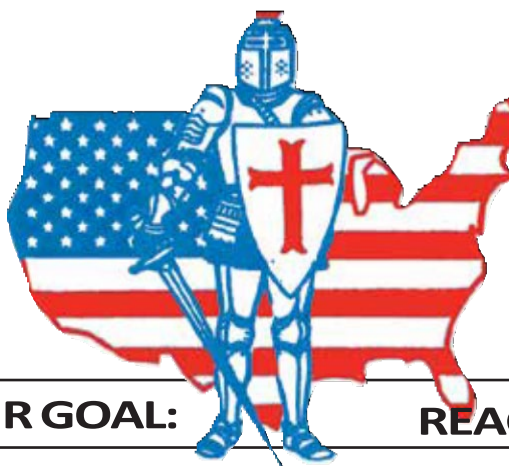




AMERICA'S

CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

Mar-April 2024

OUR GOAL:

REACHING FOR LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST WHILE THERE IS TIME

A SURE GRIP FOR THE FUTURE



Trusting God For The Unknown

Uncertainty is all around us, never more so than today. Whether it concerns a global pandemic, the economy, or your finances, health, and relationships, much of what lies ahead in life remains uncertain. Yet as human beings, we need security.

We want to feel safe and have a sense of control over our lives and well-being. Fear and uncertainty can leave you feeling anxious, over the direction of your life.

If you feel overwhelmed by uncertainty and worry, it's important to know that you're not alone; many of us are in the same boat. It's also important to realize that no matter how helpless and hopeless you feel, Whatever your fears or personal circumstances, instead of worrying about the things you can't control, turn everything over to the God that has all control.

God knows you need somewhere to go when you feel unsure. That place is His Word. It is unchanging and completely trustworthy.

The Bible is God's unfailing, unchanging Word. You can cling to its truth when life throws you a curve ball.

God is bigger than your circumstances. Difficult times may feel like they last forever, but they are temporary.

God is present amid the bad times as well as the good. He is always faithful. A God of the mountain and the valley.

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**CHRIST IS
THE ANSWER**

Greetings to the Saints of God!



Pastor Junior & Brenda Tingle

Dear Christian Friends,

I am writing this letter to encourage you during these challenging times. Many situations that we are faced with can be overwhelming. However, I want you to know that you are not alone. God is with you, and He will never leave you nor forsake you.

The Bible tells us that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Therefore, you can trust in Him to provide you with the strength and courage you need to face each day. Even when things seem hopeless, remember that God is in control, and He has a plan for your life.

I know that the general state of the world can be discouraging. It is easy to feel powerless and overwhelmed by all that is going on. However, I want to remind you that you are part of a family - God's family and the church family. You are not forgotten, and you are loved by many.

The Psalms in particular celebrate God's eagerness to hear and help his people in their "day of distress" and "time of trouble." David testified that God had been to him "a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress" (Psalm 59:16, also 9:9; 37:39; 41:1). He knew where to turn when crisis came: "In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me" (Psalm 86:7). "He will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble" (Psalm 27:5). And David knew where to point others: "May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!" (Psalm 20:1). "The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble" (Psalm 9:9).

I encourage you to stay connected with your church family, there is strength in unity spend time with believers of like faith in prayer and fellowship, these are all ways to stay connected and to support one another during these difficult times.

Remember that you are loved by God, and He has a purpose for your life. He is using these difficult times to grow your faith and to bring people to Him. You are part of an unprecedented opportunity to share the love of Christ with those who are hurting and searching for hope and salvation.

I pray that you will find comfort and strength in God's Word. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13).

Sincerely, Bro. Jr. Tingle

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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Oh Yes! Don't forget to send a donation to keep this great paper alive.

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

The Truth About The Holy Ghost Baptism

Modern religion, with its powerless man-made doctrines has left confusion in the minds of people concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You have a right to know the truth. What does the Bible say? What does church history say? Do not take false theories and ideas of men learn the truth about this important subject. The baptism of the Holy Ghost Is needed to fill the deepest desire of the heart. Paul said, "The love of God Is shed abroad In our hearts by the Holy Ghost which Is given unto us" (Rom 5:5). Again he said, "The Kingdom of God Is ... righteousness, and peace, and joy In the Holy Ghost" (Rom 14:17). (Also see Is. 28:11, 12.)

It takes the Holy Spirit Baptism to change a person's heart, make him a new creature and give him strength to walk In newness of life. "A new heart also will I give you ... " (Eze. 36:26). "Therefore if any man be In Christ, he Is a new; creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). " ... We also shall walk In newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). (Also see Zec. 4:6, Gal. 2:20, 2 Tim. 1 :7.)

The baptism of the Holy Ghost gives a believer the needed power to witness. Jesus said, "Ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost Is come upon you: and ye shall be WITNESSES unto me ... " (Acts 1:8). (Also see Luke 24:49.)

The Holy Spirit Baptism Is required to be ready for the rapture of the church. If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell In you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:11). The Bible states that It Is CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY (Col. 1 :27). (Also see John 3:5, Ro. B:9, Gal. 4:6, 7, 1 Thess. 4:16, 2 Thess.1:7-10.)

Honest hearts, receive the truth today and be transformed by the wonderful power of God! Don't stop short of the complete Biblical plan of salvation. Experience the exciting baptism of the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking In tongues!

2. The next step Is obedience. God gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him {Acts 5:32}, The question was asked on the day of Pentecost, "What shall we do?" Then Peter said, "Repent,



and be baptized every one 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).

a. Repentance is of utmost Importance because your body Is the temple of the Holy Spirit. If any man defile the temple (body) of God, him shall God destroy (I Car. 3:16, 17). So God commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT (Acts 17:30). ;Jesus said, "Except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Any Pentecostal or Charismatic experience without true repentance will not result in the Biblical Holy Spirit Baptism.

b. Following repentance, It becomes necessary for your sins to be remitted by water baptism In the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus commissioned that repentance and REMISSION OF SINS should be preached IN HIS NAME (Luke 24:47). Peter preached water baptism In the Name of JESUS CHRIST for the REMISSION OF SINS (Acts 2:38). Paul REBAPTIZED converts at Ephesus In the Name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:5) .. Peter COMMANDED the Gentiles at Caesarea to be baptized with water in the Name of the Lord {R.V., Weymouth, Vulgate, "Name of Jesus Christ") (Acts 10:47, 48).

If you desire to have your sins remitted and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism evidenced by speaking in tongues, I urge you to believe God and obey His word.

IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

The Holy Spirit Baptism is essential to complete the "new birth" Into the Kingdom of God. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except a man

be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Paul said to Titus "According to His mercy He saved us, (how?) by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost• (Titus 3:5). {Also see John 1:12, 13, Acts 2:38.)

It Is Impossible to please God without the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "That which Is born of flesh Is flesh, but that which Is born of the Spirit Is spirit" (John 3:6). Paul said, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not In the flesh, but In the Spirit, If so be that the Spirit of God DWELL IN YOU. Now If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:8, 9). {Also see 2 Cor. 13:5, Gal. 1:8.) , The word baptism means total immersion or to become engulfed by (Greek-English Lexicon). To be baptized with the Holy Spirit to be totally immersed or engulfed by the Spirit of God. This Is something to be thrilled about! The terms, "baptized with the Holy Ghost," "filled with the Holy Spirit," and "gift of the Holy Ghost," are synonymous terms used In the Acts of the Apostles. (See Acts 1:5, 2:4; 38.) Also the terms "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost" mean the same. The Hebrew "ruach," and Greek "pneuma" Is the same for both "Spirit" and "Ghost" (Fausset's Bible Dictionary.). Everyone who has felt the Spirit of God has not necessarily received the Holy Ghost -Baptism. The disciples had experienced the presence of the Lord with them before they were filled with the Holy Ghost Jesus said, "Ye know him; for he dwelleth WITH you, and shall be IN you (John 14:17). The Samaritans had experienced great joy when they believed on the Lord. But they did not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost until later (Acts 8:6-16): ,

HOLY GHOST BAPTISM PROMISED

God spoke through Old Testament prophets about the coming baptism of the Holy Spirit. "It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh : • ." (Joel 2:28). Isaiah prophesied, "With stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people, to whom he said, This Is the rest ... and this is the refreshing" (Is. 20:11,12). "A new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you ... (Eze. 36:26),

John preached, ' He that cometh after me is mightier than I whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with, the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matt, 3:11).

Jesus confirmed the prophecies of the Old Testament and of John and promised the Holy Spirit Baptism to all believers, . He said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly (R.V, from within) shall flow rivers of living water.

(continued page 4)

The Truth About The Holy Ghost Baptism

continued

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive for the Holy Ghost was not yet-given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7:37-39). (Also see John 16:7, 14:26.) "Thus It Is written, and thus It behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day ... And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye In the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:46-49), Jesus COMMANDED that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. He said, "For John truly baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy _Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:4,5), Also Jesus said, "And these signs shall follow them that believe they shall speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17)

HOLY GHOST BAPTISM EXPERIENCED

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord In one place, And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). The initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost, upon the 120 disciples, was witnessed by devout Jews, out of every nation. They said one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man In our own tongue, wherein we were born? What meaneth this?" Others mocked and said, "These men are full of new wine" (Acts 2:6-13). Then Peter preached, "These are not drunken, as ye suppose ... But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh ... Having received of the father the promise of the Holy Ghost He (Jesus) hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:15-33), Cornelius and his household experienced the baptism of the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking In tongues. While Peter preached, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. "They of the (Jews) which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost: FOR THEY HEARD THEM SPEAK WITH TONGUES, and magnify God ..." (Acts 10:44-48).

Paul asked the question to believers at Ephesus, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" And they said unto him, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." After Paul had preached Christ unto them, he rebaptized them 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" (Acts 19:1-6), History also 'proves that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking In tongues, has not ceased to be a Biblical experience among believers today and has become the largest Christian movement of the twentieth century and is now the fastest growing religion In the world.

Encyclopedia Britannica, 1973 Edition, Vol. 22 p. 75 The accounts in Acts indicate that In the beginning of the Christian church the phenomenon (tongue-speaking) reappeared where conversion and commitment to Christianity occurred during later church history, glossolalia (speaking In tongues) occurred among the mendicant friars of the 13th century, little prophets of Cevennes the Camisards; the Jansenists, and the Irvingites. Tongues were found also among the early Quakers, as well as among the converts of John Wesley and George Whitefield ... In modern times glossolalia has been found chiefly among Holiness and Pentecostal groups.

Christianity Today, October 16, 1987, p. 16 - Pentecostalism has mushroomed Into the largest Christian movement In the twentieth century. No one knows how big it really is, but the statistics are staggering. The world's fastest growing religion is the Pentecostal wing of Christianity." In addition to tongue-speaking, the Bible teaches that the fruit of the Spirit will also follow believers baptized with the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal. 5:22,23). Jesus said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20). No Christian's life is complete without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the outward evidence of speaking In tongues, followed by the inward manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST BAPTISM

The first step is faith. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to all who believe on Him as the Scripture has said (John 7:38,39). Peter said, "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39). Remove all doubt and confusion created by false theories and ideas of men, and believe that God is willing to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. "Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is ... BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT" (Eph. 5:17,18).

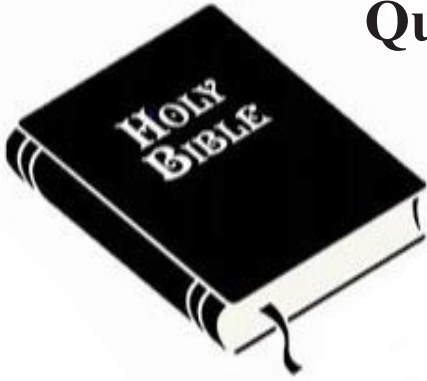
As we mature in Christ, it changes our prayer life. We can pray with our own limited knowledge or we can allow His Spirit to pray through us with His infinite wisdom and understanding.

This experience crossed language and cultural barriers. Though people differ greatly, the infilling of God's Spirit does not.

In Acts 2:4, we read of the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." This experience astonished the Jews visiting Jerusalem for the annual Jewish festival, the Feast of Pentecost. Each of them heard the believers "speak in his own language" (Acts 2:6). The believers were speaking in tongues—in languages they had not previously spoken. Some of the visitors understood their words; they heard "them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11).

People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it!

Questions & Answers



Bro. O.F Fauss

Question:

Please explain 1 Corinthians 11:10, which reads: "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." I do not cut my hair, neither do I dye it, and I am not looking for an excuse to do so, but I would like to know just what this verse means.

Answer:

To explain this tenth verse, let us begin with the preceding verses. Verse 3 declares that the head of every man is Christ: and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Verses 4-6 declare: "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one (or the same) as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn (even as a man is shorn): but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven (the same as a man), let her be covered."

Here let us note just what Paul means by the "covered" and "uncovered" head. In verse 15 he plainly states: "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a COVERING."

