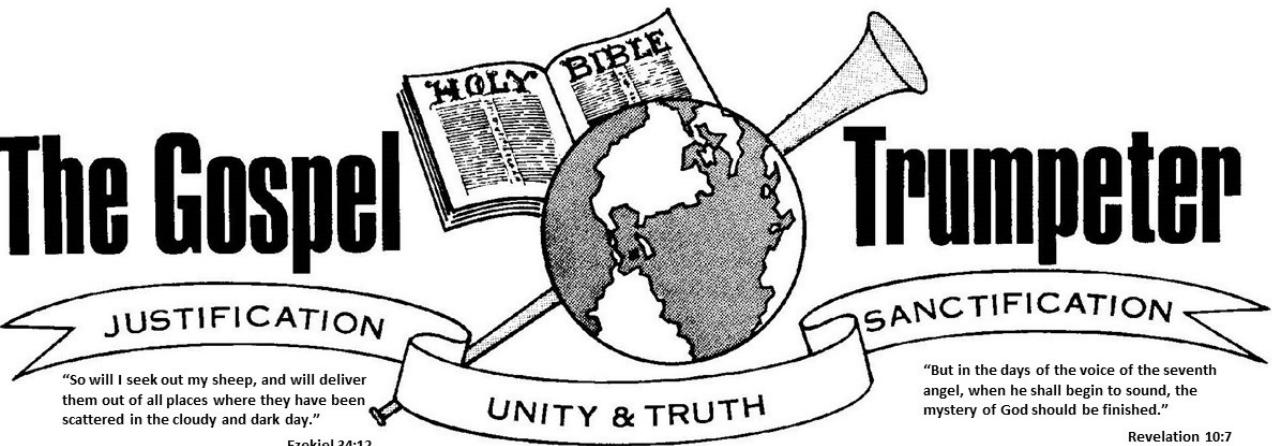


The Gospel Trumpeter



"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."

Ezekiel 34:12
Jeremiah 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."

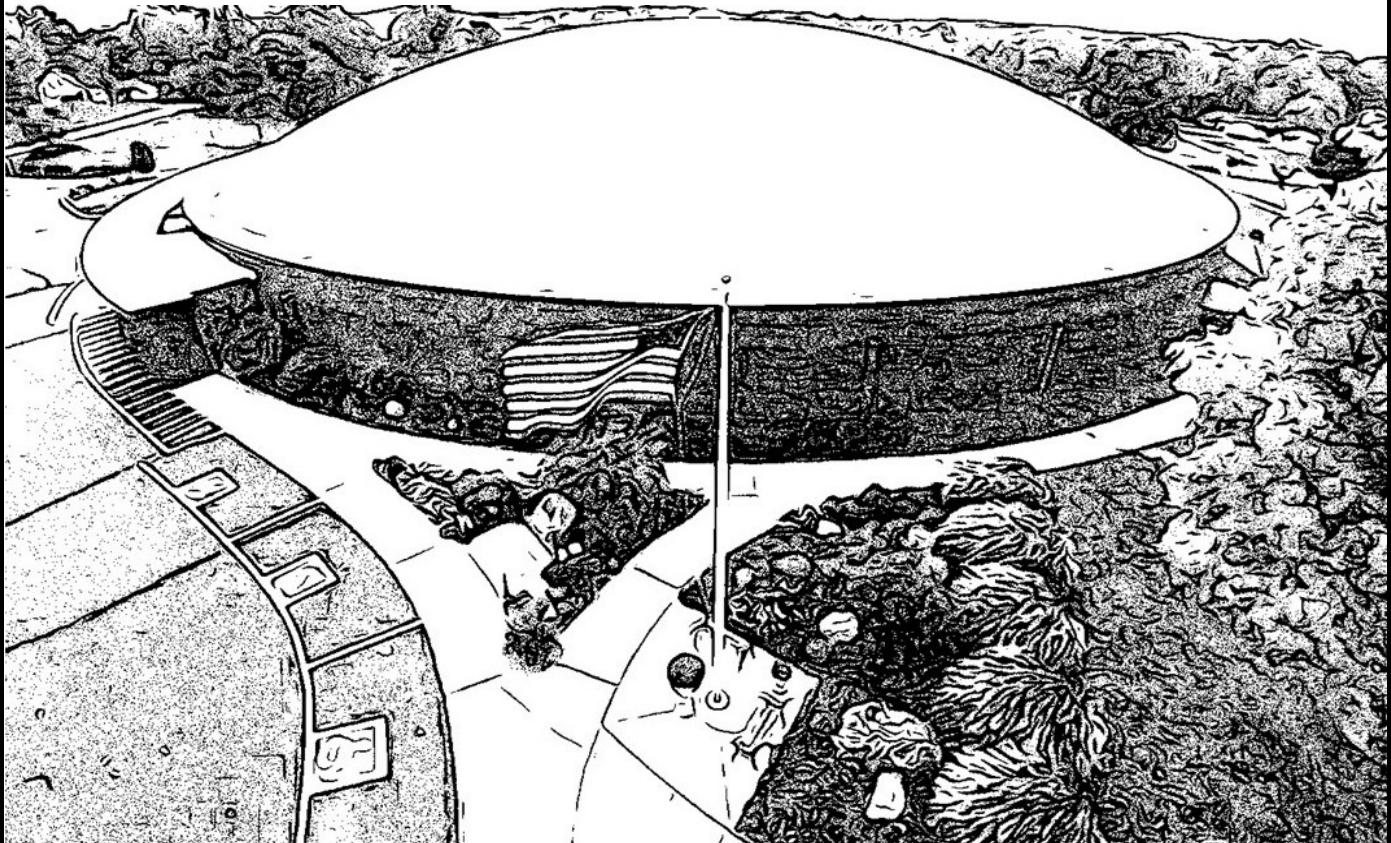
Revelation 10:7
Matthew 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 52 August 2022 No. 8

**“Ye that stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God,
Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing
praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.”**

Psalm 135:2-3



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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER

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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 Timothy 3:16-17)
Salvation from sin (Matthew 1:21)
The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
Unity of God's people (John 17:21; Ephesians 4:3)
Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
The ordinances (Matthew 28:19-20; John 13:1-17;
1 Corinthians 11:23-34)
Eternal life (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43)
The Trinity (1 John 5:7-8)

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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

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Spring 2022 Camp Meeting Report



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL TIME WE HAD

What a beautiful sight to behold the saints of God gathered in for the June camp meeting. It reminded me of the song "God's Wonderful People." The chorus says: *"I love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people. Love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people. What a sight just to see all the happy faces, praising God in heavenly places. What a thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people."* One verse says: *"Oh, what joy His love affords, when we meet in one accord, And we lift our hearts in praise unto the Lord. There's no place I'd rather be than with the ones who've been set free. I'm so glad I'm in God's great big family."*

What a precious time it was to be in fellowship with God and those who are redeemed of the Lord! This beautiful setting began Sunday morning on Father's Day, June 19, 2022. Brother Roger Decker, pastor of the Church of God, God's Acres, greeted the saints as they came to feast on God's Word. He encouraged us to pull up to the table and partake of the heavenly manna that came down from above.

The dear saints who love the Lord greeted each other in fellowship. We shared experiences and burdens since our last meeting together. Camp meeting is a good time to get away from the worldly atmosphere and have our spirits renewed. There is nothing like being together with God's wonderful people. We witnessed many spectacular things as the Spirit of God moved and worked.

The Lord's ministering servants brought forth refreshing truths from the Word of God. Messages were sent from God to prune us and cause us to grow and mature. The anointed preaching of the Gospel leads to a deeper relationship and usefulness to the Lord. Many

of the sermons reminded us of things we already knew but needed to hear again. The old paths were exposed again. Some messages revealed greater insight into the time we live in.

The simplicity of the Gospel was sounded in such a way it brought conviction to lost souls. Soul-stirring messages brought an awakening to wayfaring ones. We are happy to report God's convicting power brought back some who were backslidden or walking afar off. The Lord moved in every service. We witnessed a healthy moving of souls to the altar of prayer. Several were reclaimed who had been away from the Lord for a long while. It was certainly a beautiful sight to see ones who were lost return in old-time repentance, seeking forgiveness.

In addition to the outstanding preaching, we want to compliment those who sang. The adult choir and the youth choir were excellent. As they sang the praises of God, many saints were on their feet, lifting their hands and praising God in adoration for His wonderful goodness. The special groups sang beautifully, offering much praise to the Lord. On Thursday and Sunday evenings, the Holy Ghost made a special visit to the service. As the singing went forth, souls began moving to the altar for prayer. Needy souls came weeping and seeking help from the Lord. What a beautiful sight to see dear ones find their way back home to God. This was certainly a tremendous camp meeting! It was a great blessing to sit in heavenly places and drink in the goodness of God.

For more information concerning ordering the messages and songs recordings, see page 27. We hope to see you at God's Acres in Newark for the fall camp meeting.

Selected

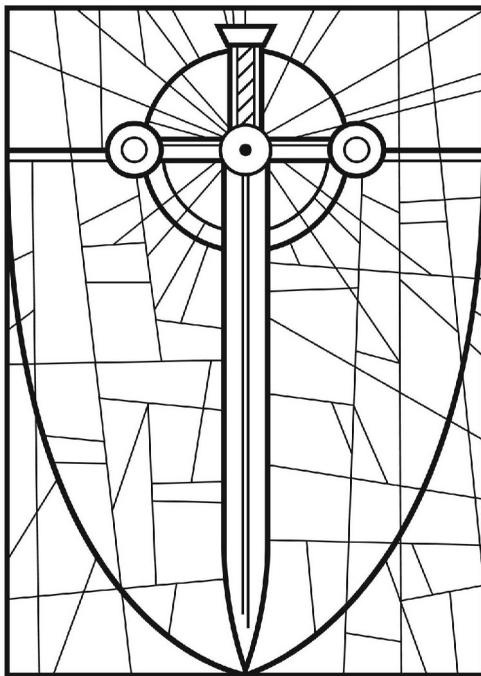
Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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.



The Struggle for the Faith

Brother Roger L. Decker

The Spiritual Battle

We are in a spiritual battle over the faith. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The *Amplified Bible* reads, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places."

The struggle is over the faith. Jude said in verse 3, "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 which was once delivered unto the saints." *Contend* means to "labor fervently; to fight or compete for a prize."

The Apostle Paul, at the closing of his life, said in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Paul told us he did not fight carnally, but mightily through God. In 1 Corinthians 15:32 he said, "If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die." He did not fight in the ring as a gladiator, and he did not carry a physical sword. This Scripture is talking about men who are as savage in their spirits as wild beasts.

