing unscriptural about the statement for in Heb. 6: 13 we find "when God made promise to Abraham because He could swear by no greater, He sware by Himself?" Did not God swear by himself? In Eph. 5:25-27 we read where Jesus presents the church to himself.

Let us look at it in its true light. God is a spirit and we know by the word of God that a spirit has not flesh and bone. He created all things. This makes him Father. This same God manifested himself to the world as a Son. "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal 4:4) The Son was made. "Wherefore when He cometh unto the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body bas thou prepared me." God would come to redeem fallen man so He prepared a body in the virgin Mary and got into that body and came to us to be our Saviour. This manifestation of God in mankind was called the Son Not another, but God himself manifested in flesh. (Isa. 7: 14, Matt. 1:22,23). This son was Emmanuel, "God with us." This was the child to be born and the Son to be given, yet He was the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6). The Son was the mystery of Godliness being revealed to mankind; God manifested in flesh (I Tim. 3: 16). This was God becoming flesh and dwelling among us (John I: 1, John 1: 14).

He prayed because as Son he took on himself the form of man and in taking on the form of man he took on himself a human nature (not a fallen nature!) Please read Phil. 2: 5-8. In taking on this nature he could hunger, thirst, become tired, could cry, and could even die. But one of the principle characteristics of the human nature is that it must pray. There is something within all men that cries out for them to pray whether they do or not. So Christ in his humanity prayed unto the eternal Spirit. Now even as God took these human characteristics on himself when He came into this world, even so He laid them aside in His resurrection, and we no longer know Him after the flesh (II Cor. 5: 16). Paul said we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. After His resurrection we know him as Thomas found Him, "My Lord, and my God" (Jn. 20:28). We know Him as John saw Him on the isle of Patmos, as the Almighty (Rev. 1:7 ,8). As the first and last (Rev. I :17 ,·18). If Jesus is the first and last there can be room for no other. We know Him now as King of Kings and LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:16)

There is a difference in saying something and having something to say !

Man's Impossibilities Are God's Possibilities

A Logical and Biblical Argument About the Deity of Our Lord. Read On!

By ANDREW D. URSHAN

Often some ask how Jesus Christ can be the only begotten of God and yet the very God Himself. The puzzling part of this question is the reconciliation of two seemingly separate and distinct persons into one Divine Being or in one person • God1

Such a oneness with man is indeed. impossible; but God would be no more "The Almighty" if this would be impossible with Him. Yea, with Him with whom all things are possible it is an easy matter to be the three-in-one person, and one being having different manifestations of Himself. Some may argue that God, being a God of harmony, could not be one thing and then another, no more than a son can be his own father. Very well; let us see what the Scriptures say.

The Bible declares Jesus Christ t.o be "the Lamb of God, "yet he is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah." With man 'it is impossible to make a lamb a lion. With man, a lamb cannot dwell with a lion very long before the lion will eat the lamb. With God, the Lamb is the Lion; the two distinct and separate and unlike animals, yet one with the same person.

The wise scientist will moek the very thought that the little morning star is the great big sun. With man, these are two distinct, separate and unlike heavenly bodies. With God, Jesus is both "The Morning Star" and "The Son of Righteousness." So, as one continues studying the Word of God, he cannot help seeing that Jesus Christ is" All in All" the Son, yet the Everlasting Father; the man of Galilee, yet, the mighty God. (See Isa. 9:6.)

