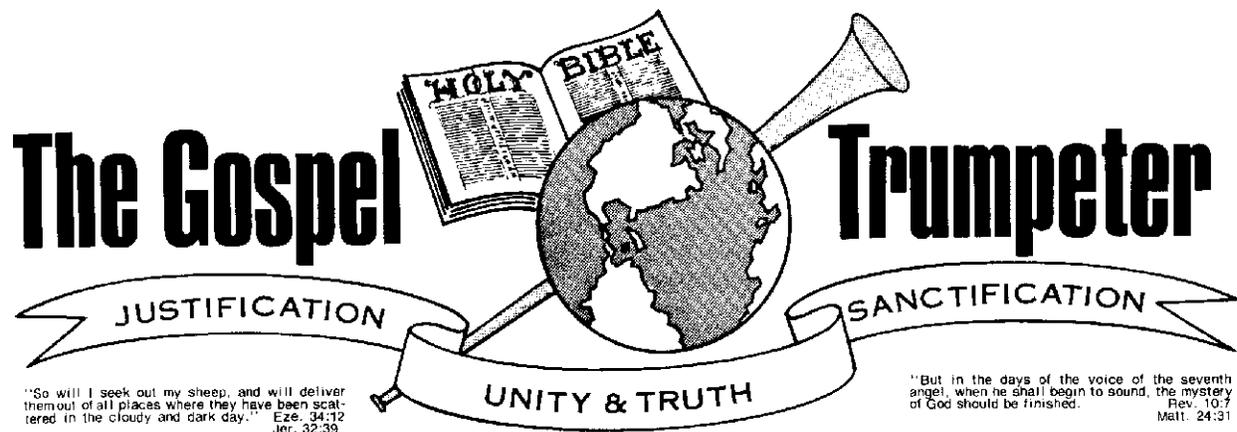


# The Gospel Trumpeter



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 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 48 June 2018 No. 6



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.

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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. Not responsible for unsolicited  
articles or items.

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Vol. 48 June 2018 No. 6

*"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek  
after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my  
life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his  
temple."*

*Psalm 27:4*

The Psalmist was expressing his great desire to be in the house of the Lord. He cherished the opportunity of enjoying the amiable and glorious blessings that it gave to him. Being in God's house filled him with infinite wisdom enlightened of His holiness, Truth, and mercy. He loved sitting under the righteous influence that God's Holy Spirit shed over his heart and mind. This is the reason he preferred this wonderful privilege above all other things.

Another year has come and gone, and it is time again for God's family to gather in for camp meeting. It is always a delightful time when the people of God come to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Pastor Roger Decker extends a warm welcome for each of you to join us for eight days of feasting on the Word of God. This time of fellowship begins Sunday, June 17, 2018, at God's Acres. With great anticipation we look forward to another time of refreshing, a time to have our souls spiritually uplifted and encouraged. It is a great blessing to sit in an atmosphere that is not polluted with ungodliness, a place where God's Holy Spirit can move about freely. Great things are in store for us in just a few weeks.

All things have been made ready for your comfort during your

stay. We desire to have you enjoy your time here at God's Acres. Much work has been done to have things ready for you and to make your stay memorable. Most of all, we want God's presence here to enlighten and strengthen the saints and to bring conviction to those who have lost step with God.

The external appearance of the buildings and grounds are surely important, but the most vital part of the meeting is hearing the Truth expounded. It is through the sounding forth of the Gospel that souls in sin can be redeemed from bondage. As the Truth is proclaimed, saints are challenged and more established in the most holy faith.

Various ministers will be coming in to bring the wonderful words of life that will benefit souls and enrich lives. When the Holy Ghost has His way, every need will be supplied, regardless of whether it is for salvation for the soul, for encouragement to the heart, or for the healing of the physical body. God is interested in the whole man, and He is ready to send help to all who will turn to Him in surrender and faith.

We are looking forward to experiencing another wonderful time in the Lord. The Lord will always have many good things in

*[continued on page 8]*

*Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

*2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

# Is It Possible to Live a Holy Life?



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **What Is Sin?**

I want you to understand what the definition of sin is according to the Bible, not by some theology and not by someone in false religion. First of all, 1 John 3:4 reads, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." James 4:17 states, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." In these two verses of Scripture, we can see two ways to commit sin: there is the sin of commission and the sin of omis-

sion, and both of them carry a knowledge of the commandment.

In Romans, Chapter 7, we find the testimony of the Apostle Paul when he was under the Law. Verse 18 says, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." What was Paul saying? He was saying that sin is stronger than your will. Verse 22 reads, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man."

Paul was saying that sin is stronger than your desires. You

may desire not to sin, but without Jesus Christ you are a sinner. Again, both of them carry a knowledge: one knows of the commandment, and then commits sin when he disobeys it. You cannot commit sin without a knowledge. That does away with the teaching of inbred sin, or inherited sin, or saying that you are guilty of sin because your forefathers sinned. The Scriptures let us know there has to be a knowledge of the commandment first. Romans 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:

for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 4:15 reads, "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression." I could state it this way: for where no knowledge is, there is no transgression.

The Apostle Paul was in sin when he was a Pharisee, but one sin that stood out to Paul was covetousness. However, he did not know covetousness until the Law said, "Thou shalt not covet." What did that do? It stirred a desire that he had within him, but he had no one to give him victory. What did that do? That brought him into sin.

I want you to look at some Scriptures that some people use who object to living a holy life. The question is, Is it possible to live without sin? Many would say no, and they have some convincing arguments, especially if people do not know the Truth. As time goes on, church, we are going to find that things which were once absolute and taboo are now being called gray areas; therefore, nothing is really considered to be wrong anymore to some people. Some say it is just how a person looks at it. Often the Truth hurts, but sometimes being hurt is the only way that some people can be awakened. The Truth will not change. Psalm 119:89 says, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

Some people are skeptical when we talk about living a holy and sinless life. When I talked to Brother Emerson Wilson one time, he told me, "The message is holiness." That is always the message. That is where the hang-up is for many people, and holiness is what we are called to. Although some are skeptical, many times they feel that way because that is what they have been taught and because of the conversations they have overheard. Others have seen everything but holiness lived in the homes of professing Christians.

### **Scriptures Used to Propagate a False Theology**

To be fair, I want you to first look at some Scriptures used by some people to object to a holy lifestyle. We will look at them in the light of their context and study them. One Scripture used to propagate that theology is 1 Kings 8:44-46, which reads: "If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name: Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near."

This is one portion of Scripture that many people quote: "There is no man that sinneth not." It is true that every man has committed sin, but they use this as the thought that man lives in sin. We have to remember that was under a different covenant than we are under today. They were under the old dispensation.

Another Scripture is found in Ecclesiastes 7:20, which says, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." These words correspond with the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 3:23 when he said, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The words in the Old Testament were uttered before there was a perfect atonement for sin. These words pertained to the human family that lived under the Law. There was a law of conscience, there was the Law of Moses, there were the voices of the prophets, and then there is Jesus Christ.

The sacrifices under the Law

could never take away sin. We read in Hebrews 10:1-4: "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

Hebrews 7:19 says, "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." The writer of Hebrews said under the Law a remembrance of sins was made every year. According to false religion, the people had it better under the Law than under this dispensation. It was only made once a year then, but now under this dispensation, false religion teaches there is a remembrance made every day. Remember, under the Law remembrance was made only once a year; therefore, it looks like it has gone downhill instead of being made perfect. Again, false religions say there is a remembrance every day. In other words, they say you must repent and ask for forgiveness every single day before you pillow your head at night.

### **Christ Put an End to Having to Live in Sin**

Hebrews 9:7-14 reads: "But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which

was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Church, we are a long way from Moses' day and the voices of the prophets. For since then, Jesus Christ has come to put an end to sin and to fully save man from it. It is a shame that the people have been taught incorrectly.

I used to work in a factory, and religious subjects came up all the time with my fellow workers. One time I was standing by a coffee machine, and a young man was there. We drank coffee together many times and conversed together. He was a very good man to talk to, and I believe he really loved the Lord. One day the subject of holiness came up. His first response to a conversation about holiness was, "I agree with you that man can live free from sin."

As we talked some more, he said: "But there are some things that we disagree about. For example, I believe there is no

difference between drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes."

I said to him, "Well, when I was born, I had a desire to drink, but I had no desire to smoke. There is a difference. Anything could become sin to you if you overdo it." You would be amazed at what some people are taught. They are taught that they have sinned somehow. So I asked him, "What sin did you commit today?"

He said, "Oh, I don't know, but I must have done something." What does the Scripture say? The latter part of Romans 5:13 states, "Sin is not imputed when there is no law."

What kind of God would spring something on you that you did not know anything about? There is always a knowledge and a will when you commit sin. Matthew 1:21 says, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

### **Purifying the Heart by Faith**

John 1:29 reads, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away [not masks over] the sin of the world." When something is taken away, it is no longer there. We read in Hebrews 9:26, "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Another Scripture that false religion likes to bring up is Proverbs 20:9, which states, "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" There is no way that you and I can save ourselves. We are not saved by works. Some people may work themselves to death, so to speak, but that cannot save them.

