AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

July-Aug 2024

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



Fear Not"

Jesus told us that we should not fear
Because we know that He is always near.
He promised to be with us all of our days
And guide and direct us in all of our ways.

For we know that His Word is true
So the only thing that we have to do,
Is believe and obey the truths that He told,
And if we do this, we will truly be bold.
We will not fear when the enemy attacks
Because we know that Jesus has our backs.
Just speak His Words and we will be healed,
And it doesn't matter how we may feel.
We will know the truth, we will be made free
And then we will be able to clearly see,
That His Word is a light to our path
and a lamp to our feet.

Bobbie J Davis

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CHRIST IS THE ANSWER

Greetings to the Saints of God!



Pastor Junior & Brenda Tingle

Grace and peace to you all!

As I sit down to pen this letter, my heart is brimming with joy and anticipation for the extraordinary gathering that awaits us—the upcoming Youth Conference. Although you will be reading this after the event, I want to share the immense excitement that is currently coursing through every corner of our church.

The preparations are in full swing, and the air is thick with expectation. We are on the cusp of experiencing a spiritual feast, one that promises to be a wellspring of inspiration and fellowship for our vibrant youth. The conference theme, "Ignite and Unite," speaks to the very core of our mission—to kindle the flame of faith in our young believers and to forge bonds of unity that transcend all barriers.

We are blessed to have a lineup of special speakers whose words have the power to transform hearts and minds. Their messages, steeped in divine wisdom, are sure to resonate with our youth, sparking conversations and actions that will echo in their lives long after the conference concludes.

The number of attendees this year is a testament to the thirst our youth have for spiritual growth and community. It fills me with hope to see so many young faces eager to delve into the Word, to worship, and to connect with peers who share their passion for the Lord's work.

This conference is not just a gathering; it is a call to our youth to rise up as beacons of Christ's love in a world that so desperately needs it.

So, while you reflect on the experiences you've had at the conference, know that the seeds planted there are meant to bear fruit in abundance. Let the memories of fellowship, the echoes of praise, and the insights gained from the speakers stir you to action.

May this conference not be an end, but a beginning a launching pad for greater things to come in your walk with God.

With heartfelt prayers and eager expectation,

Sincerely, Bro. Jr. Tingle

The Christian Tabernacle Church



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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

The Conditions and Steps to Salvation

Elder H.D. Hansboro

In this article I would like to discuss the plan of Salvation and the steps neces-sary for an individual to be saved. Let us look to the Word of God for light on the subject.

Romans 10:13-15 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of who they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Acts 2:38 'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of]esus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost".

Mark 16:15-16 'And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"

In God's Word we find that the way of salvation is clearly outlined in many places. In order for a person to be saved, he or she must first of all, hear the gospel, believe what he or she hears, act on or obey, what they hear, and repent of their sins, be baptized in water in Jesus Name for the remission of sins, then God fills the repented person with His Holy Spirit. The person who is filled with the Spirit will speak in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives the utterance. In order to remain saved, a person would have to remain in the faith, maintain good works and live a Godly, Holy, dedicated life.

I would like to comment on the different conditions of salvation and also God's plan of salvation.

THE F1RST CONDITION IS HEARING

Paul said, "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14.) The Word of God teaches us that in order for a person to be saved he must have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. How can he have faith in our Lord if he has not heard of Him? In our anxiety to get people to our altars and have them profess the Holy Ghost, I wonder if we overlook the fact that God's salvation is perfect in its saving power and does not need any implementation on our part.

Paul said, in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."



He clearly states that the preaching of the Gospel is what God uses to save souls. Paul also said, "The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness, but unto we that are saved, it is the power of God."

(1 Corinthians 1:18.) In Romans 1:16, Paul says that the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.

Then in 1 Corinthians 1:18, he says that the preaching of the Cross is the power. Then we can safely say that the preaching of the Cross is the Gospel. In preaching the Cross, we lift up Jesus, show Him as the sinless substitute, as God's sacrifice, as the Saviour of the world, and that all is to be done in His name. How much preaching of the Cross do we hear today? If we neglect this ministry in our churches, we may not have a church. Time after time we hear sermons preached around well known and also obscure texts of the Bible and never a word about the Blood or the Cross. Can it be possible that we are depending on sinners to hear about this somewhere else before attending our services? Do we have a right to expect sinners to be born into the Family of God who have never heard of the Atoning Blood of our Lord and His sufferings on Calvary?

Many times we boast of our great Spiritual services where no preaching was done because God blessed in such a great way yet the Word says that our Lord has chosen by the foolishness of preaching that men might hear, and by hearing believe and then repent and be baptized in Jesus Name and receive the Holy Ghost. Somewhere the foundation has to be laid. So often we have seen altar calls given when sinners were present for the first time and nothing was said during the entire sermon to lift up Jesus.

The emphasis was placed on revival or something else. Yet these same sinners were asked to come forward and repent and receive the Holy Ghost. The Bible teaches that Godly sorrow worketh repentance. What causes Godly sorrow? It isn't the sorrow of one who has been caught and is full of remorse. It is the sorrow that grips a sinners' heart as he views Calvary and sees himself in the light of the Cross. I am afraid many of the production line converts of today have very little understanding of sacrifice and blood and such. No wonder so many don't have a true love for the things of God. John said that all the things recorded in the book of John were written that men might believe. (John 20:31.)

THE SECOND CONDITION IS: BELIEVING OR FAITH

Again, we state that the purpose of preaching is that men might believe. Many people may have heard of Calvary and believe that such a place actually existed, may believe that Jesus died there and yet be forever lost. Even the devils believe and tremble yet are lost. This is not saving faith in itself. The faith necessary to Salvation will move a man to not only believe the Gospel but to be a supporter and follower of it To adhere to and rely on it. To see that obedience to the Gospel is the only means of escape from the wrath of God and the judgment to come.

THE THIRD CONDITION IS: OBEDIENCE

One may hear of our dear Lord's sacrifice, may believe the report of His redeeming blood, yet the hearer will die lost and be eternally damned unless he or she acts on what he hears and believes. It is not enough just to hear and believe. One must obey the scriptures concerning salvation. The first commandment God gives the sinner to obey is:

FIRST STEP: REPENTANCE

Peter commanded men to repent in his message on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:38.) Jesus said, "Lest ye repent ye shall also likewise perish." (Luke 13:5.)

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The Conditions and Steps to Salvation

Repentance has been said to be a change of direction. Repentance represents death, water baptism represents burial. Many people no doubt, have been buried in baptism who have not died through repentance. Sometimes repentance may require making restitution.

You no doubt have heard it said that one can come in off the street and receive the Holy Ghost in two or three minutes. If so, there had to be a foundation laid somewhere else. Can a person receive the Holy Spirit without having Jesus preached to them? Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:18-19.) The Word also states that no man can come to Jesus unless he is drown of the Father. John 6:44.)