In verse 7 Paul said that a man should not cover his head, and added, in verse 14, " .. if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him," Man should not cover his head ", .. forasmuch as he is the image of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man" (verses 7-9). Then, in verse 10, Paul said, "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." The power here refers to the sign of the husband's authority. The woman, in her place, recognizes the man as her head, even as the man recognizes Christ as his head.

Paul had already declared the importance of a woman's head being covered by her long hair (verse 15).

Then to emphasize what he said, he added the phrase, "because of the angels." But you may ask, "Why are angels mentioned? Do angels pay any attention to us here on earth?" Let the following Scripture quotations answer this.

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11, 12). Even the Devil recognized this as God's Word, and tried to use it in tempting Jesus {Matthew 4:6}.

In Hebrews 1:7, Paul says, "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire." Then in verse 14 he asks, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Further, in comparing the old and the new covenants, he declares, "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22).

Because of the angels, a woman should never show a spirit of rebellion by cutting her hair. Her long hair is a sign of her subjection to the God-ordained authority which He established in giving to Adam the very first woman, Eve.

Question:

Isn't there a verse in the Bible that says scissors are not supposed to touch a woman's hair even to trim it one-half inch?

Answer:

Probably the verse to which you refer is I Corinthians 11:15: "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." In the Greek the word for "long hair" is komao, which literally means "to let the hair grow" (Thayer, Bullinger). The underlying thought is for the hair to be absolutely uncut, for if the hair is trimmed we are not letting it grow as the God of nature allows it to grow. God has given to the woman her uncut hair as a covering.

Now notice verse 6: "If the woman be not covered," that is, if she does not have the covering of uncut hair because it is trimmed, then "let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." What the Lord is saying is that a woman might just as well shave all the hair off her head completely as to trim it. God counts a woman's trimming her hair to be just as wrong as if she cut it off and shaved her head.

I am sure you realize it would be wrong for you to shave your head and then try to worship God with your head as bare as a billiard ball. That is just the way God feels about your trimming your hair, even one-half inch! Bro. David Gray

A Lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting its shoes on.



SATAN'S GREATEST WEAPON AGAINST YOU!

*"Woe unto you, scribes
and Pharisee
hypocrites! for ye
compass sea and land to
make one proselyte, and
when he is made, ye
make him twofold more
the child of hell than
yourselves.
(Matt 23:15)
Have you
been caught
in Satan's
trap?*

By J. T. Wheat

SATAN IS AFTER YOU!

We are warned to "be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1 Pet. 5:8) Yes, he is after you! Satan has no scruples or principles; he will use any means to get you. He is a liar, a deceiver and the world's greatest imitator. He sets his snares with great deception. He wants you in hell!

A TWOFOLD CHILD OF HELL?

How can one become a twofold child of hell? If you are lost, what can make you any worse off? First, let us consider the facts: (1.) If you are lost, and you know it, then you know that you need salvation and will be open to it. Your chances of being saved are great as long as you are open to hear and receive truth.

(2.) If you are a member of some church, but have not been saved the Bible way, you will probably reject any truth that is not taught by your own church or religion. Therefore, you are in worse condition after you have joined a church; than you were in the beginning.

THE HARDEST SOUL TO WIN

The hardest person to save, is one who already thinks he is saved. There is a wall of rejection built in their minds against everything that is not taught by their local assembly. They harden their hearts and stiffen their necks against the truth and become angry at hearing it.

FALSE RELIGION SATAN'S TOOL

Jesus said that the Pharisees would cause more people to go to hell than anything else. Remember that the Pharisees represented the leading religious groups of that day. They were also false religion; for they opposed everything that Jesus and the Apostles taught. They vehemently withstood the truths of God and held on to their man made traditions. Jesus said, thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. (Matt 15:6) It was the religious traditions that kept them from believing and receiving the truths as taught by God's word.

It is the same entrapment today that is robbing souls of true Bible salvation. Yes, the greatest trap Satan has, are the false churches of today. Yes, Satan has churches today. He had them in Jesus's day.

Jesus told them of whom they were; he said, 'ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do because ye are not of God (John 8:42-47) Notice, Jesus said the father of these churches is the devil. No, they were not called 11 Churches of Satan", but were known by their denominational names as Christian names. Their purpose was said to save souls, but in reality, they were causing souls to be lost and twice as hard to reach. Therefore, fulfilling the words of Jesus, "ye make him two-fold more a child of hell."

SATAN HAS CHURCHES

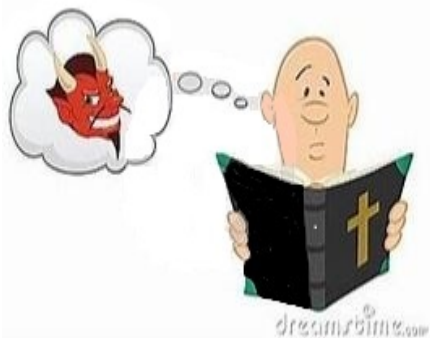
No, all churches are not of God. Satan, also has churches, but they are Christian names in order to deceive you. We are told that Satan even calls men into the ministry. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (11 Cor. 11:13-15

The devil transforms himself to be an angel of light. Jesus said, I am the true light!'. Therefore, Satan appears as though he really believes in Jesus Christ. Notice, he also has ministers that appear as ministers of righteousness, but in reality, they are there for one purpose and that is to send you to hell. How do they fulfill their mission? They do not preach unto you the Whole truth of God's word. They indoctrinate you with man made traditions and false teachings that make you resist the truth. They cause you to believe a lie and become dammed.

No, they do not have a sign out front saying this is Satan's Church but rather some common religious denominational name that you have accepted without any question to be a christian church. this is the great mistake that most people commit today, they accept religious teachings without proving them right first. There is nothing that Satan likes better than for someone to be easily deceived.

(continued on page 7)

SATAN'S GREATEST WEAPON AGAINST YOU!



TEST YOUR CHURCH

Don't be afraid to put your church to the test of God's word. If it is a true church, it will pass all examinations. If it doesn't, then something is wrong.

Ask these important questions:

- (1.) Does my church baptize the way they did in the book of acts, or, have they substituted a traditional baptism?
- (2.) Do people in my church get the same Holy Ghost experience today as they did in the Bible?
- (3.) If not, who authorized them to change; when and where?
- (4.) Does my church teach repentance of sin, or do we join church and continue doing the same things we did before we went to church?
- (5.) When you got in your church, did it change you, or, are you still the same old person?