We read in Titus 3:5-6: "Not by works of righteousness which

we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." Only Jesus Christ can purify your heart.

Acts 15:8-9 reads: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." How is your heart purified? It is purified by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. We are commanded to live holy, and we can. How? We can do it by the grace of God.

God would not command someone to do something if that person was unable to do it. God will not ask you to do something that you cannot do. You may think, "I cannot pray like someone else can pray" or "I cannot testify the way he can testify." I will guarantee you, if you put forth the effort, God will always come to your rescue. He will always help you to pray and to testify. When God asks you to do something, He will give you the grace to do it.

First Peter 1:15-16 tells us: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." How is it possible to be holy as God is holy? Dear one, your soul has to be clean or you are not going to see the inside of God's Heaven. I am going to get stronger than that. You have to be perfect. That word is so misused.

Some people testify, "Well, I'm not perfect." What they are really saying is that they are dealing with some things in the flesh, but your soul had better be perfect. If your soul is not perfect, you are not going to make it. What does the Scripture mean in Matthew 5:48 when it says, "Be

ye therefore perfect"? He gave pastors, evangelists, and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, not for the perfecting of the world.

### **Light and Darkness Cannot Mix**

As you sit under the Word of God, God will show you things, but before that, there was no knowledge, so there was no guilt. When knowledge comes, God gives you time to deal with it and to put it away from you. There can be no defilement in the soul when you come before God. If you have a wrong attitude or if you are not clean, you are a sinner. If you are unwilling to forgive someone, you are not clean. If you do not forgive, God will not forgive you. There are people today who are carrying wrong attitudes and unforgiveness, and they have carried those things for so long that they profess over the top of them. Unless these things are cleansed from the soul and the spirit, those people are not going to make it through the door into Heaven.

I was in a service years ago in New York, not far from where I was raised. We had a good revival there, but before we started the revival, I went to a church with my relatives. They were making their move out of that church, so I went with them.

The minister preached a good message until he got ready to close the message. He commented on Romans, Chapter 7. He quoted verses 14-19, which read: "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good

thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do."

This is what the minister said after he read these verses of Scripture: "Even the Apostle Paul struggled with sin. He could not get victory over sin." How would you like to read Paul's writings if that was true of his condition after his conversion under the new covenant? In this chapter, Paul was writing about his condition when he was under the old Law. You would not want to listen if I were to get up on Sunday morning and say, "Saints, the good that I would, I do not, and the evil that I would not do, that is what I do, but I am here to preach to you."

Romans 7:1 is the key to the entire chapter. It reads, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?"

The Apostle Paul had some impressive credentials before he got saved. I want you to read what Paul had to say in Philippians 3:4-9: "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more [in other words, he had more fleshly things that he was involved in]: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews [he still spoke the Hebrew language]; as touching the law, a Pharisee [the strictest sect of all of them]; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

"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, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

First John 1:8-10 says: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

What was John talking about when he said, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves"? Backing up a little, 1 John 1:6-7 reads: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Darkness and fellowship cannot mix together. Darkness is sin; therefore, you cannot have fellowship with God and the saints of God and still live in sin. If you say that you do, you are deceiving yourself. You cannot mix light and darkness together. Some claim to have fellowship, yet they are still walking in darkness, as if to say they have no sin and do not need to repent. John said there was a need of confessing and cleansing.

### **"He That Committeth Sin Is of the Devil"**

Let us look at some Scriptures that speak against the teaching of "sinning more or less every day." This teaching goes along with the false teaching that says you cannot live holy and the teaching "once saved, always saved." I

want to illustrate this point. Suppose two men are sitting in a bar-room. One man claims that he was saved a few years ago; however, he backslid. Of course, he does not believe that he has backslidden, but he believes that he is still saved. He is sitting beside a guy who has never been to church. They are both doing the same thing; they are guzzling down the alcohol.

The grace of God was not given to commit sin, but it was given to refrain from sin. In essence, the churchgoer is telling the guy beside him: "I have a license to sin. I have a license to drink alcohol, but you do not have either. You are heading for hell, and I'm going the other way." They are both doing the exact same thing. Now, that might be a little far out, but in essence, that is what he would be saying.

Now let us look at some Scriptures that speak against the teaching of "sinning more or less every day." First John 3:8 is a powerful Scripture. There is a reason that First, Second, and Third John were written so strongly. John had come away from the Isle of Patmos. He was prophesying in Ephesus, and when he came in, he came in with great plainness of speech. Why? Because when people fall into an apostasy, you had better make it really plain who is in and who is out.

First John 3:8 states, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. [What does that tell you? You cannot go back any further than the beginning. The devil was not an angel of light. He was not an angel that got tempted in Heaven and got puffed up and had to be kicked out. If that were true, then what would stop the Christian from getting puffed up and kicked out? If he would have been an angel of light, then he would have been 'once in grace,

always in grace.' That is plain nonsense. The devil was a liar from the beginning, and you cannot go back past the beginning. The beginning of anything is the start. The devil missed the mark from the beginning.] For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

What are the works of the devil? Verse 9 says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed [the Gospel seed] remaineth in him: and he cannot sin [as long as he obeys the Gospel], because he is born of God." What is that Scripture saying? It is very simple. You need to remember that apostasy was going on. John was at Ephesus. He was saying that if you commit sin, you are of the devil. It would be hard if someone said you are of the devil if you committed sin. That verse from another translation says, "When people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil."

### **Forsaking All Sin**

Along with this teaching of "sinning more or less every day," comes the teaching of "once in grace, always in grace." It is a terrible teaching that causes people to be careless in their living. It becomes a license to commit sin. Let us look at a Scripture to refute it. A very simple Scripture, Acts 1:25, which speaks of choosing another Apostle to replace Judas, states, "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

Some have said that Judas was never saved. If he was never saved, how could he fall by transgression? Now, we know that at that time, they did not have new covenant salvation; they had Old

Testament salvation. They did not have salvation as we know it before the Day of Pentecost. You may ask, "How were they saved?" In John 15:3 Jesus said, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

Matthew 10:1-4 tells us: "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him."

The disciples were given power to cast out unclean spirits and to heal the sick. Revelation 3:4-5 states: "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Now, what would an individual who professes to be saved, yet sins every day, be overcoming? What are you overcoming? The biggest percentage of the Bible is written to God's people. Why is that? Why not just write to the sinner? If the Christian is saved, why perfect him since he is already saved? Why does the Christian need to be warned? It is because a Christian is subject to falling, and he needs to be warned.

Galatians 5:4 says, "Christ is become of no effect unto you,

whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Proverbs 28:13 reads, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

The real problem with many in false religion is that they do not really sell out to God. Too many times people make a move for God, and then they make a profession. God sees in your heart when you repent whether or not you are forsaking all sin. You should not just say, "Lord, save me." You must dig deep. You must dig down to the unforgiveness and the wrong attitudes; you must get everything cleaned up. You are not ready to march in the army of the Lord until these things are cleaned up.

In false religion the preaching is shallow, and it matches the living. They have been taught church joining for so long that to them repentance is joining a church. True repentance is needed to be saved. When one truly repents, he is forgiven for all sins in the past to that moment, not future sins.

### Strength to Overcome

Romans 3:23-25 states: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the

redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." After you get saved, you are not supposed to commit sin in the future. If you have the life of God, you have the Holy Spirit, because the life of God is in the Spirit. When a person repents of the sins of the past, it is then that God adds him to the church, the body of Christ.

Who puts you in the body? The Spirit of God inducts you into the body of Christ. First Corinthians 12:13 reads, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." God has a way that you can live sinless if you want to. The Truth will set you free if you want it to. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Some people do not seem to want to be completely free. They want to hold on to a little bit of this or that and not be completely free. Why? Because they want the freedom to do as they please and still go to God's Heaven in the end. It is as though they are saying, "I will live the way I want to live, and I will confess to Jesus

when I leave this world." To get into God's Heaven, you must work to get there. You cannot be lazy in serving God and be ushered through the door of Jesus Christ. You need to be free from sin before you go to the final Judgment.

To live right, you are going to have to desire it. Under the Law, Paul found that sin was stronger than his will. Under the new covenant with the grace of God, God gives you strength to overcome. To live right, you have to desire it. If you want to continue to live in sin, it saddens the heart of God, but He is not going to knock you down or twist your arm. He will let you go. If you want to be free, you can be. If you do not want to be free, you can take your liberty to remain in sin.

Is it possible to live holy in this life? Absolutely, if you desire to do so. There is a difference between temptation and sin. In false religion temptation is considered to be sin. Having a wrong thought come into your mind is not sin, as some claim that it is. Sometimes those who have been taught that they sin every day can never really tell you what they have done wrong. Are you living a holy life?

