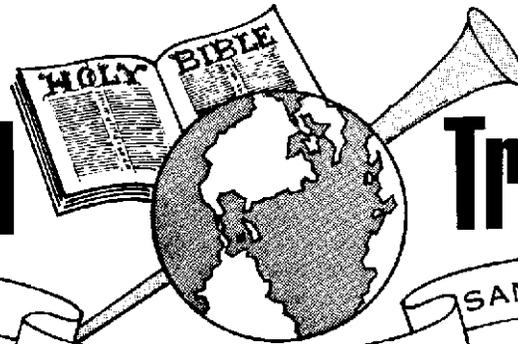


# The Gospel



# Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Mal. 2:1-31

---

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

---

Vol. 39 August 2009 No. 8



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

*Psalm 122:1*

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound,  
who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

# Guest Editorial

## THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in Newark,  
Ohio 43055.

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER  
675 N. Cedar Street  
Newark, Ohio 43055

This periodical carries no subscription price;  
however, it is partially maintained through the gifts  
and offerings of its readers, with the balance of the  
expenses being paid by the local congregation.

PRAYER: If you need prayer, please phone or write:

Roger Decker, Pastor  
83 Decrow Ave.  
Newark, OH 43055

Email: [pastor@church-of-god-online.com](mailto:pastor@church-of-god-online.com)  
Phone: 740-344-2543 or 1-888-730-0461  
Fax: 740-344-4737  
Print Shop Phone: 740-345-1312

This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the  
Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach  
the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to  
reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin  
and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the  
longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical  
foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker ..... Editor  
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

### THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

A personal God (John 4:24)  
A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)  
An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)  
Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)  
The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)  
A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)  
Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)  
Unity of God's people (John 17:21, Eph. 4)  
Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)  
The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13;  
1 Cor. 11:23, 34)  
Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)  
The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

### SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)  
On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)  
Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)  
God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)  
Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)  
The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)  
Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)  
Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)  
Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28;  
Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

.....  
We reserve the right to edit and/or decline any material  
for any reason. We are not responsible for unsolicited  
articles or items.

### CONTENTS

Our Reliance on the Holy Spirit.....	3
Asking in Jesus' Name.....	9
Especially for Young People.....	14
Absolute Needs.....	16
Keeping Your Affection Set on Heavenly Things.....	21
Meeting Announcements.....	27

Vol. 39 August 2009 No. 8

"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will  
cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the  
potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the  
wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in  
the hands of the potter: so he made it again another vessel,  
as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the  
Lord came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with  
you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in  
the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

Jeremiah 18:2-6

## There Is Yet Hope!

Failure is never a pleasant  
thing for anyone to experience in  
life. However, not too many can  
say they have never slipped or  
come short since they began their  
journey with the Lord. Failure  
often comes as the result of  
neglect to a known duty or com-  
mand. Perhaps it was carelessness  
during a serious time of  
trial. On the other hand, it may  
be the result of taking too lightly  
the warnings of God. In any event  
the individual ends up falling  
away. Instead of humbling him-  
self before the Lord and acknowl-  
edging his error, he chooses to  
throw in the towel, so to speak.  
Today he no longer possesses the  
joy and the blessings of salvation.  
His life has once again become  
entangled with the yoke of  
bondage.

The above Scripture reveals  
God's love and patience toward  
those who have been tarnished  
with failure. Notice what the  
potter can do with clay that is soft  
and pliable in his hands. Al-  
though the vessel has been  
marred and is now ugly, he is  
ready to put it back on the wheel.  
He desires to rework it and make  
it beautiful once again. We have a  
picture before us of a people  
whose failure was turned into  
success and victory. As the Lord

patiently worked with old Israel  
back then, He is yet willing to  
work with others today. Only He  
can take the broken pieces of a  
man's or a woman's life and put  
them back together. The miracu-  
lous work is performed when the  
vessel is fully yielded into the  
hands of the great Potter.

There is good news for those  
who have been marred by sin and  
failure. There is hope! Yes, you  
can actually start afresh with the  
Lord and be lifted to success and  
enjoy victory in your soul. Just  
bring your life that has been  
broken, lay it at the feet of Jesus,  
and trust His tender mercy. Do  
not allow the transgressions of  
the past to bring you to total ruin  
with no remedy. Nothing can be  
done with clay that has become  
stiff and hardened. When it gets  
to that point, all that is left is to  
cast it off.

God is affording you the  
opportunity of allowing your past  
failure or departure from the  
faith to become a stepping-stone.  
You can allow that misguided  
move to teach you a lesson in-  
stead of it being a stumbling  
block. He will give you a chance  
to turn from your sin and evil by  
returning to the strait and nar-  
row way that the Lord has chosen

[continued on page 13]

*Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:*

*2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.*

*3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:*

*4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*

*5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

*6 In all thy ways acknowledge him,*

*and he shall direct thy paths.*

*7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

*8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.*

*9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

*10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

*John 15:1 I am the true vine [Jesus said], and my Father is the husbandman.*

*2 Every branch in me that beareth*

*not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

*4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

# Our Reliance on the Holy Spirit



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## Stay Close to Christ

We have outstanding admonition given to us by the wisdom of the wisest man in the Old Testament, Solomon, plus the words of Jesus Christ. Man has always had the tendency to try to accomplish things in his own strength by leaning to his own understanding. That is the downfall of many Christians. They try to push forward in their own strength. Men especially have

this thing about them that will push on, hoping to turn things around with their own understanding and their own perseverance. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 10:23, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Yet man pushes to try to obtain that which is not attainable.

The flesh is strong, and void of the Holy Spirit you can make a complete mess of your life. Jesus

told the disciples not to venture out of Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus instructed them in Acts 1:4 to "wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me." He said in verse 5, "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." One of the first things that comes into a man's mind when he is in trouble is, "How can I work this out?" Instead of taking things to God in prayer, many times ones sit down

and consider what they can do to work it out.

The morning-time church relied on the Holy Spirit. Dear one, the life of a Christian is too difficult, too complex, and too strenuous to try to make it on your own. Paul told the Christian brethren in Galatians not to be weary in well doing, or living right. In other words, he was saying, "Do not get weary with the program of life and with bringing God into your life in all things. Do not let the devil tempt you with people of the world, as if they have it made now, and they can do thus and thus, but rather stay close to Jesus Christ. He will get you through this life unscathed."

Though you are saved and filled with the Spirit, a weariness will try to settle in upon you, Christian friend. You can become weary in living right with everyday living. Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promise. In Luke 24:49 He said, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Without the power of the Holy Spirit you will cave in to the temptation and the power of sin. Oh, how we need the Holy Spirit!

### **Learn From the Holy Spirit and Be Obedient**

John 14:25-31 reads: "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

"Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter

I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence."

In this passage Jesus spoke of five things. When He spoke of the Holy Spirit, He said two basic things about Him. First, the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. To the end of the day the Christian must be a learner, for to the end of the day the Holy Spirit will lead him deeper and deeper into the Truth of God. There is never any excuse in the Christian's faith for what they call "the shut mind." The Christian who feels that he has nothing more to learn is the Christian who has never even begun to understand what the doctrine of the Holy Spirit actually means. How we need the Holy Spirit to be our teacher!

Second, the Holy Spirit will remind us of what Jesus said. This means two things. One, in matters of belief the Holy Spirit is constantly bringing back to us the things that Jesus said. We have an obligation to think, but our conclusions must be tested against the words of Jesus. It is not so much the Truth that we have to discover. Jesus told us the Truth. What we have to discover is the meaning of that Truth. The Holy Spirit saves us from arrogance and error in our thoughts.

Two, the Holy Spirit will keep us right in matters of conduct. We all have been tempted to do wrong, and some may be on the very brink of doing wrong. Then, in the back of the mind comes a saying of Jesus. It could be a verse of Scripture or a song or something else to remind us of Jesus. In a moment of danger, these things might flash spontaneously into the mind. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been right on the brink of temptation and have the thought come to your mind, "What about my family?" or "What about the body of Christ?" or "What did Jesus do in the hour of temptation?"

Third, Jesus spoke of His gift, and His gift is peace. In the Bible the word for *peace* is "shalom." It never means simply the absence of trouble; it means "everything which makes for our highest good." The peace that the world offers is the peace of escape. The world wants to escape trouble and confrontation, but that peace comes from the avoidance of trouble and from refusing to face things. The peace that Jesus offers is a peace in the midst of trouble. Right in the time of trouble, while you are still in it, you can have peace. This is a peace that passes all understanding. No experience of life can ever take it from you, whether it is sorrow, danger, or suffering. It is independent of outward circumstances.

Fourth, speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said He speaks also of His own destination, and He was going back to the Father. He said if His disciples really loved Him, they would be glad that it was so. He was being released from the limitations of this world and being restored to His glory.

Fifth, Jesus spoke of His struggle. The Cross was the final battle of Jesus with the powers of evil, but He was unafraid of the Cross. He knew that evil had no ultimate power over Him. He went to His death in the certainty of conquest, not of defeat. At the moment men saw in the Cross only His humiliation and His shame, but the time would come when they would see in the Cross His obedience to God and His love to all men. The very things that were the keynotes of Jesus' life found their highest expression in the Cross.

### **The Voice of All Guidance**

The latter part of John 15:5 says, "Without me ye can do nothing." From the moment the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, He became the dominant reality in the life of the early church. If you follow the Acts of the Apostles all the way up through the Book of the

Revelation, you will find that the Holy Spirit is the dominant one. The Holy Spirit became the voice of all guidance. Acts 8:29 reads, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." The Spirit moved Philip to make contact with the Ethiopian eunuch.

I am going to give you some Scriptures about how the Holy Spirit moved in the morning-time church. In Acts 10:19 we read, "While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee." Here the Spirit prepared Peter for the coming of the emissaries of Cornelius. Acts 11:12 tells us, "And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house." The Spirit ordered Peter to go without hesitation with these emissaries.