Satan's church does not conform with the word of God, but rather tries to explain it away. Satan's church will tell you that you cannot have the same Holy Ghost experience as received in the Bible. But, remember that he is a liar and father of lies. Satan does not care if you join church, as long as it is one that does not preach the truth.

TRUE CHURCH IDENTIFIED

The true church of today can easily be identified by comparison with the true church found in the Book of Acts. It will be identical in every way. The true church will still baptize as they did in the beginning. The true church will receive the same Bible experience of salvation as received in the Book of acts. The true church does not have to be afraid to be tested by the Bible, but will stand every test. Satan doesn't want you in a true church. Remember to belong to a false church and believe that you are saved, makes you twice as hard to get saved. You have to have all your false doctrine torn out from under you, before you can see the truth. This makes most people mad. but only the truth will set you free. (John 8:32) (end)

*Let us live so when we die even
the undertaker will be sorry.*

Did Jesus Have Long Hair?

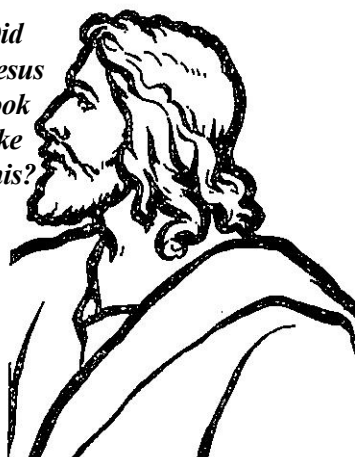
Many men today are wearing their hair long. This style seems to have had its start in modern times by certain musical groups such as the Beatles and others. The hippie movement, which has spread like a plague, has adopted the long hair style for men. The "Jesus freaks" and other religious hippie cults have taken the long hair road. Unfortunately many men and boys who are not hippies have started to wear their hair in this manner. Many try to justify long hair by stating that Jesus Christ wore long hair. The time has come to set the record straight.

History Does Not Support The Idea that Jesus Wore Long Hair

Many pictures drawn by artists in recent times, picture Jesus with long hair. In this they are wrong. The following is taken from the book, "The Modern Student's Life of Christ," by Philip Vollmer, published some years ago by Fleming H. Revell Company.

"Archaeologists object to the conventional pictures of Christ because they are not true to history. A German painter, L. Fahrenkrog, says: 'Christ certainly never wore a beard and his hair was beyond a doubt closely cut. For this we have historical proof. The oldest representations, going back to the first Christian centuries, and found chiefly in the catacombs of Rome, all pictured him without a beard. All the Christ pictures down to the beginning of the fourth century at least, and even later, are of this kind'."

Did
Jesus
look
like
this?



Even from Leonardo da Vinci and Michaelangelo we have pictures of Christ in the Final Judgment according to this older type.

The June, 1971 issue of "Tomorrow's World" carried an article entitled - DID JESUS WEAR LONG HAIR? The article was illustrated with authentic busts from the ancient world of the Roman Empire leaders proving that short hair was the accepted mode in Roman-occupied Judea.

The busts of General Pompey, Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Emperor Trajan, and King Herod Agrippa - all showed that short hair was the style. The article stated:

"For example, on pages 126-127 of Avi-Yonah's work (A History of the Holy Land) are found busts of Pompey, Augustus, and one believed to be Herod all with short hair.

All statues and carvings of legionaries show them with closely cropped hair. A Roman with long hair was an oddity as is used to be the case for men in our society. In fact, all Roman Emperors before, during, and after the time of Christ, from Julius Caesar to Trajan, wore short hair. And the emperor was the individual who set the pattern in style and mode of dress for the whole empire." We do not think that it is scriptural to hang pictures of Jesus Christ in the Church or in the home. Many popular pictures of Jesus that were painted in relatively recent times, have perpetuated the satanic idea that Jesus wore long hair

There Is No Biblical Evidence That Jesus Wore Long Hair

"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have Long hair, it is a shame unto him?" I Corinthians 11:14 Jesus was not a Nazarene! According to Numbers 6:1-27, a Nazarene did wear long hair. However, Jesus was a Nazarene. and not a Nazarene. While the two words look similar in English, they are entirely different in looks and meaning in the original language of the Bible. A Nazarene was one that lived in Nazareth, according to Matthew 2:23. A Nazarene was one who took a Nazarene vow, according to Numbers 6.



JULIUS CAESAR

(continue page 8)

Did Jesus Have Long Hair ?

The Nazarite vow was usually a temporary (Samson and Samuel seem to be notable exceptions, for their vow was for life. (See I Samuel 1:11 and Judges 13:5; 16:17). The Nazarite vow was a vow of separation. Three things were forbidden as long as he was under the vow. (1) "He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried."

Num. 6:3. (2) He could not cut his hair. (3) He could not touch or come near a dead body. Num. 6:6-9.

A Nazarite could not have used any product of the vine, and thus Jesus could not have instituted the Lord's Supper if he had been a Nazarite. For in this, he used the fruit of the vine.

If He had been a Nazarite, He could not have touched the funeral "bier" {open coffin} of the dead man in Luke 7:11-18.

If He had been a Nazarite, it is doubtful that the Holy Spirit would have caused Paul to write, "if a man have Long hair, it is a shame unto him." I Cor. 11:14.

If He had been a Nazarite, Judas would not have needed to identify Him in Gethsemane, since Jesus would have been the only long haired man there. Everything in the New Testament seems to indicate that Jesus looked much like the other Jewish men of His age. If there had been any radical difference in His appearance, we believe it would have been mentioned in the Bible.

"Doth not even nature itself teach you," that a man should have short hair and a woman long hair? I HAVE NEVER SEEN A BALD HEADED WOMAN, but I have seen many bald headed men. Very, very few women become bald, and those that do, are careful to conceal it with a wig. This surely must be "nature" teaching us.

The Bible clearly dictates that the hair style of a man should be short, and that the woman's hair should be long. There should be a clear distinction between the hair of a man and a woman. Many scriptures teach that a woman's hair should be or was long. (See Luke 7:38, 44; John 11:2; I Peter 3:3; I Timothy 2:9 and many others). On the other hand the scriptures indicate just the opposite for the man, for you can find no such list of scriptures as above, in relationship to the man. Other than the very few Nazarites mentioned in the Old Testament, we can think of only one long haired man in the Bible "and that was Absalom. He was the wicked rebellious son of David.

"IF A MAN HAVE LONG HAIR IT IS A SHAME UNTO HIM"

The above quoted words were written by Paul and were Divinely inspired of God. Therefore, we are going to accept what God says, rather than the fashion trend of the day. For the Christian, the Bible is the final word, not some picture or popular tradition.