Christians must be fighters, not carnally with fists, but with a spiritual backbone to stand up and have faith that will not quit.

There is an all-out attack on the saints of God. If you do not have what it takes to finish the course, then you need to get it because the enemy will not leave you alone. The big reason many throw in the towel, so to speak, is because they do not want the hassle of being a Christian.

When you become a Christian, everything will not run smoothly. The battle is not over, but you are now in a position to fight. The real fight happens when you change sides, when you leave one kingdom and are translated into the Kingdom of God. When you get saved, you have a real fight on your hands. The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 1:13, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness [darkness has great power], and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Otherwise, he is saying God rescued us

from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

"Quit Yourselves Like Men"

We need a faith that will not quit. It burdens me when I see people pray at an altar, but there is no change. It also burdens me to see someone pray at an altar, but only last one or two weeks. Some will do well for a whole month, but something always comes along to trip them up. They cower down as the children of Israel did when the spies came back with their evil report, saying, "Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 16:3). Even Joshua, when he was beaten at Ai, said in Joshua 7:7, "Would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!" As a Christian, you need to get a spiritual backbone. Things are coming your way that you will not expect. The enemy is going to work suddenly and without warning. You need to keep your faith in Almighty God.

First Samuel, Chapter 4, starts with a raging battle between Israel of old and the Philistines. The elders of Israel had gotten whipped, so they sent for the Ark of the Covenant, which was in Shiloh. When the Ark was brought back into the camp, there was shouting. Verse 5 says, "The earth rang again." There were shouts of victory, and they thought they could not lose the battle now.

The Ark of the Covenant was back in the camp, and the Israelites shouted and praised God. When the Philistines heard the shouting, they questioned in verse 6, "What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews?" Then they understood the Ark of the Lord was back in the camp, and the Philistines were afraid. They said: "God is come into the camp. . . .

Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore" (1 Samuel 4:7). They took it for granted, as the Israelites did, that God's presence was inseparable from His Ark, or from His shrine.

Fear came to the Philistines. They assumed their fight would be with God Himself. They knew no one could whip God. They were afraid as they went out to battle, so their leader encouraged them to fight hard and not give up. We read his words in 1 Samuel 4:9, "Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight." He said, "Quit yourselves like men," which means a real man is known for the fact he does not quit. They were ready to give all they had, and the motivator was in the middle of the camp of Israel.

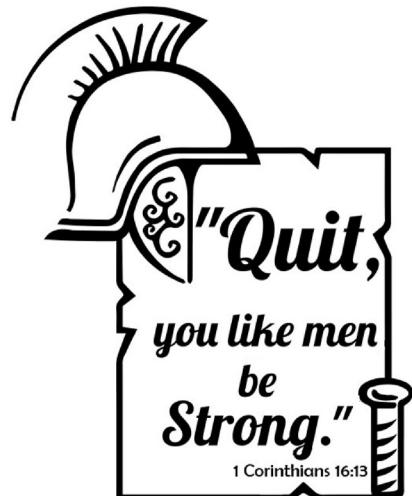
The Need for Determination

When Joshua crossed over the Jordan River, the priests and the Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant. When Israel went up against the walled city of Jericho, they carried the Ark of the Covenant as they marched seven times around it. When Israel was wholeheartedly following the commandments of the Lord, the Ark of the Covenant signified the presence of God was in the camp, and the enemies had better leave them alone.

The Philistines thought they would be beaten, yet they wanted to go down fighting as men. Their leader said do not be "servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight" (1 Samuel 4:9). Remember this, child of God, you do not just give up and turn away. The Philistines did not want to be servants to the Israelites. They knew if they lost, they would become captives. The same is true with us. If we quit

serving God, we become a servant to the devil.

Friend, you will never see the inside of Heaven if you do not serve God. You not only need to be born again to serve God, but you must stay with God. Many people start, then they struggle. You are going to have problems. When you get saved, God does not come and take all your problems away. He delivers you out of sin, but you have to plant good seed in the ground and allow the good seed time to develop a harvest. The good seed does not come up the day you are saved. Keep planting the good seed, and then the harvest will come.



There was no way the Philistines wanted to become servants of Israel. We need the same determination that we do not want to be enslaved by the devil. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." Be alert, stand firm in the faith, and act the way a man should act. There are examples of men and women who would not quit or even entertain the thought of giving up. When some people struggle, quitting is the first thought that comes to their minds. You need to get the thought of giving up out of your mind. Keep your faith in Jesus Christ. He will deliver.

Faith That Will Not Quit

Do not give up praying for your lost loved ones. After a while, if you see nothing happen, it is very tempting to stop praying. You do not always know what is going on in that individual's life, and you do not always know how God is dealing with them. Even though there are no outward signs, that does not mean God is not talking to their heart. Do not doubt God just because you do not get an immediate answer. The Lord could be working something that is not yet visible to you.

In Matthew, Chapter 26, we have a picture of Jesus at Gethsemane. Verse 36 reads, "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." Verse 38 says, "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." His will had to come into submission to the Cross. Jesus said in Mark 14:38: "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." Jesus brought the flesh under. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, prayed the same prayer over and over again, not once or twice, but three times.

You may think, "Jesus Christ could ask one time, and that would be enough." He had the flesh to put under, and the flesh does not always want to be put under. Matthew 26:44 tells us, "And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words." He did not rephrase His prayer to get God's attention. He said the same words three times.

We need a faith that will not quit and give in to the pressures of the flesh. The Apostle Paul also sought the face of the Lord three times for what he deter-

mined to be a thorn in his flesh. He said in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9: "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice [three times], that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. [Jesus was not going to take it away. It was a weakness Paul had which would become a strength to him.] Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities [instead of continuing to pray about them, he would glory in them], that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Do not be a quitter if you do not get an immediate answer.

Elijah's Faith

Consider Elijah, who prayed for rain. There are some characteristics about Elijah we need to know. James 5:17-18 states: "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are [he was a human being just like you and me], and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. [What a drought!] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." Elijah had passions as we have.

We read in 1 Kings 18:41, "And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain." It was not raining yet, but Elijah said it was coming. There was a sound, not of a little shower, but of an abundance of rain. Before it had rained, and while they were still in the drought, Elijah told Ahab to get up and finish eating and drinking, for there was a sound of abundance of rain.

Verses 42-46 read: "So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look

toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot [get ready], and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. [The roads were going to be flooded. So he needed to hurry and get out of there.] And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel."

While Ahab went to eat and drink, Elijah went to pray. His prayer was in earnest. He had his servant look seven times for rain. Remember, Elijah told Ahab he heard the sound of abundance of rain before it had started to rain. He sent his servant to look for rain because his faith would not quit. He did not send him once, twice, or three times, but seven times. His servant finally came back and said, in so many words, "Master, I do not see anything but a little cloud over the sea about the size of a man's hand." Then Elijah said, "Go tell Ahab, get up and get your chariot moving because an abundance of rain is coming." The prayer was divine, and Elijah's running was also divine.

Hear the Unjust Judge

Luke 18:1 says, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Do not pray only when you feel like praying because there will be plenty of times you will not feel like praying. You may be pressed for time. Many things

happen in your life, but you never want to lay aside prayer. Always keep prayer a priority in your life. The Scripture says, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." This tells you if you stop praying, you will start fainting.

Verses 2-8 state: "Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith [a faith that will not quit] on the earth?"

The judge did not fear God, and he did not regard man. The widow troubled and wearied him because she kept coming to him. He was not a godly man, and no doubt, he was getting upset, but that did not stop her. She continually knocked on his door. He would send her away,



maybe getting loud in his voice: "Get out of here!" That did not stop her from coming. He became tired of her coming and decided to take care of the problem just to get rid of her.

Verse 6 reads, "And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith." He said in verse 5, "Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." The widow's faith would not take no for an answer, and she would not be ignored. The judge may have tried to ignore her. He may have slammed the door in her face, but she would not accept that as the final answer. She kept coming and coming. Consider the comparison Jesus made of the widow and us. Her judge was unjust, but our Judge is just. Jesus said God would avenge us "speedily." Psalm 66:19 says, "But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer."

Keeping Your Conviction

The word *faith* means "a firm conviction or persuasion in God." Do not give in to the flesh. Do not let the flesh have its way, but rather pray as Jesus did at Gethsemane, until the will of God is foremost in your life. Jesus had a will too, and that is where the enemy tempted Him. Do not quit the first time something goes wrong or the first time someone says something against you and hurts your feelings. When someone says something against you, it is very hurtful. You need to pray for that individual.

When I worked at Rockwell International, I had a terrible smoking habit, but God gloriously saved me from that. I can remember working on a machine one time and walking away to use the restroom. When I came back to the machine, on the lid of my toolbox was a cigarette. It was the brand I used to smoke

lying there and staring at me. Over to my left, I could see the guys watching to see what I would do. That showed me beyond the shadow of a doubt I had something the devil wanted. I picked the little cigarette up, crumbled it in my hand, and threw it in the trash can. This took away all their glory and all their thrill. I went back to the machine I was working on, rejoicing in my soul. I was happy God counted me worthy to have victory over that temptation.

People are going to say things about you. Is there a prophet or a disciple who did not get run down? Did they not call Jesus "Beelzebub"? That is a strong name to call someone. In other words, they said He was head of the demons and devils.

Let us not have weak faith that quits the first time something goes wrong or does not work out. For example, maybe you were a smoker and you have had a real struggle quitting (not everyone does, but some do), and you slip up and smoke a cigarette. Do not be a quitter! If you go back to the world, you will again become a servant to that addiction. Keep being a fighter! Your problem may not be tobacco, but it may be something else, such as alcohol or drugs.

Drugs are very prevalent today, even among high school students. It is not easy to overcome. You may struggle and even fall, but have the backbone to get back up again. If you give in, you are going right back into it, and it will be worse than it was before. Maybe you had a foul mouth and you slip up after you are saved. God will forgive you. Do not quit trying to overcome.

Stay in the Fight

Maybe you do not understand some things, such as the

standard, stay right there and do not quit. You may be in the midst of a severe trial and you cannot see any way out. The devil may tell you in your mind to give up. Do not do it! Remember, Paul prayed three times over the same affliction. Jesus prayed the same prayer three times. You may stay in the trial a while longer, but God will be faithful to you. He will deliver you on time.

You may struggle to overcome a certain thing that keeps tempting you. You may even struggle so much you fall. I am not advocating sin, but there are ones who are weak. Do not give up the fight completely. Stay in the fight until you overcome. Would you rather be an overcomer or someone who is continually overcome? If it is an inward problem, my advice would be to stay away from those who have the same temptations. Watch who you run around with.