Acts 11:28 says, "And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar." Here the Spirit had Agabus foretell the coming famine. Oh, how they relied on the Holy Spirit in the morning-time church! In Acts, Chapter 13, you can read that the Holy Spirit set Paul and Barnabas apart to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit separated Paul and Barnabas. We read in verses 2 and 4: "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. . . . So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus."

In Acts 15:28 the Spirit guided the decisions of the council of Jerusalem: "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things." Acts 16:6 states, "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word

in Asia." Here we read that the Holy Ghost guided Paul throughout Phrygia and forbade them to go to Asia. Also, the Holy Spirit told Paul what awaited him in Jerusalem in Acts 20:23, which states, "Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me."

The early church was a Spirit-guided fellowship. Oh, how we need the Holy Spirit in the evening time to guide us, direct us, to lead us into the Truth, to be a comfort, and to be all these things that Jesus mentioned when He said, "I will abide in you, and you in me." All the leaders of the church were men of the Spirit. The seven, chosen in Acts 6:3, were men of the Spirit. Stephen and Barnabas were full of the Spirit. You can read about Stephen in Acts 7:55, and you can read about Barnabas in Acts 11:24. They were full of the Spirit of God.

Acts 7:55, speaking of Stephen, reads, "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." Speaking of Barnabas, Acts 11:24 tells us, "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

### **The Source of Courage and Power**

In Acts 20:28 Paul told the elders at Ephesus that it was the Spirit who made them overseers over the Church of God: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." The Spirit of God does not make you an overseer at a church in Babylon. Maybe a college board sent you out to pastor, but the Holy Spirit makes overseers over the Church of God because that is the only church that Christ purchased with His own blood.

In the morning-time church the Spirit was the source of day-to-day

courage and power. Acts 1:8 says that the disciples were to receive power when the Spirit came. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Do you have that power in your life? You can crowd out the Holy Spirit, and the way you crowd out the Holy Spirit is by getting too fleshly.

One of the greatest fears the Apostle Paul had was keeping under his body. In 1 Corinthians 9:27 he let us know that he kept his body under and brought it into subjection, lest after he had preached to others, he himself should become a castaway. Paul did not bring up the Jewish persecution, the perils of false brethren, or the perils in the deep, but he did bring up the failure to keep his flesh under. A real need is keeping this fleshly body under submission to the Spirit of God. The more the flesh is kept under, the more Spirit filled you can become, the more led of the Spirit, the more directed of the Spirit, the more of a Spirit-filled life you will live.

In Acts, Chapter 4, look at Peter's courage and eloquence before the Sanhedrin. It was a result of the activity of the Spirit of God. Before the Day of Pentecost, Peter denied Jesus Christ three times and was run off by a little maid. However, when he was filled with the Spirit of God, he stood up even to the Sanhedrin of that day. That took the Holy Spirit, and it takes the Holy Spirit to give us courage and boldness. Acts 4:31 reads, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Paul's conquest of Elymus was a work of the Spirit. Acts 13:8-11 tells us: "But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then

Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand."

The Holy Spirit gives the Christian courage to meet dangerous situations. He is the Christian's power to cope with life more than adequately, and He gives the Christian eloquence when eloquence is needed. He is the Christian's joy, which is independent of circumstances. All these things are ascribed to the work of the Holy Spirit.

### **Without Him You Can Do Nothing**

The worship services would be dead and dry and there would be no soul satisfaction if it were not for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit led those brethren in the morning time through the face of danger. Before Pentecost they would have run off in the face of the Sanhedrin and any threats. Without the Acts of the Apostles, we would not have much history of the church, but in the Acts of the Apostles we see the birth of the church and we see how the Spirit took men, just like you and me, and caused them to be supermen, going beyond leaning to their own understanding. Without Jesus Christ they could do nothing, but with Jesus Christ they conquered the then-known world.

Acts 5:32 speaks of the Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him. This has another great Truth: *the measure of the Spirit which a man can possess is conditioned by the kind of man he is.* This means that the man who is honestly trying to do the will of God will experience more and more the wonder of the Spirit of

God. In the first thirteen chapters of Acts, there are more than forty references to the Holy Spirit. The early church was a Spirit-filled church, and the Holy Spirit was their source of power. Jesus instructed the disciples to tarry until they were endued with power from on high. He told them not to go out of Jerusalem until they received that power. Without the Holy Spirit a person will fall flat on his or her face.

Now, the Christian may not always feel the presence of God. (Job was in that situation.) However, that is no sign that you do not have God. On the other hand, if you have sin in your life, that is another story. If there is no sin involved, what kept you from committing sin? Jesus said without Him you can do nothing. You are not going to have victory without the Victorious One on the inside. You cannot gain any victory at all unless you have Christ abiding on the inside.

The Holy Spirit works different ways through different people. Paul and Barnabas were sent to the Gentiles, but not all the Apostles were sent to them. The Holy Spirit works different ways through diversities of people. You can have as much of the Holy Spirit as you desire. If you want to be mediocre and just fill a seat, you can be that way; but if you want to get something out of serving God and put something into it, you can do that also. You can have as much of God as you desire. Those in the morning-time church desired much of the Spirit of God, and the Spirit worked through each member. Sometimes He gave them boldness, sometimes He gave them wisdom, and sometimes He gave them comfort.

There is a great lesson that we, as Christians, need to keep foremost in our minds. We need the Holy Spirit, and He is able to give us the words to say. Many times we will be confronted by false religion, atheists, and other nonbelievers. Have you ever been confronted by them? Luke

12:11-12 says: "And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." This is a promise.

Have you ever been scheduled to talk to someone and fear began to take hold of you? Perhaps you had to talk to someone who was well versed in the Word of God. The Holy Ghost will come to your rescue and give you the words to say in that hour. He will teach you the words to say.

### **The Discipline of God**

The Holy Spirit can move upon you and cause the words to flow freely, and He can also teach you what *not* to say. Sometimes you might have a tendency to get carried away and say things for which the Holy Spirit has to correct you. You have to be careful of what you say. If you have any influence at all, you need to be careful of putting out your opinion. Certainly, you can have an opinion, but if you disagree with your pastor, you must be careful that you do not cause division. Should you say something wrong, the Lord will send chastisement, and that is not a pleasant experience to go through. Where would we be if the Lord did not correct us?

Deuteronomy 8:5 says, "Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee." If you are a son of God, you are going to get chastened, the same way you chasten your son.

Hebrews 12:5-11 reads: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the

father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

The writer of Hebrews insisted that we look on all the hardships of life as a discipline of God. It is not sent to work harm, but for our ultimate and highest good. There are many ways in which a man may look at the discipline that God sends upon him. People take it different ways when God chastises. First, one may resignedly accept it. Second, a man may accept discipline with a grim sense of getting it over with as soon as possible. I used to have that thought when I went before my father for correction. I wanted to get it over with as soon as possible, but my dad would sometimes continue it. Third, a person may accept discipline with a self-pity that leads to collapse. When some people are caught up in difficult situations, they give the impression that they are the only people in the world who have ever been hurt. Some people get lost in self-pity. They think they are the only ones who have ever been corrected for doing wrong.

Fourth, a man may accept discipline as a punishment that he resents. Some people regard God as vindictive. When something happens to them or to those whom they love, they question: "What did I do to deserve this? Why is God allowing this to happen in my life?" The question is asked in such a tone as to make it clear that they regard the

whole matter as an unjust punishment from God. It never dawns upon them to ask: What is God trying to teach me? What is God trying to do with me through this experience and this chastisement that He is bringing upon me?

Last, a man may accept discipline as coming from a loving Father who wants nothing but the best for us. This is the attitude that God wants you to take. He chastises you because He loves you. The Holy Spirit brings the chastisement. You may get chastised and others may not know anything about it. Maybe you spoke out of turn, so when you walk away, God troubles you, as if to say, "You did not have to say all of that" or "You did not have to say what you said." Have you ever said something that you should not have said and you were told *not* to say it?

### **The Comforter**

Although the Holy Spirit will chastise you, He will also bring you comfort. Have you ever felt that no one cared and that no one really understands what you are going through? The Holy Spirit will come and comfort you. Psalm 23:4 says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." In other words, the Word and the Spirit comfort you. This is the reason the devil fights you so hard concerning studying the Word and praying in the Spirit.

Second Corinthians 1:3-4 states: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

God does not leave you alone to face trials. He is a comfort and a help. The word *comfort* in the New Testament means far more than just "soothing sympathy." Christian comfort brings courage and enables a

person to cope with all that life brings. Oh, it is good to be comforted of God! Right when you feel that you cannot go on any longer and you feel as if you are hemmed in and no one cares, the Holy Spirit will come in and comfort you. Other people might not even know what you are going through; but God knows, so He sends a little breath of the Holy Spirit your way, and you are comforted. With that comfort comes the courage to go on.

Paul was quite sure that God never sends a man a vision without the power to work it out and never sends him on a task without the strength to do it. I feel that some people are afraid of really getting close to God. They are afraid that God is going to ask them to do something which they have in their mind that they do not want to do. For instance, someone may be afraid that God is going to ask them to preach. God might ask someone to go to Africa, so he says, "I don't want to get too involved." Dear one, God will supply the power to do anything He calls you to do. If He calls you to preach, you will be able to preach. If He calls you to teach or evangelize, He will supply the power.

To suffer for Christ is a real privilege. In the morning-time church there was a Christian by the name of Polycarp, who was the bishop of Smyrna. It is recorded that he said this when they bound him to the stake: "I thank Thee that Thou hast judged me worthy of this hour." What a testimony when going out of this life!

The supreme result of all of this is that we gain the power to comfort others who are going through trials. We would not have anything to tell others if we did not suffer some things. When we go through hard places, then we can give advice and encourage others.

### **Trust in God**

If you are going through a hard place now with the economy, do not

lose your faith in God. He will take care of His people. A lot of money is being lost, but you do not have to lose your salvation. Your pocket-book might get a little thinner, but you do not have to lose the Spirit of God out of your life.