For evidence, we quote what scholars have said about I Cor. 11:14.

Lange says, "Accordingly, in contrast with the practices of a cruder heathenism of the earlier time, when long hair prevailed, there has grown up among the most civilized nations, that good taste which declares itself in favor of short hair for men and long hair for women. Among men, the wearing of long hair is now reprobated as a mark of effeminacy and dishonoring to them, inasmuch as it prevents the free exposure of the countenance."

Matthew Henry says, "The woman's hair is a natural covering; to wear it long is a glory .to her; but for a man to have long hair, or cherish it, is a token of softness and effeminacy."

"... If a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him." The Greek Word "ATIMA" is translated "shame" in the above text. Elsewhere in the New Testament it is translated "dishonor", "reproach" and "vile". Thayer's comments on this word are interesting and informative. He says: "Atima, dishonor, ignominy, disgrace, I Cor. 11:14; I Cor. 15:43, (in a state of disgrace, used of the unseemliness and offensiveness of a dead body base lusts,vile passions, Rom 1:26 Could anything be plainer? The "shame" (atima) of long hair is elsewhere used in connection with a dead and putrefying, decaying body. In Romans 1:26, "atima" is translated "vile". Let us read this verse carefully.

"For this cause God gave them op unto VILE affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND" Romans 1:26-28

God is thus associating the "S!ADIE" of long hair with the "VILE" affections of the sodomites and homosexuals.

Our generation has made long hair acceptable and is seeking to legalize and popularize homosexuality. Now, we have homosexual churches and other churches that gladly welcome them into their membership. Long hair and homo• sexuality do not always go together, but they are very compatible. They both represent a revolt against God given nature, and against His precious Word.

WHAT DOES LONG HAIR MEAN TODAY.

Let the radical subversive Jerry Rubin, answer from his book, "DO IT". "Young kids identify short hair with authority, discipline, unhappiness, boredom, rigidity hatred of life and long hair with letting go . . . Wherever we go, our hair tells people where we stand on Vietnam, Wallace, Campus disruption, dope. We're living TV commercials for the revolution . . Long hair is the beginning of our liberation from sexual oppression that underlies the whole military society."

Preachers, Churches and Parents Must Stand Against Long Hair

Parents who allow a son to grow and wear long hair are contributing to a rebellion against God and against our country. This is a sure step in losing control of a child. Preachers and Churches who compromise on this subject, hoping to reach more young people. are actually fighting against God. Let us stand, whatever the cost!

We believe that Christian young men, when taught the truth, will want to wear their hair short. Informed Christian's will not want to be identified with the "SHAME" or revolutionary revolt that long hair symbolizes. (end)

Forget yourself for others and others won't forget you !

Forgiveness



"I may not always get ahead, but I always get even."

THIS STATEMENT was written recently by a bitter young man who is writing a book about all the people and systems he felt have "done him in." Outwardly, this young man appears to be in good health, intelligent, educated and soft-spoken.

Inwardly, he is a seething-pot of hate and revenge. What a tragedy! This unsmiling young man has evidently never known the healing balm of forgiveness or of asking forgiveness. After his pen has stopped and his outpourings of revenge are spent, his life will still be an open wound of sorrows, festering his soul to his grave.

Disappointments, misrepresentations, broken promises and sorrows will be part of our "bitter cup" to drink in this life, sooner or later. We will either fall impotent and bitter under its spell, or rise from its dregs, healed and mellowed with a sublimity of character that will inspire and bless all who come under our influence. The greatest discoverers of all time forded the perilous rivers, climbed the mountains, traversed the hot deserts, rode out the violent storms to finally know the joyous elation of "mountain top views" of newly discovered lands and oceans. Have we not all benefited from the vision and toughness of these hardy forebears?

We cry out to be spared the Gethsemanes and the Golgothas, but in doing so we miss the glorious resurrections out of selfish living and spiritual blindness. We miss the crownings of newly-discovered love and compassion. We miss the shouts of victory and the hallelujahs that will thunder through our souls with new meaning and triumph. Naomi of old said that she "went out full and came back empty." Bereaved of sons, widowed and broken, she returned to her own people to be restored and fulfilled. Ruination could have been hers if she had been blaming and embittered, and her name would never have been passed on to us. But instead, she built a new life of victory and hope on the rubble of defeat and became one of the "grandmothers" of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ah yes ... our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! His virgin mother was forced away from her home through a cruel tax system, had to travel by burro back to a crowded town and was forced to give Him birth in an animal shelter ... a birth unheralded by men but announced by angels. A wicked king sought to murder Him before He reached the age of two.

He came healing the sick, casting out devils, blessing and bringing hope and salvation to a tortured world.

He was met with reviling and rejection. He owned no pillow to lay His head, although He constantly gave of Himself to others.

At 33 years of age, He was betrayed by one whom He had befriended. He was arrested without warrant after an agonizing session of prayer, was falsely accused before the government and was given over to the mob that cried for His blood. He was whipped and sentenced for a crime He didn't commit. He was again physically assaulted by mad men who blindfolded Him, spit in His face, plucked out His beard and slapped Him repeatedly. He was denied a fair trial. No lawyer or attorney or citizens' group offered to come to His defense. He was never told of "his rights" nor given any "last privileges."

He was forced to carry a heavy cross up a hill in the heat of the day. He was nailed by the palms of His hands and through His feet to this cross in the manner reserved for the vilest of criminals. His friends fled and hid. Thieves were crucified on either side of Him. His robe was stripped from Him and gambled for by mocking strangers. He died an anguished death without making any burial arrangements.

A martyr for a lost cause? Oh no! For He said, "I lay down my life for the sheep." And again, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:18). His dying eyes were filled with compassion for His persecutors and executioners, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."



He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.

Like the raging of the sea against the rocky shoal, the anguish of His soul beat against the gates of eternity, and the echo came back from the throne of heaven: "Salvation is bought! Forgiveness of sin is given! Sin has met its match and is defeated! Death has lost its terror!" A resurrected Christ took up His life and healed our wounded souls. We can now own the joys and relief of sins forgiven and reconciliation to God. Wherever His name is carried and believed upon, men find their fetters broken. Out of the tombs and pits of hate and bitterness come resurrected lives to be filled with love, forgiveness and usefulness through the power of His Holy Spirit. What cleansing! What relief!