*(Compact Disc TR-1941)*

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*[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]*  
store for all those who will be at the camp meeting. Being together with the saints and being blessed by other testimonies of victories is always uplifting. You can be assured that the meeting will not be a disappointment to you.

Finally, if you have not already done so, now would be a good time to begin praying for the meeting. God knows about each of us and just what we stand in need of. God de-

sires that we attend the meeting so that He can instruct His people in greater ways for all to spiritually mature.

As the national and world picture grows more bleak, we earnestly ask that you pray fervently. We live in perilous times, and God's people need to be taught how to victoriously stand firm. We ask that you pray for the services and for who should bring the messages. The congregation here has set aside time for pray-

er and fasting for God's direction. We know that He is ready to supply every need, but He wants us to call upon Him for guidance so the services will please Him.

If you need room accommodations, please contact Brother Dave or Sister Ruby Bush at 740-345-1213. They will need to know how many in your family will be coming and the days you plan to be here.



# The Kind of Father You Should Strive to Be

*Brother Larry Dishman*

## **The Importance of Being a Good Father**

The greatest need in society today is for fathers who will rise up and assume their God-given role and responsibility in the family. In the Word of God, we find it is very clear that God has a role for fathers. Father's Day was first suggested and observed on June 19, 1910. It was suggested by Mrs. James Dodd to honor her father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran who raised his six motherless children alone. In 1923, the third Sunday in June was chosen as a national day with the backing of the president in 1924.

A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and unappreciated heroes in all humanity. One time a little boy was asked to define Father's Day, and he said, "It is just like Mother's Day, only you do not spend as much money on the presents."

If your father or your husband is still alive, I want you to do something, and you will be glad that you did. Let him know how much you love him, and let him know how much you appreciate him. I wish my father was still alive, because it would be a great pleasure to be able to call him and tell him how much I love and appreciate him, but he is no longer here. You will never know how much he does for you and how much he means to you until he is taken out of your life. You may think of what it might be like when God calls him home, but you will never fully know the impact of it until it really happens.

Daughter, wife, your father and your husband are irreplaceable. God made them that way. A father is the glory of the children, and he is the loving grandfather of the grandchildren. The greatest number of long distance phone calls is made on Mother's Day. The largest number of collect calls

is made on Father's Day. According to one expert, children go through four stages dealing with their fathers. The first stage is, they say, "Da-Da." The second stage is, they say, "Daddy." The third stage is, they call him "Dad," and in the fourth stage, they call him collect.

Not all fathers are good examples. I found that out as a young pastor. One time I preached on Father's Day and compared an earthly father to our Heavenly Father. After church, a man said to me, "What you said did not mean a thing to me, because I did not have a good relationship with my father like you have had." Whether you have had a good relationship with your earthly father or not, every one of us can have a good relationship with our Heavenly Father. Maybe your father was not much of an example, but you have to remember that God is not like an earthly father. He is our Heavenly Father.

If you want to know what a true father should look like, do not look to your own earthly father or to any other earthly father. No matter how good an earthly father might appear, God the Father is the true example of what a father ought to be.

In this world a lot of men are not really what they ought to be for God. Today some men are not really men; they are sissies. They dress in gay apparel, they walk and talk in an effeminate way, and some grow their hair long as a woman does. There was a time when men were known for their toughness.

Too many men are self-centered. They do not care about the family, the home, the church, or the nation. Being a man is accepting the God-given responsibility that God has given to you as a father. Too many men, instead of being saved and being godly examples to the family, are sinful. They do not care for anyone but themselves. Some drink, others do drugs, and they do not care what God says or what other men say.

Boys who grow up without a father are twice as likely as other boys to end up in prison. I want you to think about that. Sixty percent of rapists and 70 percent of adolescent murderers never knew or lived with their fathers. Even in the toughest inner city neighborhoods, only 10 percent of children from intact families get in trouble, but 90 percent of those from broken homes do. Girls raised without a father in the home are five times more likely to become mothers while still an adolescent.

Children from broken homes have more academic and behavioral problems at school and are nearly twice as likely to drop out of high school. So the image of a father nowadays is not always a good one. More than half of the children in America grow up without a father in the home, and often they are abandoned by their fathers. Sexual abuse by fathers is

on the rise. When we tell children that God is their Heavenly Father, it is a small wonder that they are afraid of Him. God help them. As a father, you are shaping your child's concept of his or her Heavenly Father. He or she sees Him in you as a parent.

### **Setting a Good Example**

A godly father loves God. I am not trying to insinuate that if you are not a Christian, you are not a good father. I believe there are many good fathers who have not yet accepted the Lord, but I believe they would be greater fathers if they would be true Christians. If you do not have a right relationship with God, it is futile to think that you can properly have a right relationship with others. If you are running from God, you will never have peace. You need to get that settled as soon as possible. The Bible says in Isaiah 57:21, "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked," but thank God, to the Christian there is a deep, settled peace that an individual can have.

A godly father loves not only God but also his wife. Real love seeks to meet all the needs of another person. First Corinthians 13:1-13 gives you a true definition of love. Romantic actions are not an abandonment of your manliness. Your son is learning from you how to treat his wife, and one of the best things a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

When I was a boy, I remember how my father would often say, "Honey, I love you," on the way to or from church or in the home. My mom would say, "Darling, I love you." As a child, that gave me security, and it gave me a good feeling when I saw my mother and father holding hands. It gave me a good feeling when I watched my father walk up to my mother and give her a kiss and say, "I love you." Someday your children are

going to get married, and you are going to want them to treat their companions right, so you ought to set a good example before them.

A godly father really does love his children. Love is more than provision for material things. Do not miss your children's childhood. There is no second chance at childhood. God help every one of us, because we just get one opportunity to raise our children. If you make the wrong decisions, you cannot go back and say, "I'm going to start over." If you really love your children, you will discipline them when it is needed, but you should do it in love. Colossians 3:21 says, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

Children interpret time spent with them as love. One stepfather asked his stepson, "Do you love me?"

He replied, "Yes."

"Why do you love me?"

He said, "Because you spend time with me, and you play with me."

He said, "Do you love your real daddy?"

The stepson answered, "Yes."

He said, "Why?"

"Because he lets me play games on the television."

There is a difference, is there not?

### **Showing Love and Integrity**

A true father rules by love and not fear. Fear can create complexes that often spoil lives for many years to come. I know of a father who at one time sat his son on a chair and held a pistol to his head and dared him to move. God is not in anything like that. That might produce fear and cause a child to sit still for a while, but a child treated like that will grow up to disrespect and hate his father. The greatest thing a father can pass on to his children is the love of God. We all know that love begets love. Do you want to

pass something on to your children? You ought to pass love on to them.

A godly father is a man of integrity who does things justly and who walks uprightly. Integrity has become almost a forgotten word, but it should permeate every area of your life. In the workplace integrity is displayed by giving your employer an honest day's toil, and in the home integrity is exemplified by fulfilling the promises that you have made to your family. A godly father is a righteous man. He is a role model of God. It is sobering to recall that fathers bear the title of God Himself, and God has chosen this picture of His relationship to His people.

There is a little poem entitled, "Walk a Little Plainer, Daddy." It says:

*Walk a little plainer, Daddy,  
Said a little boy so frail.  
I'm following in your footsteps,  
And I don't want to fail.  
Sometimes your steps are very  
plain,  
Sometimes they are hard to see,  
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,  
For you are leading me.*

*I know that once you walked  
this way  
Many years ago,  
And what you did along the way,  
I'd really like to know.  
For sometimes when I am tempted,  
I don't know what to do.  
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,  
For I must follow you.*

*Someday when I'm grown up,  
You are like I want to be.  
Then I will have a little boy,  
Who will want to follow me.  
And I would want to lead him  
right,  
And help him to be true.  
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,  
For we must follow you.*

The father must be Godlike in his dealings with his children. The

father must give praise rather than always finding fault. Some parents never praise their children. You may say, "They do not do anything to get praise." Yes, they do some things right, and they might do more things right if you would criticize them less. They are not to be judged by adult standards. Yes, God has one standard for His people, but do not expect the same thing out of a teenager as you do someone who has been saved for thirty years in the church. You ought to encourage them.

Someone may say, "A boy loves his mother, but he will follow his father." As a father, what kind of example are you leaving for your child to follow? Time here on earth is short, and you should make sure that you are setting the right example in front of your children.

You should not merely take your son to church and expect him to live right, but you should show your child how he can have a real relationship with God. You should live that relationship in front of your child, because a father is really the priest of the home. A priest cannot function as a priest unless he is in close contact with God.

How about you as a father? Are you in close contact with God? As the priest of the home, a godly father is also a man of prayer. He goes to God often on behalf of his family, asking God for wisdom, asking God for courage for himself, and asking God for the protection of his wife and children.

### **Stand Fast in the Faith**

Job is a good example of a father. Early in the morning, he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of his children, thinking perhaps his children might have sinned or cursed God in their hearts. This was Job's regular practice. A father should strive to

teach his children the Scriptures. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6:6-9: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

First of all, a father ought to believe in God, believe in the Word of God, and believe what the Scriptures teach; then he must pass those Scriptures on to his children. It is a father's duty to make sure that his children know what they must do in order to become Christians and to walk in the ways of the Lord. A father should strive to teach his children to work. Children need to know how to work. They need to get off the computer every once in a while.