Paul claimed the things that happened to him and the comfort that he received made him able to be a source of comfort to others. That is what God wants you and me to do. We need to help one another. When one suffers, we all suffer. As the church, we should be there to reach out and help one another. That is what the church is for, to reach out and help others.

The morning-time church was concerned about one another. In the Acts of the Apostles you will find that they sold their possessions and brought things to the Apostles to reach out to help.

The Holy Spirit is needed. He is our guide to take us through. If you

have crowded Him out of your life, I beg of you to let Him come back into your life; He wants to. You need to let Him take full control of your life. You can trust Him. He is not going to embarrass you or make you do something that you do not want to do. He is not going to hinder you in any way. He is going to help you.

The more you consecrate your life to Him, the more room you will make for Him to have complete control. The more you give of yourself to Jesus Christ, the more the Spirit of God will take control. Oh, how we each need Him! We need the Third Person of the Godhead in a special way. If something in your life is a hindrance to the Holy Spirit's working, you need to rid yourself of that. You need to more fully consecrate your life to Him. Won't you make more room for the Holy Spirit? You can have a deeper experience. This business of serving

the Lord gets better. It does not level off and lighten up. You can have as much of God as you desire to have of Him. He wants you to make room for Him and allow Him to take complete control of your life, of all your faculties.

The Holy Spirit directed the morning-time church and gave them the words to say when they were brought before the Sanhedrin. He brought to their minds the words of prophecy, and He will do the same for you and me today. Won't you make room for the Holy Spirit to take more control of your life? If there are things in your life that are questionable, you ought to get rid of them; then the Holy Spirit can take hold of your life and you will have a deeper experience than you have ever had. God wants to help you, if you will let Him.

*(Compact Disc TR-367E)*

**A man may go to Heaven without health, without wealth, without fame, without a great name, without learning, without culture, without friends, and without ten thousand other things; but he can never go to Heaven without Christ!**

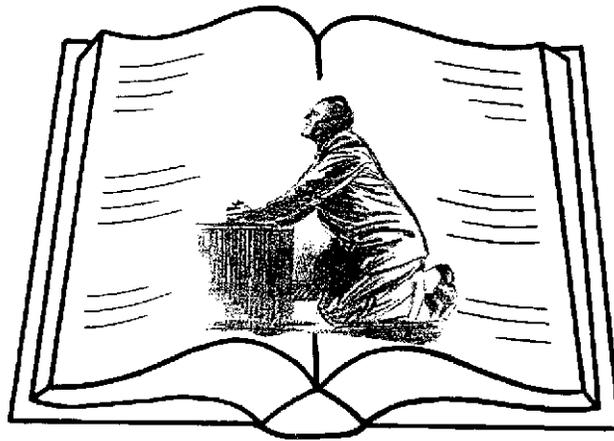
**The countless multitude on high,  
That tune their songs to Jesus' Name,  
All merit of their own deny,  
And Jesus' worth alone proclaim.  
Firm on the ground of sovereign grace,  
They stand before Jehovah's throne;  
The only song in that blest place  
Is "Thou art worthy! Thou alone!"**

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

# Asking in Jesus' Name



*Brother Allen Polston*

## **God Is Able**

It is important for us to know how to approach God in making our petitions known to Him. The proverb writer said in Proverbs 13:12, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." When hope has been taken away and you do not really anticipate getting your petition granted, it takes away your inspiration. When you do not have confidence that your petition to God will produce any results, it will leave you with the attitude, "I can take it or leave it." It will not be much of a problem not to pray or to ask God for things when you really do not have the confidence that it is going to make a difference.

I want you to know there is a clear indication that prosperity and benefits await you, and you can be a partaker of that prosperity. That encourages others to do what God would have them to do. Each of us needs encouragement. If you begin to allow too much fleshly gratification and pacification to enter into the picture, you will get into trouble. That is one reason the Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." God wants His people together because we all need

regular encouragement from one another.

You can expect results when you petition God and know that He has something for you. I am not saying that He is going to wave a magic wand and remove every issue from your life, but I want to assure you that God has something for you when you come to Him in the way that He has instructed. Sometimes you can get off track and begin to think that every time you ask, He should immediately resolve everything, but that is not the way He works. Many preachers and people in false religion promise those kinds of results. Some send literature through the mail based on the premise that when you send them money,

something great will happen to you. If you get under that impression, you can be very misled. That could possibly remove your inspiration to believe because you do not see great things take place.

Jesus gave a promise in John 14:14. He said, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." You need to understand what He was talking about. Speaking from the voice of experience and standing on the Bible, I know that God has all power and authority and dominion over every principality. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and He is able! No matter what troubles you have in your life, He is able. If you are bound by drugs, I want you to know that you can be set free from that habit. If you have another bad habit, God can give you the power to lay it down. He is able. He can break the bondage of sin; He can break the chains that bind you and cause those things to depart. He has that ability.

### **"If Ye Abide in Me"**

God's power surpasses all the works of the devil and his angels. The Son of God was manifested so that He might destroy the works of the devil. The Bible did not say that He might destroy the devil, because if that is what Jesus wanted to do, it would have been no problem; the devil would already be gone. What He is more interested in and what His purpose is, is to find individuals who will allow Him to have His way in their hearts and lives. He will destroy the works of the devil, these things that the devil is trying to do or that he already has you doing.

There is more to asking in the name of Jesus than just repeating the phrase, "In the name of Jesus." If it was only a matter of vocally pronouncing those five words to guarantee that our requests would be fulfilled, we would hear more people saying those words. Many people say that phrase, and it is appropriate. I personally close my

prayer with that phrase. We are instructed to ask in His name, but it is so much more than saying those words. Jesus said in Matthew 15:8, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

There would not have been much reason to say anything about that if all it amounted to was saying the words, but Jesus was trying to help people to realize that it is important how we come to Him. The condition of your heart is important when you come to him. Peter said in 1 Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." One can insert the name of Jesus in his prayers all day long, but if he is bent on doing evil, his prayers are not going to be answered. In order for prayer to be validated, it has to come from more than the voice box. There is a manner in which one must come that applies when asking in His name.

If it were simply a matter of saying "in Jesus' name," most likely many people would ask for this and that and attach that phrase to it, and that is all it would take to have their petitions granted. Then there would be no reason to live a godly life as far as obtaining things from Heaven is concerned. However, there is more to it than that.

In John 15:1-7 Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me,

he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

### **"That Your Joy May Be Full"**

Jesus said in verse 16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." In John 16:23-24 Jesus stated: "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

There are many things in this world that we can obtain that may give us some joy for a little while. When something new becomes a part of your life, many times there is an excitement that comes with it. You want to show other people what has come your way. For example, when a person gets a new car, he will ask others, "Have you seen my new vehicle?" Even though we all see hundreds of vehicles driving down the road every day, he wants to pull others aside and show them how the seats feel and how the paint looks and how well it runs. He is excited and joyous about what he has.

Perhaps it is a house or something else that he has become the new owner of, and there is some joy that comes from that. Now, if fifteen years later that person were still filled with that kind of excitement, that would be a new thing. Usually that excitement begins to taper off after a few weeks and he is no longer showing others. Usually that momentary joy begins to slowly diminish.

I want to tell you about something that Jesus was dealing with in

our Scripture text that is more than just a momentary thrill. It is more than a little time of joy. Jesus was talking about having full joy. He is not offering something that will merely entertain you for a time, but He wants to offer you full joy. Full joy is not something that comes about by purchasing a new house or a new car or something else. God has told us that we can become the recipients of full joy.

First John 1:1-4 reads: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

John could confirm this because he was there in person. He saw Jesus and touched Him. He was right in His presence and was able to write these things for us today. It was not just the fact that he was with the Lord that enabled him to have full joy. It was more than that.

### **How to Obtain Full Joy**

John wrote in 1 John 1:5, "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." This declaration was going to be the basis of bringing people together in fellowship and the very means by which you can have full joy.

Some people may never own a new car or a new house, and there is not a thing wrong with that. If God enables it to be and you can afford it, that is wonderful. John verified that there is something more to full joy than that, and it is that "God is

light, and in Him is no darkness at all." If you really want to experience full joy, then you have to get the darkness out of your life. There is nothing greater than having all darkness out of your life so that you can be in fellowship with God and the saints and have full joy.

Jesus had more in mind than merely dealing with something material. Too many times people get sidetracked into thinking that their asking should be material-based. I trust that you can see that He was dealing with something that would bring full joy, something that would bless your life. You might not have the best job in the world, and you may struggle to make ends meet, but if you have full joy, you can still have it even when the money gets a little low. If you have full joy, that is a blessing that no man can take away from you. You may not be all that much in the eyes of society. You may not be able to win the local beauty contest, but when you have full joy, you do not have to wear a literal crown. You have a crown of life.

There are many things upon which the world relies as they try to provide themselves with satisfaction, but God has an offer of full joy, and it is not tied to worldly possessions. Now, do not take me wrong. If you have a high-paying job, that is fine. I am merely saying there is something better than material gain and material goods. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17 to "be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

Jesus said in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In verse 11 He said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." What was Jesus saying? If you want real joy, wonderful joy, full joy, it is going to come by asking God for something other than material goods. You must get your

prayers in line with God in a different direction than you are inclined to many times. Often we are inclined to pray as the needs of life come, and I am not saying that we should not pray about needs, because God does have an interest in seeing that we have provisions and such. He knows that we have need of these things. However, if we are not careful, those needs will become the main focus of our prayers.

When Jesus said, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14), He was trying to help us to understand that when we ask in the proper manner, He has something for us.

We read in John 16:12-13: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." I want you to keep in mind that we need to get beyond the material realm, beyond the temporal side of life. God was saying that we can come to Him in the name of Jesus and make our petitions known and He will grant them. However, that does not mean we can ask for one material thing after another. It has to mean something; it must have an indication of sincerity to it.