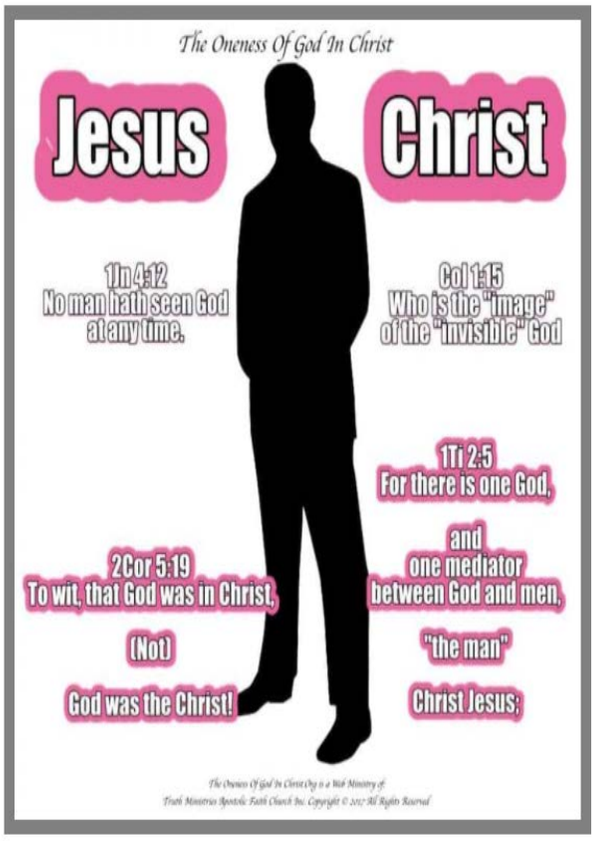
For further examples -Christ calls Himself the good Shepherd, yet the door of the sheepfold, (John 16:14). With man, a door is an object, and a shepherd is a human being; but with God the human is the object and object is the human. A thing impossible with man, but with God it is the very fact. Christ calls Himself "the root", and yet, "the offspring of David." Man cannot call the rootofthetreethe trunk of the tree, but with God, Christ is both the Father and Son of David in one person (Rev .. 22:16). Again, Christ is called "The Judge", and yet, "The Advocate."

He is "The Lord of the Battles" (Hosts), a fighting God, yet, "The Prince of Peace" (2 Cor. 6:10; Rom. 14:10-11; Rev. 20:11-12; I Tim. 2:5; Psa. 24:8 and Isa. 9:6).

Again, Jesus Christ is called "The Rock," and yet, the very gushing water of life (I Cor. 10:4; John 7:37-38). He calls Himself the "Alpha," yet the very last letter, "Omega" (Rev. 21:6-7). He calls Himself "The Son of God," yet, the very God -the Father of the overcomers· for the eternity to come. See Rev. 21:6,7. He is called "The Servant of the Jehovah, I am," yet, He calls Himself th "ve:r/ Jehoveh, I am," (Isa. 43:10 and John 8:57). a precious stone to some, yet, at the same time, a stone of offense to others. The corner foundation stone of the Temple, yet, the whole Temple and the s crifice on the altar in the Temple. He is the Lily, yet, the Rose of Sharon. All these, contrary to each other, with man are impossible to be one and the same; but you see, reader, with God in Christ, they are not contrary; they are not two separate, but one and the same, only manifested differently. For with God all things' are possible.

Now, if I am prepared to believe all the above facts, why should it be hard for me to believe that Jesus Christ the Lord can be, and is, in His humanity the only Son of God, and 1n His absolute Deity the very God the Father. Why not? Can He not be seemingly distinct and separate, yet the very united three in one? Well, He is, and that is why He said, "I and my Father are one." And,"he that seeth me, seeth the Father." "For the Father is in me."

Let is be remembered that God, as the Creator, is absolutely divine; but a. the Saviour, He is both God and man, or the Father and the Son. And, as the Comforter, He is the Holy Spirit, not three Gods or three distinct, separate, divine persons, but a God of might, love and comfort, manifesting the above three graces in three different and distinct divine offices and operations. This is a holy oneness. God, in Himself, is infinite and invisible and unapproachable. In His Word (the Son) He is both finite and infinite, visible and invisible, and tangible and approachable. In the Holy Ghost, He is active, operative and powerful; but the one and same person -God. As the Father, God is the one that begets; as the Son, He is the seed of life eternal, and as the Holy Ghost, He is Emmanuel - or God in and with His Spirit-filled



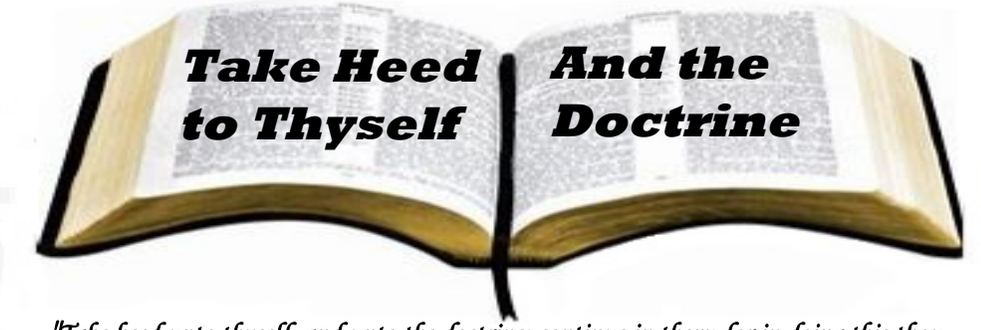
The Indwelling Spirit of God In You & In Christ

but one and the same. In short, God is one being, one person, and therefore one God, the "I am," and not the Holy three, ·as some try to teach. "!'his great d holy one of Israel can be seen, felt, and enjoyed only in and through Jesus Christ our Lord; for "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." See Col. 2:8-9:This does not explain the Godhead, but it reveals Him in His Son, Jesus Christ.

