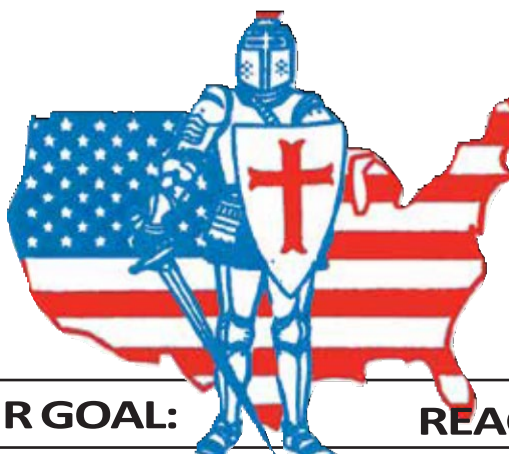




AMERICA'S

CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

Jan-Feb 2024

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

Prayer for the New Year



The new year is a time of reflection and renewal for many people, and Christians are no exception. As we look ahead to the coming year, it's important to remember that our hope is in Jesus Christ, who is the hope of the nations. One way to approach the new year is to focus on resetting our hearts and restoring our relationship with Christ. everyday is a day of resetting hearts, which have wandered, and of restoring the habit of turning to Christ every day for a fresh start, a relationship with Jesus, which is always growing" Christians should use not only the new year but everyday as well as an opportunity to confess their sins, address any issues in their lives, and find freedom from regret and shame.

We can use the new year as a time to renew the joy of salvation in our hearts and to remember that we are new creations in Christ, so by the power of the Holy Ghost you may abound in hope." Let us look to Jesus as the hope of the nations and trust in Him to guide us through the coming year.

America's Christian Newspaper (non-profit org.
Permit #15124)
Published Bi-monthly by Christian Tabernacle
Church P.O. Box 747 Madisonville, KY 42431
Free Subscription. Periodical postage paid at
Madisonville, KY 42431
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
America's Christian Newspaper, P.O. Box 747,
Madisonville, KY 42431

**CHRIST IS
THE ANSWER**

Greetings to the Saints of God!

Pastor Junior & Brenda Tingle



Dear fellow believers,
I hope this letter finds you well. I know that these are trying times, but I want to encourage you to stand strong in your faith. Remember that God is always with us, and He will never leave us nor forsake us.

In times like these, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. But we must remember that we are not alone. We have each other, and we have the Lord. We must continue to pray, read the Bible, and seek His guidance.

I would like to share with you a passage from 2 Timothy 3:10-15a The passage reminds us that we must follow the teachings of Jesus, even in the face of persecution. We must be strong and courageous, knowing that God is on our side, perseverance is a crucial aspect of our faith. It is the ability to endure and remain steadfast in the face of adversity. The Bible has many verses that encourage us to persevere, such as:

"Let us not become weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap if we faint not. Gal 6:9

"My brethren count it all joy, when ye fall into divers temptations, Know this that the trying of your faith worketh patience because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything"

We must remember that God is with us every step of the way, and He will give us the strength that we need. So let us continue to stand strong in our faith, knowing that God is on our side.

I also want to remind you that God's encouragement is always available to us When we remember past evidence of His faithfulness, we can boldly face the future, knowing that God is always with us.

So let us stand strong together, knowing that God is with us every step of the way. Let us continue to encourage one another and lift each other up in prayer.

May God bless you and keep you.

Brother Jr Tingle

YOU CAN BE USEFUL

If you cannot climb a mountain
And become a man of fame, You can
be a man of honor

And respected for the same.

You can love the Lord supremely

And be faithful in His will,

Helping others on life's journey

Travel higher up the hill.

If you cannot be a master

In the sciences of earth,

You can help to lead your fellows

To the life of greatest worth;

Help them with their many problems

As they run the Christian race;

Help them work and shine for Jesus

And grow deeper into grace.

Walter Isenhour

What the Christian sees
as important, the world
looks at with contempt,
and what the world
considers important, the
Christian considers
utterly meaningless.

The Christian Tabernacle Church



**1406 Tucker Schoolhouse Road
Madisonville, Kentucky 42431**

Phone: 270-584-4248

Service Schedule:

Sunday Evening Word & Worship 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Service 7:30 p.m.

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If you need to discontinue your Package please let us know. Thank you Gail Huddleston

"Thy Kingdom Come"

What Does This Prayer Mean?

NOT MINE, BUT THINE - LUKE 22:42



Why did Jesus teach His disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" Matthew 6:10 Does the kingdom of God exist on earth today or will it be set up at a future time?

When Jesus was on earth, He preached the kingdom of God: "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:4). In Luke 4:43 Jesus said, "I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent." Luke 8:1 states, "He went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God."

Jesus, moreover, instructed His disciples to preach this same message of the kingdom: "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2). The message of the kingdom of God did not cease at the Cross, at the Resurrection, or on the Day of Pentecost, for it was the theme of apostolic preaching (Acts 8:12; 20:25; 28:23).

What Is The Kingdom Of God?

From the beginning of time, it has been God's plan that He would rule over mankind. Although man was made in the image and likeness of God, he was not created to be independent or self-sufficient. The prophet Jeremiah prayed, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Many abilities were given to man by God. He was endowed with the intelligence that would enable him to build houses, design automobiles, send men to the moon, transplant hearts, send pictures through air waves, set up a worldwide computerized communication system, and many other notable achievements, but he was not given the ability to direct the course of his own life.

This fact explains how we are highly successful in technological development and scientific achievement and yet our hospitals are filled with patients with mental and emotional illnesses, our crime rate is alarmingly high, our suicide rate is climbing, the family unit is seriously threatened, and the world

teeters on the brink of a nuclear holocaust. In spite of the brilliance of man's accomplishments, the way of peace and happiness seems as illusive as ever; he cannot rule himself in righteousness.