A story is told of a young boy in Sparta, who, having stolen a fox, kept it hidden under his coat and submitted to its gnawing his vitals rather than expose his misdeed. So are many smiling faces hiding souls filled with vicious animosities and unforgiveness, which gnaws away their strength and destroys them. Better to expose it and get rid of it. God will answer prayer and, in meeting our faith, He can heal us. He can take a soul twisted and misshapen and inflamed by sin and hate, and restore it make it well and clean!

Oh the power of forgiveness! If we only knew the sordid stories of hate and unforgiveness that could be told on the skid rows, in mental institutions, in prisons and behind the walls of countless homes and dwellings. But their cries can be hushed under the healing hand of forgiveness. Songs of joy and praise will spring forth out of fountains that were once empty. Smiles will grace a once fallen countenance. Homes will be restored. Love and peace will warm the atmosphere that was once frigid with hate.

Who can measure the power of forgiveness? by: Grace Wiens

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Luke 12:35-40).

The Coming Of The Lord Draweth Nigh

THE UNDATED Second Advent of Jesus Christ is the perpetual challenge for the church's preparation, which shall not cease or be finished short of the advent itself: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:3).

The imminent return of our Lord is the Bible's argument for a pure, unselfish, devoted, unworldly, active life of service. In much of our modern preaching, we urge people to live in a holy manner and work diligently because death is swiftly coming, But that is not the Bible's argument. Its argument is always, "Jesus Christ is coming be ready when He comes."

This exhortation leads inevitably to the question, "What constitutes readiness for the coming of Jesus?" The answer: a separation from the world, refraining from an overindulgence of the flesh and not being preoccupied with the affairs of this life. Intense daily earnestness in prayer is the first part of preparation for the Lord's return. Readiness does not consist of conversion alone. Our Lord declared, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be



counted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

God has not revealed the date of the Second Coming of Jesus in order that we may always be watchful.

He has revealed the standard of holiness necessary in our living for us to be in the Rapture, He desires that we be always pressing toward perfection. He wants us to maintain a constant alertness and readiness for His sudden coming. The state of readiness demanded of the Israelites before their departure from Egypt is the pattern for the church: "And thus shall ye eat it [the paschal lamb]; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover" (Exodus 12:11-12). A pilgrim people on the eve of the last judgment must be instant in service and unimpeded for flight. The Apostle Paul wrote, "But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoiced, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away"(I Corinthians 7:29-31). They who stand on the brink of the last flight must stand with the tightened robes and the shod feet.

In His teaching on our readiness for His return, Jesus said, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning" (Luke 12:35). Lamps are kept burning only at night, and all night unless we sleep. We are living at the dawn of the Lord's coming, and we must stay awake with our lamps lit.

"Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11-12). Every disciple is a lighted lamp, and Christ expects a burning flame right through midnight until the dawn. Of John the Baptist, He said, "He was a burning and shining light" (John 5:35). John the Baptist was a lamp that burned and shined from evening until morning before the Lord. The Lord told Moses that the lamp in the Tabernacle was to burn and give light continuously {Exodus 27:20). Sometimes there is burning without shining, zeal without knowledge, light without love, but God demands both burning with heat to God and shining with light to men. Then there is the fixed gaze that is part of this expectant coming of the Lord: "And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord" (Luke 12:36). Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away" (John 16:17), but He never said, "It is expedient that I stay away." He commands conscious acceptance of the truth of His second coming. A visionary is one who sees visions that have no correspondence with reality. But the looking disciple beholds the march of God's purposes from eternity to eternity, crystallizing the vision into facts as they precipitate into time. To a believer, every prophetic word is an inevitable fact. Jesus said, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass" (Luke 21:36). Ours is a perpetual watchfulness. The Lord promised, "Blessed are those servants [not blessed are all servants] whom the lord when he cometh shall find the midnight,

Continued next page

The Coming Of The Lord Draweth Nigh

watching" (Luke 12:37). The deeper the midnight, the more urgent the vigil or the watchfulness.

"And if he shall come in the second watch or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants" (Luke 12:38).

The Hebrew night was divided into three watches, But after the captivity, the Jews gradually adopted the Greek and Roman division of the night into four watches. The second watch was from 9:00 pm. to midnight, The third watch was from midnight to 3:00 am. Christ will return later than the Early Church thought not in the first watch-but earlier than the last church will dream-not in the fourth watch. He will return not as early as infancy desired or so late as callousness assumes. The unknown hour of the burglary compels the householder to stay awake all night watching as one who has no tomorrow. The fruit of the vigil for the church is such as to make the loss of a thousand worlds as dust in the balance. "He cometh!" This is what the Bible declares. There will be inspection, approval, promotion! The girded loin speaks of incessant service, the burning lamp of incessant holiness, the fixed gaze of incessant vigil, and finally the prepared life of incessant readiness. "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Luke 12:40). Death can be sudden, but usually it gives warning symptoms. However, there will be no warning symptoms concerning the coming of the Lord. It will come as sudden as an avalanche, as swift as the lightning, and as irrevocable as death. One flash and the watch will be gone and the last judgments will be here. "Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:51-52). One fact is supreme. The Lord might have returned at any moment these past 1900 years. He may return at any moment now. Much remains to be fulfilled before He comes with His saints, but none before he comes for them! One known sin; one known command disobeyed; one truth unbelieved; one part of a life knowingly unyielded, and we stand in jeopardy of being not ready! I warn you that the last shadows are falling across the world and, therefore, they are falling across your life. If you are yet not ready, there is still time. Your coming Judge is your present Savior.

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:37-My friend, the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. The particular prophesy of the Bible that describes the return of the Lord has become the very desire of the spiritually-minded individual who has carefully and with thoughtfulness continued to believe the Bible. In recognizing the fulfilled prophecies of our day, he has become that very outstanding individual who has girded his loins, who has that burning lamp in his hand, who has that fixed gaze, and who has that prepared life. These are vital necessities for your own personal life, that as we draw nigh unto the coming of the Lord our hearts may be tuned to the great time of His coming and we may be ready to meet Him when that clarion call sounds throughout the world.

We are standing at the verge, at the very end of time when the Lord shall come. With His coming there will be a glad and rejoicing sound that issues forth from the lips of His people. God help you to be ready! May your lamps be burning and may your hearts be ready, for the Lord cometh soon and you need to be prepared to meet him! □

In order to receive the direction from God, you must be able to receive the correction from God.

Judgment Coming

Catastrophic situations taking place worldwide right now! Raise the questions in our hearts "Why did GOD allow"?

Many Nations starving, while others plagued with war... Cause us all to wonder "How 'did' things get so far"?