### **Channeling Your Prayers Beyond Temporal Needs**

Throughout our Scripture text, Jesus was telling us about greater works. When I begin to think about the temporal needs of man being met, I know that is wonderful, and there is a ministry for that. There is a God in Heaven who has the ability to meet our every need. I do not want to discourage those who are praying for the needs that they have in their lives. I realize there are needs that people face. Sometimes those needs are financial, and sometimes they are physical. Even if God moved on every adverse situation

and every physical need and every financial need, how long would that joy last?

We read in James 4:14, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." If God were to miraculously move and every one of our needs were resolved, it would only be for a lifetime, but I want to tell you about something that He can do that is greater than that, something that goes beyond what takes place in this life. We have a soul that will live eternally, and one of these days this flesh is going to be laid down.

Second Corinthians 4:16 tells us, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." One of these days the body is going to return to the dust, if Jesus does not come first. There is something that goes far beyond the need of the flesh, and that is the never-dying soul. Every one of us has a soul that will live forever. The flesh is going to be gone one day, but the soul of every individual will be alive. We each will consciously exist; therefore, we have needs pertaining to the soul being redeemed to God.

God's Word causes us to conclude that greater works need to be done. If you get sidetracked on material things, just seeking the temporal things, or if you focus on things that last but for a moment, you will lose sight of eternal realities. We should pray for God's help for our needs, because God instructs us to pray. We can come boldly to the throne of grace and receive help for whatever needs we may have, but there is something that goes beyond the needs of the flesh.

God is instructing us that our prayers, our asking, our coming to Him is more than using the phrase "in Jesus' name." Truly asking in Jesus' name is a condition of the heart wherein we are deeply interested and have a love for the progress of the work of God, for the spiritual success of others, and for the spiritual welfare of the souls of

precious individuals.

God wants us to channel our prayers a little beyond the temporal needs. He is interested in all our needs. He is a concerned and loving, Heavenly Father, and He wants our health to prosper even as our souls prosper.

### Greater Works

Verse 12 of our Scripture text says, "The works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." We know that greater can mean in number. While Jesus was living on the earth, His works were limited to some degree. He could speak and heal when the centurion came to Him concerning his son who was sick, but He was limited to where He and the disciples were. Today God has opened this up so that things can be happening for God all over the world through the Spirit of God.

We also need to realize that when He said "greater," He could have meant it as an application to the fact that God is able to go beyond just supplying our physical needs. He can open our eyes so that we can see the wonderful Truths of God. He told the Laodicean church that they needed eye salve to anoint their eyes so they could see the message. God is able to work these kinds of works. He is trying to motivate us to get hold of these things and not to be sidetracked by material things. We can present our petitions to God, but He wants us to focus on being more interested in helping men and women with spiritual needs.

In John 16:13 Jesus said, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." Jesus was saying that the Spirit of God will speak what He tells Him to speak, and when Jesus speaks, things will begin to happen. This is what we

need in every situation.

We do not need someone to take away every problem we have as soon as we face it. That would not help us. What we do need is someone to come along and say, "You can do it. Hang in there!" Jesus can say "Peace be still" to your storm. He can send someone along to encourage you. We can exhort and encourage one another, and that is wonderful, but no man can speak like Jesus can. In John, Chapter 7, you can read that Roman officers were sent to apprehend Jesus and bring Him back, only to come back empty-handed, saying, "Never man spake like this man" (verse 46). Our greatest need in every situation of life is to allow Jesus to speak to us and let us know it will be all right.

Sometimes children come running when something has happened or they have gotten hurt. Sometimes they are crying, and their daddy says, "It's going to be all right." Have you ever been comforted with these words by someone? That person might not have had the solution to the problem, but he or she encouraged you and told you, "It's going to be all right. You're going to make it through. You are going to be able to come out on the other side."

In John 14:13 Jesus said, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do." If you will ask Him properly, He will speak through the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of God will speak what He hears and will give you the very encouragement you need. Have you ever gone through a hard place in life and it seemed as if you had come to a turning point, where God began to change things around? You can pray in Jesus' name in a proper way. He said whatever you ask, He will do. Often He will send the Spirit of God through the people of God. We are workers together with God. He will send the Holy Spirit and speak the Word, and there is no one who speaks as He does. He is able.

As you go through tough times along the road of life, God will come along and encourage you. The Spirit

of God will speak to you and give you what you need. It may not be that the preacher is preaching on that particular subject, but God's Spirit can take whatever He needs and speak to you and give you that which you need. He has a way of strengthening you with all might by the Spirit of God.

I trust that you can see how coming in His name is something that can give you what you need. He

is not telling you to come and request all kinds of material goods, but to come with your focus and your emphasis on spiritual and eternal progress, things that last beyond this temporal life. God is able to give these things. I am glad for the night I was in an old-fashioned revival service and God spoke to my heart. The Spirit of God said, "You can do it. You can be saved." God's Spirit can speak exactly what you

need. He can help you. A person can resist knowing what he needs to do and can stand against the pleading of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit can speak to you and give you the encouragement you need to pray, to turn from the life of sin, and to be saved when you come in Jesus' name.

*(Compact Disc TR-307E)*

---

[Guest Editorial—continued from p. 2] for you. If you will simply seek the Savior with all your heart, He will surely be found. He will turn your past defeat into sweet victory and make your life a radiant glow to those around you. There is yet hope!

You may feel that you cannot get back to the Lord and be beneficial in His kingdom. First of all, you must abandon these negative thoughts and feelings. When God saves a soul, He does a thorough transforming work on each heart. God wants all men everywhere to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth. He has a special

place and purpose for each one to fill.

Allow me to remind you of the man David who was once a very special vessel in the Lord's hand. He was especially gifted and mightily used of God, yet he failed miserably. Through neglect and carelessness, David gave vent to his fleshly desires that led him into deep degradation. His deed began with lust—just a look; then he went on to commit adultery, and he ended with the murdering of an innocent man. In Psalm, Chapter 51, we find David pleading for mercy and forgiveness. God was certainly stirred with David's hideous crime, but He free-

ly forgave David after he repented; then He reinstated him and led him on to greater heights. This example of God's kindness ought to encourage anyone who has fallen away.

Dear reader, do you have a desire to find your way back into the loving arms of a merciful God? There is yet hope for your redemption if you will only turn back to Him. You must acknowledge your sin and error to the Lord, and then you can once again enjoy the fellowship that comes only when your life is completely clear with the Savior.

Selected

## HOW TO GROW AS A CHRISTIAN

Go to God in prayer daily (John 15:7).

Read God's Word regularly (Acts 17:11).

Obey God consistently (John 14:21).

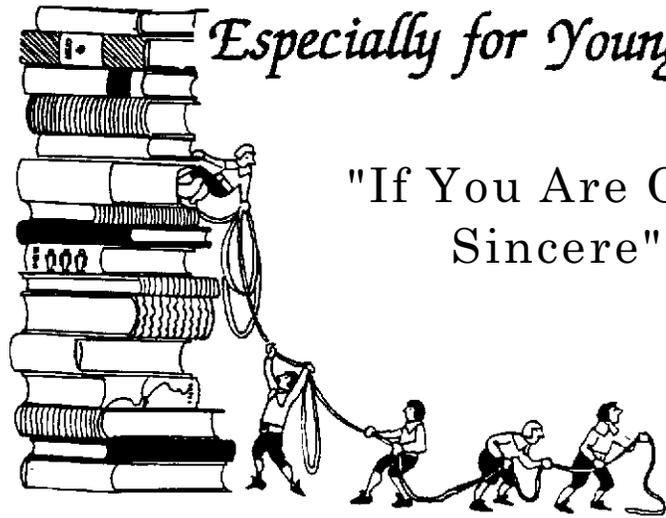
Witness for Christ by your words and your life (Matthew 4:19).

Trust God for every detail of your life (1 Peter 5:7).

Holy Spirit—allow God to control and empower your life

(Galatians 5:16-17).

# Especially for Young People



## "If You Are Only Sincere"



It is not best to try to still the voice of your conscience by repeating the popular maxim, "If you are only sincere, that is all."

The mill was doing a great business that day, when Jack and David Jamison rode up with their bag of corn to be ground. They lived on a small farm five miles off the main road and were not sorry for the prospect of waiting several hours for their grist.

This would give them a chance to see something of the liveliness and bustle of "The Corner," as that part of the village was called, where stood the tavern, the store, and the mill.

Jack and David had plenty of time, and they ran about a great deal, here and there, and saw and heard many things.

At last, a heavy shower coming on, they went back to the mill to eat their lunch and to inquire when their turn would come.

There they found the miller's son and the son of the squire engaged in earnest conversation, which soon took Jack's attention. The miller's son was urging upon the squire's son the importance of the correct understanding of the Bible, but the squire's son only insisted that "*It doesn't matter what a man believes, if he is only sincere.*"

Jack was a vain, foolish fellow and felt very much pleased with the rattling off-hand speech of the

squire's son, and he only wished that he could talk as well; then he would put his old grandfather to confusion, indeed he would.

"*It is no matter what a man believes, provided he is sincere,*" muttered Jack, bracing his conscience against the godly conversation of his relatives. "I'll fix them now," he said to himself, with a decided nod of his head.

Late in the afternoon, the boys' grist was ready; then the old horse was brought out of the shed, the bag of meal placed across her back, and Jack and David both mounted. The boys, the horse, and the bag were all homeward bound.

"You have a longer ride ahead than I wish you had, boys," said the miller, casting his eyes toward the dark cloud which was rising and darkening the western sky. "There is plenty of water up there for my mill."

They set off briskly and were soon lost to sight among the windings of the forest road. The gloom gathered faster than the horse trotted, so that it was quite dark when they reached a fork in the road where it might make considerable difference which road they took. One was the main road; that way there was a good bridge over Bounding Brook, a mountain stream that was often dangerously swollen by the spring rains. It was the safest, though the longest way home.

The other way was a wood path through the pines, which was the one often taken by farmers living east of the town, to shorten the distance to The Corner. On this road Bounding Brook was crossed by fording.