From the moment Eve decided in the Garden of Eden that she knew how to govern her own life better than God could, mankind has been struggling with his rebellious nature. This is the cause of wars and more wars, troubles and more troubles, disaster on top of disaster.

Man has tried to rule himself for several thousands of years, but the average person has not learned through the historical failure of humanity or through his own experience that he is unable to chart his own course without tragic results; he will not admit that he needs the help and rule of God in his life. Only those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ have found freedom from self destruction. In the kingdom of God, they have found righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). The kingdom of God is represented on earth today as the church, with Christ as its ruler and as King of every person who will accept Him. Jesus stated that He would build His church upon a rock and the "gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). In our redemptive and regenerative experience, God "delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13).

Paul identified the kingdom of God as "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). To the Pharisees, Jesus said that the "kingdom of God cometh not with observation ... for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21). To Nicodemus, Jesus said that to enter the kingdom of God a person had to be born again of water and Spirit (John 3:3-5). In other words, His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, whose citizenship is composed of people who have experienced a spiritual birth. We enter the kingdom of God by receiving the Holy Ghost.

This does not mean, however, that there will not be a kingdom of God on earth after the rapture of the church. In the near future, Jesus Christ will come to the earth for the second time. He is not coming as the sacrificial Lamb, but as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will take away the governments of men and personally rule as King for one thousand years (Revelation 20:6). Daniel prophetically envisioned this event: "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit ... " (Daniel 7:9); "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44). The Apostle John recorded the same prophetic event: "And there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). The Apostle John also described the scene of Christ's return to earth in Revelation 19:11-16. When Jesus was born about two thousand years ago, the wise men knew Him to be the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). Toward the end of His ministry, Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy that proclaimed Him as King (Matthew 21:5). (continued next page)

"Thy Kingdom Come" What Does This Prayer Mean?

At Jesus' trial before the Roman governor, Pilate asked Him, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" (John 18:33).

Jesus' answer, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), does not mean that His kingdom will not be established on this earth. Rather, He was stating that His kingdom was not of the world system or of that age. He had said earlier to the Jewish leaders, "This is your hour, and the power of darkness" (Luke 22:53). When He returns in power, it will be His hour to rule the world in righteousness: "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day there shall be one LORD, and his name one" (Zechariah 14:9).

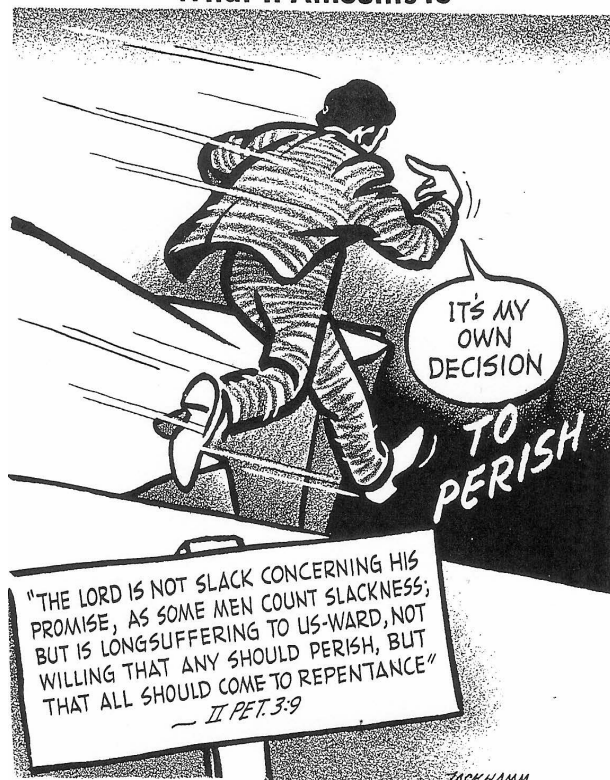
An important prophecy concerning the establishment of Christ's Kingdom on earth is found in Zechariah 14:3: "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." Most Bible scholars interpret this passage of Scripture to refer to the Battle of Armageddon. In this battle, all nations will gather against Jerusalem in an attempt to destroy the nation of Israel, who, being totally overpowered, will call for their Messiah to save them. In response, Christ will personally intervene and save Israel from destruction. He will then establish His rule on earth from the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem.

For one thousand years men will live in peace and righteousness, for the presence and power of Satan will be banished from the earth.

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Revelation 20:2-3).

Of this one-thousand year reign of peace, the prophet Isaiah described its characteristics: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them

What It Amounts To



They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:6-10). This hope of peace for mankind is found in the promise that Jesus will come and intervene in the affairs of men. He will end the confusion, moral decay, and frustration that we find ourselves entangled in as a result of our attempting to rule ourselves rather than submitting ourselves to His kingship.

The hope of the coming kingdom of God is not new. The Old Testament prophets told of the coming blessings of the kingdom of God. In the New Testament the disciples of Christ heard Jesus preach about the kingdom and even two of them disputed over who would sit on His right hand and on His left when He came into His kingdom. The parables of Jesus refer repeatedly to the glorious truths of the kingdom. The last question asked of Jesus by His disciples before He ascended was, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). This glorious promise should thrill us today because we now live on the very brink of the crowning of Jesus Christ as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords"!
by Irvin Baxter Jr.

"Tho We Have Retired"

My' memory is taking me backward"
As, I sit here and muse in the Fire;
Many things have changed since childhood
Now I know what it means to Retire

If again I could live my life over
Theres some things I probably would do;
I think of them now that I'm older
but theres some things I just can't renew.

I know that the years make a difference
When most of your story is told;
But things don't have to be dreary
Just because a person grows old.

We all can have Peace and Contentment
And we don't have to be grouchy and odd;
we can still be a blessing to someone
If we'll only keep trusting in GOD!