Repentance is the dying out to the carnal nature and its appetites. It is not only heartfelt sorrow for ones sins against his Maker but also a determination not to go back into the mire from which he was dug. Repentance is to be experienced before baptism. Sinners should be confronted with the fact before baptism that a Holy God demands separation from sin before a person is baptized. If a person is not willing in his heart to forsake sin you can be sure it is not Godly sorrow that motivates him. Let us face facts, God is not going to occupy an unclean, unconverted temple.

At this point a man must clean up his thinking. We may get people to the altar. They may make a profession and claim the Holy Ghost. But, unless their life bears out that they are a new creation, they are not going anywhere. Neither have they received the Holy Ghost. Paul said in his letter to the church at Corinth, "Wherefore if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away, behold all things are become new;" (1 Corinthians 3:17.)

SECOND STEP: WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME

Water baptism in Jesus Name for the remission of sins is a part of God's plan for the salvation of man. Mark 16:15-16 says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Peter, in Acts 2:38, commanded men to repent and be baptized in Jesus Name for the remission of sins. In answer to those who believe that he was only talking to the Jews, he commanded Cornelius, and his house, who was a Gentile to be baptized in Jesus name. This was after the Holy Ghost had already fallen on Cornelius and those gathered to hear Peter speak.

Apparently, in Apostolic days, men received the Holy Ghost as soon as they were baptized. No doubt it was due to the fact that Jesus was preached to them and they repented of their sins. Phillip went down to Samaria and preached Jesus to the people. Peter preached Jesus at Pentecost. In both cases, after the people were baptized in Jesus Name, they received the Holy Ghost.

It would behoove us to remember that only God gives the Holy Ghost.

No doubt we have all seen men surrounded by workers in the altar and shook, patted, rubbed, and various other things done and at the same time, someone shouted in their ear, yet they did not receive the Holy Ghost. Could it be that the person seeking the Holy Ghost has not met God's conditions? Can he receive the Holy Ghost without having heard or without repenting? It is true that in some cases the Holy Ghost is given prior to water baptism being administered but in most cases, it is only after a person is baptized in Jesus Name that the Holy Ghost is given.

It also appears that in Apostolic days that as soon as possible after repentance, a person was baptized. Is it right for us to put off baptizing someone because the water is too cold or it isn't convenient to baptize right away? I believe you will agree that after a person has met God's conditions for Salvation and repented we, as ministers, should baptize them as soon as possible. We read in God's Word that in order for a man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven he must be born of the water and of the Spirit. John 3:5.) Therefore, a person must:

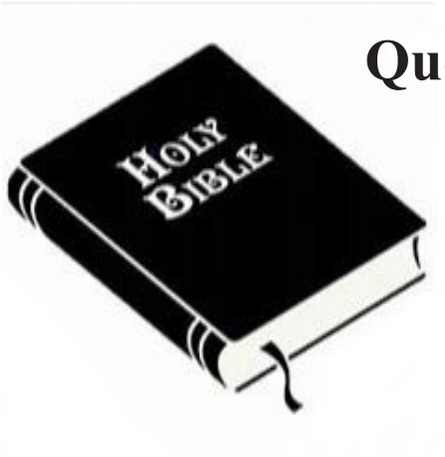
RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST WITH EVIDENCE OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES

The Word states that the Lord gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him. (Acts 5:32.)

Some of the things seen today in Pentecostal Churches are almost unbelievable. If anyone should know how to instruct sinners on how to be saved, we Pentecostals should know. Yet men walk into our churches and may never hear preaching of the Cross, may never hear of the suffering of our dear Saviour. Yet God, in His Holy Word said, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." John 12:32.) Many times sinners are encouraged to go to an altar where most of the emphasis is placed on their talking in tongues. We Pentecostals should know that the tongues will come if and when a person meets God's conditions and obeys the Word of God. Many times the sinner is surrounded by altar workers (oft times ministers) who appear to be instructing the sinner on how to talk in tongues. Is there a precedent for this in God's word? If we aren't careful, we will have our churches filled with people who have no real Holy Ghost experience with God. Don't we know from experience that a person with no real Holy Ghost experience cannot be placed in the true Body of Christ? Without the experience of Pentecost they are yet unborn and unable to understand the things of the Spirit.

Could it be that many who have come into our churches today have been pressured into making a profession without having a real born again experience with God? God help us that we may wait on Him. Help us to understand that our God will give the Holy Ghost to those who obey Him. Help us ministers to know that people can and do receive the Holy Ghost without the benefit of background music and without us trying to put words in their mouths. Help us to remember that the Spirit of God is the Spirit of peace, the Spirit of gentleness, the Spirit that is not of discord. And finally, help us to know that if we ministers do what God commands us to do, that God will honor our obedience to His Word and new sons and daughters will be born into the Church.

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.



Questions & Answers

Bro. O.F Fauss

Question:

How can one be completely sure he is forgiven? Is it necessary to confess to the church, or anyone? And how does one completely get rid of torment and fear? Another asks: Can we obtain forgiveness for our shortcomings without admitting we are guilty? We read in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Answer:

Repentance brings forgiveness. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance ... " (2 Corinth-ians 7: 10). Repentance means to sorrow; regret; to forsake wrongdoing. This will, of course, cause one to admit his wrongdoing, and seek forgiveness.

In one prayer, Jesus taught His disciples this: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6: 12). This is an admission of our wrongs, and also says that we must forgive those who have wronged us.

We read in Proverbs 28: 13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whose confesseth and :forsaketh them shall have mercy." Therefore, our confession (or admission) should be as broad as our transgression. If we have sinned against God only, the matter remains between us and God, and we should confess it to God alone. If we have sinned against God and our brother, or fellowman, then we should confess to God, and also to that person whom we have wronged. If we have sinned against God, and against the church, by bringing shame and reproach, we should confess to God and the church.

I do not think it wise, nor God's will, for a person to openly admit certain wrongdoings which have affected none other than himself and the person he has wronged. David prayed for God to cleanse him from secret faults (Psalm 19: 12). In other words, it does more harm than good for one to get up in a service and openly tell the whole world about some shameful deed he has done, which concerned only himself and someone else.

If confession is made to the church, the pastor should, by all means, arrange for such, and the confession should be before .the church member-ship only.

To be completely sure that you are forgiven, is to be sure you have repented, and confessed to God and any others involved, believing that God has promised to forgive you. John said, " ... he is faith-ful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Believing and obeying the Word of God, know-ing that He will not fail to keep a promise, and thanking Him for the provision He made for us (1 John 2: 1, 2), will dispel fear and torment. When the Devil begins to torment you by reminding you that you have sinned, just THANK GOD (in the face of the Devil) for FORGIVENESS!

Question:

My boyfriend is such a keen guy, and he wants to marry me. Although he is not Pentecostal, he really loves the Lord and often comes to our church. I have been told that I cannot marry him because he has not been baptized in Jesus' name nor filled with the Holy Ghost. I don't think that's fair because he is a Christian and lives a better life than a lot of Pentecostal people do. I love him and he loves me, so God must want us for each other. Why do people have to be so narrow-minded and picky?