Mothers should teach the young ladies in the home how to cook and how to clean the house, because they need to learn what they are to do as they get older. It is sad that young ladies are getting married and do not even know how to cook or how to keep the house. Young men are getting married, and some of them are lazy. Although I might have failed in some ways in raising my children, each one of them is a hard worker, and I am thankful for that.

A father should strive to teach his children to accept responsibilities. A father should strive to give his children godly instructions. Proverbs 1:8 says, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." Proverbs 10:1 states, "The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father." Proverbs 29:3 reads: "Whoso loveth wisdom

rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance."

A father should strive to teach his children to pray. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:8, "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." Your sons and your daughters ought to be able to remember you as a man who spent time in prayer.

Our prayer should be, "God, give us praying men; give us prayer warriors." We ought to have prayer in the closets, prayer in the homes, and prayer in the churches. Friend, the greatest power in Heaven and earth is available through prayer. Through prayer, we can cast down strongholds, overcome temptations, outlast our enemies, uphold our families, build a hedge about our pastor, help deliver our nation, and remove our obstacles and mountains.

A father should strive to be strong in the Lord, not just get by. Every father ought to strive not just to be a Christian, but to be a *strong* Christian and to be a pillar in the Church of God. When I think about this, I often think about the Scripture in 1 Corinthians 16:13, which tells us, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." We need men who are strong but giving instead of demanding.

A father should strive to offer praise to God. My prayer is this: "God, give us some worshipping men who lift up holy hands, as the Bible says. Give us men who are not ashamed to praise God publicly." Throughout the Bible, men set the example in worship. Thank God for worshipping women. We need more of them who praise our wonderful Lord. We need men who will stand and declare what great things God has done for them. We need men who will sing from the depths of their hearts and give a hearty "praise the Lord" and "amen" once in a

while. That is what we need in the Church of the Living God.

### **Spend Time With Your Children**

A father should strive to spend more time with his children. If I could go back, I would spend more time with my children. As wise men, we must spend time with those whom we love and hope to influence. Do you hope to influence your children? Then you have to spend time with them. Time is one of the most precious, valuable gifts that you can give those whom you love. How do you suppose that you can significantly influence anyone unless you are willing to spend some time with them? This is especially true when children are young. Every day we live on earth and every day our children are living in our homes is one less day we now have to impact their lives in the most meaningful way. The days are passing in which you can have an influence over your children.

As wise men and women, we need to understand that every day is valuable. My friend, time is precious. The most valuable gifts we can give to those whom we love is to spend some time with them. Some think, "My time is better spent earning a living and elevating myself as I climb the ladder of success." Many men think, "What my family needs from me right now is to work and provide everything they need and everything they want." Earning a living is time well spent, and it is important. Friend, you should never build your career and neglect your children and your marriage. Your children and your marriage are more important than your career.

The future of your children and your family are more important than the career ahead of you. You may think, "There will always be time later to visit and talk with

my children." Friend, that is not true. Time passes quickly, and it cannot be reclaimed. Soon enough, days turn into weeks, weeks turn into months, and months turn into years. Soon your son or your daughter will graduate and leave home. An important principle is this: if you do not take time with your children when they are small and young, chances are they will not spend time with you as they grow up.

A survey of elementary children was conducted a few years ago, and the top ten most appreciated qualities for dads were found. First, he takes time for me; second, he listens to me; third, he plays with me; fourth, he invites me to go places with him; fifth, he lets me help him; sixth, he treats my mother well; seventh, he lets me say what I think; eighth, he is nice to my friends; ninth, he only punishes me when I deserve it; and tenth, he is not afraid to admit that he is wrong. How do you rate in those ten things?

A group of three hundred seventh and eighth grade boys kept an accurate record of how much time their fathers actually spent with them over a two-week period. Most saw their father only at the dinner table. A number of them did not see their fathers for days at a time. The average time a father and son were alone in an entire week was seven and a half minutes.

### **Discipline in Love**

A father should strive to practice discipline in love; it is still in the Bible. Someone may say, "Yes, but Doctor So-and-So wrote a book and said parents should never correct their children." I believe the Bible over Doctor So-and-So. Many boys and girls grow up and never see their daddies set boundary lines for their actions. They never hear Daddy say no to their demands or experience corporal punishment. The father

who is too permissive is the greatest enemy of the child.

Proverbs 29:15-17 tells us: "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." The Bible says in Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Proverbs 22:15 states, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

In Proverbs 23:14 we read: "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." A father must discipline his children in love. I saw a sign one time that read, "Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a wall." Can you imagine trying to nail Jell-O to a wall? How much success do you think you would have? It would not be an easy task.

I love every one of my children. When I am home, which is not too often, our family gets together just about every night at my house or at one of our children's houses. We love being together. I love my children and my grandchildren.

One time I heard a man say, "I will tell you right now, every time one of my children moves out of the house, I change that bedroom into something else so that he or she can never come back."

I thought, "You do not feel the same way about your children that I do about mine." I love being with my children. The Bible says in Psalm 127:3, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

The Word of God challenges men to be godly fathers. Will you be a godly father for your children? Every father and his children will be at the judgment

seat of Christ. I want you to think about that. Someone once said, "What shall it profit a father if he should gain the whole world and lose his own children?" This is serious.

### **Being a Spiritual Leader in the Home**

I remember years ago, a dear brother said, "One of the most solemn things is going to be when parents get to the Judgment and the God of Heaven and earth says: 'Where are your children? Why have you not brought your children?'" That is a serious, sobering thought. Now, in light of that, children do make choices. You cannot choose salvation for them, but the Bible does say to bring them up in the fear and the admonition of the Lord. If you fail to do that, what is it going to be on Judgment morning when God says: "Where are your children? Why have you not brought your children?" The Marines may be looking for a few good men, but God is looking for countless men. Many churches are characterized by having a lot of women and children who attend, but they lack the presence of men. The laborers are few, but the harvest is overwhelming.

Multitudes are in the valley of decision, but they have no one to lead them to Jesus Christ. There are few to show them the true way to salvation through both witness and Christian walk. In Matthew 9:37 Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

God needs more than just a few good men; He needs many, many good men. The best way to be a spiritual leader in your home is to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. Have you done that? Wise men acknowledge their need for God's help. I will be the first one to raise both of my hands and say, "I need God's help to be a

better husband and to be a better father to my children." Wisdom is honestly admitting that you cannot be the husband and the father that you need to be without God. I am telling you on the authority of God's Word, you cannot be the father and the husband that you really need to be without the help of God.

You need God's help guiding you, working in your home, and compensating for when you fail. Today fathers need to be like Joshua. Joshua trusted in God when others would not trust in Him. Joshua said in Joshua 24:15, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Why not be a father like that? You may not be able to do anything about what is going on next door or about what is happening in your family, but you can make a decision for you and your house. You can go on to serve the Lord. It is time for you, as a father and grandfather to realize the awesome responsibility that you have in molding your children's spiritual lives.

Father's Day is a day that you remember and give respect to your father. It is a day that you say, "Thank You, Lord, for a wonderful father." If your father is living, you need to tell him to his face or on the phone, "Thank you, Dad, for the way you raised me." As a father, you can also use this day to evaluate your fatherhood. Are you being the type of father that will be a spiritual benefit to your children? Some may say, "I am providing for them." The more important question is, Are you being the type of father that is pleasing to God? As fathers, let us work harder on our obligation to be good fathers to our children and to be good husbands. I believe every father can improve this year.

I am going to close with these words. A great battle is being fought, and the battle is over the

hearts and the destinies of our children. The devil is out to get your children and my children. The devil has every intention of taking every one of our children down. In this battle, Dad, you are

the point man for your family. You are the leader, the example, and the protector of your family. As a father, you should pray: "God, I want to be a better father this year than I have been before.

I ask You to help me. I cannot do this on my own."

(Compact Disc TR-1717)

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# Youth Corner

## A Letter From Daddy

There is a lump in my throat, because home will never be the same without your being here every day. It does give us something to look forward to, however. We shall look forward to every visit.

We are thrilled as you begin your expanding adventure with God, where your life will be given to following God's will in training for a lifetime of service in His kingdom. We have nothing but gratitude in our hearts because you enter these important and decisive years with God. How glad we are that you have chosen Him for life and eternity!

You are the oldest and first to leave home, so there will be a greater adjustment for me than for you. You know how sentimental I am. If I weep, you know they will not only be tears of sadness but also tears of joy that God gave you to live in our home.

How well I remember the day when God gave you to us. I will never forget how precious and tiny you were. Also, I remember the day we knelt in prayer and dedicated you to God months before you were born. It brought an even greater joy to our hearts when you gave your heart to God. Ours has been a continuing joy as we have watched your life blossom for God. Our hearts have been made glad as we have seen your deep love for the church. The happiest times we have spent together have been those times around the family altar at home and at church.