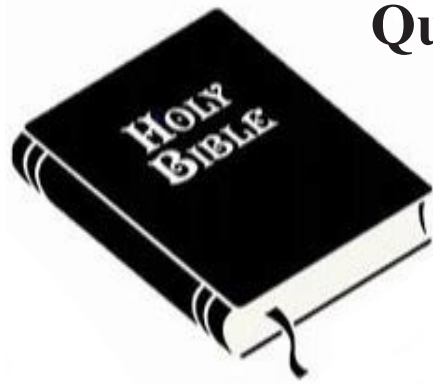
We'd all like to turn back the pages
And be somewhat younger again;
Back to the days we were so healthy
And never knew an ache or a pain.

Now that I'm growing much older
And some things are harder to see;
Yet why should I fret and be weary
When God has been so good to me!

Many others have gone before us
And they didn't complain to the Lord;
Now they're waiting somewhere in the Spirit
To receive their Eternal Reward.

There's still much on earth that's worth living
And many things to do for us all;
we can stay here and be a help to each other
And wait for "The Masters Call"

D.F Berry



Questions & Answers

Bro. O.F Fauss

Question: *In 2 Corinthians 10:5 we read these words: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*

My problem is this: When evil imaginations come to my mind, it is hard to cast them down. for they keep coming back. Can you enlighten me as to why this is?

Answer:

The foregoing Scripture verse refers to the warfare we are in-the war of the spirit against the flesh. And, according to verse 5, " ... the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

We must remember that we are involved in a conflict with the enemy of our souls - the Devil. It is a spiritual conflict, for, as Paul puts it, " ... we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Read, also, verses 10-18. We fight against the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). Concerning this enemy, Satan, Peter said: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:8, 9). Yes, thoughts of evil may pass through our minds, but we do not have to let them remain there, and become evil thoughts that affect our hearts. It has been well said, "You cannot keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

In speaking of the great commandment, Jesus said, " ... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30). The door to the heart is through the mind. The Devil cannot put anything in our hearts until he first attracts our attention through our minds.

Finally, read Philippians 4:5-9, for these verses tell how we should think, in order that God can keep our minds clean. This will prevent our hearts from being defiled.

Bro. David Gray

Question: Would you please tell me what ministers mean when they say we are "Jesus Only"?

Answer:

I am sure many of those who use this expression are fine, sincere, and godly people. I do not for one moment doubt their good intentions and sincerity, but I personally feel that it is an unwise and misleading statement. Using unscriptural expressions such as this tends to turn people away before they have a chance to hear the truth.

While there is some truth in the statement, it is only a half-truth. Was there a God before Bethlehem? Of course. Then God existed before He ever came to us as Jesus to save and redeem us. In other words, Jesus was God, but God was not always manifested as Jesus.

And too, we are giving ammunition to our enemies when we use this phrase, for they will say, "See, those 'Jesus Only' people do not believe in the fatherhood of God everywhere taught in Scripture, nor in the Holy Ghost." This is absolutely untrue! We believe whole-heartedly in the fatherhood of God and in the mani-festation of God as the Holy Ghost.

When we use statements such as "Jesus Only," people who know their Bibles and who otherwise would come in and accept the truth are turned away because of the manifest absurdity. It is not necessary to use phrases which cause our precious doctrine to be misunderstood and needlessly rejected,

We should strive to use scriptural expressions, those with which we shall "be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9),D

Jesus is a friend who knows all your faults and still loves you anyway

Is This Naomi ?

Do not remind me that I was once Pleasant.,,

she made another accusation against God when

she said, "I went out full, and the Lord hath

brought me home again empty."

There had been no real need that the family leave

God's land and His people. They had gone to

Moab by choice just as many people of today

move away from a church home for personal

advantage. Her family had become "conformed

to the world" to the extent that both boys had

disobeyed the righteous precepts of God;

nevertheless, Naomi was accusing God as though

HE had failed them.

"I went out full," she said, then added, "and the

Lord has brought me home again ... "

Had she only stopped there, she would have

found much to rejoice about. She was now able to

enjoy her own possessions again.

She could mingle her voice in praise with others

who worshiped the true God.

She acknowledged that it was the Lord who had

brought her home again! However, her pent up

bitterness forced out the harsh, accusing word

with which she turned full testimony against God.

She said, "The Lord hath brought me home again

EMPTY."

Bitterness had stifled all thankfulness.

It had crowded out hope.

It had robbed her of confidence.

It had smothered courage.

It had numbed her senses.

It was enslaving her thoughts.

It was literally defiling her whole being. Naomi,

the Pleasant One, had become Mara the bitter The

Bitter One!

She who had once acknowledged God, now had

no praise for Him. Just as the eyes of Mary Mag-

dalene were so blinded by grief and tears that she

could not recognize her Master, so was Naomi so

totally blinded by her smoldering bitterness that

she failed to recognize the love, the consideration,

the evident hand of God in the affairs of her life.

Her sad plight clearly portrays what will happen

to any of us today who succumb to adversity,

trials, disappointments, sorrow and grief, or even

in justices. All too often bitterness defiles men and

women of God, robbing them of all sweetness of

spirit, and even warping their dispositions. There

are NO circumstances that can arise that would

justify the existence of bitterness in a heart where

"the love of Gad is shed abroad by the Holy

Ghost .. " (continued page 7)

-in-law but Ruth's decision was not altered. Her beautiful commitment has rightfully been lauded in song and sermon by young and old alike. v. 16.

BUT WHAT ABOUT NAOMI?

When she and Ruth reached the town of Bethlehem and friends surrounded them, Naomi was so changed that the question was asked in anxious wonder; IS THIS Naomi?

It was true that she had been gone ten years. It was true that she had suffered great loss. But there was a deeper, more subtle indefinable change about her. She was not the same. Even sorrow should not have left the marks of hardness and utter dejection that her countenance reflected. . Her quick answer revealed the reason for the great change in her appearance.



"And she said unto them, 'Call me not Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.' "

All Hebrew names have meanings. What she said was, "Call me not 'Pleasant,' but call me 'Bitter'. " Allow me to add words that seem to be implied.