Answer:

You did not tell me who told you that you should not marry the young man with whom you say you are in love, but it probably was your pastor. May I say right off, young lady, I have no choice but to concur heartily. For your sake, and also for his sake, break off this relationship immediately. You have no business even allowing him to court you, let alone considering a marriage that God plainly condemns in His Word. Before bringing you the scriptural teaching, may I add this warning: If you marry this young man you will probably live a miserable life, miss out on marrying the one who is God's choice for you and who will truly make you happy, and suffer unending anguish and regret. Now let me quote the reply of one of the spiritual giants of these last days, the late Pastor Clyde J. Haney, in answer to a similar question: The Scripture forbids anyone being "unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (II Corinthians 6:14). The response to this Scripture often is,

"But they are not unbelievers for they have repented, etc." But Mark 16:17 says, "These signs shall follow them that believe . . . they shall speak with new tongues." And Acts 5:32 tells us that the Holy Ghost is given to them who obey. Therefore until the Holy Ghost is received it is evident that full obedience or faith has not been reached. And the thing that keeps one from receiving the Holy Ghost is the thing that would be impossible for a Spirit-filled person to live with in peace. We believe as Apostolics that one is not born again until he has been both baptized in water and Spirit. It certainly would be wrong and unequal for one who is born again to be married to an unborn person. .

Bro David Gray

Three Beatitudes for a Church Member

Someone sent me a list, some time ago, entitled, "Satan's Beatitudes!" They said if the devil were to write his beatitudes they would probably go something like this:

1. Blessed are they who are too tired and busy to go to church on Sundays and Wednesdays, for they are my best workers.
2. Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerism and mistakes, for they get nothing out of his sermon.
3. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church, for he is part f the problem instead of the solution.
4. Blessed are they who gossip, for they cause strife and division that please me.
5. Blessed are they who are easily offended, for they soon get angry and quit.
6. Blessed are they who do not give their tithes and offerings to carry on God's work, for they are my best workers.
7. Blessed are they who profess to love God, but hates his brother, for he shall be with me forever.
8. Blessed are the trouble-makers, for they shall be called the children of Satan,
9. Blessed are the complainers, for I am all ears to them.

As I thought about that list, two things immediately hit me! Number one, I can honestly say that I have pastored everyone of those types of church members! Number two, what the church desperately needs is more members who simply love their church! But, not only love their church, bur love their church the way God loves the church!

You see., God loves the church sacrificially! There is a blessing that comes to every church member who really will love his church, and love it in the right way, and love it for he right reason.

I want to share with you my Three Beatitudes for a Church Member who truly loves his church the way Jesus wants him to love it.

BLESSED IS THE CHURCH MEMBER
WHO GIVES HIS CHURCH
HIS LOVING AFFECTION.

fascinating: David had a desire to build a house for God. It was a legitimate desire; it was a noble desire, it was an honorable desire. But God, in His sovereign Will and purpose, did not want David to build the house. He wanted David's son, Solomon, to build the house.

David was still the king of Israel. David could have gotten mad and pouted; he could have walked away from it and said, "I won't have anything to do with it." David could have said, "There's nothing in this for me." You think about this. David was going to give to build a house of worship that he would never attend. David was going to give to build a house of worship that he would not even live to see. Had David said, "What's in it for me?" He would not have given one dime to see that house built.

But David's heart was. "I want to invest in the work of God any way that I can." "I am willing to build a house of worship even if I will never enter into it if it means God can be glorified, the Word can be preached, and other people can be saved."

Notice what he said in verse 1, "The Temple is not for man, but for the Lord God." I want to say to our church, that whatever buildings we build and wherever we build them, they are never to be monuments to any one individual! They are to be built for God, for His glory, for His kingdom, and for the preaching of His Word. I wish I had the time to go into detail if telling you exactly what David gave, because in modern-day terms, David gave over $20 billion! But it is not WHAT David gave that is so impressive, it is WHY David gave.

Listen to verse 3. David gave to God's house because he loved God and he loved God's house. So, I want to ask you a question. In fact, I want to ask you a series of questions. Do you love God's church? I'm not asking you do you love the choir. I'm asking you do you love God's church? Don't answer too quickly, because I want to say to you gently, lovingly, but firmly. You have no right to say that you love God's church if you are not giving to it and supporting it financially with your tithes and offerings. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. We all know that Jesus loves the church, but how do we know that He loves it? Did He just say so? Oh no! Ephesians 5:25 says, "Christ loved the church and gave himself ... "

Let me ask you another question. If you do support this church financially, why do you? I want you to understand that God not only sees what you give, He sees why you give it.

And, even if you give, and give generously, if you give for the wrong motive or the wrong reason, God writes zero over your account. Do you give to this church for any other reason other than because you love Jesus and this church?

If you give to this church just so you can get it off of your income tax - wrong reason! If you give to this church only when you agree with everything that goes on - wrong reason!

If you give to this church only when things are going your way - wrong reason! If you give for any other reason than your love for Jesus and this church -wrong reason!

There are some people who say the moment things don't go their way, or they don't agree with a decision, that they're not going to give anymore! Let me just make something very plain to you. There is no excuse that God will accept from a church member not to support the church financially that he is a member of or that he regularly attends.

When you withhold from the church, you ,withhold from Jesus. When you quit giving to the church, you quit giving to Jesus. When you refuse to help the church, you refuse to help the Lord Jesus. Where do I get that idea? Remember when Paul met Jesus on the Damascus Road, and He asked Paul a very interesting question in Acts 9:4 "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Paul was persecuting the church, and yet Jesus said, "You are persecuting Me."

Do you understand what Jesus is saying? He is saying . . . anything you do to hurt the church, it hurts Me. When you don't support your church, you're not supporting Me. When you don't give to your church, you're not giving to Me. When you don't love your church like you ought to, then you don't love Me like you ought to, I heard about a four year old boy that told his mother one time; "Mommy, when I grow up, I'm going to buy you a fur coat, diamond ring, and a Mercedes ... " One day, his mother scolded him for a mistake he had made, and he pointed his finger at her and said, "There goes the fur coat." Well, that's the way some people are in the church. The first time something goes wrong, the first time the pastor makes a decision they don't agree with, the first time the church goes in a direction they don't like, they say, *continued page 7*

Three Beatitudes for a Church Member

"There goes the tithe." Well, just go back to what David said. David gave only one reason for his giving to the church. He said, "Because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have given to the ... " Listen, no matter what you do, whether it is giving

tithes and offerings, singing in the choir, teaching, or just sitting on a pew on Sunday morning, Sunday night, or Wednesday night, do it because you love Jesus,

BLESSED IS THE BELIEVER WHO GIVES HIS CHURCH HIS LOYAL ALLEGIANCE

There is a statement I want you to hear from Nehemiah 10:39 'We will not forsake the house of our ... " The word forsake means: neglect, to let go, or to let loose. It is a word that describes how a man, after 25 years of faithful marriage, would leave his wife for a younger woman. It literally means to forsake or desert Just as it is inexcusable for a man to forsake his wife, it is inexcusable for a Christian to forsake his church. I want to give you several ways you can forsake or neglect your church. There are some people who neglect their church by just not coming. They just don't show up. They have filled the church with their absence. Even though we miss them, they don't really miss us.