If We

If we noticed little pleasures
As we notice little pains;
If we quite forget our losses
And remember all our gains;
If we looked for people's virtues,
And their faults refused to see;
What a comfortable, happy,
Cheerful place this world would be!

Poet: Adele E. Ingersoll



"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"
(I Timothy 4:16).

There are many people today who do not want to hear a preacher say anything about doctrine. But I say that if any preacher preaches the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, he will have to preach the doctrine of the Bible. The Apostle Paul here ex-horts a young preacher, whose name is Timothy, to take heed first unto himself and then unto the doctrine. It is not a doctrine, but the doctrine. There is estimated to be about fourteen hun-dred different sects, creeds or denominations in the world today, but I am glad to say that above it all there is still the doctrine of the Bible. I praise God for God-called men who are not afraid to declare the doctrine in the face of men and devils, the doctrine which if one believes and obeys, will bring deliverance to a soul who for a lifetime has been in bondage.

We find the apostle again exhorting another young minister by saying, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). This minister's name was Titus. I am sure he was a fine preacher who was not afraid to do as he was instructed. To speak the things which become sound doctrine means there is a doctrine that is sound, something that has a sound foundation. Friends, this doctrine which we preach unto you from God's holy Word, the Bible, is founded upon the surest foundation in all the world: it is founded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets and Jesus Christ the chief corner stone. This can never be moved. The very gates of hell shall not prevail against it. All the skeptics and agnostics, modernists and infidels, with all their own ideas of human reasonings, logic and science, combined with all the mixture of their supposed-to-be high cultured brains, has never or never will shake this foundation. It cannot be shaken. Oh, I'm glad clear down to the bottom of my heart for this wonderful doctrine with such a sure foundation. I have been told by some people that we have no foundation to what we are preaching. If you are here tonight, friend; and will just stay with us, we hope by the help and grace of God to prove to you that we are preaching to you the most sound doctrine or gospel that this world has ever heard or ever will hear. This was started on the Day of Pentecost, and the devil has been busy for two thousand years since trying to find some scheme to overthrow it. I am glad to say it still stands just the same as it did when God started this wonderful message of repentance and remission of sins in His name. It was to be proclaimed among all nations beginning at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. We find Paul writing to the Romans, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17, 18).

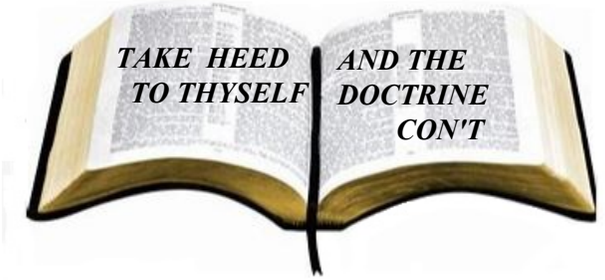
The doctrine which was preached by the apostle, when obeyed from the heart had a wonderful effect, you will have to admit. We see here that when the Romans obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which the apostles preached unto them, it made them free from sin. That is wonderful to be made free from sin, and the person who will fall out with a doctrine which will do that for a man is all wrong. The apostle said in Galatians 1:15, 16; "When it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." Here he told us that he didn't have time to go and ask somebody for a four, eight or twelve year course in the seminary to learn how to preach. He always had a message to preach, not so much theology, but abundant "knee-ology." Listen at-Paul speak again, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man; for I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11, 12). And then he told us that he wasn't ashamed of what he preached for it was the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believed (Romans 1:16). I believe the Apostle Paul preached the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible doctrine which will put a person into the kingdom of God. Not only did Paul preach it, but all the rest of the apostles and preachers of the Early Church of the New Testament preached the same thing.

Today we have preachers who are also preaching the same message as was proclaimed in the early days as recorded in the Book of Acts. The best part of it is that it's having the same effect on those who believe and obey it. If some don't believe it, it is true nevertheless. Their unbelief does not change the doctrine of God's Word.