Negative people are always against the standard, and if you

are having trouble with it yourself, they are not the people to hang around with. If someone is battling unforgiveness, or fighting an attitude, do not hang around them because it will affect you if you are also weak along that line. Do not sympathize with someone who is battling an attitude of unforgiveness or you will be in the same condition as they are.

We are in a real battle, and it is not getting any easier. I wish I could tell you things are going to get better. We are in the last days of Armageddon. The heat is being turned up, but we can overcome. We can go home to Glory if we obey God's Word.

The Philistines came out again, even after the Ark of the Covenant was in the camp, and whipped Israel because Israel was in disobedience. God was not in the Ark of the Covenant. Many people like to have the symbol of God without having God Himself.

Let us have faith that will not give up or quit. We face many things in this life, some we have seen before and others we have not. Nevertheless, set your "face like a flint" (Isaiah 50:7) toward Jerusalem. Stay right in there and have faith that will not quit. There are examples of men who were tried beyond human comprehension, but they stayed true to God. God wrote their names in Hebrews, Chapter 11. They went through things we will never have to go through, but they stayed true.

If your faith is weak and you are struggling, I beseech you to do something about it. Have someone pray with you, lay hands on you and pray, or do something to encourage you. Get your faith built up because you are going to need it. If you will stay true to God, He will bring you through with guaranteed victory in Jesus Christ.

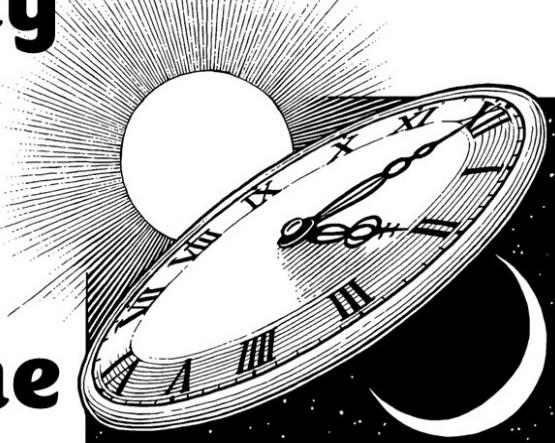
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Plenty

of

Time



There is a fable that tells of three apprentice devils who were coming to this earth to finish their apprenticeship. They were talking to Satan, the chief of the devils, about their plans to tempt and ruin men. The first said, "I will tell them there is no God." Satan said, "That will not delude many, for they know that there is a God." The

second said, "I will tell men there is no hell." Satan answered, "You will deceive no one that way; men know even now that there is a hell for sin."

The third said, "I will tell men that there is no hurry."

"Go," said Satan, "and you will ruin them by the thousands."

The most dangerous of all delusions is that there is plenty of time. The most dangerous day in a man's life is when he learns that there is such a word as *tomorrow*. There are things that must not be put off, for no man knows if for him tomorrow will ever come.

Selected



Brother Leamon Whitehead

Offering an Acceptable Sacrifice

If you are going to stay clean and pure and be all that God would have you to be, you must work at it every day. Time works on people. Maybe you had a good start, but how are you doing today? You have to maintain your salvation; keep working at it. You must pray and stay close to God. Even preachers need to hear the Word of God and be refreshed. I need God to talk to me and help me. I must look in the mirror of truth and make sure I have what I profess. We need to do that day after day, or we will slip if we are not careful.

Being without spot, wrinkle, and blemish goes all the way back to the Old Testament. There were times when old Israel did well, and then they became slack. God specified what had to be offered to Him. No matter what you offer to God, it will not do you any good if He does not accept it. I want to live in such a

way that I am acceptable to Him. Then I can receive a blessing and be all that God would have me to be. I want to be an example and a light to a lost-and-dying world. If you do the right thing, God will accept you. He accepted Abel's sacrifice, but not Cain's. May God help you offer a sacrifice He is well pleased with.

Exodus 12:5 says, "Your lamb shall be without blemish." Deuteronomy 15:21 reads, "And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God."

Malachi 1:7-8 states: "Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts." The people had gotten lax, offering to God what they

could not use, but He would not accept a sacrificial offering that was blind, lame, or sick.

God will not accept half-hearted service. If He will not accept your offering, you will not receive His blessing. You will not feel the arm of God around you and the security He gives to help you keep walking. When I do something for God, whether I sing a song, preach a message, or be an example to the world, I want to please God. You will know you have pleased Him when He floods your soul with joy and blessings from Heaven.

The standard of God is holiness. It is clean, without spot or wrinkle. It does not take much to blemish it. This is one reason it is so necessary to be in every church service you possibly can. When you hear the Word of God and obey it, you will be kept in a place where you are constantly looking to God for help. We all, including the ministry, must look to the Word of God day by day to stay on fire for God.

Living Sacrifices

You cannot build a fire and leave it alone for a couple of weeks and expect it to keep burning. You have to keep putting wood on the fire. When you go to the house of God and the blessings are flowing down, the songs of Zion are being sung, and the preached Word is going forth, the Lord will build you up and encourage you. The Lord may bless you in such a way you cannot contain it. You may even need to testify about what the Lord has done for you.

I like to go to church for a lot of reasons, but one reason I go is in great anticipation to see what God is going to do. Even after having a good service on Sunday morning, God has a brand-new one on Sunday night and for the midweek service.

God has blessings untold for us. The enemy of souls is shrewd. Leviticus 9:1-3 says: "And it came to pass on the eighth day, that Moses called Aaron and his sons, and the elders of Israel; And he said unto Aaron, Take thee a young calf for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the LORD. And unto the children of Israel thou shalt speak, saying, Take ye a kid of the goats for a sin offering; and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, for a burnt offering." All the sacrifices had to be without any blemish.

In the Old Testament sacrifices, the priest did not tie the live animal to the altar and try to make it stay. He killed it first and then laid it on the altar. The New Testament sacrifice is our bodies, according to Romans 12:1. We are *living* sacrifices. The flesh does not like to be a sacrifice. It does not like sitting in a church service because it gets nothing out of it. The flesh kept us away from God during all those years we spent in sin. If the flesh had



its way, we would still be out in sin.

We each have to bring the body under and keep it under because it is still alive. We do not have it made. We are not home yet. We still have to work at our salvation and work on the flesh. We must stay close to God and keep a close hold on the flesh so we can please God. If you look in God's Word, you will find that God is hard on the flesh. It is our enemy if we let it have its way.

People who have backslidden have gone back into sin. They turned the flesh loose and went back out into the world. Some are in worse shape than they were when they started. That is what the flesh will do if you turn it loose. The devil does not knock somebody out all at once. Little by little, he works to get you to cut corners on God and slack off. The devil will say, "Oh, you don't have to live as close as some preachers say." If you listen to him, the next thing you know, you will be cutting corners.

Loving the Truth

The standard is for both men and women. We have to keep the standard in mind all the time. God's man can preach it, but he cannot make you obey it. You have to *want* to do what is right. You do not need to wrestle with it. Just ask yourself, "Is there anything about the standard I am having trouble with?" You need to love the Word of God and the things of God because it takes *all*

the Word of God to make you what you ought to be and to bring you in line with what God will accept. That is just the starting point.

The devil quietly works on people. It does not matter what you might have trouble with, you should always be willing to give God the benefit of the doubt. If your pastor is preaching against something you feel is okay, or maybe you are on the borderline, will you give God the benefit of the doubt to defeat the devil? The Bible teaches in 1 Corinthians 11:14 that men ought to have short hair. Brother, do you have to wrestle about getting a haircut? Let us do the things that please God wholeheartedly and willingly.

I love God's way of living. Praise God, when we are in the center of God's will, He blesses us with His great love, the Spirit of God moves in, and we can please God. We have to watch. No one has served God for so long they can just coast along. We all have to remain awake and alert. Our adversary, the devil, is out to cause us trouble.

Back in the Old Testament, Israel got to the place where they tried to cheat and get by. It may not take much to fool people, but no one is smart enough to fool God. He is the One we are serving. There is nothing we can slip by God. That is the reason we need to love the truth. Your attitude should be, "Lord, just tell me what I need to do and I will do it because I want to make Heaven my home." Friend, if you miss it, there is no replay.

In Romans 12:1-2 the Apostle Paul said: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove

what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." That is the New Testament sacrifice.

Salvation is personal. If you are not adhering to what the Bible teaches and doing what you ought to do, you will not rejoice and be happy. Your inner man will not get stronger, but instead you are going to struggle. It is a joy to serve God! It is for your benefit to accept what God tells you to do, and then you can go on your way rejoicing. If you are not rejoicing in your soul, you will not last very long. You will run down and wear out.

The world does not understand how we can live for God, but we love it, and we want to serve God. There is no problem or drag about it. We are going God's way; we are happy, and we want to be counted faithful. It is not hard to do because we have been made new creatures.

Keeping Yourself Unspotted From the World

Although we are saved, we still have a body of flesh. Paul taught in Ephesians 4:28 that when we get saved, we do not want to use our hands to steal anymore, "but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." We want to use our bodies to labor and work for God so we can give to others. We do not allow bad talk to come out of our mouths. In fact, there is none of it down in the heart, for what is down in the heart will come out. For example, the Christian would not testify, "Somebody gave me a problem, and I had to bite my tongue to keep from cursing." No, it should not even be in the heart.

In 1 Peter 1:18-19 we read: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,

from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Our salvation was purchased by a Lamb without a blemish and without a spot. That is what it took to appease the wrath of God. The Lamb of God purchased our salvation, not just to get rid of the worst spots, the worst wrinkles, or the worst blemishes, but *all sin*.

After you are saved, the enemy would like to spot your garments. You must work to keep yourself unspotted from the world. James 1:27 says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." That is the burden of my heart. We are living in troublesome times. This is a wicked world. I like what Jesus said when He was talking to His Father in John 17:14, stating, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

As Christians, we are new creatures in the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:17). We have risen from the dead. We have been made new, and the devil does not like it. He has never liked it. He is working to figure out a way to trip us up. He wants to put some wrinkles and spots on our garments to take away from our witnessing and our influence.

The devil would like to knock you out, little by little, until you lose your witness. I remember the old oil lamps we used when I was a boy. We did not have any electricity, so the oil lamps were all the light we had. We tried to keep the globes clean because the smokier they got, the less light we had. That is how life is. If you are clean and unspotted, your light will shine brighter. I want to be what God would have me to be because He has done so much for me. He is the One who made

me what I am today. I was brought up in false religion. When I came to the Church of God, the light was so bright, and God has helped me in so many ways. Dear one, He will help you too.