"I am not Pleasant, I have no expectation of ever being Pleasant again. My whole attitude toward life has changed. I am bitter because of all that has happened to me. God wasn't fair to me in Moab. He dealt very bitterly with me, and I will return that bitterness. "He afflicted me. He testified against me. I have become bitter and I want everyone to know that I feel justified in being bitter.

"So they two went until they came to Bethlehem, and it

came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that

all the city was moved about them, and they said, 'Is this

Naomi?' " Ruth 1: 19

The first eighteen verses of the book of Ruth tell of events

that cover several years of Naomi's life.

She was the wife of a seemingly well-to-do man of

Bethlehem who at the time of adversity left his homeland

and took his family to live among heathen. It is true that

there was a famine in Judah at that time, but we have no

record that there was a general exodus from the country.

We are only told that Elimelech, Naomi, and their two

boys went to "sojourn in Moab,"

They may not have had any intention of staying there.

They may have only desired to escape, for a few months,

the scarcity of food that the famine was imposing on

their comfort. But whatever their first intentions were,

"they continued there." v. 2.

In the course of time the two sons grew up and became

completely adjusted to the customs of the people about

them. The teachings of God's laws became dim in their

minds and lost their influence on their lives. They

became so emboldened that they disregarded the

instructions of the Lord and "they took unto them wives

of the women of Moab." It would seem that the entire

family was taking root in the land of Chemosh, the false

god who was known as the "subduer,

However, after ten years their plans were disrupted. First

of all, Elimelech, the husband, died. Then both sons died

and Naomi became a motherless widow. It was only then

that she decided to return to the land where her rightful

possessions were, back to Bethlehem, Judah; back to the

people of God.

The young daughters-in-law were very distressed by the

tragedies in which they were also a part; and when

Naomi told them that she was going home, they both

thought they would go along, This surely called for

Naomi to explain that after all, there was a real difference

between Jehovah and Chemesh, the monstrous idol that

was worshipped in Moab. In Judah, Chemosh was only

recognized as a false god, His worship was condemned.

The true God, Jehovah, was a jealous God, He

commanded His people to have NO false god before

them. In fact, the first thing taught all Hebrew children

was: "Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord ..

and Him only shalt thou serve." Deut. 6:4,

Naomi also stressed the fact that she could not promise

them other husbands or future homes. Orpah, the wife

of Chilion, was turned back by the words of her mother

Is This Naomi ?

God's Word gives His children many safeguards to prevent bitterness.

* If you are being severely tempted and tried, read I Peter 1:7 and be encouraged to know that, "The trial of your faith being MUCH more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise, and HONOR and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ,"

And Job said: "He knoweth the way that I take and when He hath tried me I SHALL COME FORTH as gold." Job 23: 10.

A bulwark of strength can be found in the following verses: "For thou O Lord hast proved us; thou hast tried us as silver is tried." Psalms 66: 10.

"Many shall be purified, made white and tried .. and the wise shall understand." Daniel 12: 10.

"BLESSED is the man that endureth temptations: for WHEN he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." James 1: 12.

"Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to TRY YOU, as though some strange thing happened unto you." I Peter 4:12.

And do not forget, "There hath No temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but GOD IS FAITHFUL who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13,

"The trial of faith will also add to the supply of patience." James 1:3,

* Perhaps you have been reviled, persecuted, and slandered because you stood firm for the Lord and the standards set forth in His living Word. Your reward will be lost if you become bitter, but if you: "Rejoice and be exceeding glad ... great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:11, 12,

"For this is thank worthy if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ; " ... If when ye do well and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

"For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow His steps.

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.

"Who when He was reviled, reviled NOT again; when He suffered, He THREATENED NOT." I Peter 2: 19 - 23,

by Mary Williams

You're Always There for Me

*When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.*

*You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.*

*In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.*

*You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.*

By Joanna Fuchs

God Knows Best

*My God knows best! through all my days
This is my comfort and my rest,
My trust, my peace, my solemn praise,
That God knows all, and God knows best.*

*My God knows best! That is my chart;
This thought to me is always blest;
It hallows and it soothes my heart,
For all is well, and God knows best.*

*My God knows best! then tears may fall;
In his great heart I'll find my nest;
For he, my God, is over all,
And he is love, and he knows best.*

-

Caleb Davis Bradlee

*The World's Bible
- Annie Johnston Flint*

*Christ has no hands but our hands
To do his work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how he died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to his side.*

*We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message
Given in deed and word—
What if the line is crooked?
What if the type is blurred?*

*What if our hands are busy
With other work than his?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things his lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help him
Unless from him we learn?*

Hope in Christ

In the coming year, let's fix our eyes On Jesus Christ, who is our prize. He is the hope of every nation, The source of our salvation.

Let's trust in Him with all our heart, And from His ways let's not depart. For He is faithful to the end, Our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend.

May His love fill you up each day, And guide you on your chosen way. May you find joy in His embrace, And peace in His amazing grace.

8 Why We Baptize In Jesus Name



The Mode of Baptism

According to the Scriptures, the proper mode of baptism is immersion. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water" (Matthew 3:16). "and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:38). "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death" (Romans 6:24). A corpse is not buried by placing it on top of the ground and sprinkling a little soil on it, but by covering it completely. According to the World Book Encyclopedia, "At first all baptism was by complete immersion" (vol.1,p.651). And the Catholic Encyclopedia states, "In the early centuries, all were baptized by immersion in streams, pools, and baptisteries" (vol. 2,p. 263). Immersion was not convenient after the Catholic church instituted infant baptism; thus the mode was changed to sprinkling. (See Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed., vol. pp. 365-66.) Repentance identifies us with the death of Christ, and baptism identifies us with His burial. Coming forth from the watery grave of baptism and receiving new life in the Holy Spirit identifies us with His resurrection.