Of the Thessalonians, Paul told us, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance" (I Thessalonians 1:5). The gospel preached in the early days was not with great words of man's wisdom or some highbrow expressions, but in power and in the Holy Ghost, There was no need to be mistaken about it, for it also came in much assurance. In the next verse we read: "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord." Friends, to follow the Lord you must follow the apostles. When you doubt the words and preaching of the apostles, you deny the Word of God. To refuse to hear the apostles is to refuse the voice of the Holy Ghost.

We also read in I Corinthians 4:16, 17, that we are commanded to follow the apostles. The Apostle Paul preached the same thing everywhere he went. The doctrine he preached at Corinth was the same as that he preached at Rome.

Yes, and it was still the same the night at the Philippian jail with only about thirty-nine stripes on his back, with his feet in the stocks. ***(continued page 10)***



His doctrine had not changed; the Philippian Church or as-sembly was established upon the same doctrine by hearing the same gospel.

In Paul's writing to Timothy (I Timothy 1:1-3), he commanded that fine young evangelist, "to charge some that they teach no other doctrine." Where was this charge to be given? At Ephesus, and Paul be-sought Timothy to abide there for that very purpose, that they teach no other doctrine. Now let us see what doctrine was preached at Ephesus, for it must without a doubt be the doctrine. If it proves to be contrary to our theory or our way of thinking, let us be honest with ourselves and God, and believe that doctrine to be the New Testament doctrine to save those who believe. When we are brought face to face with facts and a Bible record which no spiritual person will dare to deny, let us say "yes to God," and then proclaim fear-lessly and uncompromisingly that same doctrine. Many today reject the thought of a revelation.

If you come to some people and try to tell them of the gospel which comes only by revelation, they think you a fanatic. But I declare unto you, if you take revelations out of your Christian experience, you will find the darkest path you have ever trod. We all were bound by sin and headed toward a devil's hell until God let a revelation of truth and light fall across our path. Everything we have or ever will have from God came by revelation. God's very name Jehovah, means "the self-existent One who reveals Himself." He is a God of revelation. No man knoweth God save he to whom the Son will reveal Him.

Now let us come back to the doctrine preached at Ephesus, the only doctrine to be preached. To get this information, let us read the report of the first revival ever held at Ephesus by the Apostle Paul. Read Acts 19: 1-6, for there we have a perfect report. "And it came to pass." (I am so glad it did come to pass, for it has shut the mouth of infidels forever.) "Paul. .. came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye be-lieved?" The first text of the apostle was about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. "And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." They had never heard there was such an experience for them. The next question the apostle asked them was concerning their baptism. Learning that they were followers of John the Baptist, Paul told them how John preached that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost.

After hearing this wonderful message, "They were baptized in the name of the LORD Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." Remember this happened only twenty-two years after the Day of Pentecost. For twenty-two years the doctrine of Pentecost had not changed. The same message proclaimed by the Apostle Peter on that day was still Paul's message at Ephesus.

About ten years later Paul instructs Timothy to charge those at Ephesus to teach no other doctrine. He also told Tim-othy to take heed unto himself; by so doing he would save himself and those who would hear him (I Tim-othy 4:16).

We have proved that Paul preached the same gospel everywhere he preached. He wrote to the ·Galatians, when they were believing something else, that there was no other gospel. He was so sure he preached the gospel, the only doctrine of God, that he said: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). Paul wanted the saints and preachers of his day to know that there was no other way. He was bold to preach them the doctrine, and then he was doubly bold to de-fend what he preached. He knew that in these last days the true doctrine would be denied. Therefore he said in Galatians 1 :9, "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Brethren, there is no other doctrine or gospel for us today. Therefore, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine" (I Timothy 4:16). end.....

Shine Just Where You Are

Don't waste your time in longing
For bright, impossible things; Don't
sit supinely yearning
For the swiftness of wings;
Don't spurn to be a rushlight
Because you are not a star.
But brighten some bit of darkness
By shining just where you are.

There is need of the tiniest candle As
well as the garish sun;
The humblest deed is ennobled
When it is worthily done;
You may never be called to brighten
The darkest regions afar;
So, fill for the day your mission By
shining just where you are.

By John Hay

We'll Get Through This

Lord, our troubles
Are so great,
We don't know what to do;
The price for our
Iniquity
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling
All about;
No safe place can be found.
Right is wrong,
Wrong is right;
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need
Your guiding light
To lead us out of here;
We'll focus on
Your Word, and prayer,
To take away our fear.

Temptations of
This dying world
We'll rule out and let go;
Give our burdens
All to you,
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll
Get through this, Lord,
Fixed on heaven above,
Assured of your
protection, help,
And everlasting love.