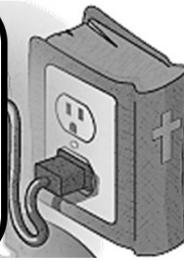
The Washing of the Word

The definition of the word *blemish* is "a mark of imperfection; a defect, a fault, or a flaw." The Lord does not want you to have any marks of imperfection. If you are not careful, time will work on you. Some have drifted away from the Bible standard they once had. Today, they are in bad shape. The devil likes to work on the church. He knows there is only one church, and he wants to put the light out.

The definition of the word *spot* is "a flaw as in character or a fault." A *wrinkle* is defined as "a small ridge or furrow in a normally smooth surface." Spots and wrinkles stand out because they are not supposed to be there. We should always be careful or we can get caught up in things. We need principles in life, a constitution, and a determination that we are not going to be a part of things that displease God.

Ephesians 5:25-26 reads: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it [this is how He keeps us clean] with the washing of water by the word." When we sit under the Word of God, it cleanses us. Some had one washing twenty years ago, and it is not going to be enough. Physically speaking, one washing is not enough to stay clean. We stay clean by the continual washing of the Word. As you sit and listen to the preached Word, God's man is passing out the living bread, and you are being washed by the Word. God helps you to see if there is a need in your life. That

**We must stay
plugged
into the power.**



is the reason an altar call is given, so you can get your needs supplied. Verse 27 says, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

You may have been saved for a number of years, but how is your experience today? Have you slipped and become lax on some things? You ought to give God the benefit of the doubt. That will make the devil angry because he knows he is wasting his time. I kindly like to help people realize what God has done for them already will bring joy as they never had before. If they get more of God, He brings more joy, more peace, and more victory in their lives.

There are many dangers. I am on Facebook, and I see things that are sad. I have principles I go by. Be careful of what you put on your timeline. Some things might have wonderful thoughts or good messages, but then somebody may slip in a curse word or a smutty word. When you share that on your timeline, your signature is on it. I do not want to be a part of questionable things. I try to be very careful. First Thessalonians 5:22 says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Some things will show a red flag of warning to us. We are living in perilous times.

Giving the More Earnest Heed

Revelation 19:8 reads, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen

is the righteousness of saints." We are dressed in righteous robes so white, spot and wrinkle free, that we must be very careful of how we live. We are the Church of God. When you wear something white, you have to be a little more careful. If not, it is easily spotted.

First Corinthians 15:33 says, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Song of Solomon 2:15 tells us, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes." The little foxes spoil the vines. We have to be careful of our everyday activities and our everyday life. In Isaiah 43:2 God said, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

The waters, the rivers, and the fire represent the trials we go through, but they will not overcome us or tear us down. God will give us the strength to go through whatever He allows to come our way. Whatever He brings us to, He will bring us through. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:8, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair." Saints are troubled on every side. We cannot allow troubles to distract us, discourage us, or bring us down. God has a purpose in all of our trials.

Isaiah 43:3 states, "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." Jesus said in Luke 22:31, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." Make no mistake, the devil knows where you live and he is watching you. He is trying to find an inroad into your life.

Hebrews 2:1 reads, "Therefore we ought to give the more

earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." I like to be reminded. Do not tire of hearing some things repeatedly. It will refresh you when it is brought to your remembrance. Peter talked about stirring up our pure minds by the way of remembrance in 2 Peter 3:1. We must stay plugged into the power.

Cleansing Yourself From the Filthiness of the Flesh

In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." The broad way is wide enough to take in all you want to bring in and room enough to believe in whatever you want to believe. Many are going the broad way.

Jesus also talked about the strait gate and the narrow way. Many people say they want to go to Heaven, but they do not want to quit what they are doing. This is the reason false religion has been so popular. Ones think they have found religion at a fraction of the cost, but they really get nothing for their soul. This narrow way continues to narrow down, and there is no room for excess baggage. You have to get rid of all sin's baggage in order to get in this narrow way. Jesus said, "Few there be that find it."

If you have been careful, do not let down. You need to be more careful and more cautious as we are living in troubled times. The enemy is out to work a deception in our lives. Are you on shaky ground, not really standing strong as you once did? You need to get it straightened out with God. He made it plain that the Church of God is the

only one of her mother (Galatians 4:26). Ephesians 5:27 says, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." The church is what the Lord is going to present to Himself, holy and without blemish.

We need to be careful of our talk. I hear professed Christians use words they should not use. We are to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1). I challenge you to clean up your words if necessary. One phrase I

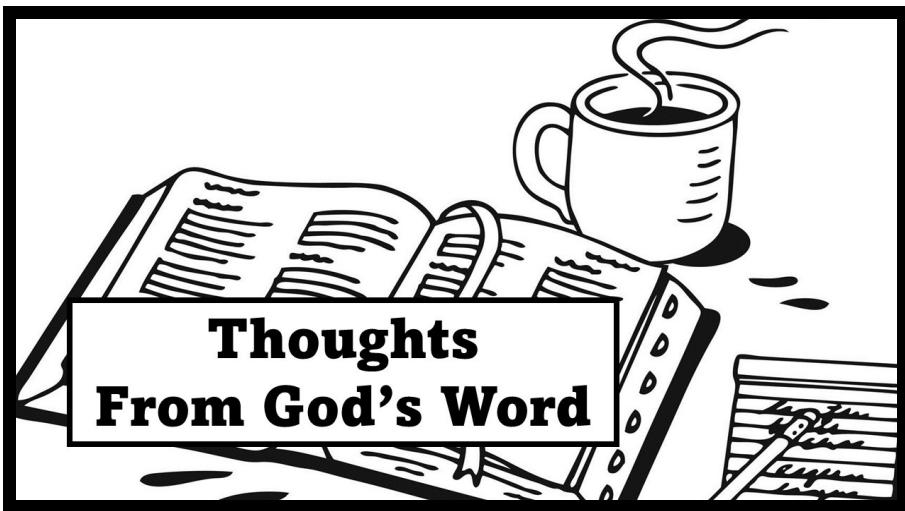
used to say was, "I bet." I am not a gambling man so why would I say that? Sometimes I struggled to find words to replace that phrase.

I challenge you to get certain words out of your vocabulary. You may find it to be difficult because there are many who use those words and they are easy to say. Have you ever heard someone say, "Oh, that is just a bunch of bull"? That phrase has a message behind it. Do you need to clean up your vocabulary? By God's help, I do my best to guard myself not to say anything that would be easy for someone to take the wrong way. I want to

make Heaven my home. Some words replace curse words, and you should not use them at all. You should not use any word that could even be made into or sound like a curse word. You need to clean yourself from any words like that.

Spots will ruin a shirt, a blouse, or a dress if you cannot get them out. Spots on your soul will ruin your life, your testimony, your witness, and your influence. May God help you.

(Compact Disc TR-2480)



"He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer."
—Psalm 102:17

When you are in a trial, you may feel all alone, that no one cares or is thinking about you. It might surprise you to find out how many people care. God's people care! Sometimes, God will send someone your way to encourage you and put a smile on your face. My favorite is when God brings the encouragement Himself. When He gave me this Scripture, it completely picked me up. The trial did not go away or end that very second, but the sun broke through

my darkness and gave me hope.

Psalm 34:17-19 says: "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." It is not enjoyable to lose a loved one or face a trial, but trials teach us to call upon God in a greater way. God uses them to teach us a lesson. This is when we need to call on God for help.

The Bible tells us to cry unto God, and He will save us. Stay close

to God. We must be obedient to God, no matter what. It is easy to think in our own minds about how to make things work, but we need to be sure we are in God's will. Let God use your trial, as He intended, to help you grow spiritually.

The song "One Thing I Can Do," by Ora H. Teasley, has helped me through trials. The first verse and chorus read: "I thank thee, Lord, that I can cast my burdens all on thee; Tho' I be tempted, thou has died to bear them all for me. O Jesus, I will cling to thee, I'll love thee more and more; I'll place my trembling hand in thine, until the battle's o'er."

God is faithful and will never leave us alone. Jesus said in John 14:16-17: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." God knew we would need the Holy Spirit to help us. I thank God for the Holy Spirit who is always there to comfort us!

Sister Jennifer Spurlock

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Influencers for Jesus



A social media influencer is a person who helps market a product. It may be for something they created (their own brand) or for something else. Their sole intent is to influence people toward certain products or new developments, such as for health care. Many are reality stars or famous musicians.

What do influencers do? An influencer has the power to affect the purchasing decisions of others because of his or her authority, knowledge, position, or relationship with his or her audience. Also, an influencer has a following in a distinct niche (such as a personal trainer) with whom he or she actively engages. The size of the following depends on the popularity of his or her topic or niche.

It is important to note that these individuals are not merely marketing tools, but rather social relationship assets with which brands can collaborate to achieve marketing objectives. They are developing relationships with their followers through the avenue of social media. A follower feels a part of what is going on in the influencer's life.

In January 2019, a report stated that there are 3.484 billion people active on social media, which is almost half of the total world population. These influencers are having an effect on 45 percent of the world's population. Inevitably, people on social media are looking up to these influencers. They watch their videos and follow their social media presence and look to them for guidance

in their decision making. There are seventy-seven thousand Instagram users and 35 percent of them use the app at least once a day. How many people are making their decisions based on social media influencers?

One of the top social media influencers is Cristiano Ronaldo, a soccer player from Portugal. He has a huge following of more than 99 million people, and he is influencing them. He displaced Selena Gomez as one of the top influencers. Selena Gomez is a celebrity influencer.

Another top influencer is Kayla Itsines, a fitness influencer. She is a personal trainer from Adelaide, Australia, who became an online sensation after creating a twelve-week workout program. This fitness enthusiast earned more than twelve million Instagram followers by posting fitness and diet related tips, inspirational messages, and powerful before-and-after generated photos of those who have benefitted from her advice. She has even created her own fitness app, which has generated more revenue than any other fitness app on the market because she is a social media influencer.

Influencers have created or represent a brand and are influencing millions to make decisions based on their guidance. What is a brand? Examples of brands are McDonald's, Arby's, Nike, and Facebook.

The Bible says God has called each of us to be influencers. Whether you are saved or unsaved, you are having an influence on people. You may not be getting your message out

to millions of people, but you are having an influence on those around you every day, such as your brothers and sisters, your mom and dad, and those you go to school and walk the hallways with. If you have a job, you are having an influence on those whom you work with. There are people who are looking to you for guidance. If you are a Christian, they trust you because they see God in you. You could be an influencer for them to do right.

Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses [or influencers] unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Another translation says, "But you will receive power and ability [God is not only giving us power, but He is also giving us the ability] when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

Christ is saying, "I have given you the Holy Spirit, and I will give you power to be My influencer where you live." God has called you to be an influencer in the particular location He has put you. Are you being the influencer God wants you to be? There are other young people you may see every day who are looking for answers in life. You have a wonderful opportunity to be an influencer for God.

Again, people look to influencers

for guidance to guide them in the right direction, maybe for buying the best products out there. As far as fitness is concerned, maybe someone wants to know the best fitness tip to incorporate into their training. They look to these influencers for answers. Are you being an influencer for God Who has the right answers?

There are ones looking to you for guidance and help. You may not influence millions of people. However, what if you were to influence two or three people, and then those people could influence two or three more? In the end, it could multiply until eventually you could reach many people. If you influence one or two people to do the right thing for the

cause of Christ, then you will have done the job God asked you to do.

Are you being the witness God wants you to be? Again, there are people God has placed in your specific location who need an influencer. Are you having the effect God wants you to have on the people you work with or go to school with?

Young person, you are blessed if you have the truth. Use what you have been given to influence people for Christ. If you are not the influencer God wants you to be, God can help you. You need to allow God to work with you. When you hear messages or lessons from God, you should always open your heart and say, "Lord, is there something in this

message I ought to apply to my life?" You should always strive to do better in the work of God and to be a better person for God. There are people who are looking for answers. Christians should be able to provide the answers. That is what God placed us here for. Are you being an influencer for Christ?

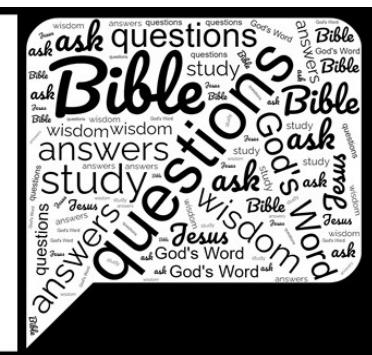
Brother Steve Strelecky



**God has called
you to be an
INFLUENCER
for Him in the
location He has
placed you.**

Questions & Answers From the Bible

How Do We Know the Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet Is Not the Day of Judgment?



There are those who advocate there will be "silence" toward the end of this period of the Gospel Day. However, that is not what a sound examination of the Scriptures substantiates. There was a silence for 434 years from Malachi the prophet until John the Baptizer heralded his message. This was prophesied of in Daniel 9:25 as the "threescore and two weeks," which equate to 434 years. However, the "silence" spoken of in Revelation 8:1 takes place at the beginning of the seventh seal, not at the end. It took place because of the compromise of the Anderson Church of God movement at the end of the sixth-seal period of time. This occurred because they became silent concerning the message of the church and, like old Israel, wanted to be like other nations (denominations).

There will not be a silence toward the end; rather, the Scriptures teach the contrary. Revelation 11:19 (describing the sounding of "the seventh angel"; verse 15), shows there were "voices, and thunderings." This represents the voices of His people and the voice of God being thundered out through the message of our day. In Revelation 16:18, under the pouring out of the seventh vial (verse 17), again there are "voices, and thunders . . . a great earthquake." All of these are anything but silence. They each indicate quite a sounding out.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, found in Matthew,

Chapter 25, Jesus told us that "at midnight there was a cry made" (verse 6). This "cry" caused a universal awakening ("all . . . arose"; verse 7), and the "cry" is preaching. (See Matthew 3:1-3.)

Regarding this question concerning the seventh trumpet, the Scriptures are clear. Consider Revelation 10:7, which speaks of "in the DAYS [plural] of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound." This indicates not the last day, singular, when the Lord shall come and time will reel into eternity, rather "days [plural]," or a period of time. When it states that things begin to occur, "when he shall BEGIN to sound," it clearly indicates the sounding is of a longer duration than just initially or instantly.

When Christ comes, things will occur instantaneously (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). It will be "in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). This is not so in the sounding of the seventh trumpet. The things mentioned in the Revelation during the sounding of the seventh trumpet take place over a period of time.

Brother Earl R. Borders

For further study, read *The Book of Revelation Explained, Volume 3, Chapters 10-11.*

Available at GodsAcres.org (Click on "Resources")

Jeremiah 51:6 Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

7 Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.

Revelation 17:1 And there came

one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

4 And the woman was arrayed

in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.



THE INTOXICATING POWER OF BABYLON'S CUP

Brother Earl R. Borders

What Is Babylon?

In these Scriptures, both prophecy and revelation depict a common truth that unites these particular passages. I want to direct your attention to two verses in our Scripture text. In Jeremiah 51:7 the prophet penned, "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken." Then, in our companion text in Revelation 17:2, the revelator wrote, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." In verse 4 he spoke of "having a golden cup in

her hand." In these two texts, we see the common vein of truth that unites them is the intoxicating power of Babylon's cup.

As we examine these verses, many questions come to mind: What does the expression "Babylon" mean? What constitutes Babylon? Is it a location or a condition? What is this "cup," and what are the contents? What is its effect? Who is "the earth" that drinks from this cup? What does it mean to be "drunken," and what does this drunkenness cause? What type of behaviors does it produce? These are valid questions, and the Scriptures clearly address them.

First, both Scripture texts

speak of Babylon. Jeremiah 51:6 says, "Flee out of the midst of Babylon." Verse 7 reads, "Babylon hath been a golden cup." Verse 8 declares, "Babylon is suddenly fallen." Revelation 17:5 states, "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON."

In our Scripture text in Jeremiah, the word for *Babylon* in the original Hebrew is **Babel**, which means "confusion." The *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* defines it as "confusion by mixing." This gives insight as to what we are beginning to view. The same word is used in Genesis 10:10 and Genesis 11:9.

Genesis 10:10 reads, "And the beginning of his kingdom [speaking of 'Nimrod'; verse 9] was Babel [the same Hebrew word]." Genesis 11:9 tells us, "Therefore is the name of it called Babel [the same Hebrew word]." The first kingdom mentioned in the Scriptures is Babel under Nimrod. We read in Genesis 10:9, "He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." As a casual reading, that sounds harmless enough, but the phrase "before the LORD" had a hostile meaning. It meant Nimrod set himself before the Lord and exalted himself in a position God had never ordained for him to occupy. Babylon is a condition and a position God had never intended man to occupy.

Babel was a kingdom, and hence, it had a king. Today, it is still a kingdom, and it still has a ruler. Revelation 9:11 speaks of the king, "And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon [which means 'destroyer']." The king of Babylon was out to destroy the souls of men. Today, Babylon is a kingdom with a ruler that is still out to destroy the souls of every man, woman, and child.

Man-Made Substitutions

We find a host of truths and beautiful types contained within this passage of Scripture found in Genesis, Chapter 11. It becomes apparent this kingdom used man-made substitutes for what God created. Verse 3 says, "And they said one to another . . ." Notice there was no consulting of divine leadership or seeking God. Men got their heads together and started putting their thoughts and ideas above God's will. The remainder of verse 3 reads: "Go to, let us make brick, and burn them

throughly. And they had brick for stone . . ." Only God can make stone. These bricks were something man produced instead of stone. They were man-made substitutes for what God ordained. God ordained the church to be built on the Stone, Jesus Christ. He is the chief cornerstone. Babylon has man-made substitutions.

Genesis 11:4 states, "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name." You do not read anything about building to the glory of God. They said, "Let us make us a name." They wanted to use man-made substitutes and humanly devised names to "reach unto heaven." They wanted a man-made way to reach Heaven other than the way God ordained.

In verse 9, God moved on the scene. It says, "Therefore is the name of it called Babel [the Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint says 'confusion']." Everyone was saying something different. In false religion, everyone thinks they are going to Heaven, but they are all saying something different. They are building their lives on man-made bricks rather than the Stone, Jesus Christ. Friend, false religion will not take you to the portals of Glory.

In our Scripture text in Revelation 17:5, the word "Babylon" is merely the Greek correspondent to the Hebrew word "Babel." What does the employment of this word tell us? It denotes religious confusion. First Corinthians 14:33 reads, "For God is not the author of confusion." God never established Babylon. It came out of the minds of men who wanted alternatives to the way God wanted them to go.

Ancient Babel depicted confusion and man-made substitutes, but there is another aspect of Babylon. It states in 2 Chroni-

cles 36:6, "Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon." Verse 20 says, "And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia." Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon held God's people in bondage.

Babylon is such bondage that it is referred to symbolically as "Egypt." In Revelation 11:8, the revelator said, "And their dead bodies [speaking of the two witnesses: the Word and the Spirit] shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom [wickedness] and Egypt [bondage], where also our Lord was crucified." This is not speaking in the literal because Jesus was crucified outside of Jerusalem. This is speaking of spiritual conditions. Babylon continues to crucify the Lord afresh daily.

The Binding and Blinding Power of Babylon

Second Timothy 2:19 reads, "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." False religion teaches that one can live in iniquity and still be a Christian. "They crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh" (Hebrews 6:6). Any experience that leaves you in wickedness or bondage crucifies the Lord because He came to set men and women free.

Babylon wants to blind and bind God's people. The same spirits that worked in bygone days to produce Babylon are still working today. Many places that once stood for the truth are more Babylon than sectism. We are not immune to that same spirit. It wants to work on you and me. Second Kings 25:6-7 states: "So they took the king [this was King Zedekiah, the one who came out of Jerusalem], and brought him

up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him. And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon."

The devil wants to do the same thing to God's people. He wants to put your eyes out and cause you to lose your vision of the truth. This king was once reigning in Jerusalem, a type of the church, just as you and I are reigning. Babylon carried him away and put out his eyes. He lost his vision. Jesus let us know in the Laodicean letter, we are living in an age when we need to have some eyosalve. Why? People are losing their vision of the true church, and they are losing their vision of Babylon. Psalm 87:4 says when you get to Zion, you will hear "mention of Rahab and Babylon." We need more mentioning so people know what Babylon is.

King Zedekiah watched them slay his sons. Many people who left the truth have watched all their children being slain. You need to be careful before you make moves because it does not just affect you. The king lived, but his children did not. Some people may live to make it back, but what about their children and grandchildren? His children did not live, and their death was the last thing he saw before his eyes were put out. Then he was bound with fetters of brass and carried to Babylon.

Any condition or locality that blinds you to the truth and binds you so that you are not free to worship in the Spirit is Babylon. Babylon is not so much a *place* as it is a *condition*. There is only one thing you can do, and that is to flee out of the midst of it. You need to get out of Babylon as fast as you can.