Events "Now" are unfolding all predicted from the past... Raise again the question, could this year be our last?

The evil deeds that fill our world just seem to never end. Lust and greed are major factors; on that you can depend.

Signs that judgment is forthcoming dominate the "news"... Slanted by the biased media that spin off their own views.

Some proclaim our problems are due to needing change. They claim to have the answers... "they" need to rearrange.

Pompous leaders quite secure made wealthy by their greed, Ignore the struggling Nations not helping in their need.

Conspiracies and selfish plans put evil men in power. Predictably their "reign" will end... in one final hour.

unknown

Potter Here's The Clay

One of the most well-known passages is in the book of Jeremiah. In chapter 18, God tells Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house and observe what he is doing. The potter is working at his wheel, and he is making a vessel out of clay. However, the vessel is marred in his hands, so he remakes it into another vessel that seems good to him. God then tells Jeremiah that just as the potter has power over the clay to make it into whatever he desires, so does God have power over Israel to shape them into what He desires.

Another passage that talks about the potter is in the book of Isaiah. In chapter 64, the prophet is crying out to God, asking Him to come down and help His people. He acknowledges that they have sinned and strayed from God's ways. However, he also recognizes that God is their Father and that they are the clay, and He is the potter. He asks God to not be angry with them forever and to remember that they are His people

In the Bible, the potter and clay allegory is used to illustrate God's sovereignty and power to mold and remold His people. In Jeremiah 18:1-11, God commands Jeremiah to visit a potter's house. There, he witnesses the potter at work, forming and reforming clay on the wheel. As he watches, the clay spoils in the potter's hand, but the potter reshapes it into another pot. This allegory shows that God is the potter, and we are the clay. He has the power to shape us into something beautiful, even when we are marred by sin.

The potter creatively transforms the clay, but only within the limits that the clay presents to the potter. As the potter desires, the potter also adapts designs, and even entirely changes the intended object, in response to the clay's changes. And so it is with God. God's "design" for each of us and for each nation is a work in progress. He is shaping us into something beautiful, even when we are marred by sin. We may not always understand the process, but we can trust that God is working all things together for our good.

God has created us as earthen vessels so we would realize our weaknesses and seek Him. Each of us has a journey in life through times of Joy, heart ache, pain each one of these can shape our vessel into something good or bad the choice is ours. there are times when we are broken and the Master potter has to put us back on the wheel and reshape us into His will, using His precious hands to mold us so tirelessly and tender



God's people are beautiful and unique "we are fearfully and wonderfully made Psalms 139:14 the Master potter loves each and everyone of His vessels there are times when the clay gets hard through trials and tribulations, but He puts us back on the wheel and begins to soften and reshape us He doesn't give up easy because he knows with that hard exterior His hands can work to change the clay to conform. He is the God of second chances. Jeremiah came to realize that that's precisely the way God works with us, that we can reject God's work in our lives. We can refuse to yield to God's movement within us. We can do that. You know, we have free will. We can make that decision. We can opt to deny or reject the reality of God working in our daily experience. Oh, it's a tragic thing when someone does that, because a person who turns away from the great, loving providence of God, instead of becoming a glorious masterpiece of God's creation, winds up being bent and broken and cracked and twisted. Did you ever stop to think where you and I would be if if the potter threw us out in the potters field where all the discarded vessels are, that refuse to be conformed to the will and obedience of God. its trials, its tribulations—symbolizes the master's hand sculpting our existence. The pounding, the spinning wheel, the scorching heat of the oven—they are the metaphorical trials that shape our being. In these moments of discomfort and discord, the divine hand works its magic.

The process is intricate; it's a symphony of anguish and ecstasy. Each phase of discomfort and transformation is a vital stroke in the portrait of our becoming. The clay must be shaped and molded, spun and scorched, painted and polished, for its true essence to emerge.

In our own lives, we often encounter moments of distress and discomfort. These moments, of tribulations, may seem unbearable, suffocating even. But it's in these crucibles that our spirit finds its voice, where our essence is honed, and our character refined. the unveiling of our true selves. It's a reminder that amidst the chaos and pain, there's a purpose—a divine orchestration that we might not comprehend in the midst of our turmoil.

It's about embracing the storms that shape us, knowing that within them lies the crucible of our evolution. It's about recognizing that discomfort isn't an obstacle but a catalyst for growth.

From formlessness to form, from raw clay to refined vessel the divine artistry of shaping a soul.

To trust the process, to surrender to the hands that mold us, and to embrace the fires that refine us.

So that through our trials and tribulations, we can emerge as vessels of grace, compassion, and strength.

Let us find solace in the hands that sculpt us, knowing that through the fires of transformation, our true essence emerges, radiant and refined. (end)

The Potter's wheel is mighty, as He twists and turns each piece. He shapes each curve and arc, and then fills us with His peace. No two souls are cast identical, no two shapes are the same. But we all have mercy's promise, when we call upon His name.

Thought Provoking Gems

Lord I've Not Done Enough

"What hast thou done for me today?"
 I heard my precious Saviour say
 While resting at the close of day:
 I thought back o'er the hours I'd spent In
 gaity and merriment
 And I had to say with head low-bent
 "Lord, I haven't done enough."

"What hast thou done for me this week?" My
 Lord inquired in voice so meek
 As I sat in cushioned pew so sleek:
 I surveyed the busy days gone by
 That for selfish gain were spent, and I Had to
 bow my trembling knees and cry "Lord, I
 haven't done enough!"

Then I purposed in my slothful heart From
 that day on to do my part
 To rescue souls from Satan's dart:
 I turned my back on house and lands, And
 placed my life in His dear hands. Can e'en all
 that meet sin's demands? Still I hadn't done
 enough!
 To a far-off heathen land I sailed.
 In prayer for lost souls I travailed
 And labored till my strength near failed: But
 when in life's dim setting sun
 I said about the work I'd done
 "Lord, it hasn't been enough!"

"TIME IS NO MORE!" the angel cried. I
 stood with saints from far and wide With
 many sheaves now by my side.
 A crown was placed upon my head
 But though I martyr-blood had shed
 I fell at His pierced feet and said
 Lord I haven't done enough.
 Sharon Nelson

For Me To Live Is Christ

For me to live is Christ,
 To die eternal gain,
 Oh, may I speak the Word
 The pow'r of Christ proclaim!
 Eternal joys await;
 There's hope in Jesus' Name!
 For me to sing is Christ!
 Oh, sweet the song refrain;
 Though troubles bring forth tears
 In grief or untold pain.
 My soul is in His care.
 He's promised to sustain.
 For me to live is Christ,
 My heart can ne'er contain
 The Joy that gives me strength,
 'Tis giv'n for all to claim,
 By faith through grace alone-
 Believe on Jesus' Name!