Thanks for the honesty and sincerity that are such sterling qualities in your life. At no time have we ever felt a rebellion against Truth, but instead we have observed an eagerness to hear it and to accept it into your life. For this reason, your convictions have enabled you to stand through some very trying hours.

As you embark on this journey of life, I would like to share with you some very simple things that life has taught me. One important truth is that we are debtors, both to God and to man, even as the Apostle Paul stated so many years ago. Never get the feeling that you have given more than you have received. Salvation is free, but it was purchased by Christ. The Word, which proclaims the

message of salvation, cost many people their lives.

Consider the price that has been paid for the church. The blood of Christ, the thousands of martyrs, and millions of devoted followers of the Cross have kept its message burning all these years. What tremendous contributions people have made! Living with the realization that we are debtors should cause us to live in the attitude of praise and gratitude.

Although the Apostle Paul went through the fires of adversity, he learned that the adversity need not crush you, but drive you toward the goal to victory. Let every trial through which you pass become an asset rather than a liability. Men and women who achieve success in any field are those who make triumphs out of trials and victory out of defeat.

Life has taught me to learn the disciplines of life. You must discipline yourself not to neglect prayer time, your study of God's Word, and your service to the church. Never neglect times of private devotion. You must discipline your time. You must also discipline your body. The body is filled with strong desires that can easily get out of control, and your passions can destroy like a fire. You must seek the Holy Spirit's guidance over the fires of passion. That will not only keep your own passions under control, but also will guide you to conduct yourself in such a way as not to tempt others in this respect.

Life has taught me to guard who my companions are. All of life's lessons cannot be learned in a textbook, though you should study them carefully. You should learn from history that sin does not pay. Compare the lives of those who really know God and those who do not, and you will see the difference. Also, do not believe everything you hear or read.

You need to learn from your mistakes and learn from the council of others. However, do not feel that experience is always the best teacher. Though her lessons are unforgettable, they are too costly in most cases. You should not want to learn by experience that alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are killers. You can learn that from the experiences of others.

You must learn to establish priorities, and base the premise of your priorities on whether it is *temporal* or *eternal*. Do not let temporal things crowd out eternal things. There will be constant bids for your time and your interests. Make sure that both things and people to whom you give your time are those that build your life, now and for eternity. You should give your life in a cause that will outlast life. To do this, you must give your life completely to the cause of

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# Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting

*Canby, Oregon*

July 9-15

FIRST SERVICE — MONDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

Two Services Daily  
10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



We Welcome Everyone



We extend a cordial invitation for you  
to come and worship the Lord with us!

**For reservations contact:**

*Pastor E. David Stegmeier*  
552 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Canby, OR

*Telephone: 503-266-9297*

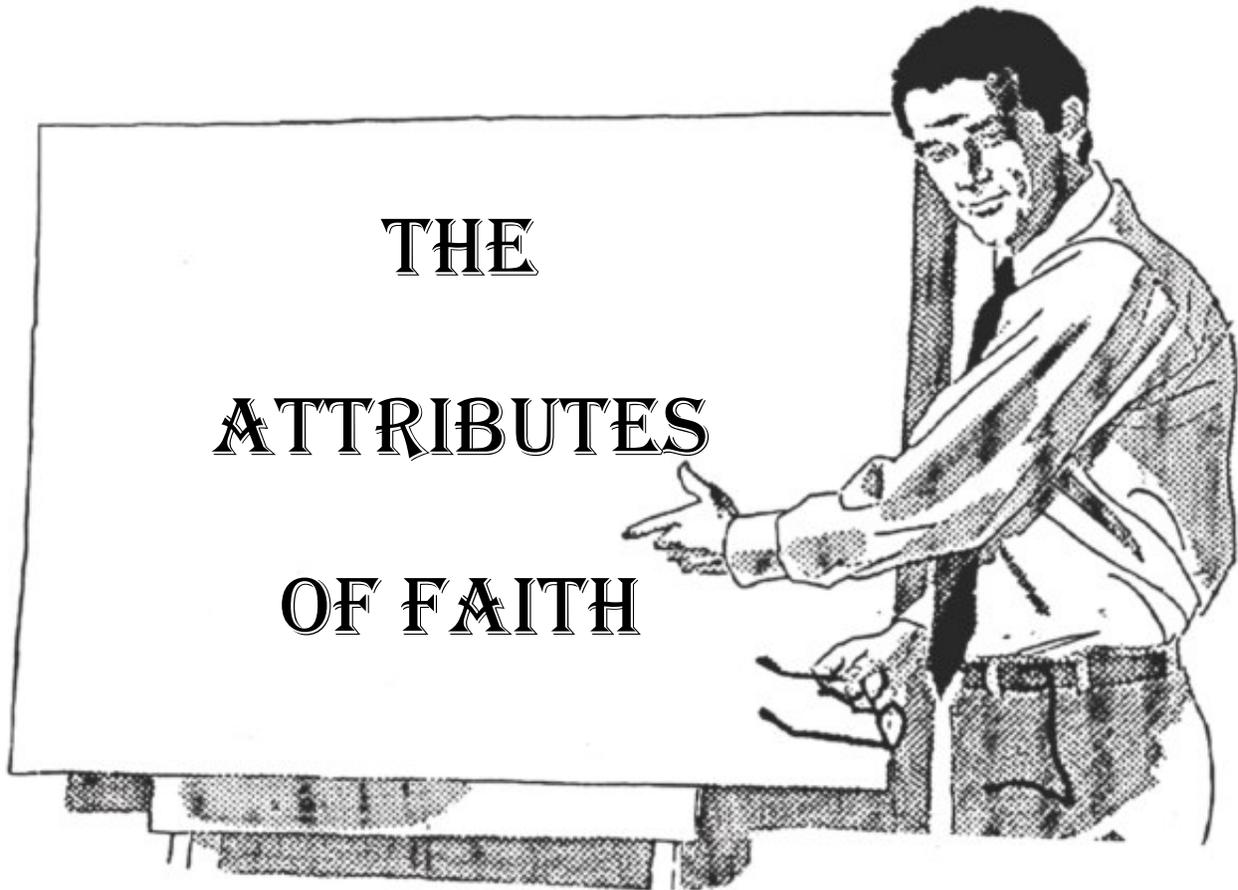
***(Please make reservations  
in advance, if possible)***



*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.*

*3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*



*Brother Joe Brewer*

### **The Gospel Is Timeless**

The Gospel is as powerful now as it was when it was penned; it has not lost any power. Holy men of God penned the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, and when it is rightly divided and delivered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, it still performs just as God intended it to perform. You should not accept a watered-down Gospel. I want only the straight, rightly divided, preached Word of God. My soul says amen to the will of God. Sometimes the preached Word rubs me a little, but when the preacher preaches that the next time, I will not be found in the

same place because I will have moved up.

When I mention the attributes of faith, I am speaking of the qualities or the traits that accompany our faith and give support to the well-being of faith. In our Scripture text, the writer was describing what faith is. Even when reading this or trying to share our faith with others, sometimes we struggle to give a proper description of what faith is, because faith is simply impossible to understand if you have a carnal mind. Those who have not placed their faith in God have a problem understanding how we can believe that certain things are going to come to pass with no

physical or scientific evidence to support the object of our faith.

The child of God has faith in God. He is looking for things that are unseen to come to pass. In order for people to understand faith with any clarity, at a minimum, they have to believe that God exists. Though they may not be saved, they have to believe there is a God to begin to get a glimpse of what faith is. Looking through the eyes of faith, the child of God believes that the world was framed by the Word of God. He believes that the stars were hung in the atmosphere by the Word of God, and they are there to declare His glory.

The Biblical elders obtained a

good report before God because they trusted Him to bring things that were not seen at that time into a state of reality. They were convinced in their hearts of the existence of unseen things. That is the reason we have the beautiful prophecies of the Church of the Living God. They saw them and knew they would come to pass and that the Spirit of God would dwell with His people. They knew they would make up the beautiful Kingdom of God, and they longed for that day to come. Thank God, these prophecies have been fulfilled, and the church is alive and well and vibrant.

You may say, "The church is dried up, and she is going down." No, you need to get some "eye salve." The church is moving forward. History and the Word of God are behind her, the Spirit of God is within her, and she is going forward, conquering and to conquer. She has not lost her power. If you are expecting something from God, you must have unwavering confidence in Him, just as the brethren of old did. You do not need to have physical or scientific evidence for what has happened or for what will happen. You have to believe God. Of course, nothing is going to happen if you are not in the will of God. Until you are walking in all the light that God has given you and walking in the center of God's will, your faith is void before God. You need something to help your faith. It is more than saying, "God, I believe You will do this or that."