Babylon Is a Spiritual Condition

Every connotation associated with Babylon is negative. Jeremiah 51:6 says, "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul." Here we see portrayed not only a plea, but also a peril. Babylon is costing people their souls. Verses 7-8 state: "Babylon hath been [past tense] a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken [a negative connotation]: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed [again, a negative connotation]."



The devil wants to put your eyes out and cause you to lose your vision of the truth.



The cry in verse 8, "Babylon is suddenly fallen," is a repeated cry throughout the Scriptures. In Isaiah 21:9 we read, "And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen." Revelation 18:2 says, "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Babylon was founded and continues to be operated by foul spirits. Again, notice that every association, every connotation, and every mention of Babylon is negative.

In the Old Testament, Babylon was a specific kingdom in a specific locality, but in the New Testament it is used symbolically for what it represents. Our companion text in Revelation 17:5

speaks of "MYSTERY, BABYLON." Though denoted as Babylon and represented as a country, the main emphasis here is that Babylon is represented as a woman. She is not just any type of woman. The Scripture lets us know specifically in verse 1, she is a lewd woman, referred to as "the great whore."

Verse 2 states, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." What does this reveal? Babylon is not a locality, but a condition. We tend to think if a building has the name "Church of God" over the door, then they must be the Church of God. Well, you can put a mouse in a cookie jar, but that does not make it a cookie.

When Babylon worked in the morning time, it did not have modern, sectarian names with which we are familiar. Herein lies the deception and the grave danger, for if any place or people are overcome by that condition, it constitutes Babylon. One move of the enemy today is to get places and people who once adhered to the truth of God's Word to begin sipping from this cup and become one with Babylon. When you touch your lips to the cup, and the cup is in the whore's hand, you become one with the whore. That is the reason sipping from this cup is so dangerous.

"Giving Heed to Seducing Spirits"

Babylon was initially produced by a spirit that got hold of people. In 1 Timothy 4:1 the Apostle Paul said, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to

seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Ephesians 4:5 says there is only "one faith." What would cause people to depart from the faith? They are giving heed to seducing spirits.

Whenever a person leaves the faith, or leaves a vibrant, healthy Church of God congregation, it is a seducing spirit that causes him to leave. The only way for him to get any help is to get rid of that spirit. Paul said "in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits." Every sectarian organization, or denominational system, has been produced by another spirit. The spirits that produced those systems in bygone days are still working yet today.

Revelation 16:12 reads, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial." This is an evening-time message. How do we know? Verse 2 says the first vial was poured out on the image, the religious system of Protestantism. The time setting of the vial angels was in an era subsequent to the Protestant era, which is the evening time. It commenced about A.D. 1880.

John saw figures of horses in Revelation, Chapter 6. He saw a red horse, a black horse, and a pale horse. Zechariah 6:5 tells you those horses represent spirits. Every one of them is a militant spirit. Zechariah 10:3 talks about a "goodly horse in the battle." Horses were articles of warfare. They were implements of battle, denoting militancy. Every one of these spirits was a militant spirit.

The red horse equates with the system it produced, which is the pagan Roman Empire. It was the spirit of unbelief that rose up as the first opposing force to the morning-time church. In the evening time we live in today, we still face that spirit. Unbelief is working at an unprecedented rate around the camp of the saints. In Revelation, Chapter 20, you will find they are compassing about



the camp of the saints, looking for an opportunity to work.

The black horse represents the spirit of apostasy that gave rise to the papal beast. The pale horse denotes the spirit of compromise, which gave rise to the Protestant beast. We are facing them all in this evening time. Revelation 16:13 mentions the "three unclean spirits like frogs." Frogs cannot dwell in fresh water, in the running rivers of life. They have to be in stagnant pools. Babylon is a stagnant pool where there is no life.

When John wrote about the "three unclean spirits like frogs," what did he mean? They are anti-holiness spirits. True holiness yields unity. In Revelation 6:9-10, when the angel opened the fifth seal, John said: "I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" They were crying out for unity.

"Try the Spirits"

Revelation 16:13 reads, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon [paganism], and out of the mouth of the beast [papalism], and out of the mouth of the

false prophet [Protestantism]." These spirits have come out, and they are no longer merely housed in these systems. What are they doing? Verse 14 says, "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth [Where are they going forth?] unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them [they are working to gather people out of the truth and against the truth] to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Babylon dolls herself up and makes herself look attractive and appealing. She offers you a sip from her cup. Babylon is a condition produced by seducing spirits. These spirits are still working yet today. They find sympathetic people and pick up bodies. Spirits do not just float around and inhabit the atmosphere; they move into people and work through people.

First John 4:1 states, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." You must not be gullible and take everything at face value. You have the privilege of trying the spirits, or the Greek says to "put the test on the spirits." How do you test a spirit? One way is to see how well it lines up with God's Word because the Spirit and the Word will always agree. Another way you can tell if it is a true spirit is it will manifest the fruit of the Spirit, which is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith" (Galatians 5:22).

First John 4:3 reads, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God." This is not talking about His Incarnation, but it is talking about the kind of incarnation they have. If their flesh does not confess Jesus is there, then the Spirit is not there. If you get the Spirit of God in your soul, the first place it will show up is in your flesh.

Again, 1 John 4:1 reads,

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [the Greek says 'put the test on'] the spirits whether they are of God [Why?]: because many false prophets [They started as spirits, and then these spirits picked up bodies. They went from spirits to prophets because spirits work through people.] are gone out into the world." You need to be careful whom you associate with and to whom you listen. Many people have been led astray because they gave an ear to the wrong parties and were moved away from the truth.

Let us see what these spirits are trying to do. First Timothy 4:1 speaks of them as "seducing spirits." First John 2:26 says, "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you." These seducing spirits work through people to seduce others. They find sympathetic people and pick up bodies to cause ones to defect from the truth to man-made substitutes. Confusion has always been gradual and seductive.

The Harlot's House

Look how the wise man spoke of false religion. In Proverbs 7:5 he said, "That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words." What is a strange woman? Any of them who are not yours. Isn't it amazing how a person can be cross-grained where the truth goes forth? Yet if he goes down to Babylon, they will make him a Sunday school teacher, a Sunday school superintendent, or have him sing in every service. They flatter him.

Verses 6-9 read, "For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight,



in the evening, in the black and dark night." She cannot dwell in the light. She does not deal in light; she deals in darkness. It starts gradually in the twilight, in the evening, but before it is over, it is black and darkness. If her deeds were of God, she would come to the light where her deeds could be made manifest.

Verses 10-12 state: "And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: [She is out of natural, divine order. God never ordained a man-made institution with man-made names, man-made creeds, and man-made ways to make it to Heaven. Babylon is out of divine order.] Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)" Does she not lie and wait at every corner? How many cities of our fair nation have a Babylonian church on every street corner?

"So she caught him, and kissed him" (verse 13). The reason she caught him was because he was walking too close. Do not go down to her corner. Do not walk on her street. Do not look in her windows. Do not buy her books or her literature, for you are sipping from her cup. Then, all of a sudden your judgment will become affected. That is what happens when you start

drinking wine. You start losing your balance and your judgment. Your reasoning powers become impaired, and you do not see things clearly. As a matter of fact, you may start seeing double. You will not see the one church anymore. Do you suppose you have been sipping from the cup? More people are sipping from the cup than you might realize.

Proverbs 7:16-19 reads: "I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey." Verse 21 says, "With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him." What is the lesson? She seduced him. These same spirits are still working through religious people to seduce the saints and cause them to depart from the faith, keeping their profession.

Sipping From Babylon's Cup

Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, "There is no new thing under the sun." Babylon is a spiritual condition produced by spirits. Anywhere the devil can work this spiritual condition, he can produce Babylon. In 2 Corinthians 2:11 the Apostle Paul cautioned, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." Sad to say, he has taken advantage of many people across our land who at one time stood for the truth.

Again, our Scripture text in Jeremiah 51:7 reads, "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad." One of Satan's great devices in this day is

Babylon's cup and wine. He cannot seduce a sober saint.

Why do you think most physical seductions take place in bars? It is much easier to seduce someone who has had a few drinks, is under the influence of alcohol, and has become intoxicated. His faculties become impaired, and his reasoning and judgment are clouded. Then it is easy to get that person to do or to believe almost anything imaginable. He thinks he can fight a running buzz saw, so to speak, when he is drunk. How many times have people done crazy things under the influence of alcohol they would not have done at all if they had been sober?

Friend, Babylon wants you to sip of her cup, become intoxicated, and under her influence so you will lose your spiritual judgment, your reasoning faculties, and become impaired. Then you will start believing in things you would not normally believe in, acting in ways you would not normally act, and making decisions you would not normally make. This harlot must get you to sip from her cup first.

Now let us examine this cup. Both of our Scripture texts speak of it. In Jeremiah 51:7 we read, "Babylon hath been [past tense] a golden cup in the LORD'S hand." Two things are obvious from this phrase. First, she is no longer in the Lord's hand. Second, whatever was in it when it was in the Lord's hand is certainly not what is in it now. The Lord would not be making the earth drunken. He is trying to make people sober and in their right minds.

In our companion text in Revelation 17:4, it speaks of "a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication." If you start sipping and imbibing, the danger is you will imbibe their spirit. Let us see how the thought of drinking is being used in some Scriptures. First Corinthians 12:13 states, "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." If you start drinking, you are drinking in a spirit.

A spirit goes with that cup, and a spirit produced what is in the cup. If you sympathize with the books, songs, and publications Babylon is writing, you can imbibe that spirit. If you study false doctrines, they can get a hold on you. Someone may ask, "Do you think sipping has to do with drinking in a spirit?" Again, 1 Corinthians 12:13 states we "have been all made to drink into one Spirit." Certainly that is speaking of the Holy Spirit, but the same principle applies to whatever spirit you are drinking.

The Contents of the Cup

In Acts, Chapter 2, on the Day of Pentecost, what did the people accuse the brethren of doing? They said they were drunken because they were under an influence. They were locked in the Upper Room for fear of the Jews up to that point. Then, they went out into the street, shouting and talking about their love for this same Jesus who was murdered fifty days earlier by the same crowd. You can read in Acts 2:15 that Peter stood up and said, "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day." They could not have been drunk because the third hour of the day was 9 a.m. Peter said in verse 16, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." They had been drinking of the Holy Spirit.

My friend, if you start sipping from Babylon's cup, you are going to pick up their spirit. What is this cup? In our Scripture text in Jeremiah, Chapter 51, the Hebrew word is **kos**, which means "a cup." A cup is merely a receptacle or a container. Let us

look at this cup and what it contained when the Lord was in control of it. Psalm 116:13 says, "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD." When the Lord brought back light and understanding in the cloudy day, the cup contained the salvation He offered to mankind. However, our Scripture text in Jeremiah 51:7 tells us this cup Babylon had made "all the earth drunken [and] . . . mad." So it is evident the contents had changed.