"Father told us to be sure to take the traveled road if it was late," said David.

"Going to," asserted Jack, as he drew rein for a moment, at the division of the roads.

But really, Jack was confused. The windings of the road, with nothing but woods on each side, and of course, no distinct landmarks to direct them, together with the gloom of the night and their small acquaintance with the roads, puzzled the boys a little. However, Jack, being the older, wished to impress his brother with a sense of his superior wisdom and would not admit his confusion.

Quickly deciding which road he would take, he whipped up, exclaiming conclusively, "It's all right!"

"Are you sure?" asked David.

"Certainly, I can't be mistaken."

"I don't know," said David. "Let me jump off and run to that light yonder. There must be a cabin there."

"Oh, we can't stop for that," said Jack. "I honestly believe this is the traveled road, David. Can't you trust me?"

"But your honestly believing it doesn't make it so!" protested David.

"I haven't a doubt of it, Dave. You be still," cried Jack angrily.

"I think we ought to ask, so as to be sure," persisted David.

But Jack whipped up and poor David's words went to the winds, as gust after gust of the coming shower roared through the forest, and Jack urged the horse to all the speed which her heavy load would allow.

The self-willed lad was well pleased with his hasty decision, and the farther he went, the more and more convinced was he that it was the right way.

Presently the roaring of Bounding Brook arose above the noise of the tempest.

"We shall be over the bridge in a jiffy," cried Jack, "and then, ole fellow, what will you say?"

"I'd like to feel myself safely over," muttered David, when, before the other could reply, Jack, David, the horse, and the meal went floundering into the raging waters of the swollen stream. It was pitch dark. The storm was on them, and they were miles from human help.

The first moments of horrible suspense can scarcely be expressed. Jack at last found himself anchored on a log of driftwood, the icy waters breaking over him, and the bridle still fast in his hand.

"David!" he shouted at the top of his voice, "David!"

"The Lord have mercy!" cried David, "I'm somewhere."

The meal? Ah, that was making a pudding in some wild eddy of the Bounding Brook far below.

"No matter what a man believes, provided he's sincere," cried poor

Jack, thoroughly drenched and humbled. "It's the biggest lie the devil ever got up."

"It *does* matter. *Being right* is the main thing. Sincerity does not save a fellow from the tremendous consequences of being wrong. It cannot get him out of trouble. He's obliged to endure it, no matter how sincere he had been.

"Didn't I honestly believe I was on the right road, when I was like going to perdition all the time?"

The experience of that night completely and forever cured poor Jack of a common error which has brought many a poor soul into the wild surges of unbelief and irreligion.

Selected

## HOW ONE GIRL SHOWED THAT SHE WAS SORRY

**I**n a little village lived a poor old woman with a pretty granddaughter. One day the aged woman went out without her crutch, but her granddaughter was near to serve her as a support. It continued thus for a long time. To church, or to market, the good old grandmother no longer used her crutch, but leaned on her granddaughter. There was much prattling about this in the village, and all wondered. At last they found out the cause. The granddaughter, in a fit of passion, threw her grandmother's crutch in the fire, and the old woman was too poor to buy another. The hasty girl cried and repented, and the frail old woman pardoned her. But to make reparation, her grandchild never quitted her for an instant, and served as a faithful crutch, until she saved up money to buy a substantial new crutch, on which were these words: "Repentance and restoration."

1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry

nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.



# Absolute Needs

*Brother Calvin Foster*

## "Man Shall Not Live by Bread Alone"

Friend, we each need the Lord more than anything else. I want you to consider the thought of absolute needs. The word *absolute* means that it is not to be doubted; it is positive. We absolutely need the Lord. We need the Lord's breath in the air that we breathe. We need water and oxygen. Without oxygen we would die within minutes. We need to eat food, we need rest, and we need shelter from the weather. These are absolute needs that must be supplied to continue to live in this world.

Philippians 4:19 says, "But my

God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." I thank God that we serve a God who supplies all our needs. Acts 17:28 states, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." It is in the Lord that we live and move and have our being. Without Him we can do nothing.

There seems to be no limit to the wants that people have. We all have needs, but people are full of wants. The advertising industry in the world today is dedicated to expanding our wants. We always seem to want something new. I like what Paul wrote in verses 6-7 of our

Scripture text: "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Job said, in so many words, "Naked came I into this world, and naked shall I return."

I am so thankful that I have a mind to be in the house of God and that I want to be saved. Verse 5 of our Scripture text speaks of "supposing that gain is godliness." Gain is not godliness. In other words, gain is gain and godliness is godliness. Just because you have gain does not mean that you are godly. People in the world always seem to want to come up with something that others might want. Many people who see

these things want them. We need to realize that we cannot have everything we see. It was not meant for us to get our hands on everything we see. We brought nothing into this world, and we cannot carry anything out with us.

The absolute needs that people overlook and ignore are the most important things that they need in this world. Many people do not take time to look at what they really need. What do I really need in life? God supplies me with strength each day. He gives me a rested body in the morning. God gave me the ability to breathe in His air and drink His water. I have a shelter over my head. I thank God for all these blessings, but what do I really need?

Luke 4:1-4 reads: "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

We absolutely need the Word of God. We are incomplete creatures without it. I need His Word, and you need it too. That is the reason when the Word of God came into my life, I said: "Praise God! Look what I've been missing! This is what I've been looking for." I found my real self when I found the Word of God.

A fish was made to swim in the water. Perhaps you have been to an aquarium and looked through the glass and have seen fish swimming. However, if you were to take a fish out of the water, it would just flip and flutter. Then when you put it back into the water, it would calm down. So it is spiritually. When you are without God, you are looking for peace, joy, and happiness. You are looking for something that you cannot find outside of Jesus Christ.

## The Body of Christ

When I found Jesus, I found what I was looking for. I wish I could explain this better. If I could inject salvation in you and then tell you to give it back, you would say, "No, I don't want to give it back, I like this." Salvation is wonderful! People in the world are pursuing their wants, and often they fail. They are missing out on what they really need. What they really need is the Word of God to nourish their souls! Saint, God nourishes your soul.

We need spiritual fellowship. I am not talking about friendship; I am talking about spiritual fellowship with God and the children of God. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:14, "For the body is not one member, but many." I thank God for spiritual fellowship with the saints. We need to fellowship one another and draw strength from one another. We can draw hope and comfort and encouragement from one another's faith. I thank God that we can do that.

We are the body of Christ. Paul spoke of the church as the body of Christ. Again, he said in verse 14, "For the body is not one member, but many." I am not the body of Christ; I am just one member of His body. I need the strength and the fellowship of the rest of the body.

Paul said in verses 15-18: "If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." When a person gets saved, he automatically becomes a part of the body of Christ, and God places each member in the body as it pleases Him.

Paul stated in verses 19-20: "And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they

many members, yet but one body." The devil works to separate the body of Christ, because he knows that is where the members gain strength. We get comfort from one another in the body of Christ.

In verses 21-22 Paul continued: "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." We need every member of the body of Christ. You may not sing or preach, but you are just as important as any other member of the body of Christ.

You cannot see some of the really important members of my physical body. You cannot see my heart, my lungs, or my liver, but they are vital parts of my body. Likewise, in the body of Christ it is not always the one who is in the forefront talking, but how about the one who is praying and fasting, who is behind the pastor, and who is a part of the body doing what God would have him to do?

## A Powerful Weapon

The devil does not want the body of Christ to be strong. He wants to divide the body the way he has done in the nominal religious world today. As far as the world is concerned, Christianity is all over the world, but look how much division and sin there is. We need one another, we need spiritual fellowship, and we need the body of Christ. We each need to be around the body of Christ.

I do not want to have spiritual malnutrition, so to speak. I want to be strong in the Lord by the grace of God. What would happen to the natural body if the hand and the mouth went on strike against the stomach? Suppose the mouth were to tell the hand, "I'm not going to receive any food if you try to put any in me."

The hand would say, "Well, you don't have to worry! I'm not going to put any food in you even if you

would receive it. I'm mad at the stomach." In just a matter of time, what would happen to the hand and the mouth? "Hey, Mouth, I changed my mind. I'm weak." That is what happens when the body of Christ fights against itself. Saint, we each need to learn that we have absolute needs.

We need to learn to control the members of the physical body, and one of them is a little member called the tongue. James 1:22-27 reads: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves [it is one thing to hear the Word, but you must be a *doer* of the Word]. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." We need to learn to be careful of what we allow ourselves to say. James 3:5-6 reads: "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

A strange woman or a strange man can flatter you with the tongue. The tongue is a powerful weapon that the devil can use. Verses 7-8 say: "For every kind of beasts, and of

birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." I thank God that He can help us to tame the tongue.

Peter talked about using the tongue to be a busybody. Many people may not know that being a busybody is mentioned in the Bible. First Peter 4:14-15 states: "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters." A *busybody* is a person who pries and meddles into the affairs of others. We have to be careful of that. *Gossip* is idle talk about the affairs of others. The Word of God teaches us how to bridle the tongue. Therefore, we have a need for the Word of God to teach us.

### How to Walk With God

When you get saved, you need as much of the Word as you can get, as quickly as you can get it, to learn how to walk with God. You must study the Scriptures, search the Scriptures, hear the preaching, and line up with the Word of God so that God can change your character, change the way you think, change the way you talk, and change the way you dress. We must conform to the Word of God. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

It is good to be confident, but we should not be overconfident. Our strength is in Christ. Without Him we can do nothing. It is all right for me to be confident in knowing that God is my blessed assurance, my success, and my keeper. We ought to speak out for God and be what He would have us to be, but I do not want to be overconfident. I do not

want to say what I am going to do.

Do you know what happened to Samson after he told Delilah the secret of his strength? He was rocked to sleep in her lap, and she called the Philistines in. He got up and thought that he could go out as he had always done, but he could not do it, because he did not have the strength. The children of Israel were a very blessed people, but with many of them God was not well pleased.