### **How to Fight the Good Fight of Faith**

Let us consider the attributes, or the supporting traits, of faith. When faith is activated, you must know how to exercise it in the situations by which you are challenged. Sometimes you need to support your faith by fighting for

your faith. It is a real battle. In the military there are certain rules for the battlefield, and God has rules. You have to be sure that when you go into battle, God is with you, that you are in the center of His will, and that there is no other way. No true child of God wants to battle, but you have to battle the devil and his forces. You have to cast down imaginations and anything that would provoke God to wrath.

As a Christian, you have to learn how to fight the good fight of faith. First Samuel 17:1-11 reads: "Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Soco, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Soco and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

"And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

"And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your

servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid."

The Philistines had suffered a shameful defeat at the hands of Israel. What emboldened the enemy at that time was hearing that Samuel had forsaken King Saul because the king exalted himself and disobeyed the commandments of the Lord. If you exalt yourself, the Spirit of God will withdraw Himself from you.

By Samuel forsaking King Saul, it sent a strong signal to the Philistines that Saul was not considered fit for the business of running the kingdom, much less a battle of this magnitude. King Saul had utterly failed God, and God turned him over to his own ways. The enemies of God's people are always watchful. There is a payday for disobedience. Now, people can make errors, but they also have to correct those mistakes. The enemy will be there to take advantage of any weakness, especially if there is disobedience toward God.

We are exhorted repeatedly to be watchful so that the enemy does not take advantage in times of weakness or in times of temptation. God wants each of us to be watchful. That is the reason it is important to listen to the man of God when he stands and proclaims the Word of God. God is heralding out the warning to be watchful. Why? We are in a battle.

### **Standing Fast in the Faith**

Second Corinthians 2:9-11 tells us: "For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye

forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

I appreciate the light of God. He does not want you to be ignorant of the devices of the enemy. In 1 Corinthians 16:13 Paul wrote, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." Matthew 26:41 states, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." With these Scriptures in mind, let us survey the condition of old Israel. The giant Goliath was terrifying the Israelites with his stature, his magnificent armor, and his challenge against the best of Israel.

Out in the field was a lad named David. He followed his father's orders by taking provisions to feed his brethren who were in the battle. When David heard this giant's challenge, it upset him that the armies of God were allowing this enemy to bully them.

I hate the devil bullying God's people, trying to get them to back away from the promises of God and trying to weaken their faith. The devil is a bully. Do you know the best thing to do to him? Let him know that you are standing on the Rock, and he will back away. The Bible says in James 4:7b, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Sometimes there is too little resistance.

When David heard Goliath defying the armies of the Living God, this provoked him to fight for his God and for his faith. Today we are not out to fight people, but rather we are fighting spirits. Some of them swell up really huge and look almost impossible to overcome, but you must look beyond that old bully and see Christ standing tall with power to subdue the enemy. Christ is above it all.

Many of those soldiers in Saul's army had great knowledge of God. They had been strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, but Goliath caused them to fear, tremble, and quake. Even the most resolute warriors could not find the heart to fight for their faith in God. They faithfully served at one time. That was a pitiful condition.

Will you fight for your faith? Will you fight for the God that you serve? Jude wrote in verse 3 of his short and very powerful epistle, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith [Jude was talking about the faith that God gives the Christian. I urge you to contend for that faith and to fight for it. You must stand against the devil. He is trying to devour your children. In the public schools, some are trying to make them think they should become homosexuals or lesbians.] which was once delivered unto the saints."

### **Having Confidence in God**

First Samuel, Chapter 17, shows that David did not allow the mocking that he endured at the hands of his brethren to discourage or dissuade him from obeying the Spirit of the Lord. If you see people in a battle, you should encourage them. As the story progresses, we find that David was brought before King Saul. David reiterated that he was confident that God would give him victory over Goliath, just as He gave him victory over the beasts of the field. David was a lad, but he had a heart for God from his youth up.

Perhaps the lion and the bear had killed strong and highly-skilled hunters, but David knew that God had given him the victory. When praise goes up to

God, victory is coming. David was confident that God would do the same with the bully Goliath. King Saul tried to persuade David to put on his armor because it was crafted from the very best materials available to Israel at that time, but David refused to fight with King Saul's weapons because he had not proven them.

I believe David understood the well-worn and tried principle found in 2 Corinthians 10:1-6, which states: "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh [the worst mistake that you can make is to think that the child of God walks according to the flesh]."

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." You need to make sure that you are clear with God.

David took his staff in his hand and chose five little stones from the brook. He slipped them into his shepherd's bag, and then he proceeded to take the armies of Israel on to a great victory. It was not just a victory for David that he was after. David did not want a victory to say, "I am David the giant slayer." He wanted the whole army of Israel to have victory.

In Matthew, Chapter 14, you

can read that Jesus came walking on the water, and in essence, Peter said, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water." Jesus said, "Come." Peter stepped over the side of the boat and began to walk on the water. That was a wonderful miracle! As Peter was walking on the water, the waves became rough, and Peter cried, "Lord, save me." Where did Jesus take him? He took him right back to the boat. That is where the rest of the disciples were. When they got back in the boat, the wind ceased. Jesus wanted them all to have peace. We all are in a battle, so we must stay with the body of Christ. When you have Christ in the boat with the body, there is peace.

David fought for his faith because he wanted to obtain victory that everyone could rejoice in and praise God for. Some people give up too quickly in this day when there are so many distractions that the devil has put in the way. They refuse to fight and deny their flesh. You might have thought the battle was somewhere else. No, you are fighting your own flesh. Its ideas, its thinking, and its carnal ways are contrary to God's ways.

David knew this principle well. He said in 1 Samuel 17:47, "And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands." God will put the victory right in your hands if you have faith in Him. If you have unwavering faith, if you can see it happening and say, "Lord, I do not have the victory that I want to have, but I am striving for it," God will eventually put that victory right into your hands to the glory of God.

### **Learn When to Flee**

We need other attributes of faith. There are battles, but it is not all fighting. What about when

we are not to fight, spiritually speaking? What do we do then? Sometimes we have to learn how to flee. Do you remember Joseph? He ran away from a situation. David did the same thing when his son Absalom came against him. Second Samuel 15:1-5 says: "And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

"And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

"Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! [Sometimes you need to tell people to talk to their pastor. That keeps you free from the spirits that you are reading about here. You need to keep your hands off some things, and it will save you a lot of trouble.] And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him."

What was Absalom doing? He was undermining his own father. What did Jesus say? He said that your problems are going to come from your own household. Have you found that to be so? David had a part in this, and I do not take that away. David had failed God, and that failure cost him untold heartache. This insurrection by Absalom is a part of that heartache. When God pronounced judgment on David, the judgment stood for the rest of his days. Because of David's sin, God, through the Prophet Na-

than, told David, "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house" (2 Samuel 12:10).

Absalom had risen against his own father. Absalom was willing to kill David so he could rule on the throne of the kingdom. One of Absalom's problems was that he was always ready to exalt himself. Friend, this is a danger. Matthew 23:12 reads, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Jesus warned concerning those who would exalt themselves because the spirit that promotes such an idea is pride. Absalom had a spirit of pride about him, and he was exalting himself into a position that he had no business being in.

### **Be Careful of Pride**

Jesus spoke to His disciples, knowing that they were exposed to the teachings of the scribes and the Pharisees, who were very religious, but they were full of themselves. They were taught in the Word, and they demanded respect, all the while missing the lesson. What is the lesson? If you are taught in the Word, you will show respect to others that God has prepared to teach you. If you want respect, you have to respect those whom God has placed in a position to teach you the Word of God.

Pride drove the religious elders of Christ's day and of our day as well. It reaches a sinful level, and it pulls down the very judgments of God upon the heads of people who are full of themselves and prideful. Absalom had this happen to him. He was proud of himself in every way. He was proud of his physical appearance. Young men, young ladies, when you mature, be careful of pride and continue to be modest. Absalom was also proud of his wealth and his posi-

tion in the kingdom of Israel. Do you know what his problem was? He was too proud. Proverbs 16:18 tells us, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Pride causes people to think too highly of themselves, and it has a root system that weaves into the heart, causing undue confidence in one's own skills, accomplishments, possessions, and position in life. The end result is, it affects a person's spiritual being in a negative way. God hates pride, and you need to flee from it. The problem is that pride is easier to recognize and define when it is seen in others rather than yourself. The things that coexist in the heart filled with pride are arrogance and presumption, and it causes one to seek self-satisfaction, to be boastful, and to be high-minded.

Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, said that men would be lovers of themselves, proud, boasters, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, traitors, heady, and high-minded. These things are the opposite of what God wants for His children, and that is humility.

Absalom had been given the very best, and he lost his respect for his father and mother. I want you to think about that. Why is it necessary to think about that? He was far removed from living a simple life. That is the reason the Scriptures say he sent chariots and runners before him to proclaim his approach. He wanted to take over the throne of Jerusalem. It seems that generation after generation falls into the same mindset, thinking that if they work hard and get nice things for their children, they will become appreciative, but we have to gauge our actions by the Word of God. That does not mean it is wrong to give nice gifts to your children, but it means that we have to keep a check on the atti-

tude that they are adopting. For example, a child may think, "I am owed this." We have a world of young people that feel they are owed everything. In reality, they are not owed anything.