Notice in our Scripture text who initially was drunken. Another rendering of Jeremiah 51:7 states, "Babylon has been a gold cup in the LORD'S hands, a cup that made the whole earth drunk." Another translation says, "A golden cup is Babel in the hand of Yahweh, intoxicating the whole earth." Notice it says the earth is what became drunken. Again, Revelation 17:2 reads, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

How is this expression "earth" used in the Revelation? Revelation 13:11 reads, "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth." This religious system came up out of the minds of men in Protestantism. In the Revelation, "earth" is used predominantly for the man-made religious system known as Protestantism. This is the earth that initially drank from this cup. It is a system intoxicated, or drunk. They have lost their judgment and are under the influence of Babylon's wine.

This is the reason some people think they can sin and still go to Heaven. They are not thinking clearly because they are under the influence. You can show them plainly what the Bible says, but they say, "Well, that is not what our church teaches." They have been drinking of Babylon's

cup for so long that it will take a while for them to get sober.

"Having a Form of Godliness"

Some religious people think once you have salvation, you can never lose it. They believe it does not matter how you live. They have been taught to join an organization, subscribe to a creed, shake a preacher's hand, be baptized, and a host of other things. They are under the influence of this intoxicant. They believe as long as you are sincere, it does not matter what you believe. They are deceived and sipping from the cup of eternal security. This is the reason some are difficult to talk to. They are drunk, and they need to get sober first.

The Apostle Peter said in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." If you are not sober, the devil will devour you. Many people started sipping and got under the influence, and Satan devoured them.

There was a time in the days of the sixteenth-century reformation, predominantly, when God used those old reformers through the cloudy day to bring a restoration of many truths. Notice in our companion Scripture text that Babylon still has the golden cup. They still have the form, but the contents of the cup have changed. In Revelation 17:4 we read, "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication."

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:5, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof [then he told us what to do]: from such turn away." They still have the form, but the contents have changed. No longer is it salvation, as the psalmist depicted, but it is "a golden cup in her hand full of



abominations." When they first started with some of these truths, Jeremiah 51:7 tells us it was "in the LORD'S hand," but now it is "in her hand." The contents of the cup have gone from salvation to "abominations and filthiness of her fornication." This cup no longer holds salvation for mankind; it now invites ones to commit fornication.

Some may question whether the woman in Revelation 17:4-5 is symbolic of Roman Catholicism. Certainly, it is in the strictest sense. However, in this picture, the woman is connected to the beast and united with the cup; they are inseparable. Roman Catholicism was never a golden cup in the Lord's hand. She never had any truth. If you study the morning-time era, you will find she never had any light. This woman has a golden cup and is decked with pearls. She has picked up some truths along the way to make her more appealing, appear more Christian, and more deceptive.

Spiritual Fornication

One of the spirits of this day in Revelation, Chapter 17, is a picture of them all coming together. It is the spirit of ecumenicalism. They take everything in and say nothing about anything controversial for fear of offending someone. That spirit is encir-

cling the camp of the saints and looking for a way to get inside the door. If we are not cautious, the spirit of ecumenicalism will move in on us until we will take in everything and make allowances we should not make. I am not saying we should not treat people coming to the truth with love and patience.

The burden of my heart is to show the deceptiveness of false religion and how it is working, not only to indoctrinate its adherents, but also to seduce us to drink her wine. What is the design behind this wine? What does it mean to be drunken? When one is drunken, he is intoxicated. When someone is under the influence, he loses clear judgment, is easily influenced, and cannot think rationally. He loses his inhibitions and restraints. He says things and acts in ways he would not if he was not intoxicated. It clouds his judgment. The same religious spirits in Babylon are working in the camp of the saints, trying to infiltrate.

Notice how our Scripture text denotes this intoxicant. The design behind this wine is to work subtly to produce fornication to cause us to break our vows, or our commitment to Christ, and to be influenced by the harlot. Paul warned of this in 1 Corinthians 6:15-18: "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication."

Paul was not talking about literal fornication because in verse 15, he spoke of "the members of Christ." He was cautioning the members of Christ's body not to become caught up with the attraction of the harlot to the place they are seduced. Paul was

warning us of the beguiling power the enemy uses through religion to cause us to no longer be chaste.

In 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 Paul wrote: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy [you can go back to Chapter 1:1 to see Paul was talking to the Church of God]: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." Paul was fearful they would be beguiled, or deceived, as Eve was.

"Flee Out of the Midst of Babylon"

No one is immune from deception. No one who gets drunk starts out drunk, but they start by drinking. How many times have you heard someone say, "One drink won't hurt you"? The drunkard who ended up in a drunkard's grave started with just one drink. That is the same lie the enemy uses to work on us. Many people who have been carried into Babylon started out with just a sip.

The seducing spirit behind false religion wants to beguile us. It starts with seemingly harmless drinks such as listening to their

radio programs, reading their literature or books, subscribing to their publications, attending their singspirations, listening to their tapes, visiting their websites, attending their Bible studies, and many more. All these are the same as sipping from the whore's cup. They will cloud your judgment, dim your vision of the truth, and cause you to become a sympathizer. It will move you into her bed and cause you to engage in spiritual fornication and you will become one with Babylon.

If you get intoxicated enough, you will do anything, anywhere, anytime, with anyone. There are literal men who have woken up in a strange woman's bed and did not have the faintest idea where they were, who they were with, or what they had done. Why? They were drunk. Babel's wine works the same way. It will cause you to lose your senses to the place where you do not have any idea what you are doing.

Dear heart, it takes more than a name to be the Church of God. Many people have the name, but they would be better off to take down the sign and put "Ichabod" over the door instead because the glory has departed. When another spirit comes in, no matter what it calls itself, it is Babylon. As Paul said in Philippians 1:17, "I am set for the defence of the

gospel." May God help us guard against the seduction of this harlot. Her cup is everywhere, and she is always inviting us to drink.

Our Scripture text says in Jeremiah 51:6, "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul." Your soul is what she is after. She wants your soul, your family's souls, and every soul she can dupe. Paul said, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Jeremiah 51:26 reads, "And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations." We do not need one Babel stone to build Zion. Psalm 87:7 tells us God placed everything we need in His church. The verse reads, "As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee." Everything you need for the welfare of your soul is in Zion.

May God help us be wise and not go the way of Babylon. Sadly, many have fallen prey to the intoxicating power of Babylon's cup. We need not do so if we will take heed according to God's Word. I trust you can understand in a clearer way, by the Scriptures, the moves the enemy is making today around the camp of the saints.

(Compact Disc TR-130M)

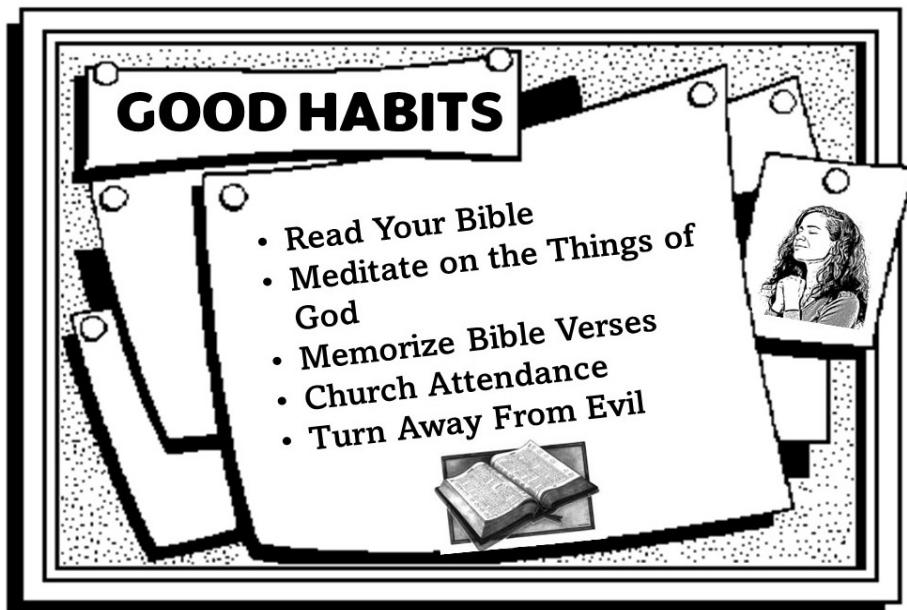
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We all have habits in our lives. Some are good and some can be bad. We all should have the habit of eating, brushing our teeth, combing our hair, and looking at ourselves in the mirror. Smiling is a good habit to have. Some have the habit of drinking a sweetened coffee drink first thing in the morning.

Another habit many have is checking their cell phones. Maybe someone sent you a text message or a picture. It could be a good habit or it could be bad. It is a good habit for me to check if my husband is trying to get hold of me and I did not realize it.

Life is full of habits. I want to point you to some good habits to form in your walk with God. Once a habit truly becomes a habit, it is hard to break. There may be an exception to this rule when it comes to the habits we form in our walk with God because the enemy is looking to interrupt those habits whenever he can. You need to be on the offensive. I encourage you to establish good habits in your life. I want you to think about habits from a positive standpoint.

Reading your Bible is the first habit I want to encourage you to have. It is not enough to come to church and hear the Word of

God preached. You may not like to read, but you need to read your Bible. It is the most important Book in the entire world that you will ever be privileged to read. Unless you establish a habit of reading your Bible every day, the enemy will see to it that it does not happen.

Have you ever gone part way through your day and thought, "I have not read the Word of God yet"? You may think, "After I do this one thing, I will read it." You may never get to it after you finish what you are doing. The day may be gone, and you have not spent the time you needed to spend with God. You need to figure out when it will be, but every day, you need to read the Word of God.

You may feel you cannot understand what you read in the Bible. There is still a lot I do not understand. It may be hard for young people to read some of the Old Testament books. I encourage them to start in Psalms or Proverbs. Those two books have good admonition, even if you only read a small amount. You do not have to read a large quantity of verses. It is wonderful if you do. However, you need to study the Word. The Book of Proverbs has thirty-one chapters. You

could read a chapter every day for each day of the month. By the end of one month, you will have finished reading Proverbs.