Empty Handed

By Helen Gleason
 Would you face the Savior empty handed
 As the song of the redeemed you sing
 When you reach the
 land of hope and glory
 Will you not a soul or trophy bring.
 Would you saddened be to face Him
 If you kept salvation from the lost Never sharing
 Christ with all who need Him When He paid so great a
 cost.
 Will He say well done
 when you shall face Him
 If for souls you did not care
 Or will tears of shame flow freely Because God's gift
 you did not share.
 Shouldn't we always feed His sheep now If we love
 Him, while we can
 When we face Him bring souls with us For He died for
 every man .

How Hard Have You Tried

Friend, if you don't mind me asking
 Theres one thing I'd like to know
 Would you like to go to Heaven
 When you're finished here below?

If you would you need the Saviour,
 With the Cleansing Crimson Tide,
 Now if this is what you're seeking,
 Just how hard then have you tried?

Have you ever made an effort
 To believe and faith to share,
 Or to kneel down at an altar
 In humility and prayer?
 Surely this is not much asking
 To be free and justified,
 If you really want salvation,
 Just how hard then have you tried?

God don't want some great big favor,
 Or some mighty deeds from you;
 You don't have to prove you're worthy
 Or you 're fit to make it through.
 Just a word in true repentance,
 And in Jesus to abide,
 This is all and if you want it,
 Just how hard then have you tried?

Tell me what will be your answer
 If you fail to reach that shore
 When you knew you could have made it
 And had chances by the score:
 One thing certain you'll regret it
 Then, unless you now decide,
 If you haven't got salvation.
 Just how hard then have you tried?
 Walt Huntley
 Acts 2:38

*Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is
 stored than to anything on which it is poured.*

Early one morning, the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said, "You have to make the coffee. It's in the Bible!"

The husband was shocked. "It is not! Show me!"

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — **HEBREWS!**"

After service, a stranger approached the pastor and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing."

The pastor touched the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer. "How's your hearing now?" the pastor asked.

Surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow."

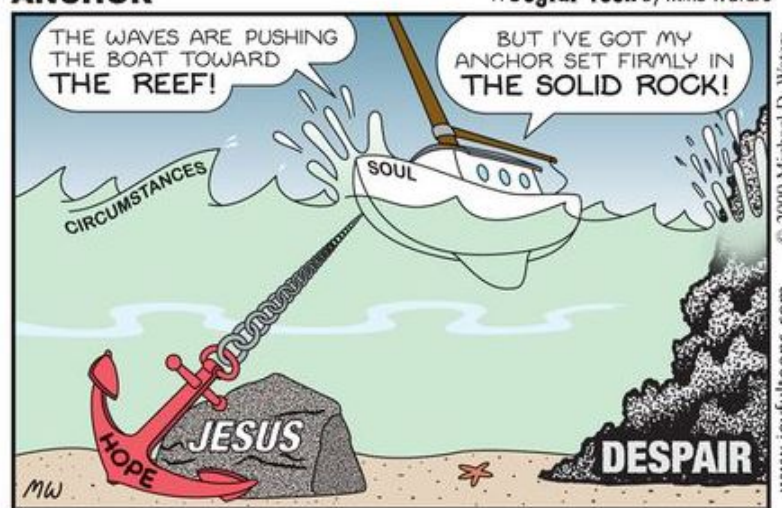
YOU'RE NEVER ALONE, GOD CARES FOR HIS OWN

Have you mountains you can't climb?
Are there rivers you can't cross?
Have you worries you can't live with?
Does your life seem total loss?
Are you worried, tired, troubled?
Is your heart filled with despair?
Does it make your life all sadness,
Knowing no one seems to care?
Does your soul cry out for comfort,
When you feel lost and all alone?
Take your burdens to the Father,
He is mindful of His own.

God cares, and knows your every need,
He watches over you through storm and strife,
He'll open wide the door of blessings,
That will make the difference in your life.
Remember, friend, you're not alone,
God is concerned with all you do,
Cast your cares upon the Lord,
He'll stand by and see you through!

Edward M. Brandt

ANCHOR



Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,
— HEBREWS 6:19 KJV

I Thought

I thought of the world today
And all that it holds.
I thought of the money
The silver, the gold.

I thought of the people
Some happy, some sad.
I thought of the wicked
The good and the bad.

I thought of the trouble
The hurt and the shame.
Then I asked myself
Whose really to blame?

I thought about yesterday
I thought of today.
Vanity of vanity
The preacher did say.

I thought of my soul
And about judgment day.
I thought about sin and
The price I would pay.

Then I thought about Jesus
The answer, the cure.
I'll give Him my life
Be holy and pure.

My thoughts are on Him now
There's peace everyday.
Give it over to Jesus
For He is the way.

By: Gail Huddleston

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

THE WAVES ARE PUSHING THE BOAT TOWARD THE REEF!
BUT I'VE GOT MY ANCHOR SET FIRMLY IN THE SOLID ROCK!

If I should Wake

If I should wake before I die
And if I could hear the lost souls cry
I'm sure I'd call on God today
To help me win the souls astray.
I'd find the time to seek a soul
And bring them safely to the fold.

If I should wake before I die
And see lost millions as they sigh
I could not idle moments away
When so quickly comes close of day.
I'm sure that I would quake and fear
When the destiny of souls I would see so clear.

If I should wake before I die
And see men idle such as I.
I'd do my best to make men see
That all that counts is eternity
Life is flying swiftly away
And soon will dawn eternal day.

Lord please awaken us before we die
And let us hear the desperate cry
Of souls who are sinking without a hope
While we so carelessly and idle mope
Give us courage, faith and zeal
That we today may do thy will.

By: Elma Leroux

All the way home in the back seat of the car the boy was quiet. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "The preacher said he wanted us all brought up in a Christian home, but I wanted to stay with you guys."

A Willing Servant

A blessing to others Lord, may I be.
For many souls Are needing me!
Willing to share A word of cheer,
For those who are hurting And filled with fear.
Just by my presence Lord, help me know That
by my kindness Your love will show.
For all my time upon this earth Unselfish may I
be,
Telling others of Your great love On the cross
of Calvary!

By Joan Clayton

The World's Bible

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?

Annie Johnston Flint

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For with God nothing shall be impossible
Luke 1:37

What on Earth are you doing for Heavens Sake?

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