By Joanna Fuchs

Keep Going

When failures come - keep going
When you feel like giving up - keep going
When people mock your idea - keep going
When challenges you face - keep going
When mistakes are made, learn - but keep going
Because perseverance just keeps going!

Poet: Kate Summers, ©2020

Here Am I, Send Me

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? THEN SAID I, HERE AM I; SEND ME" (Isaiah 6:8).

There is a great work to be done for God in this vast universe of His. The gospel must be preached to every creature. Spirit filled people everywhere, whether laymen or ministers, accept the responsibility to share in getting the gospel out to those who need to hear and obey it. Many have obeyed the call and said, "Here am I; send me." Some ministers are pioneering in new fields in the homeland, while others are sacrificing in faraway countries of the earth.

When we watch our missionaries obey the call and go to the far ends of the earth, leaving behind loved ones, the comforts of home, and the fellowship of God's people, we know that they are sacrificing much, that others might know the truth and be set free from bondage.

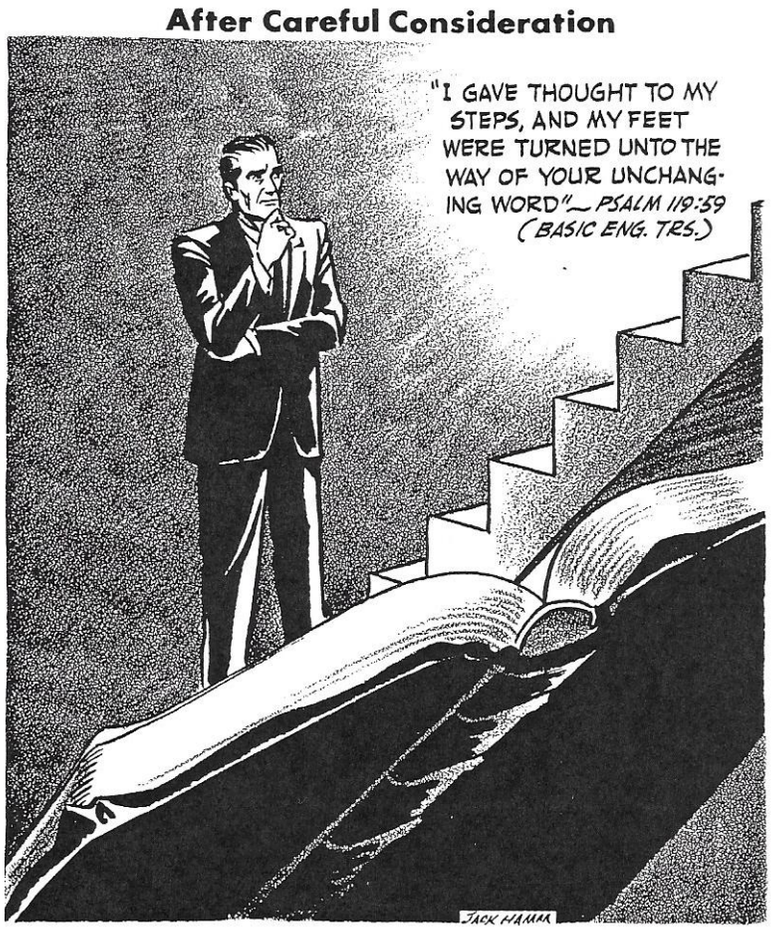
Many of us will never hear the call. to go to a foreign field, or to pioneer in the homeland, but we can be used of the Lord to help make the work of these missionaries lighter. We can help to make their "home away from home" a better place to live by helping to supply their needs. We can give them encouragement by letting them know that we are behind them with o u r prayers and our support.

When we answer the call and say, "Here am I; send me," we are placing ourselves on an altar of sacrifice. We may not go to the remote places of the earth with the gospel, but we can find our place in God's vineyard, and work for Him wherever He has a place for us to fill.

As surely as we say, "Here am I; send me," we hear the Lord say, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

"We've got so much to do for Jesus. We cannot falter by the way." How true these words are. Everything we do should be for the salvation of souls. In Illinois we have a motto: "Saved for Service." We must find our place and be up and about the Master's business.

Let us never be afraid of sacrificing too much for our Lord. He laid down the pattern of sacrifice by His coming to earth, by the life He lived and the death He died. If a willingness to sacrifice dies out in our lives, then we have missed the pattern. There is something for all of us.