A little boy was absent from school one day and the next day when he came back, the teacher said, "George did you miss school yesterday?" He said, "No ma'am, not a bit!" There are a lot of church members who have forsaken the church and don't even miss it. But, it's also possible to come to church every Sunday and still neglect the church. There are some who come to church and basically just take up space. The only thing they do contribute is their presence. They don't give, work, serve, witness, worship, some of them don't even sing, they just come. Don't misunderstand me. I want you to come. I thank God you come, and I'm glad you come. rm simply saying that it is possible to come and still neglect the church. Another way we can neglect our church is by just simply not caring at all. I'm afraid that there are too many in the church today that just don't care. They don't care if anybody gets saved, baptized, if they ever build a building. raise money for the building fund, etc., it just simply makes no difference to them.

Our church is just like every other church. It is full of willing people. Some are willing to work and the rest are willing to let them. Sometimes when things go undone in our church, it's because nobody's willing to do it

I read a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Here's my last question. Are you a part of the Everybody that is waiting on Somebody to do what Anybody can do, but Nobody is doing it? . . . OR ... Are you a Somebody who is doing what Everybody thought Anybody could do, but Nobody would have done, if you weren't doing it?

BLESSED IS THE BELIEVER THAT GIVES HIS CHURCH HIS LASTING ATTENDANCE - Hebrews 10:25

Your church deserves your consistent, constant, continuous attendance. So many people only come to church three times in their life. When they're hatched, matched, and dispatched. But I never cease to be amazed at the excuses that people give for not coming to church. Sometimes I think about writing a book on them. "Pastor Quits Eating Out."

Here are the reasons why: Every time I went, they asked me for money. The people with whom I had to sit with weren't friendly and didn't speak to me. The seats were too hard and not very comfortable. I went many times to the restaurant but the chef never came out to visit me. The waiter brought a dish that I didn't like. I found out that I was sitting with some hypocrites ... they didn't come to eat, they just came to see what everybody was wearing. Sometimes I had to wait in line at the restaurant When I was growing up, my mom and dad used to force me to eat. I recently read a book on cooking and now I feel that I know more than the chef knows anyhow

IN CLOSING

I heard about a preacher who visited a farmer to invite him to church. The farmer said, "Well, I'm never coming to your church, Preacher." The preacher asked "Why not?"

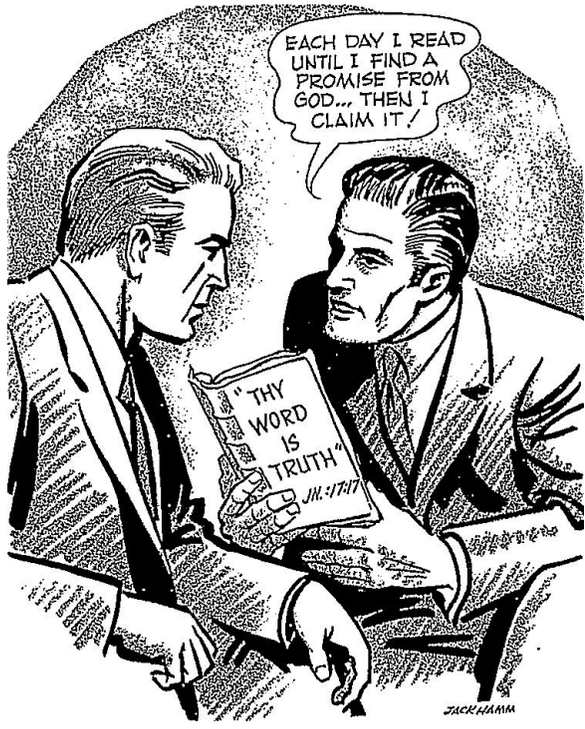
The farmer said, "Because I know some of the members of your church and I live a lot better than they do."

Sometime later, the preacher bought a pig from the farmer. He said, "I want you to sell me the smallest, ugliest, sickliest pig that you have." "Well, the farmer, amazed, gave him exactly what he asked for. After he paid for it, he said to the farmer, "I'm going to take this sick, small ugly pig to eerybody in the community and tell them that I bought it from you." The farmer said, "Now Preacher, that's not fair. I have a lot of hogs that are nicer and bigger and fatter than that hog." The Preacher said, "Buddy, if it's fair for the church, it's fair for the hogs!" You should never let a hypocrite keep you away from the house of God.

I'm like that old country fellow who said, "I'd rather chase a rabbit and not catch it, than to chase a skunk and catch it." I'd rather go to church with a few hypocrites on earth than to spend eternity with them in hell! There is never an excuse that God will accept for a professing Christian not to go to church.

How about you today? Do you really and honestly love your church?

Elder James Groce



Godliness In This Present World

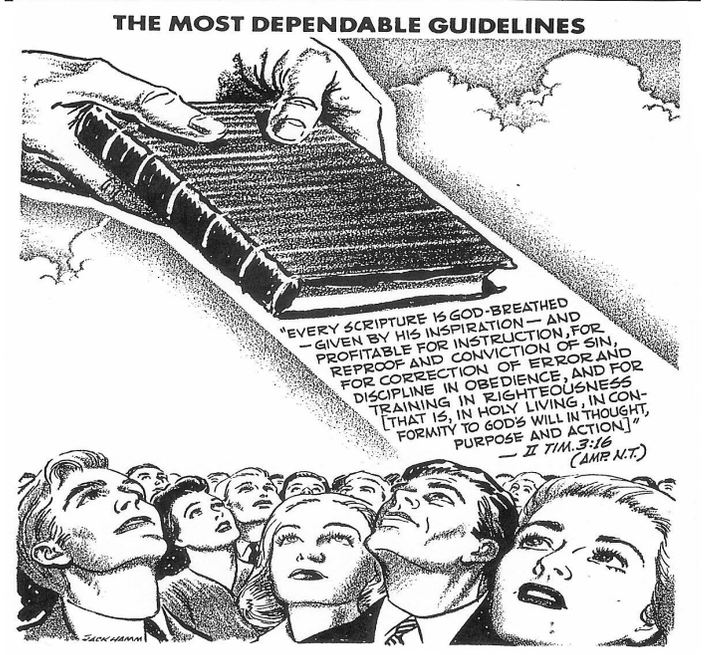
"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:11-12).