If you want to give your children something nice, give them the Word of God. Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." He may not be saved, but he will not depart from the training. This is one of the greatest things that you can give your children. If this training is properly administered, it will save you some of the heartaches that King David experienced. It may be a good thing to let your potential "Absalom" learn to wipe the sweat off his brow and earn the things he wants.

There is much evidence today that shows that when prosperity abounds, then devotion to parents and devotion to God diminishes. If you follow the story of Absalom's life, you will discover that he had a lot of the world's goods laid at his feet, but after forty years of planning and conspiring for the throne, the monster of greed and self-indulgence left him hanging in a tree, accursed of God. You need to make sure that appreciativeness does not diminish when you do things for your children.

### **Trusting God With the Outcome**

Again, there is a time to fight and a time to flee. What else do you have to do? What if you cannot fight? What if you cannot flee? Second Kings 6:8-23 tells of a prophet named Elisha. If it is not a time to fight or a time to flee, you can follow Elisha's example. God may be presenting you with an opportunity to trust Him with the outcome.

The Syrian army was at war with Israel. The king of Syria

would have council meetings with his officers and decide where they were going to camp to fight Israel. However, by the time they got to the place where they were going to attack, Israel had moved and was gone. The king of Syria thought that someone was conspiring against him. In essence, the king's servants said: "No, there is a prophet named Elisha in Israel, and God tells him what you are saying in your bedchamber." Well, that really stirred the king. No doubt, he thought, "Well, I know what I will do."

Now, Elisha was staying in Dothan, which was a small parcel of ground. Elisha's servant rose up early one day and was walking around when he saw that the Syrian army had surrounded the city. His servant, in essence, said: "Alas, my master! What are we going to do?" Elisha said, "Settle down, son, and fear not." Then Elisha said, "Lord, open his eyes and let him see."

The servant thought that he and Elisha were in dire danger, but Elisha knew that God had his back, so to speak. If He wanted to, all God would have had to do was send him out the back door while the king tried to enter the front door. Elisha did not care how many soldiers in the king's army were out there. He was going to trust God. We have to learn how to trust God for the outcome.

Elisha knew that one man and God is always a majority. Elisha was not prepared to fight, and he was not preparing to flee. Yet, his heart was not sinking in despair, because his faith in God outshined the bright morning sun that was dancing off the armor of the enemy. As Elisha saw the sunlight dancing off their armor, he was thinking, "What a mighty God I am serving to make a light show for me while I am coming out here in the name of the Lord." The mountain

was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

### **Forgive and Forget**

The next attribute that you need to keep your faith working well is this: you are going to have to learn to forgive and forget. There are times when you have to forgive and forget and leave people with God. This helps your faith that you have in God because you have been forgiven. Jesus said if you cannot forgive others, you cannot be forgiven. You may say, "But you do not know what that person did to me or said to me." I do not have to know, but God already knows.

I thought of the short epistle that the Apostle Paul wrote to Philemon. Paul wrote about a slave called Onesimus and asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus, although he had left his master Philemon. Paul led Onesimus to the Lord, and he told Philemon that he was not sending him back as a slave, but as a brother.

You have to learn that sometimes it is better to forgive and forget and move on. God will bless you for it. The prodigal son is another good example of how to forgive and forget.

### **Saying Farewell With Dignity**

The final attribute is, there is a time to say farewell. In 2 Timothy 4:1-8 the Apostle Paul gives his final farewell: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their

ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Each of us is going to say farewell one day. The great Apostle Paul was getting ready to depart from this life, and he was giving his final testimony to the young men of God that would be left behind. Do you know what touches my heart? When I see the young brethren stand up and preach. Paul was leaving this world, and in essence, he said, "Timothy, I am charging you to preach the Word."

The Apostle Paul knew that the gates of hell could not prevail against the church, and he wanted to encourage those who would be left behind to hold fast to their faith in Christ Jesus. At this point, the Apostle Paul had suffered the loss of all things. He had thrown away his influential positions and prospects. He told of his credentials. He had exposed himself to sorrows and toils, making himself a poor,

solitary man who had been hunted as an animal. He had been despised, laughed at, and badgered by his fellow Jews and the Gentiles. He was loved less by those to whom he had shown the greatest of love.

Paul testified as a prisoner awaiting the executioner. With Nero on the throne Paul sat in that damp, cold dungeon awaiting execution. Was he in despair? No, he would not allow his horizons to be darkened by the decaying flesh of others who had made shipwreck of their faith. He would not let his vision be dimmed by Demas and others who had become shipwrecked. His faith was stronger at that time than ever before, and his heart was on sharing his precious faith with others.

Paul saw his moment of victory coming. He wanted to receive his reward and gain the final victory, so he let his final, triumphant call go out to young Timothy. To summarize, Paul was saying to Timothy: preach the Word, know when to fight, know when to flee, know when to forgive and forget, and know how to say farewell with dignity. Before Paul went home to his final reward, he said, "I fought a good fight." He finished his course with joy. When it comes time for you to say farewell, will you be able to say, "I have fought a good fight, and I have finished my course"?

*(Compact Disc TR-1979)*

**Study the Bible to be wise;  
believe it to be safe;  
practice it to be holy.**

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Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of the sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of

the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto

thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?



# AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

*Brother Calvin Foster*

## **Guard Against Cold-Heartedness**

I would like you to notice that Cain said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" This is the cold-hearted question that Cain asked after killing his own brother. When God asked him where his brother was, he lied to God and said, "I know not." I want to seek to answer that question.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 14:12-13: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man

put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." I do not want to put anything in my brother's way or sister's way to cause him or her to fall.

Verse 21 says, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." In other words, the Apostle Paul was teaching us to consider one another. By the help of God, we need to be careful and guard our hearts from cold-heartedness and the strife that we are seeing in the world today. Cain asked the cold-hearted question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The answer is, yes, you are your brother's keeper.

Christ cares about each of us. In John 10:11-15 the Lord Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the

Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

The Lord loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. He cares for His sheep. In Luke 10:30-33 Jesus told this story: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him."

The Samaritan was a man who cared and had compassion on a stranger. In this same story, in verse 29, Jesus talked to a man who asked the question, "And who is my neighbour?" Basically, Jesus was telling the man, "We all are neighbors." We should want to be our brother's and sister's keeper.

In Philippians 2:19-21 the Apostle Paul, speaking of the young minister Timothy, said: "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."

Paul said he would send young Timothy there because he would naturally care for their state. Timothy was a young man who had a heart for God, and he loved people and the people of God. It would not be a burden on him. Paul knew that Timothy would be zealous and enthusiastic about it because he loved souls. God puts a love for the souls of men in the Christian's heart. Paul also said the rest of them were seeking their own; in other words,

they were selfish. They were only thinking about themselves and not the things that concerned the church or the Lord Jesus Christ. The church is the bride of Christ. The Bible teaches that the church cares for one another.

In 1 Corinthians 12:21 Paul said, "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." To me, the most precious people in the whole world are my Christian brothers and sisters. We need one another just as the members of the physical body need one another. For example, even though you may not pay much attention to your baby toe, you want to keep it because it is a member of your body, and God put it there, so it must be important. Paul went on to say in verse 26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

### Showing Compassion

Your words should be from the heart. You should not say that you care when you really do not. Let us speak from the heart and let us be true. One brother used to say, "A lot of people are like a giraffe: its mouth is a long way from its heart." That is the way some individuals are.

As a chaplain at my local hospital where I live, I have noticed that we are seeing a lot of people with mental illnesses. Mental illness covers a wide range of conditions that affect a person's mood, his thinking, and his behavior. His condition may affect his ability to relate to others and his ability to function on a daily basis. Perhaps you have experienced it in your own family. This is something that is in society, so we have to deal with it. We are our brother's keeper.

Dealing with people on a daily basis, we see some with Alzhei-

mer's disease. It is also called senility or dementia. It is a progressive disease that destroys memory and other important mental functions. The death of brain cells causes memory loss and difficulties with language and emotions. The progressive loss of intellectual abilities is termed dementia. I have witnessed it.

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder that generally appears in late adolescence or early adulthood. However, it can emerge at any time in life. It is one of the many brain disorders that includes delusions, loss of personality, confusion, social withdrawal, and bizarre behaviors. Some people with this disorder hear voices. Someone in this condition may believe that people are reading his mind or plotting to harm him.

Another mental condition is hypochondria, which is an abnormal worry about one's health or a physical defect that may be minor or imaginary. A hypochondriac is in a constant state of depression about his imagined poor health, and all his thoughts center upon it. He might have a little indigestion and think he is having a heart attack. Being a pastor may look easy, but a pastor has to deal with all kinds of people and all kinds of situations.

First Samuel 21:10-15 says: "And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath [they recognized David as the king and the one who killed Goliath].

"And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon

his beard. [David scribbled on the door and started slobbering on his beard. He was pretending to be mad because his life was at stake. They recognized who he was.] Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?"