You need to check yourself every now and then and ask yourself the questions: Is God pleased with my life? Is God pleased with how I am living? Is the Lord pleased with what I am doing? You may go to church and understand the Gospel, but is God well pleased with your life? These are very important questions. You can sit under the Truth of the Gospel and allow your heart to become hardened to it. Your conscience can become seared. The Word of God may not move you as it used to. You should not allow yourself to become hard toward the Gospel. You need to keep your heart tender and keep your conscience tender before God.

The Apostle Paul went through many difficulties. In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 12, he talked about some things that he went through. When you get down to living for God, it is not always going to be a flowery bed of ease. You will have battles, tribulations, and trials, but God will give you the confidence you need to overcome them. In John 16:33 Jesus said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." If you stay close to God, you will overcome this old wicked world.

### God's Grace Is Sufficient

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:6-9: "For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through

the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Paul had a thorn in the flesh, and he asked God three times to take it away, but what was God's answer? "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Dear child of God, you need to take that and put it deep into your heart. Whatever you might be going through, God is saying, "My grace is sufficient for you. My grace is enough. My strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul went on to say, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." I thank God that He is on our side. God wants to see us make it. God does not want to see one person die and go to hell. If you die and go to hell, it will be your own fault.

We are living in a time when preachers are sugarcoating the Gospel and taking the fire out of hell. They do not even want to preach on hell, but I want to tell you that there is a hell and there is a Heaven. There is a place of rest and peace where God promised us eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Satan does not want you to make it.

Saint, you should never look back. You need to remember the story of the children of Israel and how God brought them out of Egypt. When Pharaoh was having them whipped and making them work harder, God sent Moses down there to bring them out. You do not

want to do what they did and look back. Numbers 11:4 says, "And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

A little while after they got out of Egypt, they had rest and enjoyment. God delivered us out of sin, thank God. Now we have rest, enjoyment, and prosperity, spiritually speaking. Consider what happened to the children of Israel as soon as they began to go through a hard place. They got a little hungry, and things were not going their way as they thought they should. Verses 5-6 read: "We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."

Dear one, are you thinking about giving up on God? Times may be getting a little testy, and you may begin to think back and say, "I had it better before I was saved. I had more money and less trouble." You never had it better before you were saved. That is nothing but a trick and a lie of the devil. Israel began to think back and remember the garlic, the cucumbers, the leeks, and the onions. I do not want to go back to the way I was living before I got saved.

Discontentment took hold of the children of Israel, and they began to complain and look back. Saint, you need to learn to be content. This is a New Testament Scripture. Our Scripture text says in verses 6-7: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." The rich man died rich, but what did he take with him? He could not take anything with him. He left it all behind. You do not need to look back.

### **God's Invitation to Man**

You should not procrastinate on what God tells you to do. It is time

to get in God's vineyard and go to work, and it is time to stay in God's vineyard and keep working. You should not put off what God is telling you to do.

To procrastinate is to put off, or habitually put off, doing something that should be done. When you keep putting something off, you are going to suffer for doing so. Husband, your wife may be asking you to fix something, and if you keep procrastinating, it will keep getting worse. Then when you do fix it, it may cost you more money. So it is spiritually. You may keep putting off God and pushing Him aside. Procrastination is a thief of time, and you only have so much time on earth to live. It is time to seek the Lord. It is time to obey God right now.

God's invitation to man is to come *now*. Isaiah 1:18 says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord." Jesus stated in John 6:37, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." God can save anyone. He will not turn anyone away. Matthew 11:28 says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Come to Jesus, and you will find rest for your soul. You need to quit putting it off. The devil is trying to kill everyone who procrastinates on God.

I thank God for His Word. He tells us in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He will forgive you for all your sins no matter what you have done. He will forgive you and clean your record. I thank God for that! We have a wonderful privilege in our Lord Jesus Christ in His forgiveness.

If you do not know God, you need to become a doer of the Word. You need the Word of God in your life. In every aspect of my life, my personal life and my family life, I need God. Without God I am nothing. Without Him I would be lost. I am just a nobody, trying to tell everybody about Somebody who can save anybody. Christ can save

you to the uttermost, no matter what you are involved in now. He can save you from sin, He can change you, and He can get you out of that situation. You may be running around with some people who have a great influence over you, but God can deliver you from that. We need to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. If you will turn your heart and mind to God, He will not fail you. He will not let you down.

### **Call Upon the Lord While He Is Near**

There is a serious part about God that you never want to overlook. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." What was He saying? Many people are calling on the Lord's name, but not everyone who says His name will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus went on to say in verses 22-23: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Those will be sad words. I do not want to be just a worker for God. I want to be as the Apostle said: "Workers together with God."

Many are going to come and say, "Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name? We have done many wonderful things in Your name. We cast out devils in Your name." The Lord is going to turn and say, "I never knew you." You cannot work for God and do things for God with sin in your life and expect God to overlook the sin and continue to bless you. It does not work that way. Christ is not the minister of sin. On the other hand, it says in 2 Peter 3:9 that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should

come to repentance." My friend, God does not want anyone to be lost. He does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked. He is not willing that any should perish, so you need to obey what God's Word says.

Isaiah 55:6-7 says: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way." You need to always preach to yourself and tell yourself these things. You should pray, "Lord, keep me, strengthen me, and help me to obey. Let me see myself as You see me. I want to do what is right. Search me, Lord."

Sometimes we go to the county jail and preach and sing. There is a song that we sing and I have them point at themselves when they sing it. It says: "*It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my brother or my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.*" It is always easy to see the faults of others. People can see other people so well, but it is hard to see themselves. You may see the faults of others, but do you really see yourself? God said His Spirit would not always strive with man.

I want to be checked out. I do not mind sitting under the Gospel. I say "Preach the Word, and do not hold anything back." God told Jeremiah not to look at the people's faces. Second Timothy 4:2 says, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." In other words, "Preach it when they like it, and preach it when they do not like it." Many people do not want to come and sit under the Word. Saint of God, you need to sit under the Word. You need to put your feet under the Father's table and say, "Go ahead, Father, feed me with the manna from on high."

Going back to the body of Christ, I may only be the little toe, but if you cut off your little toe, you

will start walking differently. You will miss it. You do not say, "I don't need you, Little Toe." I can hardly remember actually using my little finger, but if I were to lose it, I know I would miss it. So it is spiritually. The pastor looks for you to be at church when the service time comes around. If you are not there, he will miss you. If he is not there, you miss him.

You should not let the devil tell you that you do not need the saints. In fact, you had better watch how you talk about the saints. The devil may be using you!

In Matthew 6:31-33 our Lord Jesus said: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Saint, this is where many people are missing the mark. They do not think they need to put God first. However, putting God first is an absolute need. You never want to lose sight of that.

You need to incorporate Him into your daily life. My family knows that when it comes time to go to church, that is where I am. God is first in my life. Others should learn that you are a Christian. In order to be successful in your walk with God, you have to learn to put Him first. I have learned down through the years that when I take care of God's business, He will take care of my business. You can get so busy, so worried, and so cumbered about with so many things that you put God on the back burner, so to speak. I have learned over and over that when I put God first, all the other things just fall in line. You need to get busy in the work of God, and you will see everything else fall right into place. He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

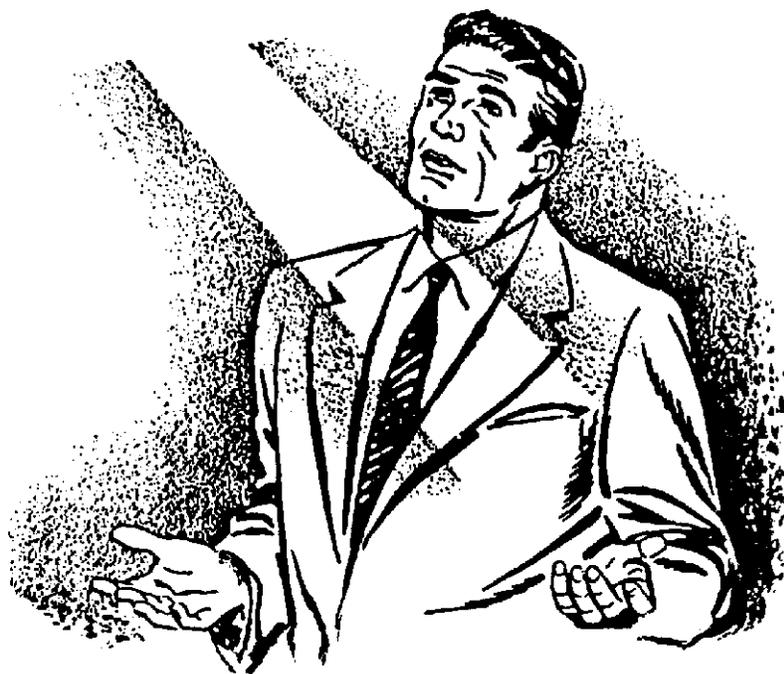
(Compact Disc TR-220E)

*Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

*10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.*

*Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.*

## Keeping Your Affection Set on Heavenly Things



*Brother Reggie Stegmeier*

### **Stay Focused on Jesus**

As a youth, there are things that you hold dear and cherish, but a day will come when those things will not mean much to you. If you will set aside those things for God, put them behind you, and put all your effort into the things of God, He will greatly reward you.

You ought to consider your Creator. We did not just evolve. Some theories taught in the science classes really bother me. Often

teachers and professors talk about the supposed evolution of animals. They speak as though the animals had something to say about it. Neither the animals nor we humans can add any height to our stature. God created us. Scientists also talk about how all the continents were once connected together. They say South America fit together with Africa and there are sediments of volcanoes that erupted when they were together, and then they divided. However, there are many things out

in the world that will deceive you if you do not really want to know the truth. The truth is, God did all of that. He divided the water from the dry land, and He placed the continents where they are.

