

The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

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

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 51 October 2021 No. 10



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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

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Vol. 51 October 2021 No. 10

Guest Editorial

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

Isaiah 55:6

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

Hebrews 2:3

PROCRASTINATION

The Lord graciously gives every man and woman an allotted time to make their decision in preparation for eternity. Think about it: eternity is time without end. It is unfortunate, but many have put off their opportunity to gain a real experience with God. Through procrastination, men and women have allowed deliverance from sin to slip away.

Time is precious, but when spent, it can never be regained. God has given many people opportunities, but it has been to no avail. No one knows how much time he or she will be given to make peace with God. Therefore, every individual should act quickly. Death comes to the young, the middle aged, and the elderly. It can come suddenly without warning. On the other hand, it can come as a result of a prolonged illness. The time of death is not the most important issue, but rather it is the condition of a person's soul when it comes.

The younger generation often entertains the thought that they have plenty of time to decide their eternal destiny. At present, their lives seem to be going well, but they do not realize that death could be very near. The middle-aged man and woman may feel they are in the prime of life. They may be cumbered about with getting and having more. Their health is good, they have good jobs,

and they enjoy life's many benefits and pleasures. They are engrossed in the affairs of living and the thought of death rarely crosses their minds. Then there are the elderly who have wasted all their good years on self, and now they feel that they have nothing to offer God but a ruined and worn out body.

It is important to take advantage of the time while it is available. For this reason, those who are truly wise ought to quickly grasp God's offer of deliverance from sin and ruin. Procrastination is a serious matter and can end with disastrous consequences. Hebrews 4:7 tells us, "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." In 2 Corinthians 6:2 we read these words of admonition: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." There are millions in a lost eternity today simply because they put off taking heed to God's call to repentance.

May we remind you that as we live in the midst of life, we also live in the midst of death? Just because all seems to be well and good today does not mean that it will always stay that way. Situations and circumstances can come about which can drastically alter life in a very short period of time. Freak accidents have often occurred without any warning. An accident can take one

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Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that

grace may abound?
2 God forbid. How shall we, that

are dead to sin, live any longer therein?



Go, and Sin No More

Brother Roger L. Decker

Living Without Sin

Many religions teach that all people are sinners, whether they are saved or not. Some who claim to be Christians say that everybody sins, Christians and sinners alike. We can live free from sin. If not, then Jesus told people to do something that would be impossible.

John 8:3-11 reads: "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his

finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

"So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Did Jesus tell the woman to go and do something that she was unable to accomplish? Is it possible to live sinless? First, to answer that question, we need to know what sin really is. We must take the authority of God's Word as final, not merely as people's ideas and not what we have been taught. It is the written Word of God, and that is what is going to judge us at the final Judgment, not men's theology.

First John 3:4 states, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." In these two verses, we can see two ways to commit sin. There is the sin of commission and the sin of omission, or the failure to do what

God says. Both sins carry within them a knowledge: "him that knoweth to do good" and "Who-soever committeth." You cannot commit sin without knowledge. Romans 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 4:15 states, "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression."

Many teach that they sin in word, thought, or deed daily. First, we want to look at some objections to living a sinless life. They use many Scriptures taken out of context to justify their false beliefs. Is it possible to live a sinless life? Today many say no. If you listen to them speak, they have some convincing arguments if you do not know the Truth.

As time goes on, we find that which is absolute has been taken out, or removed. Many people believe that nothing is really wrong anymore. They say it is merely how you may look at it. On the contrary, God's Word is not based on how you look at it, but rather it is how God looks at it. There was a time when there was no question as to whether something was sin or not. Truth will never change. Psalm 119:89 reads, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

The Old Dispensation

Some people are very skeptical when they hear about living a holy and sinless life. Many times it is the way they have been brought up and the conversations that they have overheard. Others have been taught wrong in religious schools. Some have seen everything but holiness lived in the home by professing Christians. Many church members have been mistaught. We all need to know the truth concerning this, because we each will stand at the Judgment alone.

Even some of God's people seem to get moved by the cry of false religion when they proclaim that no one can live holy.

Now let us look at some Scriptures used to object to a holy lifestyle. Certain Scriptures are used to object to living free from sin. We want to consider them in the light of their context. Let us look at the negative side of the discussion first. In the Old Testament, we read in 1 Kings 8:44-46: "If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name: Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

"If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near." The Scripture does say there is no man that sinneth not; however, this was written to people who were living under a different covenant than we are living under today. They were under what is called the old dispensation.

Another Old Testament Scripture that they use is found in Ecclesiastes 7:20, which reads, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." These words correspond with the words of the Apostle Paul when he wrote in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The words in the Old Testament were uttered before there was perfect atonement for sin. These words pertain to the human family that lived under the Law. There was the law of conscience, the Law of Moses, and the law of the prophets. The sacrifices under the old Law could never take away sin.

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

Hebrews 7:19 says, "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." The writer of Hebrews said that a remembrance was made every year, but many in false religion say there is a remembrance every day and that we must ask forgiveness every day. In other words, the way some believe, people had it better under the Law than they do in religion today.