THE HARVEST

The harvest is ripe,
The lab'rers are few;
The call comes today,
Oh, What will you do?
Go forth now and reap
While yet it is day;
Night cometh soon,
Go, give, and pray.

By Moro Hatch

Harvest hands are needed.

What we do, we must do humbly, as unto the Lord. Jesus did not come to earth "to be ministered unto, but to minister." The humility with which Jesus came and lived and served and died is an awesome, beautiful thing to read about. But we must not be content with the reading only; we must accept the pattern for our own lives. When we sew, cook, mend, pack barrels or whatever work we do to help others (even to the giving of our means), let us do it with humility.

Many of the best known and commended women of the Bible are those whose names we do not even know, such as the "widow of Zarephath, the "importunate widow and the widow with the two mites." All these are unnamed, yet they served. Many of our precious women are unnoticed, yet they are serving. When we answer the call with, "Here am I Lord; send me," wherever God wants to use us, let us serve with humility, knowing that our willingness to serve unnoticed will have an open reward when we stand before the master.

Here AM I Send Me

Hast Thou, O Lord, a work to do?
Here am I, send me!
The field is white, the lab'rers few,
Here am I, send me!

Over mountain, plain or sea,
Here am I, send me!
I'll go to the ends of the earth for Thee,
Here am I, send me!

O touch my lips with fire divine,
Here am I, send me!
The dross consume, the gold refine,
Here am I, send me!

A lowly vessel at Thy feet,
Here am I, send me!
O cleanse and for Thy use make meet,
Here am I, send me!

My heart now longs and yearns to go,
Here am I, send me!
To reap Thy harvest here below,
Here am I, send me!

Author: J. Gilchrist Lawson

You can accomplish more in one hour with God, than one lifetime without Him.

What in the Word/World is Worldliness

by James L. Kilgore

We live in a world that questions everything, and especially the things we consider to be good principles of godly living. There are definite answers in the Word of God. As long as we follow the teachings of the Word, we will be safe and will have the peace of God in our hearts. Doubts and confusion about things we consider to be important to us need to be settled if we are to speak in a positive manner.

There is a definite black and white (wrong and right) distinction, but is there also a gray area? Yes, I think so. Usually, it is in the so called gray area where there is stumbling, uncertainty, and double-mindedness. In this area we deal with fads, fashions, trends, situations, and changes that we do not find specifically spelled out for us in Scriptures. However, every Pentecostal preacher must be dedicated enough so that he can "hear what the Spirit is saying to the church" and speak from a heart that is burdened enough to care enough to give a certain sound that will represent a positive direction for those to whom he preaches in order to inspire them to go forward.

Here are six ways to test doubtful things by the Word of God:

1. Is it of the world? (I John 2:15-16)
2. Is it to the glory of God? (I Corinthians 10:31)
3. Is it a weight or a sin?(Hebrews 12:1-2)
4. Will it be a stumbling block to others? (Romans 14:21)
5. Does it make provision for the flesh? (Romans 13:14)
6. Does it promote holiness and holy living? (Hebrews 12:14).

First, we must ask ourselves, Is it of the world? We can find the answer to this question by asking other questions. Does it appeal to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, or the pride of life? Is it a craving for sensual gratification, a greedy longing of the mind, or a false security of earthly things? God's holy Word definitely teaches that television, movies, worldly music, magazines, make-up, jewelry, and even some clothing we wear could easily fall into this category.

We must remember that "the friendship of the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4). Now, there is a difference between loving our world in the sense we know it is lost and needs to be saved and being a part of our world as its friend. Jesus was a friend of sinners, but because He refused to have friend-ship with the world, He was crucified. The world did not know Him: "For had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (I Corinthians 2:8 KJV). Just as His lifestyle was different from the world of His day, even so our lifestyle is to be separate in our day.

Second, Is it to the glory of God? Paul, in his dealing with the subject of idolatry and eating meat that had been used in the worship of idols, dealt with the important matter of conscience. Everyone of us must have a clean and clear conscience as we live for God in our present world. Whatever we eat, or drink, or whatever we do, should be to honor and glorify God. Could a Christian eat meat that had been offered to Buddha or to a heathen god? No, I think not. Daniel refused to do so because he purposed in his heart not to eat or drink that which had been used in idol wor·ship (Daniel 1:8).

No one could drink wine or strong drink, or smoke, or use foul language, or overindulge in eating, or overindulge in recreation and expect these activities to be for the glory of God.