The Formula for Baptism

Jesus commanded His disciples to "teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28: 19). He did not command them to use these words as a formula, but he commanded them to baptize in "the name." The word name is used here singular, and it is the focal point of the baptismal command. The titles Father, Son, and Holy Ghost describe God's relationships to humanity and are not the supreme, saving name described here, which is Jesus. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the name in which the roles Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are revealed. The angel of the Lord instructed Joseph, "She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus said, "I am come in my Father's name," and, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, ... the Father will send in my name" (John 5:43; 14:26). Thus by being baptizing in the name of Jesus, we honor the Godhead. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

Luke 24:45-47 records that just before His ascension, Jesus opened the disciples' understanding. It was necessary that their understanding be opened, and many today need this same operation in order to understand the Scriptures. Then Jesus said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day. " The disciples had their understanding opened so that they could grasp the vast importance of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Verse 47 describes the commission that Jesus gave: "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name beginning at Jerusalem." Peter was one of that number to whom Jesus had spoken and whose understanding had been opened. After listening to these instructions, a few days later he was inspired by the Holy Ghost to preach on the Day of Pentecost. The hearts of the hearers were pierced and feeling condemned, they cried "men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter did not hesitate but boldly answered, "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). "then they that gladly received his word were baptized, and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). Some say that Peter told them to be baptized in Jesus' name because they were Jews and this baptism was to make them acknowledge Jesus Christ. But let us go with Peter to the house of Cornelius several years later. Cornelius and his household were Gentiles, yet there again Peter "commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48). (Most translations actually say, "in the name of Jesus Christ.") If Peter was wrong on the day of Pentecost, he surely had ample time to be corrected before he went to the house of Cornelius. Was Peter wrong on the day of Pentecost? When the hearers were pricked in their hearts, they spoke to Peter and to the rest of the apostles (Acts 2:37).

continued on page 9

Why we Baptize in Jesus' Name

The subject of water baptism has long been called a great issue and no doubt has been made such by many church leaders of the past and present. In our study of it, let us first consider its importance, or the necessity of being baptized.

The Importance of Water Baptism

Christian water baptism is an ordinance instituted by Jesus Christ. If it is not important in the plan of God, why did Jesus command it in Matthew 28: 19? And why did Peter follow up by saying, Be baptized everyone of you," and by commanding the Gentiles to be baptized (Acts 2:38;10:48)? We must remember two points about the importance of water baptism. First, whatever Christ definitely established and ordained cannot be unimportant, whether we understand its significance or not. Second, Christ and the apostles showed the importance of this ordinance by observing it. Jesus walked many miles to be baptized, though he was without sin, saying, "For thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness" (See Matthew 3:13-16) It is true that water itself does not contain any saving virtue, but God has chosen to include it in his plan of salvation. Water is an essential part of the New Testament salvation and not merely a symbolic ritual. It is part of entering into the kingdom of God (God's church, the bride of Christ), and therefore, it is not merely a part of local church membership. (See John 3:5; Galatians 3:27) Peter explained, "Baptism doth also now save us (not putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21). According to Luke 7:30, "the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized."

Why We Baptize In Jesus Name



This included Matthew, who wrote Matthew 28:19. Moreover, when Peter preached, he stood up with eleven (Acts 2:14) Matthew was there, yet we find no words of corrections from him. He surely would have spoken up if Peter had disobeyed the Lord. But all the apostles understood and carried out the Lord's commission. As Jesus said in prayer, "I have manifested thy name unto the men [the apostles] which thou gavest me out of the world ... and they have kept thy word" (John 17:6) The Samaritans, who were not Jews, were also baptized in the name of Jesus. "Then Phillip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them ... But when they believed Phillip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women ... They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 8:5,12,16) Let us see how Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, baptized. He went to Ephesus many years after the day of Pentecost and found some disciples of John the Baptist there. "He said to them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since you believed ? and they said

unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto then what were you baptized ? And they said, Unto John's baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus" (Acts 19:2-5). Although these disciples had already been baptized, the name of Jesus was so important as to cause them to be rebaptized in His name. We do not believe Paul changed the formula or mode of baptism when he baptized Lydia and her household (Acts 16:14-15) or the Philippian jailer. The latter came trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas, saying, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved ? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And he took them the same hour of the night [shortly after midnight].and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway" (Acts 16:30-33).

How can we doubt that Paul baptized these people using the same mode and formula that he used elsewhere, that is, immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ? Paul was not with the apostles when Jesus gave his final instructions to them in Matthew 28:19 and Luke 24:47, yet Paul baptized in the name of

the Lord Jesus. How did he know what to do ? He said that his gospel was not a tradition of man but a revelation of from God. "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 revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11-12) Paul was chosen to bear Jesus' name to the Gentiles, and he wrote many divinely inspired epistles to the church. To this apostle God revealed the mystery of the church, "which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit" (Ephesians 3:5) Paul claimed to have divine authority: "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (I Corinthians 14:37). And Paul wrote, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17). Water baptism is done in both word and deed. We cannot afford to overlook this command to the church. The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). The apostles not only preached baptism in Jesus' name, but they practiced it. Nowhere can we find that they baptized using the words "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Instead we find them baptizing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In baptizing in Jesus' name, they fulfilled the command of the Lord in Matthew 28:19.

Paul 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) Let this be a solemn warning to us. Some say that they will accept the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 but not those of Peter in Acts 2:38. But Peter spoke on the Day of Pentecost under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Peter was one of the apostles, and to him had been given the keys of the kingdom, so we have no right to discredit his words. In Mark 7:8 Jesus said, "Laying aside the commandment of God, ye bold the traditions of men." History tells us that it was not until many years after the apostles that the mode and formula of the baptism in the name of Jesus Christ were changed. (See Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible, vol. 1, p.241.)

Which means more to you, the command of the Lord or the tradition of men?