Our text was directed to Titus by the Apostle Paul concerning the Pastoral Ministry. The ungodliness of that present world (age) that was endangering the churches, no doubt was of great concern to the Apostle Paul. This text, however, in God's great economy was intended to blanket every age and the word "present" must be accepted with a divine freshness to cover each ascending generation or age. The age of Paul's day is history now, yet its evils for the people of that day were the most dangerous, for that was their age.

Let us accept the word "present" as God meant it to be. Present means at hand, not 1n the past or future, but in the NOW. There are sins that have always been with us and have never changed their robes of pollution, but each age seems to have a new presentation of evil. We are quite apt to recognize the common evils, but we often are snared by the presentation of present evils.

Pentecostals, and even the spiritual minded nominal church, for years stood against the theatre. Few Pentecostals questioned the church's stand on total abstinence. But when the scum of Hollywood came floating into the parlors over the ether waves, by medium of television, many sleeping Christians opened their homes and justified themselves by the reasoning that it was here to stay and soon all Christians would have one. Thank God, there are still thousands who say no to the theatre whether in or out of the home.

Our reading tells us that God's grace that bringeth salvation is teaching us, the Greek rendering says, Disciplining us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. One of the modern evils practiced by Pentecostals and seemingly going unchallenged, is the modern wedding. If worldliness is in our hearts, it will break out somewhere.



a nominal preacher said to one of our ministers words to this effect "Well, you are like us now; You used to be different." Could it be that the difference was a disappointment to that nominal minister? Yes, we used to be different. Some of us can remember when Pentecostal men and women dressed modestly and conservatively even at their own wedding. Convictions were high enough to exclude the world in every act of life and especially in the sacred wedding.

We have the opportunity to glorify God, by keeping ourselves Godly.

Does God change His standards of modest apparel to something else to accommodate the whims of a worldly minded people? Thank God, He is the same in this present age.

Perhaps, the greatest cause of this evil is the worldly fanfare of trying to keep up with the world.

The pastor in this present age has a tremendous job and it doesn't end when the sermon is finished. No godly pastor can afford to close his eyes to the carnal evils endeavoring to invade the church in this present age.

Can we live godly in such an age as this present one? Moses faced his present world in Egypt and refused to enjoy the pleasures of its sins for a season, refusing to be call-ed the son of Pharoah's daughter. Daniel faced his present world in Babylon and refused to defile himself with the King's meat. Joining in the great heroic march of conquerors are men like David and Samuel, who through their convicting faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, stopped the mouths of lions not accepting deliverance,that they might obtain a better resurrection of whom the world (their world of their age) was not worthy.

Shall we fail to conquer in our present world, or shall we join the great march of conquerors? God give us prophets in our pulpits and saints in our pews to match our mountains of this present age.

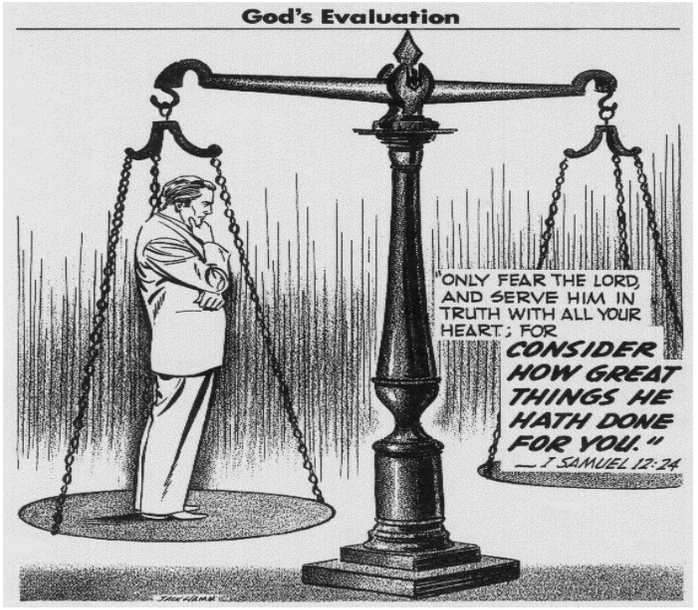
Bro.Clyde Haney

I Feel God's Presence Everywhere

I feel God's presence everywhere,
At home or wherever I may be;
I yearn for the nearness of my Lord,
Dear Father, stay Thou close to me.
I feel God's presence everywhere,
All nature points to Him on high. In
mountains tall and verdant plain,
I feel His presence very nigh.
I feel God's presence everywhere,
From Thee I cannot flee.
Wherever Thy Spirit dwells, dear Lord,
That's where I want to be.
I feel Thy presence everywhere,
Oh, precious presence, pray abide.
Sustain and strengthen, precious One,
From rising sun to eventide.
I feel God's presence everywhere,
From Thee I'd never part.
I'll never walk alone, dear Lord,
For You live in my heart.

In His Presence

In His presence is fullness of joy,
Happiness, gladness, delight;
Who follows Jesus walks by day,
For with Him there is no night.
In His presence is brightness of glory,
In Him shines radiant light,
In Him dazzling splendor abounds,
All things are aglow in His sight.
In His presence is peace evermore,
Nothing to dim or distress.
His is a love everlasting,
Our lives doth He constantly bless.



Live In The Spirit

"But ye are not in the flesh,but in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you," Romans 8:9

In this meaningful verse three words stand out, three words that describe the only way of life that fully pleases God. These words are "**in the Spirit** and one is in the Spirit when the spirit of God dwells in him, dominating every phase of his behavior.

In Galatians 5:25, Paul said, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. A Christian's walk is his conduct. To walk in the Spirit is to live a spiritual life. There is a vast difference in spirituality and· morality.

A spiritual man is essentially moral; a moral man is not necessarily spiritual. The spiritual man is on an infinitely higher plane than the moral man. To descend from the spiritual to the moral is to backslide. When Jesus comes, only the spiritual (the Spirit filled). will rise to meet Him (Romans 8:11).

It is both proper and needful for ministers to warn against living in the flesh. This they should do in no uncertain terms, spelling out what God designates as works of the flesh, (Galatians 5:19-21) so that none will be left in ignorance. In these last days such warnings are particularly needed. But to sound the note of warning, however consistently, is not enough.

The faithful minister, must go further he must tell people **HOW to rise above the f1esh, and to live SPIRITUAL lives.**

Paul wrote again, in Galatians 5:16, **"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."** From the verse it is easily apparent that the best way to overcome the flesh is to walk in the Spirit. When one 's life is completely controlled by the indwelling Spirit of God; he will find satisfaction in the things of God spiritual tthings .. He will have no inclination to seek base substitutes in the realm of the flesh. Throughly happy in the Lord, fleshly things will have no appeal to him.

Sure1y no sober thinking. Christian will deny that worldliness and fleshly living are deadly foes to spiritual progress, and, as such, should be shunned by every child of God. But he who does this reluctantly, because he feels that he must, or because pressure is exerted upon him,. is still far from living a life pleasing to. God. With God, motives are important, as well as deeds. One must deny himself 0f the things of the flesh from the motive of love for God. This is proven by Jesus' indictment of the Ephesian church (Revelation 2:1-5). Good works were plentiful among them. And they had not entirely lost their love for God. In spite of this, they were threatened with destruction because they had left their FIRST love. If Pentecostal people will walk in the Spirit, pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20), and worship in the Spirit (Philippians 3:3; John 4:23, 24) they will not live in the flesh. Such people do not have to be warned again and again concerning the worldliness of any certain thing; Once is enough.