Third, Is it a weight or sin? If we see or feel anything that is a part of our lifestyle becoming a weight and if we do not lay it aside, before long it will become as sin to us, and eventually we will be ensnared by it. Jesus said, "Take heed to your-selves, lest at any time your hearts become overcharged with surfeiting (giddiness and nausea of self· indulgence), and drunkenness, and cares of this life" (Luke 21:34).

By taking heed to the Word of God, we will know when anything becomes a weight to us. Many things such as fishing, hunting, golfing, and other sports could very easily become a weight that will lead to sin.

Fourth, Will it become a stumbling block to others? If we could sincerely ask ourselves, "How will I affect others in what I am doing?" then we would be more careful in our every action and deed. The Bible teaches that no one lives to himself (Romans 14:7). Our whole lives are to be lived in the fear of God and in behalf of others. This awareness certainly should affect our conversation, and should carry over into our everyday living.

I have been embarrassed in restaurants and business places at the spirit and attitude that some so called Christians manifest in their demands and self-centeredness. We must never forget what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount: we are the salt of the earth, and we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:13·14). How many have stumbled over something we either said or did?

A Chinese became a Christian, and the minister wanted to know what testimony or message won him to Christ. His answer was, "I didn't hear a testimony, I saw one." He observed a Christian day after day, and was soon convinced and converted. Fifth, Does it make provision for the flesh? In this area, we need to be extra careful. Our flesh is in constant opposition to to the things of the Spirit. The flesh wants to be petted, honored, praised, and to have its own way. This question that I am asking to test doubtful things could represent anything from lust, passion, pride, selfishness, self centeredness, to the love of money, comfort, pleasure, luxurious living.

Is our thinking constantly on things that provide for the flesh? Paul tells us that if we live after the flesh (according to the dictates of flesh) we shall die. But if we through the Spirit mortify (deprive of power, put to death) the deeds of the body, we shall live (Romans 8:13).

Sixth, Does it promote holiness and encourage holy living? Just how important is this holiness business, and just what is holiness anyway? A simple answer could be given in one word: separation. Because every place we see holiness in the Bible, it deals with purification, sanctification, and separation. We must be careful to be obedient to the Word of God. The hair question should not be a question because the whole idea in I Corinthians 11 is obedience. Women do not cut their hair, and men keep their hair cut because God's order for men and women is to recognize authority, God's order, and obedi·ence, obedience because of the angels. The very presence of the angels and their obedience remind us of the fallen angels and their rebellion, the original sin. We do not want to allow ourselves to be involved in the original sin of dis·obedience and rebellion. This article is written with the purpose of giving some simple guidelines that we can live by. We must also keep in mind Paul's teaching in II Corinthians 7:1, that in our doctrine of separation as is listed in II Corinthians 6:11·18, we must be careful to have the correct godly spirit and attitude at all times. □

Thought Provoking Gems





Try Kindness to Be A Winner

Next to a sheep raising farmer lived another farmer who was raising wheat, children, and large! dogs. The dog were scaring the sheep; and the sheep farmer did not know what to do. he could not shoot the dogs or poison them, be nasty to his neighbor, or even take him to court.
He prayed about it.and soon..: found a solution. When some new lambs were, born he gave one to each Of his neighbor's children as a pet. They were thrilled. Their father couldn't allow the dogs to run rampant as before. He restrained them for the sake of the pet lambs. the two farmers became .friends. Kindness made a winner.

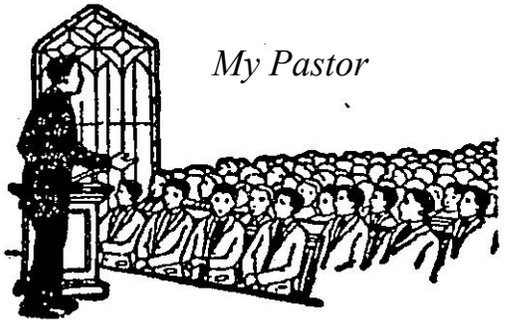


Sincere Prayer

'Tis not enough to bend the knee,
And words of prayer to say;
The heart must with the lips agree;
Or else we do not pray.

For words, without the heart,
The Lord will never hear;
Nor will he to those lips attend,
Whose prayers are not sincere.

—Author unknown



My Pastor

My pastor shapes his sermons
From A to final Z
In clear and forthright language,
And aims them straight at me.
And when he gets to preaching,
I look around to see
If there might be another
Deserving more than me.
But every soul looks saintly
Their hearts to heaven turn While I, in my conviction, Can only sit and squirm.
You know, I often wonder
If I should miss a day; Would he, without bis target, Have anything to say?