Baptism Proof In Jesus Name

Baptism has always been administered In the name of Jesus Christ by the true Apostolic Church, but It was changed to the titles "Father,Son, and Holy Ghost" by the Catholic Church In the second century. This false practice has been adopted by Protestant churches as well as other religious groups. The following historical evidence proves that the original baptismal formula established by Jesus was changed:

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Britannica Encyclopedla, 11th ed. vol. 3, pp. 365-366

The baptismal formula was changed from the name of Jesus Christ to the words Father, Son, &. Holy Ghost by the Catholic Church in the second century. Britannica Encyclopedia, vol. 3, p. 82. Everywhere in the oldest sources it states that baptism took place in the name of Jesus Christ.

Canney Encyclopedia of Religion,{on, p. 53.

The early church always- baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus until development of Trinity doctrine in the 2nd century.

Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. 2, p. 263.

There has been a theological controversy over the question as to whether baptism In the name of Christ only was ever held valid. Certain texts in the New Testament have given rise to this difficulty. Thus St. Paul (Acts. xix) commands some disciples at Ephesus to be baptized in Christ's name: "They ' were baptized In the name of the Lord Jesus." In Acts 10, we read that St. Peter ordered others to be baptized "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Those who were converted by Philip. (Acts, viii) "were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ", and above all we have the explicit command of the Prince of the Apostles: "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins" (Acts, ii). continued page 10

Baptism Proof In Jesus Name

Owing to these texts some theologians have held that the Apostles baptized in the name of Christ only. St. Thomas, St. Bonaventure, and Albertus Magnus are invoked as authorities for this opinion, they declaring that the Apostles so acted by special dispensation.

Pope Nicholas replies that the baptism is to be held valid "if they were baptized, in the name of the supreme and undivided Trinity." Here the pope does not give baptism in the name of Christ only as an alternative.

[Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion, vol. 2, p. 377.](#)

Christian baptism was administered using the words 'In the name of Jesus. -

[Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion, vol. 2, p. 378.](#)

The use of a Trinitarian formula of any sort was not suggested in early Church history.

[Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion, vol. 2, p. 389.](#)

Baptism was always in the name of Lord Jesus until the time of Justin Martyr when Triune formula was used.

[Catholic Encyclopedia vol. 8.](#)

Justin Martyr was one of the early Fathers of the Roman Catholic Church.

[Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion, vol. 2, p. 377 on ACTS 2:38.](#)

NAME was an ancient synonym for "person". Payment was always made in the name of some person referring ownership. Therefore one being baptized in Jesus Name became his personal property. Ye are Christ's.

[New International Encyclopedia, vol. 22, p. 477.](#)

The term "Trinity" was originated by Tertullian. a Roman Catholic Church Father.

[Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, \(1951\), vol. 2, pp. 384, 389,](#)

The formula used was 'in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ' or some synonymous phrase; there is no evidence for the use of the triune name ... The earliest form. represented in the Acts, was simple immersion . . . in water, the use of the name of the Lord, and the laying on of hands. To these were added In at various times and places which cannot be safely identified, (a) the triune name ...

[Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible \(1962\) vol. 1, p. 351.](#)

The evidence . . . suggests that baptism in early Christianity was administered, not in the threefold name, but in the name of the Lord Jesus.

[A History of Christian Thought \(Otto Heick\), \(1965\), vol. 1, p. 53.](#)

At first baptism was administered in the name of Jesus, but gradually In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

[Hastings Dictionary of the Bible \(1898\).](#)

[One explanation is that] the original form of words was 'into the name of Jesus Christ'. Baptism into the name of the Trinity was a later development.

[The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, \(1957\), vol. 1, p. 435](#)

The New Testament knows only baptism in the name of Jesus ... which still occurs even in the second and third centuries.

[Canney Encyclopedia of Religion, \(1970\), p. 53.](#)

Persons were baptized at first in the name of Jesus Christ' ... or 'in the name of the Lord Jesus.'... Afterwards, with the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, they were baptized 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

[Encyclopedia Biblica \(1899\), vol. 1, p. 473.](#)

It is natural to conclude that baptism was administered in the earliest times 'in the name of Jesus Christ,' or in that 'of the lord Jesus.' This view is confirmed by the fact that the earliest forms of the baptismal confession appear to have been single-not triple, as was the later creed.

[Encyclopedia Briannlca, 11th ad. \(1910\), vol. 2, p. 365.](#)

The Trinitarian formula and triune immersion were not uniformly used from the beginning ... Baptism into the name of the Lord was the normal formula of the new Testament. In the 3rd century baptism in the name of Christ was still so wide spread that Pope Stephen, in opposition to Cyprian of Carthage, declared it to be valid.

Yes, it's unfortunate that men have tampered with the Word of God to support their own errant beliefs. However, you can still be baptized in the saving name of Jesus just like in the Bible. We are an Apostolic Church that baptizes in the name of Jesus!

What does the Bible have to say about man meddling with God's Word and replacing it with man made traditions?

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

We welcome you to reject the traditions of men, and to come and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16)



By P.V.Reynolds

Preaching With Power

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21).

"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light" (Genesis 1:2, 3).

MEN OF POWER, congregations of revival, spiritual giants, churches of fire-these do not just happen; they are the direct product of the moving Spirit and the powerful Word of God.

The Moving of the Spirit

It is vitally important that every minister and Pentecostal saint realize that we are absolutely nothing without the moving Spirit. Our day is one of revival in the midst of a great falling away. Our day has produced Holy Ghost fire while the chilling winds of apostasy blow. Our day has produced both great Bible preachers and those with itching ears.

The great common denominator of revival: Holy Ghost fire and great Bible preachers, is the MOVING SPIRIT. It makes the difference. Nothing of worth is done without it. The moving Spirit brings with it power and strength. The moving of the Spirit gives heaven's virtues to the soul.

The moving of the Spirit is more than making noise .. It is more than a shout. The moving of the Spirit is more than an emotional binge. A carnal shout can be an outward sign of an inward weakness. Israel shouted while in a state of Ichabod, not knowing that the Spirit of the Lord had departed. The moving of the Spirit is not always the same. Yes, it does move at times in the song and dance. It also moved in weeping, laughing, a still small voice, the shaking of a mulberry tree, a consuming fire, the pricking of the heart, the giving of voice to a dumb ass, the shaking of temple doors and the speaking in other tongues. However it moves, you can be sure it moves for eternal and lasting reasons. However it moves, brother, let it move.