When you read a few Scriptures, think about what you have read. Spend a few quiet moments with God because He speaks through His Word. God's Word is alive. It is not a dead Book. God will speak to you individually. My husband felt God speak to him when he was five years old. I definitely remember God speaking to me when I was eight years old, and I answered His call. When you read God's Word, you will be amazed at how God will speak to you. Is it an audible voice? No, but you will know when He speaks to you. When Samuel first heard the voice of God, he did not know who it was. He thought it was Priest Eli. You can get to know the voice of God and learn when God is speaking to you as Samuel did.

God wants to speak to you. God loves you individually. God knows your name. He has your hairs numbered. He cares about you more than the sparrows He feeds. The Scripture says in 1 Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow [and get stronger] thereby." Do you want to live successfully for the Lord? If you really want to serve the Lord, it is possible for you, from this day forward, to serve Him consistently until you die. That is what God wants, and God wants to help you. God knows you cannot live for Him on your own. One way He helps you is through His Word.

Do you have Bible apps on your cell phone? I really enjoy using Bible apps when I study the Word. I have a concordance on my phone. It is faster to search for Scriptures typing it in my phone than to go to the back of my Bible. Make use of those Bible apps. If you have your cell phone with you all the time and you are

waiting somewhere, take advantage of those few minutes and go to your Bible app. Read and think on the Word of God. It will help you grow spiritually.

I am strongly convinced we need to memorize the Word of God. If you want to memorize the Word of God, you need a plan so you can work on it and review it. It is a wonderful tool. Scriptures will bombard my mind as I study. They come back to me because they are there. The psalmist told us in Psalm 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." If you have the Word of God committed to memory in your heart, when you get in a really tight spot, a Scripture will come to your mind and save you. Right at the moment you need help, God will come to you with Scripture verses.

Meditation is really important. Do you meditate on the things of God? It is good to turn the radio or CD player off, take out the headphones, get in a quiet spot, outside in the yard if you wish or in your car, and meditate on the things of God. Focus on a Scripture you are learning and focus on the blessings of God. Think about how blessed you are to know the truth.

I thank God for a clear spiritual vision. It is possible to keep a clear spiritual vision your entire life. It comes through obedience. When we obey the Lord, He keeps our vision sharp, and He keeps us moving forward. What a blessing! Think on the goodness of God. As you meditate, it will generate praise in your heart. It is an essential habit to develop in your life.

Have you been around people who are always doom and gloom, so to speak? Do you enjoy being around a negative person? I like to be around those who are upbeat and happy, who have a positive attitude even during the

difficulties of life. We are serving a great God who is on our side. There is no reason for us to stay under the circumstances.

Daniel was a good example of someone who talked to God. He prayed three times a day. Someone may say, "I pray three times a day because I eat three times a day." We need to go beyond thanking God for our food and spend time truly pouring out our hearts to God. We need to pray. Prayer is our avenue to talk to God and tell Him everything. He likes to hear what we have to say. You should never think, "I do not want to bother God with that." Go ahead and bother Him. He likes to be bothered.

When my children were at home, they would come to me with their problems. As a mother, I was happy to hear their problems, and I wanted to do what I could to help them. No problem is too small or too great for God. God is your Heavenly Father. He wants to help you in your Christian walk, so you can tell it all to Him. Sometimes, you may not have much time to pray in a difficult situation. You may mutter under your breath, "Oh God, help me!" God knows what you need at that moment.

Young person, take the Lord with you to school each day. Do not leave Him behind because He is concerned about you. I used to talk to the Lord before I took a test. I would say: "Lord, please help me! I have done my best to prepare, but I get very nervous." I knew God helped me. I can remember walking the halls of Lakewood High School as a girl talking to the Lord. My mouth was not moving, no one heard me say anything, but in my heart I was communicating with God. I would say, "Lord, please help me." God cares about every uncomfortable situation you are placed in. Talk to Him about it. It does not have to be an elaborate prayer; just ask Him to help you.

First Thessalonians 5:17 tells us, "Pray without ceasing." What does that mean? That was one of the shortest Scriptures I began teaching my children to memorize. Throughout my life, I find myself praying my way through the day. We get calls, texts, and thoughts in our minds. A person may come to your mind who needs prayer. You can say: "Lord, they need help. Please help them." That is praying without ceasing. We need to always be in an attitude and spirit where we can pray right when we need to. We need God in our lives.

First Thessalonians 5:16 says, "Rejoice evermore." That is a command. We need to rejoice, not only when things are going good, but also when things are going bad. We always have something to praise the Lord for. Proverbs 15:13 reads, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance." When you wake up in the morning, begin to thank God for His goodness. That helps set a positive mood for the day.

We need to always be grateful, rejoice evermore, and give thanks. The psalmist said in Psalm 119:164, "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments." It is good to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Your parents may have taught you to say "thank you" when someone opens a door for you, or if someone gives you something. God's people should be the most polite people on the face of the earth. We need to be a good example to the world with our politeness. We need to be polite toward God and thank Him for His goodness and for the prayers He has answered.

Another habit you should form is church attendance. I want to go one step further. You can come to church and not be at church. Your body can be sitting in the seat, but your mind may be drifting. I have to fight that.

There are times when my thoughts start to go. It is like a chain reaction. It picks up something here and keeps going and I have to say, "Whoa, come back here!" The Bible says to "gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Peter 1:13).

When you are in the house of worship, you need to be involved in the worship service. You may never be up front for a special song, but you need to be involved in your seat. How can you be involved in your seat in the worship services? You can raise your hand and say, "Amen." Sing the congregational songs with great emphasis.

There are no "wimps" when it comes to serving the Lord. It

takes a real man and a real woman to stand up for what is right and to do what is right. It takes a strong person to say, "Others can do what's wrong, but I will not." This is the best way. We need God's help, but we can still have a strong determination to do what is right. I love the hymn entitled "Stand Up for Jesus."

When you sing hymns, think of the words you are singing because they will feed your soul as reading the Word of God feeds your soul. Church of God hymns are sermons in themselves. They will refresh your heart and give you instruction.

Another way to get involved in the worship services is to bring a notebook to church and

take notes. I remember better when I write things down. You may find it helpful to jot down a word or two.

Last, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). When you see something evil, form the habit of turning and going the other direction. Do not be inquisitive. If you have a doubt in your mind, it is probably not okay. Habits in our Christian walk will help us to be victorious and maintain victory. They will help us truly be what God would have us to be. I encourage you to do what is right and keep walking with the Lord.

Sister Millie Stegmeier

Upcoming Meetings

July 31 - August 7 — NEWARK, OH

CAMP MEETING: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St, Newark, OH 43055

Three services daily: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

For lodging/camper reservations, contact Bro. or Sis. Bush: 740-345-1213

Please make reservations in advance, if possible.

For more information, contact Pastor Roger L. Decker: 740-344-2543

August 26-28 — SUMMERSVILLE, WV

REVIVAL: Church of God, 74 Armstrong Rd, Summersville, WV 26651

Service Times: Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Evangelist: Brother Steve Strelecky, Newark, Ohio

For more information, contact Pastor Earl R. Borders: 304-872-4047

Visit our website: www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com

September 5 — MEDINA, OH

ALL-DAY MEETING: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, Ohio 44256

Service times: 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. A meal will be served after each service.

For more information, contact Pastor Mike Miller: 330-725-5993 or 330-421-0187

September 17 — WARRENSVILLE, NC

FOURTH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING: Church of God, 2042 Teaberry Road,

Warrensville, NC 28693. Service times: 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. For more

information & hotel accommodations, contact Pastor Allen Borders: 740-485-8881

Fall Camp Meeting

July 31 ~ August 7

Please join us for an
old-fashioned camp meeting
at the Church of God,
at God's Acres,
Newark, Ohio

Inspirational
singing

Holy Ghost
preaching

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Morning Prayer Service |
| 10:00 a.m. | Morning Service |
| 10:00 a.m. | Children's Service (in the old barn) |
| 3:00 p.m. | Teaching Service |
| 5:30 p.m. | Youth Prayer Service |
| 6:00 p.m. | Youth Service |
| 7:00 p.m. | Evening Service |

The saints of God prepare hot, homemade meals in the church dining hall. Meals are reasonably priced. The dining hall will be open for breakfast, lunch, supper, and following the evening services. Rooms, campsites, bookstore, and so much more.

For further information contact:
Pastor Roger L. Decker
Telephone: 740-344-2543
Email: pastor@godsacres.us

Divine
healing

Fellowship
with the saints

Spring 2022 Camp Meeting Recordings

Message #	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-2827	06-19-2022	Providing a Godly and Nurturing Environment	Bro. E. David Stegmeier
TR-2828		Be Thou Faithful Unto Death	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-2829	06-20-2022	How Is Your Walk With God?	Bro. Mike Miller
TR-2830		Temperance: An Introduction	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2831		The "Tater" Family	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-2832	06-21-2022	Three Words to Victory	Bro. Nathan Harding
TR-2833		Temperance: The Mind	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2834		Purge Yourself From These	Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2835	06-22-2022	Where Is Your Brother?	Bro. Aurelius Raines
TR-2836		Temperance: The Body	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2837		We Must Leave Some Things Behind	Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2838	06-23-2022	When Salvation Comes to Your House	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-2839		Temperance: The Mouth	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2840	06-24-2022	If the Foundations Be Destroyed, What Can the Righteous Do?	Bro. Roger Nethers
TR-2841		Temperance: Temper	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2842		Humility	Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2843	06-25-2022	The Fifth Vial: The Pouring Out of the Wrath of God	Bro. Allen Polston
TR-2844		Temperance: Passions	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2845		Having the Heart of a Servant	Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2846	06-26-2022	Are You Ready for Your Departure?	Bro. Larry Dishman
TM-457	2022	Spring Camp Meeting Songs #1	
TM-458		Spring Camp Meeting Songs #2	
TM-459		Spring Camp Meeting Songs #3	
TM-460		Spring Camp Meeting Songs #4	
TM-461		Spring Camp Meeting Songs #5	
TM-462		Spring Camp Meeting Songs #6	
TM-463		Spring Camp Meeting Songs #7	
	2022	Spring Camp Meeting Choirs Songs #1	
		Spring Camp Meeting Choirs Songs #2	
		All Songs in MP3 Format	
		All Morning Messages in MP3 Format	
		All Afternoon Teaching Services in MP3 Format	
		All Evening Messages in MP3 Format	



All message and music recordings are available only on regular CDs or MP3 format. The suggested donation for CDs is \$3.00 each and for DVDs is \$5.00 each. (DVDs are unavailable for the afternoon teaching services.) The suggested donation for MP3s is \$10.00 each. Postage is \$3.00 for one CD or MP3 and \$0.35 for each additional one. Recordings may be ordered by writing *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St, Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling the Print Shop at (740) 345-1312. Please make check or money order in U.S. funds, payable to *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

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