If you see a person with a problem or a mental illness, are you going to talk the way this man did? Are you going to say, "I don't have time for people like this"? You may think: "Am I going to let such a person into my house? No way! He is not coming in my house. Get him out of here!" This is the attitude that some people have today. They say: "I don't have time for anyone else's problems or sicknesses. I don't have time to help anyone else." Life is only about themselves. Such a person may say: "I don't want anything to do with him. Put him in a nursing home or send him to my brother or sister. I don't have time for him."

In Deuteronomy 28:28 you can see that the Lord had curses that He said He would put on people for disobedience. "The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart." We need to think about these things. I have been very close to these very things. God is not willing that any should perish, but He desires that all should come to repentance. We do not recommend waiting until you get on your deathbed to try to get saved. Although the thief on the cross made it in, you need to come to the Lord while you are young and in your right mind.

### **Are You There for Others?**

Some preachers tell people that everyone is going to Heaven, but in reality, many people die

and go to hell. 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, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." You must seek the Lord while He may be found.

If God is speaking to you, you ought to listen to Him and give your life up to Him. Am I my brother's keeper? I thank God for all the caregivers. It saddens my heart to see how some children treat their parents these days. The Bible says to honor your father and your mother. The fifth commandment in Exodus 20:12 states, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

Honoring a person means that you treat a person with respect, reverence, kindness, and courtesy. For young children and teenagers, that means you ought to obey your parents and show respect. Sometimes teenagers think they know more than their mother and father, especially when they get a cell phone, but God said to honor your mother and your father. For adults, this means including your parents in your life. For those who are middle-aged and older, it means making sure your parents are cared for as they get older.

Are you just going to leave your parents alone when they are getting older and their health begins to fail? No matter how old you are, you should routinely check on your mother and your father. They may need you to take them to the doctor or to help them get out of bed or to make them breakfast. Honoring your parents has no age limit, because most parents have done more for you than you can remember. Ephesians 6:1-3 says: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and

mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." You need strength to carry out this mission. You do not know when you might have to do it.

Your strength is from the Lord. Psalm 27:1-2 says: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell."

Galatians 6:10 says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." God has not forgotten your labor of love that you have shown toward His name, saint of God. When a saint is sick and the saints are there by the bedside, for hours and hours, rotating and praying and helping out in every way they can, God sees that and will remember that, especially when they do it for those of the household of faith. You should never want to get Cain's spirit: "Cain, where is your brother?"

"I don't know, am I my brother's keeper?"

We are going to be tested on this, brother and sister, because life is going to take its natural course. Even though you may feel good now, you are going to be sick one day. Oh, yes, you are. You are sowing now, but there is going to come a day when you reap what you sow. You see, God sees how you treat your mother, your father, your sister, and your brother. God sees how you treat people in general. You are going to reap what you sow. What goes around comes around. You are going to die one day, and you are going to face God. If you are not saved, I hope that you do not face Him today. I hope you get saved before you die. Some older saints walk slow and cannot get up the

steps as fast as they used to. Some have arthritis or other health issues. Someday you might need to have someone hold your hand and lead you to the restroom. Are you your brother's keeper?

### Only One Life

The sinner may ask: "Why is my life so full of trouble? Why does everything I do fail?" The answer is found in Proverbs 13:15, which reads, "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard." You might be smiling, trying to fool someone, but the way of the transgressor is hard. Now, we know that it rains on the just and the unjust, but serving God is much better and more peaceful than the way of a transgressor. Only Jesus can satisfy the soul of a man. You are chasing empty pleasures, but those empty pleasures will never satisfy your soul. You will be chasing them until you die.

A woman may say, "I don't want to get saved because I want to have a boyfriend." A man may say, "I don't want to get saved because I want to have a girlfriend." The Bible says in Proverbs 31:30, "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that

feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." Are you going to let your boyfriend or your girlfriend cause you to go to hell?

Jesus preached in Mark 8:34-37: "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. [I thank God that I found life when I gave myself up to Jesus Christ. I found everything that I was looking for. I found joy, peace, and happiness.] For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

You have only one life and one soul. If you miss it, you are going to be sorry for all eternity. The Bible says there is going to be weeping and gnashing of teeth in hell. Those who end up there are going to be biting down hard on their teeth and saying, "I missed it! The choice was right there before me. The saints rejoiced in Jesus and salvation was right there, and now I'm in hell. Oh,

Momma, Oh, Daddy, I'm in hell! Why didn't I listen? Please, bring me some water, just a little water off your finger." You cannot get it, because it will be too late.

I want you to think about it, young person, middle-aged person, senior citizen. You are on your way to the Judgment. Proverbs 30:7-9 states: "Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches: feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." What a beautiful prayer! If you are saved, you need to stay with the Lord.

Solomon concluded in Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Are you your brother's keeper? The answer is, yes you are. God will give you the strength to step up to the plate for your brothers and sisters and your loved ones by His grace.

*(Compact Disc TR-1946)*

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#### *[Youth Corner—continued from page 14]*

God, because this is the only thing that will outlast life. God has many areas of service open whereby you can serve in the cause of God. The doors of opportunity are wide open in the fields of serving, whether it is to teach, to preach, or to minister in a hundred other ways. To fill these places of service, God is looking for those who are seeking to do His will; then, in finding God's will, commit to follow His leading in the giving of your life in the pursuit of these goals. The most important thing to have as your goal is God's will and to give your life in pursuit of that goal. Paul said in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark of the prize of

the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." There can never be a higher calling than that which comes from God. You ought to make His call your main objective. "Set your affections on things above, and not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

Our hearts overflow with gratitude when we consider the fact that you are a Christian, preparing for a lifetime of Christian service. What more could a parent expect? Be assured of our love and prayers.

I love you very much,  
Daddy

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*"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth . . ." (Ecclesiastes 12:1).*

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# Spring Camp Meeting June 17-24

*We welcome you to attend our  
old-fashioned camp meeting at  
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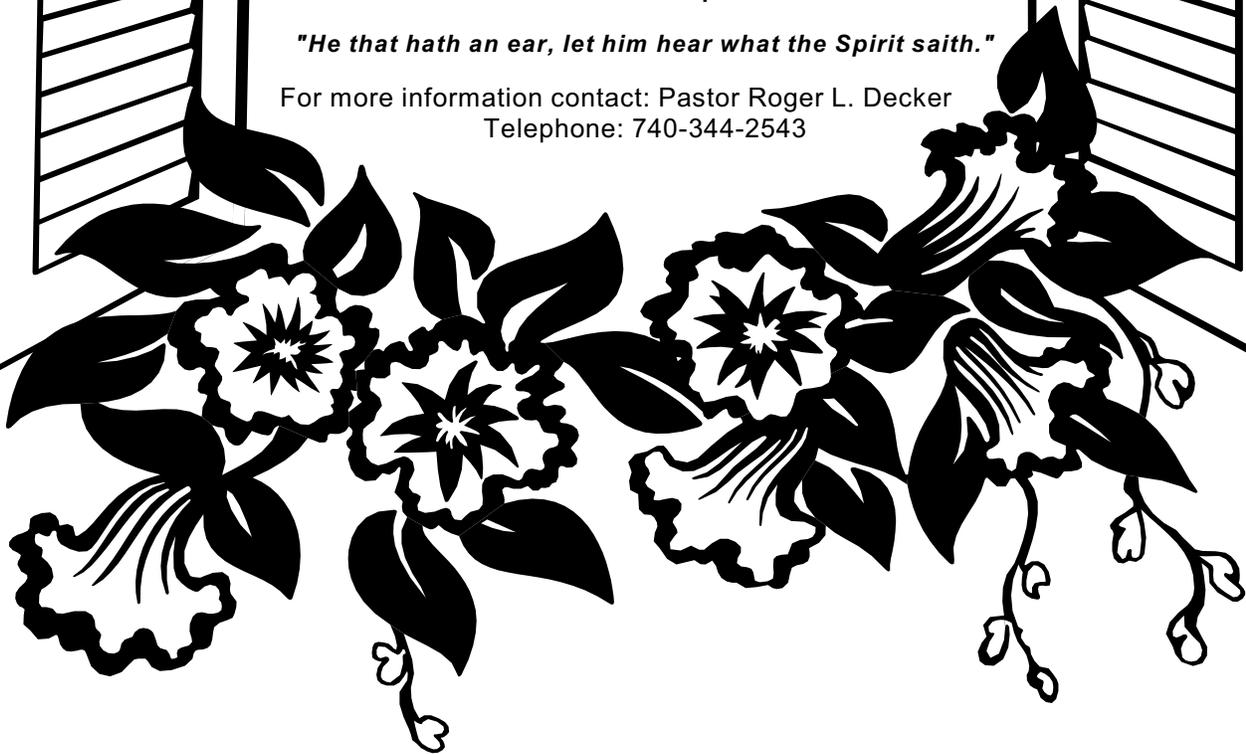
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