First Corinthians 10:12 says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Christian friend, when you feel good in your soul, that is when the devil tries to work. It seems that the more you put yourself out for God, the more the devil works on you. He

will set up traps and work through people. People out in the world will try to lead you astray. They are not seeking the best for you. Some are just out to hurt you and to lead you astray. Therefore, you must be careful. If you think you are doing well in the things of God, you had better humble yourself and cling to Jesus so that you do not fall.

Salvation is a gift from God. The Apostle Paul told the Hebrews, concerning those who had fallen away, that they were crucifying the Son of God afresh and putting Him to an open shame. He talked about not being able to renew them or bring them back into the fold. It is a serious thing. If you go back out into sin, you might never have another chance to get saved.

Peter spoke about the devil and how he comes in, and he admonished in 1 Peter 1:13, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." You must keep your mind fixed on Jesus. Also, you must gird up your mind, be sober, and watch to the end. You need to be aware that the devil will come in sneaky ways to try to lead you astray, so you have to keep your focus on Jesus.

### **Are You Struggling With Worldly Influences?**

The epistle written by the Apostle Paul to the Colossians was a letter of encouragement and correction to the church at Colosse. The Apostle Paul had received word while he was in the Roman jail that the church in Colosse was struggling with the influences of the world. The Apostle Paul was concerned that if they continued to allow the culture and philosophical ideas of the people to work on them, they would lose out in their walk with God. This concern that the Apostle Paul had in that day is also a concern today. Child of God, if you are not careful, the influences of the world will work on you.

The standards of the world can influence the way a Christian dresses. It is amazing to me how people think they can call themselves Christians and dress any old way. The Bible says that those who bear the vessels of the Lord are to be separate. Some professing Christians claim that it is modest for women to wear pants. However, God wants a distinction between men and women. In the Old Testament Moses said that a man shall not wear a woman's garments and a woman shall not wear a man's garments. There has to be a distinction, and often it gives a woman an opportunity to witness for Christ. People may ask why the women wear dresses. It is important that we uphold the Bible standard and that we do not allow the world to influence us.

We must weigh all teachings and all philosophies of men by the Word of God. Most of your time spent reading should be in reading the Word of God. I realize there are great books; however, the Word of God is where men have received inspiration to write their books. There is always a danger of coming across false teaching in books, so you must be careful of what you read. If a teaching contradicts the Bible, then the idea is false. It is that simple.

The great Prophet Isaiah wrote: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:7-8).

You and I will be judged according to our obedience to the Word of God, not by the commandments of men. You do not need to worry so much about what men say, but about what God says. The religious world is trying to make their experience and walk with God more complicated than it really is or should be. People are trying to fabricate their own governments and ways of ruling the church and, in

most cases, leaving God and His authority completely out of the picture.

Some religions have gone so far as to put a man in their church office that dictates their religious practices. That man holds their confessions, taking the place of God. The Apostle Paul spoke of such teachings as being doctrines of devils. They are not of God. You do not have to confess to a man; you have to confess to God. When you kneel at an altar of prayer and a minister prays with you, he will try to help you and encourage you, but you do not necessarily have to confess everything to him. You need to confess to God. A real man of God does not want to know everything that is going on in your life. He does not need to know everything, but God does.

The church at Colosse, to whom the Apostle Paul was writing, was trying to mix some of their culture in with God's church. The two do not mix. You cannot mix anything with God's church. It is perfect. Today many churches have what they call worship teams that cater to the younger generation, and they focus on more contemporary music. In many cases they promote the sounds of rock music to draw in crowds. They sing songs filled with empty messages of love and peace in some distant future, songs without the message of true salvation found in a born-again experience. A genuine experience of salvation brings an individual into love, joy, and peace, right in this present day, amidst all the evil that bombards us. Christians are not looking to some future day for peace and joy and love; we have it today. The kingdom of peace dwells within every child of God.

### **The Way to Everlasting Life**

Getting the youth involved in the church services is extremely important. So many young people are lost to the ways of the world, to sin. However, there should be a definite distinction between the sounds of the world and the sounds

of the church. We should not mix them. We must be a separate people, set apart for God's use. True Christians, young or old, still love the old songs of Zion. These songs are filled with the doctrines and the teachings of the church. The world has done away with them. Modern-day churches have gone to empty choruses with nothing in them. I am extremely involved with music, and the most beautiful songs out there are the Church of God songs. Their melodies and harmonies are beautiful. The world does not have anything that compares with the songs of the church.

God's way is the way of holiness. God's way teaches us how to keep ourselves unspotted from the world and how to be one with Almighty God. Isaiah 35:8 reads, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

John wrote that Jesus Christ is the way to everlasting life. Peter wrote concerning this way in 1 Peter 2:6, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion [the church], a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded [or confused]."

God's chosen people, the New Testament Jews, who make up the new Jerusalem, do not have to be confused. God is not the author of confusion. If you are in confusion, it is because you have allowed some kind of spirit or false teaching to work on you. If your vision is blurred, you need to come to Jesus and let Him clear up your vision so that you can see clearly.

Church of God, we should be excited about the Truth that we are blessed with, the knowledge that we can live sin-free lives while we are in this world. We can keep these earthen vessels clean and unspotted from the world. Titus 2:11-12 tells us: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all

men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

You may inquire, "How can I live free from sin?" Well, it is God living in the heart and soul that keeps one from committing sin and keeps one on this highway of holy living. First John 4:4 says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

### **Be Heavenly Minded**

God has only one church. He has only one bride, and the church is the bride of Christ. God is pure and holy, and so is the church. It is a beautiful institution. This sinless institution came down from God right out of Heaven. Acts 20:28 speaks about the name of the church. It says, ". . . the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Jesus Christ did not purchase any other church. He purchased His church, which is the Church of God, and she takes the Father's name—God. Are you a part of this great church? Are you a follower of Jesus Christ? Does He live within your heart?

The main idea that the Apostle Paul wanted to get across to the church at Colosse can be found in Colossians 2:8-10: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."

We have to be careful that we are not spoiled through philosophy and vain deceit. Many intelligent people are out in the world, and I have heard people say that So-and-So really knows the Bible; however, when I see their lives, I wonder if they really do. It is much more than reading through the Scriptures and being able to quote verses. It takes

the Spirit of God to bring all things into understanding. If you are not living according to the Word of God and you do not have the Spirit of God, you will not understand the things of God. It will be foolishness to you.

In Colossians, Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul exhorted the people to be heavenly minded, not earthly minded. Verses 1-13 read: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God [the psalmist said in Psalm 16:11 that at God's right hand are pleasures evermore]. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." God wants His people to get along, and thank God in the church they do.

What are you seeking? What are you pursuing? Again, verse 1 says,

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." If you have been born again and God has raised you up from the life of sin, your eyes should be fixed on the Kingdom of God and God's ways.

### God Must Come First

The Apostle Paul gave a beautiful definition of the Kingdom of God. In Romans 14:17 he wrote, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." You and I can enjoy this kingdom right now. Saint, your joy should be in the great privilege of having God's presence in your life. The Lord's presence in your life will fill all the desires of the soul, heart, mind, and body. God has truly done this for me. He has given me a joy beyond measure. Again, Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your affection [set your heart] on things above, not on things on the earth."

Young person, we all have desires, and we need to be careful. The Apostle Paul let you know that if you cannot control your thoughts and your affections, then it would be good for you to marry. God did ordain marriage, but the Apostle Paul said that when one is not married, he can completely consecrate his life and his thoughts to God. All your affections can be on God. When you are married, part of your affection goes toward pleasing your wife or your husband.

Let me encourage you to get established in the things of God first and foremost. Marriage is wonderful, and it will come, but it is best to get established in your Christian experience, otherwise the wife or the husband could lead you astray. Your love must first be to God and to the church, and then to your wife or husband, and then to your family and friends.

You need to set your affection on things above. Brother, God will bring a woman to you. Psalm 84:11

says, "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Proverbs 18:22 reads, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." If you are wanting to get married, you can hold to those Scriptures.

The word *affection* means "a tender feeling; a warm liking of the mind or moving of the mind in any way; a mental state brought about by an influence, an emotion, or a feeling." It is so important that you keep your emotions and feelings centered on God. Your mind should be on the things of God. The majority of your thoughts should be on spiritual things.

*The Amplified Bible* in Colossians 3:2 says, "And set your minds and keep them set on what is above—the higher things—not on things that are on the earth." You should let Heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

You should not think on bad reports when people bring things to your mind. You should not speak of or think about reports that are against a brother or a sister. You should leave things with God. I am so busy and have so much on my mind that I do not think about negative things, and I think I am better off for it. You should not dwell on other people and what they are doing. Do not look at others to see what you should be doing; you should look to God.

The Apostle Paul said not to measure yourself by others; that is unwise. Other people may lead you astray or lead you into confusion. You need to look to Jesus and ask Him for help and direction, other-

wise you will make a mess of your life. You need His direction. The work of God must have the preeminence in your life. God must come first. He will not take any other place. You must either give Him first place in your life or you do not have Him at all.

### Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

The Apostle Paul had much to say about the spiritual mind. In Romans 8:6 he said, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." In 1 Corinthians 2:16 we read, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." Then Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

As Christians, with the mind of Christ we should consider what Jesus thought on and where His affections were centered. Jesus lived about thirty-three and one-half years, and He did not have romantic relationships. He was not married. When He was on this earth, He set about doing the will of the Father. That is what we should do. I am not saying that you should not get married, but I am saying that if you are not married, first you should get established in the things of God; then God may send you a husband or a wife.

What was Jesus really concerned about? Where did Jesus say your affections should be centered? He said in Matthew 6:19-21: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

My mind goes to the story of the rich man in the Bible who came to Jesus. He thought he was doing quite well: he kept all the commandments of the Lord, but what did

Jesus say to him in Matthew 19:21? He said, "Go and sell that thou hast . . . and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." Instead of doing what Jesus told him to do, he turned around and was sad; his countenance was down. Why? His affection was on his earthly treasures. Serving God takes more than just observing the commandments of the Word and doing what you think is right; it takes your heart being fully obedient to Jesus.