The Powerful Word

Preaching is God's method. Not one soul can be saved without it. "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

However, let it be crystal clear that if preaching is to be effective, the Word must be delivered with power. First Corinthians 1:18, "For

the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved IT IS THE POWER OF GOD."

The difference in a discourse and Apostolic preaching is the power that comes from a life full of the Holy Ghost. Second Corinthians 3:6 declares, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit, for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

We need men today like Ezekiel who, with faith and power of the Spirit. The prophet said..."prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say unto the wind, O breath and breathe upon the slain, that they may live so I prophesied...and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army" Ezekiel 37:8-10

Preach Brother, But Preach With Power.

A Psychiatrist And The Bible

Psychiatrist Smiley Blanton tells of a patient asking him if he read the Bible on his desk, to which he replied, "I not only read it, I study it. It's the greatest textbook on human behavior ever put together. If people would just absorb its message, a lot of us psychiatrists could close our offices and go fishing.

"Centuries before psychiatry, the Bible knew that 'the kingdom of God is within you.' We psychiatrists call it the unconscious mind but only the words are new, not the concept. From beginning to end the Bible teaches that the human soul is a battleground where good struggles with evil. We talk about the forces of hostility and aggression contending with the love impulses in human nature. It's the same thing. What psychiatry has done is to bring scientific terminology to the truths that the Bible presents in poetry, allegory and parable."

He closes his article with these profound words: "We shall never have all the truth. Great questions of life and death, good and evil, remain unanswered and must so remain, as the book of Job eloquently tells us. But this much seems plain to me; locked in the unconscious mind of each one are the same elemental forces of love and hate that have haunted and inspired the human race from the beginning. With this hidden area of the human spirit psychiatry concerns itself-sometimes helpfully, sometimes not. But there is also an ancient book that deals with it, that understands it profoundly a book that for 3000 years has been help in time of trouble to any person wise enough to use it." --Selected



Just Passing Through

In the past twenty years many people have come out of the world, and have been born into the kingdom of God, receiving a wonderful experience from God. For a time they were on fire for God, and did a good work, but due to the lure of the world, and for various other reasons, they fell away from God. It grieves our hearts to think about this great number of people who are lost to the church and the cause of Christ; the many people who are "just passing through."

It would pay us to examine these cases and see what it was that did so easily beset them. If one goes to a physician with ailment, he wants to know where, and how much, it hurts, when the first symptoms appeared, etc. After a thorough examination and diagnosis, he prescribes what he thinks will best enable the patient to recover and be well again.

Now we have a Great Physician who is not only more able to heal our bodies than any earthly doctor, but who is also able to heal men's sick souls. Yet we are continually losing "patients," as it were.

One of the first symptoms of spiritual sickness, and approaching spiritual death, is the giving up of the prayer life. Prayer is the key to a healthy, well-adjusted soul. Another symptom is the failure to attend church as regularly as possible. Prayer and Bible reading at home cannot take the place of worship in the house of God.

There is something about a church service that helps us to draw strength for life's daily battles. As God's blessings are there poured out upon us, the trials, troubles and cares of the world that try to hinder our Christian experience begin to fade away.

The Bible declares, " ... he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." As our spirits are renewed within us by our congregating together to worship God, we are able to take a confident stand on His promise not to allow more to be put on us than we can bear.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us . . . run with patience the race that is set before us.,, These are the words of the oft-tempted, tried and persecuted Apostle Paul he who endured imprisonment, shipwreck, and many other things for the cause of Christ. Endurance and patience are the qualities you will find in the rooted and grounded believer. And of such you will never hear the tragic remark, "Oh, he was just passing through!"

There is a story of a comedian who, in becoming "successful," had to travel from engagement to engagement, leaving his wife and children at home. He assured himself that he was doing this for them. When the train took him through his home town, he would stand at the window and wave to his family as they waited at the station for just a glimpse of Dad. At best he occasionally had just a few minutes to stop and visit them. He would have been highly insulted had some dared suggest that he was not a good husband and father.

One day this comedian decided to take a few days off, and visit his family. Upon arriving home, he met the doctor leaving his house. His wife had become ill, and had died, and the children had not known how to get in touch with him. His household was upset, and the children were grief-stricken. He ascended the stairs to his oldest son's bedroom. As he entered, his son looked up with tear-filled eyes, and said, "Hello, Father. Just passing through?" This man is, in some ways, illustrative of many backsliding Christians. They neglect to assemble themselves with the saints, often because they think they are too busy. All the time they assure themselves that they are doing it for their families, etc. They would be highly insulted if someone dared suggest that they were not good Christians. They go on in this state for years, and finally lose contact with the church. Finally they decide to return to church. Sitting in the congregation, they hardly recognize anyone but the pastor and a few older saints, and feel like strangers. The picture is complete when someone meets them, and says, "Hello there. Is this your first visit? Do you live here, or are you just passing through I hope that this finds you, not as one just passing through, but as an active member of your assembly, helping to hold aloft the standard of Christ against the forces of Satan. May you always do your part to uphold the cause of holiness against the worldliness that seeks to invade the sacred enclosure of the church. Present your body to Christ, holy and acceptable unto him, which is your reasonable service. Then at the end of the race you will hear these words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," rather than those terrible words, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire ... "

Let your faith be bigger than your fear!

Thought Provoking Gems

Let Me
tell you about
my
Jesus

For every
battle
I have won
I can't do
without my
Jesus

This is the beginning of
A NEW DAY.

You have been given this day to use as you
will. You can waste it or use it for good.
What you do today is important because
you are exchanging a day of your life for it.
When tomorrow comes, this day will be
gone forever; in its place is something that
you have left behind...

let it be something good.

Store your Bible in your heart, not on a shelf.