Positive spirituality among God's, people is the only sure antidote against living in the flesh.

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

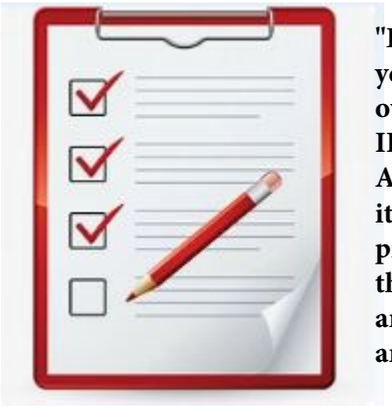
Matthew 19:26

God's Word To All

Listen my children, this is for you.
Read my word, and obey it too.
Love me and others, this is a must.
Live each day by faith, and learn to trust.
Obedience is better than sacrifice
Repent and receive everlasting life.
Put off the old man of doubt and sin
Let peace, love and joy come in.
. You should live for Jesus every day,
Be careful what you do and say.
Others are watching the children of light Take your stand, but stand for the right.
Knowing the truth that sets you free;
Letting Him have His way with thee.
A home in heaven is prepared for all,
Who will say yes to the Spirit's call.
Come one, come all, He pleads today
For Jesus is the truth, the way.
The way that is filled with peace and love, And leads you to that home above.

Heavenly Father,
Embrace me with Your tranquility and
love so that my mind can be at ease. Break every chain of negative thoughts
and speak hope and positivity into my life, for life and death are in the power of the tongue.
Therefore, I declare and decree that every stronghold in my life produced
by negative thought patterns is broken in Jesus s mighty name.
Amen

Taking Inventory



"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves"
II Corinthians 13:5).
An INVENTORY is an itemized list of goods, property, stock, etc. Usually this list is prepared annually, and it does require lots of time and effort.

Many are surprised in their checking and listing, to find things which probably haven't been turned over or moved for months; yet at inventory time there is a great moving.
This is only an inventory of material things . . . but how necessary. If this is so important, how much more important should it be to check and recheck our spiritual standing. We need to make an itemized list; we might be surprised in our findings. People are asked by medical science to go annually to their physician for a physical checkup. Wise men, they say, will do so. I do not doubt this as being a good practice, but still there is some thing more important than a physical checkup. Men need to go to the Great Physician, Jesus, for their spiritual examination. One trace of sin is poisonous and soon gets out of control. We should take an inventory of

OUR WALK WITH THE LORD

Ephesians 4: 1 says to " ... walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." Paul wrote in Romans 1: 6 and
1 Corinthians 1: 2 that we are called to be saints. I wonder if we can truthfully say, "I walk worthy of this vocation as a saint"? This word itself has great significance. Do we walk in humility, do we walk in love, do we walk with Him? It may be well to check on your list and see how you are walking before Him.

OUR ATTITUDES

What about our attitudes? Do I have love for my fellow man? Do I love my Lord with singleness of heart? Do I have a forgiving spirit? You recall the words in Romans 8: 9, which say that if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of His. What was His attitude toward this old world and His enemies- to those who despitefully used Him? He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, yet opened not His mouth (Acts 8: 32). Then He spoke these words, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do"; and "Not my will but thine be done." Yes, it means more than speaking in unknown tongues. Paul wrote in I Corinthians that if any man speak in an unknown tongue and have not charity, he is as a tinkling cymbal. Our attitudes certainly make a difference.

Our Standards

I am glad there is a standard. The Lord spoke by the prophet in Jeremiah 4: 6, "Set ye up a standard." This means more than taking rouge and lipstick off our faces, and wearing long hair (for which I thank God in our churches). But we need a standard in conviction, a standard of holiness. I know it is easy to drift with the styles and fashions of this old world, especially for our younger women, some of whom look like models who are attending a fashion parade, instead of a conference or a camp meeting. I never will believe this is God's standard for holiness and beauty. The hidden virtues of the heart are what really count.
Paul apparently looked in on our day, Perhaps he had seen some women in his day who were trying to drift with style or fashion, trying to make themselves beautiful. He wrote Timothy a letter, saying that it was not the adorning of hair or putting on of apparel or gold or costly array, but it was the hidden man of the heart. How true this is; there is nothing more beautiful than natural beauty.
Paul did not only talk to the young women and tell them how to act and dress. He told the young men to be sober minded and to be a pattern of good works, shewing uncorrupted, gravity and sincerity (Titus 2:6, 7). These are words which hold a standard. To the aged, in Titus 2: 2, he says to be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity and in patience. Aged women, Paul has a little message for you. He says for you to behave yourselves ... be holy, not accusers, but teach good things (Titus 2: 3, 4). When I read this about the aged, it seems so strange that they have to be warned of such; but in these days we see the aged just as foolish in standards as the youth. May the Lord help us to check our inventory list, to see our standards, and do something about them.

OUR TONGUES

Many people think the only way we can use our tongues wrong is by profanity, but it is not so. Here are only a few of the many bad uses of the tongue: Proverbs 10: 19, too much talking is wrong; II Timothy 2: 16, idle talking and babbling; Proverbs 18: 8, tale bearing; James 4: 11, evil speaking; I Corinthians 10: 10, murmuring. The word murmur means continuous sound; mumbling complaint.
It is quite obvious why many of Israel did not go into Canaan; their murmuring tongue kept them out. They did not lie or swear, they just murmured against Moses. How many times have we pastors heard the murmuring sound. We must be honest with out findings about our tongues. We may miss the promise of our eternal rest. A good proverb for everyone to bear in mind is this:

One word may spoil a day, one falsely told tale may wreck a life. If you are tempted to reveal a tale told by another, make it pass, as the Arabians say, three gates of gold:

1. **Is it true?**
2. **Is it needful?**
3. **Is it kind?**

OUR FINANCIAL STANDING WITH THE LORD

Luke 20: 25 days, "And He said unto them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."
Most people know the requirements of our Government, and will pay every tax, knowing if they don't they will be punished. The same is true spiritually.
Find out what belongs to God, and pay up.
Paul wrote in Hebrews 8: 1, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum.." We have written to you in this message and should like for you to find the sum or total of your experience by examining yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.

Mrs. Lawson Williams

Decisions can take you out of God's Will but never out of His reach.

WHO ARE THESE ?



WE ARE fields of standing grain. We are millions of individuals, unharvested, standing like millions of uncut stalks .. of grain in the harvest field. Like stalks of wheat have grains of value, so we, though, still standing, are of value to the World's husbandman who has created us.