There Are Others

If times are hard, and you feel blue.
Think of others, worrying, too.
Just because your trials are many
Don't think the rest of us haven't any.

Life's made up of smiles and tears,
Joys and sorrows, mixed with fears;
And though to you it may seem one-sided,
Trouble is pretty well divided.

If we could look in every heart,
We'd find that each one has its part.
And those who travel Fortune's road
Sometimes carry the biggest load.
Poet: Unknown

A GUIDING HAND

Along life's long and thorny way
I slowly but rejoicing tread,
For though I do not know the way,
My Father knows what lies ahead.
My heart does know no doubt or fear
I need not brave life's storm alone,
For with one hand Christ points the way,
And with the other holds my own.
The hills and valleys of life on earth,
For me are leveled by His care,
Because wherever I may go,
I always find that He is there.
Each day I trust Him for my needs,
And as I journey joyfully sing;
For life is blessed, yes, life is rich
Underneath His mighty sheltering wing.
unknown...

Think On These Things

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature. (II Peter 1:4)

Are you Able
Able to suffer without complaining;
To be misunderstood without explaining?
Able to endure without breaking,
To be forsaken without forsaking?
Able to give without receiving,
To ask without commanding,
To love despite misunderstanding?
Able to turn to the Lord for guarding?
Able to wait for His own rewarding?
unknown..

SOMEONE HAS PRAYED

If I could only know
The blessings that have come into my life
Because my friends
Have gone into the secret place
And there have prayed for me,
I'm sure my soul would be bowed down
In deep humility, that I had had
So small a part in the success
That may have come my way.
We are so blind and often think
Things just happen by chan ce,
But if for one brief day the veil were parted,
And we could see the power
That guides and guards our steps,
And how prayer makes the contact,
And releases in our lives
The fulfillment of some cherished hope, Our doubts would vanish,
And no longer would we say
That "It just happened so."
For back of every blessing is a reason
And so many times the reason is-Someone has prayed. - Lillian M. Weeks

The Soul Lives On

When mortal frame returns to dust
And in earth's bowels quiet lies,
The soul in splendor soars aloft
To be with God beyond the skies
The soul lives on
Immortal part of mortal man,
Heaven is the soul's reward
Of those who 'followed Christ In life
And chose the way of Him adored-
The soul lives on
The soul of His the Lord redeems,
It does not perish in the earth,
But returns to Him who reigns on high,
Who gave us life and gave us birth
The soul lives on
Edward Brandt



This Brand New Day

This brand new day I go in faith,
But I know not what lies in wait,
So dear God, this morning I pray,
Take control and lead the way.

I do not see with these two eyes,
I cannot tell where danger lies.
Please, dear Lord, be my guide.
Let me not stray from Your side.

Show me today the journeys to make.
Steer me on the right paths to take.
Grant me grace to discern your will,
For when to strive and when to be still.

Help me to love and trust You more
And radiate Your love to my neighbor.
Then bring me back safe and sound,And let my praise for You abound.
Abimbola T. Alabi

The Power of Prayer

When life brings pain and sorrow
That you feel too weak to bear,
There's strength
in God's abiding love
And in the power of prayer;
For when your heart
turns heavenward
You find a sweet release,
And you understand the meaning
Of "His mercies never cease."
And though at times you feel as if
Your prayer has not been heard,
Remember, God is listening,
And He hears your every word.
He may not always give the things
You wished and hoped He would,
But in His love and wisdom
He does all things for your good.
-Jean Kyler McManus

God, Thou Art Love

If I forget,
Yet God remembers! If these hands of mine
Cease from their clinging, yet the hands divine
Hold, me so firmly that I cannot fall;
And if sometimes I am too tired to call
For Him to help me, then He reads the prayer
Unspoken in in my heart, and lifts my care.
I dare not fear since certainly I know
That I am in God's keeping, shielded so
From all that else would harm;
and in the hour of stern temptation
strengthened by His power;
I tread no path in life to Him unknown;
I lift no burden, bear no pain, alone;
My soul a calm, sure hiding place has found:
The everlasting arms my life surround:.
God, Thou art love! I build my faith on that.
I know Thee who has kept my path, and made
Light for me in the darkness, tempering sorrow
So that it reached me like a solemn joy;
It were too strange that I should doubt Thy love.
Robert Browning

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For with God nothing shall be impossible
Luke 1:37

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