**I want to be so full of Christ that if a mosquito
bites me, he flies away singing, "There's power in
the blood."**

**Sometimes God will put a Goliath in your life, so
you can find the David within you.**



Only Jesus Can satisfy your soul !

*Sometimes God will put a Goliath
in your life, so you can find the
David within you.*

You're Always There for Me

**When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.**

**You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.**

**In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.**

**You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.**

By Joanna Fuchs

Stand In Faith

*Stand in faith
Even when you can't see your way
Stand in faith
Even when you feel like you can't face
another day
Stand in faith
Even when the tears want to flow from your
eyes
Stand in faith
Knowing that our God will always provide
Stand in faith
Even when you feel that all hope is gone
Stand in faith
Knowing that He is always there for you to
lean on
Stand in faith
Even when you feel like giving up
Stand in faith
Because He is there ... saying, "Just look up"
Stand in faith
Even in those times you feel so all alone
Stand in faith
Hold on and be strong, for He is still on the
throne
Stand in faith
Even when it's hard to believe
Stand in faith
Knowing that He can change your situation,
suddenly
Stand in faith
Even in those times you feel it's hard to pray
Stand in faith
And believe that He has already made the
way
Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the
evidence of things not seen
So stand in faith
Because you already have the victory!
Johnnye V. Chandler*

The Bible is rated E for everyone.

When I Have Time

*When I have time so many things I'll do
To make life happier and more fair
For those whose lives are crowded now with
care;
I'll help to lift them from their low despair
When I have time.*

*When I have time the friend I love so well
Shall know no more these weary, toiling days;
I'll lead her feet in pleasant paths always
And cheer her heart with words of sweetest
praise,
When I have time.*

*When you have time! The friend you hold so dear
May be beyond the reach of all your sweet intent;
May never know that you so kindly meant
To fill her life with sweet content
When you had time.*

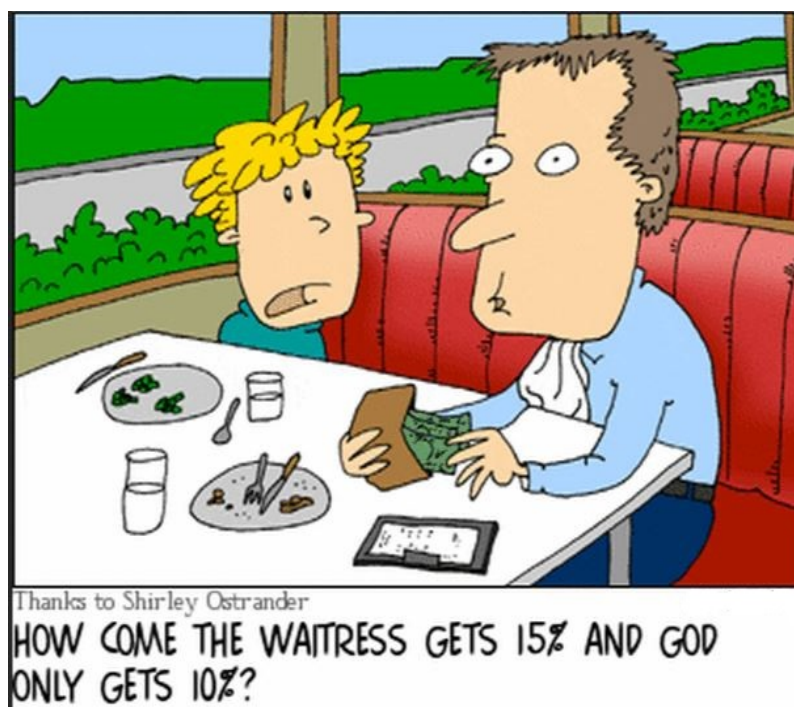
*Now is the time! Ah, friend, no longer wait
To scatter loving smiles and words of cheer
To those around whose lives are now so drear;
They may not need you in the coming year--
Now is the time!*

Miriam Brown

My childhood church had a kitchen in the back. One day while looking around, I saw a wooden plaque with a button. The button didn't work. That was when I read the sign above the plaque: "When you are through using the kitchen, push button to summon a servant to clean up. If there is no response, refer to Matthew 20:25-28 for further instruction. Thank you."

*Store your Bible in your
heart, not on a shelf.*

*I want to be so full of Christ
that if a mosquito bites me, he
flies away singing, "There's
power in the blood."*



The Link In The Chain

*I'm not the one to make judgments; I'm not the one to set goals,
I'm just a tool for the Master, part of His team to save souls.
I'm not the one with the answers to all the questions you
ask, I'm not the one full of knowledge; I'm hardly up to the task.*

*I too am one who is searching, why has the world gone astray?
I have found peace in my Saviour but others have not found
their way. So, God, if You're willing to use me, a link in the
chain of events, Give me instructions to follow, words that to
lost souls make sense.*

*Help me to keep it as simple as Jesus revealed to the crowd;
Not oratorical flourish, not being boisterous or loud.
Simply the plan of salvation, let it appeal to mankind,
Its wonderful peace You have offered,
Peace to the soul and the mind.*

- Greta Zwaan, © 2018

ONE

**To keep your marriage
brimming
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong,
admit it;
Whenever you're right,
shut up.**

**One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame the goal;
One candle can wipe out darkness;
One laugh can conquer gloom;
One hope can raise your spirits;
One touch can show you care;
One life can make a difference,
be that one today.**

Be A Reflection

Be a reflection of what you'd like
to see in others.
If you want love, give love.
If you want honest, give honesty.
If you want respect, give respect.
You get in return, what you give.

If You Think You Are Beaten

If you think you are beaten, you
are.
If you think you dare not, you
don't.
If you'd like to win but think you
can't,
It's almost certain you won't.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But sooner or later, the man who
wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

Smiling

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me
today

I started smiling too
I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin
When he smiled I realized
I had passed it on to him
I thought about the smile
And then realized its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic
And get the world infected
~ Spike Milligan

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Luke 1:37

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