What will we be? We will be sheaves. A sheaf is quantity of the stalks of cut grain bound together. Sometime, somewhere we will be sheaves. We shall not stand here forever. We shall be gathered together and bound by someone.

Who are we for? We may be "sheaves for Communism," for they are going into the fields and gathering the bundles of human souls together by the millions. Then again we may be, "sheaves for Moham medanism," for they always seek new souls. Or it may be for Buddha, or for Shintoism, or for Catholicism, or for Protestant modernism. For you see, we are just standing here waiting, and the grain has little to say about who harvests it in. It seems that whoever will put forth the effort, the time, the sacrifice, the money and come and get us we will be sheaves for them. Whoever cares enough about us to come and get us we are theirs.

But we would like to be "Sheaves for Christ." If only His real, true church would come and gather us. We know that the Master does want us for He said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." And again He said, "Say not ye There are yet four months and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

I look and see earth's gold and riches,
The hoarding mob for selfish gain
The toil of hands for ease and comfort
I look again and see the golden, fallen grain.
Harvest time -Harvest time
The Saviour's calling
The grain is falling.
Oh, do not wait, It's growing late
Behold the fields are white, it's harvest time.
Oh, do not sleep while souls are dying
Awake, Account there's much to do.
At .any price seek hard to win them
And then I'm sure there'll be a crown for you.

A Wind, A Gourd, And A Worm

Often times we may wonder what the will of God is for our lives. We search for answers by fasting and praying and in God's Word, but when God's answer comes. we sometimes wish to ignore it.

If all conditions are to our liking then it is full speed ahead; we are ready to obey Jesus. If they are not what we want, it is time to get out of God's range. We are off on our own journey.

That's what Jonah did. He loved God and desired to do right, but his fear and pride caused him to rebel from doing the will of God. He may have been afraid of the people of Nineveh because of their brutal and oppressive reputation. He certainly did not feel kindly toward them.

So when God sent him there to preach judgment, he declined and went the opposite direction. (Oh, what needless pain we bear!)

God knew the souls of Nineveh needed to hear the truth preached, and he chose Jonah as the vessel to deliver His message. Like Nineveh, our world is also an evil place. It is so wicked that we must lock our doors both at home and in our automobiles. Many people have bars on their windows and burglar alarms in their homes and cars. We are living in a time when we are told to avoid certain areas of our cities, to guard ourselves at all times. and plead God's mercy at signal lights, stop signs, and A.T.M. machines.

To be without the Holy Ghost would be dreadful in a decent world, but to be without Him in the sinful world is a horror! But we can get so involved protecting ourselves that we become consumed with fear and fail to reach "our" Nineveh the people to whom God has sent us with His message. If we rebel as Jonah did, we could be thrown overboard into the dark, stormy waters, and maybe God would allow us to end up in misery in a "fish's stomach." In the belly of the large fish God prepared for him, Jonah began to confess his sin and acknowledge God's will. The fish took him to shore and deposited him.

Jonah wiped himself off. He decided that God's way was a lot easier. He then traveled back to Nineveh, and he preached in the city one of the greatest revivals recorded in the Bible.

But Jonah still battled his flesh: he considered the people of Nineveh unworthy of God's grace. He could not understand why God had mercy on such an enemy of God's people.

Do we sometimes question God calling us to witness to people in the world we live in today? Do we become angry with God and pray foolishly? Our crowded world is full of crime and immorality: many people are self centered, miserable, confused. and unhappy. Is this our Nineveh?

God has given us the comfort of a gourd to protect us from the heat that Satan would like to destroy us with. We are to love and cherish truth, but at the same time we must have compassion on our lost and dying people in our world. If we are selfish and full of pride, God may send a wind and worm to destroy our comforts as well.

God loved Jonah and had much mercy on him. He was not trying to hurt Jonah or to bring him discomfort, but He wanted to use him to reach others. And He wanted to show him that He would have mercy on whosoever will tum to Him in repentance.

Perhaps Jonah thought the city too evil to benefit from his message of judgment, but our Lord saw the hearts of the people and responded to their repentance.

May God help us not to run from His will. May He give us give us courage and strength to reach our Nineveh each day with His message of love and grace. We must not be blinded by the sins of the people but see and love people even as Jesus loves us.

Pat Elder

Think On These Things

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 allurement 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?

God Seen In His Works

James Cowden Wallace

There's not a tint that paints the rose,
Or decks the lily fair,
Or streaks the humblest flower that blows,
But God has placed it there.

At early dawn, there's not a gale
Across the landscape driven,
And not a breeze that sweeps the vale,
That is not sent by Heaven.

There's not, of grass, a single blade,
Or leaf of loveliest green,
Where heavenly skill is not displayed,
And heavenly wisdom seen.

There's not a tempest, dark and dread,
Or storm that rends the air,
Or blast that sweeps the ocean's bed,
But God's own voice is there.

Around,--beneath,--below,--above,--
Wherever space extends,
There God displays His boundless love,
And power with mercy blends.

Stand Always For God

Byron Pulsifer

In the face of darkness, I take my stand,
With Jesus by my side, I'll withstand.
For Satan's temptations, they come my way,
But I choose to follow Jesus each day.

His light guides me through the darkest night,
Filling my soul with His love so bright.
Though the world may try to lead me astray,
I'll stand tall for God, come what may.

In a world of selfishness and greed,
I'll follow Jesus and meet every need.
For His path is true, His ways are just,
In Him, I place my unwavering trust.

So let Satan's powers do what they will,
I know Jesus's love will prevail still.
I'll stand tall for God, His creation of each day,
And walk in His light every way.

What God Hath Promised

Annie Johnson FlintGod hath not promised skies always blue, Flower strewn pathways all our lives through; God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day, Rest for the labor, Light for the way, Grace for the trials, Help from above, Unfailing sympathy, Undying love.
Annie Johnson Flint

God's Plan

I sat alone in the darkness, feeling the weight of my pain,
Bemoaning the stress of my illness – will I ever be healthy again?
How long will this ordeal possess me? How long must I travel this road?
While others around me are happy, I struggle to carry this load.

Perhaps you think I'm complaining that I've been dealt a hard deal,
Compared with folks all around me, sometimes that's just how I feel.
There's much I'd still like to offer, so many things I could do, But I'm stuck in this valley of illness, of so little value to You.

If I could but fathom the reason, if somehow I knew what's at hand,
My heart would feel a bit lighter, if only I could understand.
Knowing, I'd probably accept this, searching to find strength somehow,
But, walking alone in this darkness, there's no one to comfort me now.

My child, I sit here beside you, your burdens I equally share; When night falls and you are so lonely, remember that I am still there.
I'd gladly remove all these trials, I'd gladly remove all your pain,
But now, being tried as by fire, you are the one who will gain.

Compassion and patience will triumph, you'll find new insights in life,
The smell of the roses will charm you when through with your illness and strife.
Oh yes, there'll be a tomorrow, you'll look back and one day you'll see,
The learning process was worth it – it drew you closer to Me.