Christian friend, Jesus will ask you to set aside some things. That is all part of the sanctifying process. Sanctification is a daily work. You must be set apart from the world daily. As you continue in your walk with God, you must lay aside more and more. That is part of your growth. You need to grow spiritually. If you become stagnant, you will go backward. You had better be careful of where you set your affections. Are your affections on material things or spiritual things? Are you setting up for yourself earthly treasures or spiritual treasures?

### **The Danger in Wealth**

King Solomon, the wisest ruler that ever lived (outside of Jesus Christ), spoke from experience of the evils and dangers of following after the material things of this world. King Solomon had much to say about this. He had wisdom from God, and he had great prosperity as a king and ruler. He had it all from the worldly standpoint.

The daily food requirements for Solomon's temple were one hundred fifty bushels of choice flour, three hundred bushels of meal, ten oxen from the fattening pens, twenty pasture-fed cattle, one hundred sheep or goats, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks, and choice fowl. Solomon's dominion extended over all the kingdoms west of the Euphrates river, from Tiphshah to Gaza, and there was peace throughout the entire land. Throughout the lifetime of Solomon, all of Judah and Israel lived in peace and safety. From Dan

to Beersheba, each family had its own home and garden. Solomon had four thousand stalls for his chariots and twelve thousand horses. The district governors faithfully provided food for King Solomon and his court, each during his assigned month. They also brought the necessary barley and straw for the royal horses and the stables.

King Solomon composed some three thousand proverbs and wrote one thousand five songs. He could speak with authority about all kinds of plants, from the great cedars of Lebanon to the tiny hyssop that grew from cracks in walls. He could also speak about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. Kings from every nation sent their ambassadors to listen to the wisdom of Solomon.

After many years of riotous living, Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 6:1-2: "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease."

Solomon had great riches. If you are seeking wealth, you may get it, but you may lose your soul in exchange. This is serious! Where is your heart? Upon what have you set your affections? While I was growing up, we did not have great wealth. We had sufficient, but we learned to appreciate the little things so much more. I have seen people with riches. They might have all kinds of money, but did that bring them happiness? No. Some of the poorest people I have seen are some of the happiest people.

First Timothy 6:6-10 states: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and

into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

I think faith is really lacking today. In the past people did not have as much materially as we have, and people had to rely on God more. The danger in wealth is that you have so much that you think you have need of nothing, but we do have needs. You need to realize your need of God.

### **Abstain From Fleshly Lusts**

Again, Colossians 3:5 says, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." You must mortify, or put to death, fleshly desires, because they will war against your soul. Those things will work on you. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." He mentioned "inordinate affection." This is disorderly or unregulated affection toward someone out in the world. This will work on you if you are not careful. If your desire is to marry, then you should marry in the Lord. God will send someone to you. He is faithful, and He will supply all your needs, if you will stay faithful.

Child of God, you should not be so comfortable in this world that you join in with all the world's activities. This world is not your home; it is only a testing ground. Your eyes should be fixed on your heavenly home, where you will spend eternity. You must put off the old man with his deeds and desires. You need to take on the mind of Christ and begin to view the things of the world as He sees them. First Peter 4:1-2 reads: "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the

flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

Again, Colossians 3:10-11 reads: "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew. . . ." It goes on to say there is no difference. Verse 10 speaks of the new man you become when you are born again. Speaking of the new man, Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." If you claim to be a Christian and you are not a changed individual, something is wrong. All things become new in Christ.

In Ephesians 4:24 Paul said, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." When you are born again, in place of the old man, you are clothed with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed. As you learn more about Christ, you should become more and more like Christ. What a trade when you trade your own sinful, fleshly ways for the ways of God! The plan of redemption is so beautiful! I thank God for His forgiveness and His mercy.

### **Anchor Your Hope in Christ**

Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Saint, you ought to be thankful. Certainly you have battles and trials, and sometimes you will feel down, but you need to put on a smile and overlook it, because people are watching. They want to see how you act and how you look amidst trials and tribulations. That is what separates the church from the world, because the grace of God enables the child of God to smile and to be

happy through the hard times. Trials will work on you, but we all have trials. You need to stay right in the race and never give up.

First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Again, 1 Timothy 6:6 reads, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Verse 8 says, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." Saint, you should be content and happy in the Lord, happy in the church, happy in the things of God, and happy in your life.

After Jesus had eaten with some of His disciples, He asked Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" Peter's response was, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee" (John 21:15). If you read on, you will find that He asked him three times. How many times did Peter deny Christ? He denied Him three times. The Lord knew what would happen, so He asked Peter that very serious question three times. Friend, do you love the Lord more than the things of this world? You need to consider this. Often the cares of this life burden people down and hinder their having a clear vision of Christ. These weights, if left to grow, will cause you to lose hold of where your affection should be centered.

I wonder, do you find more interest and pleasure in the things of this world than in the things of the Lord? Where do you really find joy? Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, wrote in Philippians 3:7-8: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." The Apostle Paul had overcome the flesh. He had been beaten, stoned, thrown in prison, and suffered many other maladies, but he still rejoiced in the things of God. When Paul and Silas were thrown in prison after they

had been beaten, at midnight they prayed and sang praises to God, and a great earthquake shook that jailhouse.

When you come to the knowledge and understanding of Christ, you will begin to see yourself and the things of this world the way God sees them. The things that you once regarded as important will not be so important anymore. The price you pay is so small and the gain is so great. Someone said this: "We give up our own little contracted life and receive in return a rich, full, overflowing, triumphant, victorious, and abundant life."

Christ spoke to Peter about the great reward that is won by forsaking all and following Him. He said in Mark 10:29-30: "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." The promise of one day seeing our Savior and spending all eternity with the One who died for you should be great enough assurance to keep you walking faithfully before the Lord. Your hope should be anchored in Him.

### **Christ Is the Bread of Life**

In Ecclesiastes 6:7 Solomon addressed the evils of riches when he said, "All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled." I believe he was speaking about the spiritual appetite of the soul. People go out and do many things, and then they try to suppress that longing for a Savior. They do all kinds of things and take all kinds of drugs, but their appetites are not satisfied and their souls are not filled. Whatever you try in the world cannot satisfy your soul.

Filling the physical appetite will not suffice the appetite of the soul. It

takes spiritual food to feed the soul. It takes the preaching and the reading of God's eternal Word to satisfy the soul. Jesus is the bread of life. Those who come to Him will never be hungry, and those who believe on Him will never thirst. Jesus is everything!

Saint, you need to work to keep your affections and your desires set on heavenly things. Since you have risen with Christ, always seek those things that are above; set your affection above and not on the things of this earth. Your abode here is but for a moment when compared to eternity.

James stated in James 4:14b, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Those who are up in years will tell you that this life flies by so quickly. One songwriter wrote, "*Only one life, so soon it will pass, only what's done for Christ will last.*" You must keep your affections centered on the things above and not on the things of this earth.

When you really see the beauty of God and get a clear vision of the

church, you will not look anywhere else. You will not *want* to look anywhere else. Without a spiritual vision people will perish. It is very important that we have a vision of the church. Saint, you need to cling to eternal things and set them in your heart, and God will bless you.

Psalms 119:9-11 reads: "Where-withal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

When you have the Word of God written on the table of your heart, you will not want to sin. When you are tempted, God will prick your heart and bring a Scripture to your mind; then you will say, "How can I do that and sin?" If you go back into sin, the Scripture says that you crucify the Son of Man afresh and put Him to an open shame. Why did He go to the Cross? It was for sin. So when you sin, you crucify Him afresh. It is good to

think about that when temptation comes upon you.

Psalms 119:10-16 reads: "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."

You must keep your affection centered on things above, not on things of the earth. People will fail you, and the things of the world will let you down. If you are not careful, you will allow things into your heart that will get you down and cause you to be depressed, and then there is no telling where you will end up. You need to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

(Cassette C-5364E)

---

## *Meeting Announcements*

**NEWARK, OH**  
August 2-9

**CAMP MEETING:** The Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055  
Three services daily: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. The first service begins Sunday morning. The afternoon service will be a teaching service.  
Meals reasonably priced. Lodging is a free-will offering basis.  
For lodging reservation, please call Brother or Sister David L. Bush at 740-345-1213.  
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker, 83 DeCrow Ave., Newark, OH 43055. Telephone: 740-344-2543

**CANBY, OR**  
August 17-23

**CAMP MEETING:** The Church of God, 522 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Canby, OR  
Two services daily: 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. The first service begins Monday evening.  
Meals are reasonably priced. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.  
For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier, 522 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Canby, OR 97013. Telephone: 503-266-9297

**MEDINA, OH**  
September 7

**LABOR DAY MEETING:** The Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH 44256  
Service times: 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. A meal will be served by the local congregation.  
For further information contact: Pastor Daniel Webster, 92 W. Main St., Seville, OH 44273  
Telephone: (Home) 330-435-6490 or (Church) 330-725-5993

Postman send form 3579 to:

# *The Gospel Trumpeter*

675 N. Cedar Street  
Newark, Ohio 43055 U.S.A.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID  
AT THE POST OFFICE IN  
NEWARK, OH 43055  
USPS # 871620



## REQUEST FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTION, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR CANCELLATION

**NEW SUBSCRIPTION:** To receive *The Gospel Trumpeter*, we need your complete name and mailing address, including country.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** If you have moved or if your name or address is incorrect, please notify us as soon as possible.

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION:** If you no longer wish to receive *The Gospel Trumpeter*, please contact us using one of the methods below.

### YOU MAY CONTACT US BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

**Mail:** *The Gospel Trumpeter* 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055 USA

**E-mail:** [subscribe@gospeltrumpeter.com](mailto:subscribe@gospeltrumpeter.com)      **Telephone:** (740) 345-1312

(Please Print or Type)

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box below, and for changes or cancellations return this entire page with the old address.

- Subscription     Incorrect spelling of name or address  
 Change of address     Cancellation