On the whole, you're always so busy, I just had to set you aside,
You needed time to consider, a time to sit and abide.
Take your eyes off your problems, rest in the peace I supply,
Be assured that I love you; all will be well by and by.

Greta Zwaan

Thought Provoking Gems



Let It Unfold

It is only a tiny rosebud,
a flower of GOD's design;
but I cannot unfold the petals
with these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
when in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
this flower of GOD's design,
then how can I think I have wisdom
to unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
each moment of every day.
I will look to Him for His guidance
each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,
only my heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
just as He unfolds the rose.

Pastor Darryl L. Brown



1 Corinthians 2:9
But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Don't Give Up ...

Don't give up when the road is rough, And everything goes wrong;
Accept the challenge that is yours,
And face each day with song ...
Don't give up when storm clouds roll, And your soul is full of pain;
Accept the challenge that is yours,
And the sun will chase the rain ...
Don't give up when temptations come, And your heart is filled with care; Accept the challenge that is yours,
And call on God in prayer ...
Don't give up when the fight is hard, And you're burdened down by pride; Accept the challenge that is yours,
And the Master will abide ...
Don't give up when your world turns sour, And life seems dark and glum;
Accept the challenge that is yours
God will help you overcome!

Hope C. Oberhelman

But For A Moment

***2Cor 4:17-18** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Concerning affliction the Apostle writes they are "but for a moment." And so is everything else in our little life on earth. How well it would be if God's children never lost sight of this fact, that all is "but for a moment." These words should daily be before our hearts. Have we sorrows and affliction?

It is but for a moment. Are we tested and severely tried? It is but for a moment. Has death separated us from our loved ones, who have gone to be with Him? The separation is but for a moment. Nor must we forget that all the honours and the glory of this life, that which the world offers, is but for a moment; it all passeth away. Yea life itself when we reach its end down here will appear if it were "but for a moment."

To remember this constantly is blessedly stimulating. It helps in a victorious life to look away from things seen, from things as they are and to look to the unseen things, the abiding things. Practice it daily! Whatever comes into your life, the trials, the sorrows, the afflictions, the heartaches, the disappointments, the joys, the honours, the labours-- just say it is all "but for a moment." With this before the heart we shall reach out for that which abideth, which shall never pass away.

Cobblestone Road

Jesus is a friend that walks in when the world has walked out !

The best way to get even is to forget !

Lasting Riches

We get caught in life's swift current
And we try to stay afloat.
When it comes to things that really count
I'm afraid we miss the boat.

We're so busy making money;
Only dollar signs we see.
We're unable to appreciate
The best in life is free!

Take a look around you;
God's beauty is everywhere.
People will astound you
If you only show you care.

Stop and say, "Good morning."
And, "How are you today?"
Now wait - and hear the answer Before you go -your -way.

Your day will be much better
If you lend a helping hand.
You may not make a dollar,
But you may have made a friend!

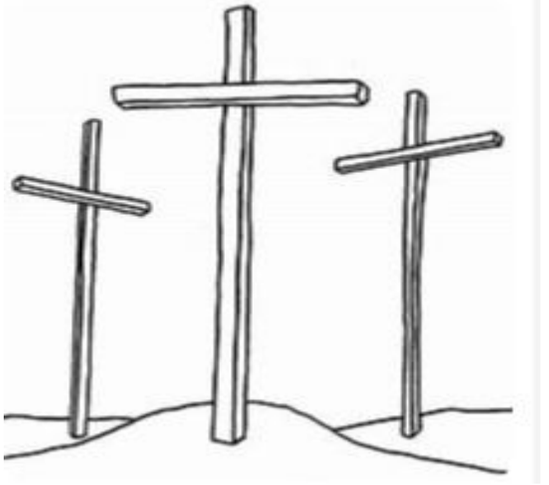
And friends can compound interest In the little things you do. Friends bring dividends
Your whole life through.

A friend can make you happy,
Make your life worthwhile.
And the interest you'll be getting Is the sharing of a smile.

Friends are all around us;
If only we could learn
It's friends who make us rich in life
And not how much we earn!
Mary Ann Houston

Without

Without the Way,
There is no going.
Without the Truth,
There is no knowing.
Without the Life,
There is no living.
Thomas Kempis



The Outcast

They called him "fool" and "traitor"
As through the land he went;
They cried out "agitator"
And "brand of discontent!"
From altar and from steeple
Upon this man forlorn
The priests and "better people"
Hurled wrath and cruel scorn.

They called him "cheat" and "faker,"
And drove him from the door;
They shouted, "Mischief maker,
Begone and come no more!"
From border unto border
They hounded him, lest he
"Upset established order
And bring on Anarchy!"

At length they seized and tried him,
That they might have their will,
And so they crucified him
Upon a lonely hill,
The outcast agitator
Driven by scourge and rod;
They called him "fool" and "traitor."
We call him God!

Poet: Berton Braley

It's not the outlook but the up look that counts.

Where Freedom Began

Freedom began upon a cross,
That sat on Calvary's hill,
Our Lord's body raised up high,
Prophesy to fulfill.

Jesus shed his blood for us,
And rose again the third day,
To take away our sin and shame,
Our sinful debt to pay.

The Lord bought us with a price,
Paid with his blood so dear,
Just to set us free from sin,
Free from doubt and fear.

Freedom began upon a cross,
A sacrifice made for all,
With no respect of person,
A gift for great and small.

So if you are bound by sin,
And all the world has to give,
Turn your life to Jesus Christ,
And a life of freedom live.

-Becky Wooten

Christ, The Lord

Christ, the Lord of life and glory,
Speaks, and all obey His voice,
Lame men walk, the deaf find hearing.
And the dumb in songs rejoice.

Blind men by the wayside begging.
Felt His touch and lo! they see:
Blest, divine. Emancipator,
Thou canst set the nations free!
Ellwood Haines Stokes

The Invitation

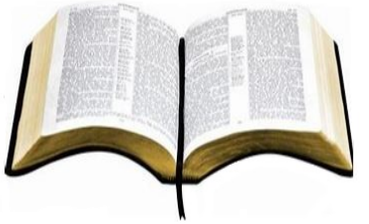
Come one, come all,
Come who so ever will,
Jesus has his table spread,
And all seats he must fill.

The table is spread a plenty,
And awaits the bidden guest,
Don't delay, come this way,
And make that blessed quest.

It is a special invitation,
Not all will answer his call,
Many are called but few chosen,
From the great to the small,

Jesus is the divine host,
Who is inviting you and me,
Come and enjoy his feast,
Twill last for eternity.

-Becky Wooten



There's a promise in the Bible for you;
the answer to your heart's cry,
Dear Friend – if you open its pages
and just read .. you'll soon see why,
Despite the despair and the darkness,
there is hope for you today,
and it's found in the Lord Jesus Christ
for all who will call on His Name!

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For with God nothing shall be impossible
Luke 1:37

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