Jesus Saves From Sin

Hebrews 9:7-14 states: "But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

"But Christ being come an

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

We are a long way from Moses' day and the day of conscience and the law of the prophets. Since then, Christ came to put an end to sin and to fully save man from it. Matthew 1:21 reads, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." His people are saved, not in sin, but from sin. John 1:29 says, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." He said he takes away sin. He does not mask over it. When something is taken away, it is no longer there. Hebrews 9:26 states, "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Let us look at another Old Testament Scripture used to object to holiness. Proverbs 20:9 tells us, "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" We know that no man can say that he has made his own heart clean. That Scripture is true. We cannot save ourselves, and we are not saved by works. Titus 3:5-6 reads: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy

he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." Only Jesus Christ can purify your heart.

Acts 15:8-9 says: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." How is your heart purified? Your heart is purified by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Men are commanded to live holy and are now able to do so by the grace of God. God would not ask you to do something that you could not do.

First Peter 1:15-16: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." How is it possible to be holy as God is holy? Dear one, your soul has to be clean in order to make Heaven your eternal home. There can be no defilement in your soul when you come before God at the Judgment.

Paul's Condition Under the Law

Romans 7:14-19 says: "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do."

The Amplified Bible in Romans 7:14-21 reads: "We know that the Law is spiritual; but I am a crea-

ture of the flesh [carnal, unspiritual], having been sold into slavery under [the control of] sin. For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled, or bewildered]. I do not practice *or* accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns]. Now if I do [habitually] what is contrary to my desire, [that means that] I acknowledge *and* agree that the Law is good (morally excellent) *and* that I take sides with it. However, it is no longer I who do the deed, but the sin [principle] which is at home in me *and* has possession of me.

"For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.] For I fail to practice the good deeds that I desire to do, but the evil deeds I do not desire to do are what I am [ever] doing. Now if I do what I do not desire to do, it is no longer I doing it [it is not myself that acts], but the sin [principle] which dwells within me [fixed and operating in my soul]. So I find it to be a law (rule of action of my being) that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me *and* I am subject to its insistent demands."

Dear one, let us use common sense. You would not want to listen to a man in that condition. Romans 7:1 reads, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?" What was the Apostle Paul talking about? Here he related his condition while he was under the Law. He was not speaking of after he met Christ on the Damascus Road. This was his experience when he was a Pharisee and persecuting the church. He was not yet born again. He was a Pharisee, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, of the

tribe of Benjamin. He had all those great qualities, but he could not get victory over sin.

Romans 3:10-11 reads: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." The phrase "As it is written," pertains to the Old Testament, because the New Testament was not written yet. This was not spoken to people under the new covenant. The righteousness of the old Law was self-righteousness. In Philippians 3:9 Paul wrote, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

Light and Darkness Do Not Mix

What was the righteousness of the old Law? It was a self-righteousness. John wrote in 1 John 1:8-10: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." What was John talking about? Backing up to verses 6-7 John said: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Darkness and fellowship cannot mix. You cannot mix light and darkness. Some claim to have fellowship and still walk in darkness, as if to say they had no sin and did not need to be cleansed. John said there is a need of confession. There is also a need of cleansing.

Let us look at some Scriptures

that speak out against the teaching of sinning more or less. First John 3:8-9 reads: "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." What was John saying in those verses of Scripture? He was saying that when you commit sin, you are motivated by the devil. Verse 8 from another translation says that when people keep sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil who has been sinning since the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy the work of the devil.

According to those two Scriptures, the work of the devil is sin. Along with this teaching of sinning more or less comes a teaching of "once in grace, or once you are saved, you are always saved." This is a terrible teaching that causes people to become careless in their living. This teaching implies that when one gets saved, he has a license to sin, as though God would be angry with the sinner but would be pleased with the Christian who does the same thing.

Let us look at some Scriptures that refute that teaching. Acts 1:25 reads, "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." Someone said that Judas was never saved, but how did he fall? The Scripture says he fell by transgression. They had Old Testament salvation. They did not have salvation as we know it today until the Day of Pentecost. Jesus said in John 15:3, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

Matthew 10:1-5 says: "And when he had called unto him his

twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus. Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him." We see that Judas was numbered as one of the apostles.

True Repentance

Revelation 3:4-5 states: "Thou has a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." What would an individual professing to be saved, yet living in sin, be overcoming? The biggest percentage of the Bible is written to God's people. Why is that? Why not just write to the sinner if the Christian is secure? One reason is that Christians need warnings. This is because the Christian is subject to failing; therefore, he needs to be warned.

The Apostle Paul stated in Galatians 5:4, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." The real problem with some in false religion today is that they do not really sell out to God. Often the preaching is shallow, and it matches the living. They have been taught

church joining for so long that repentance to them is simply joining a church. However, true repentance is needed in salvation. When a person repents, he is forgiven for all sins in the past up until that time, not forgiven for future sins.

In Romans 3:23-25 we read: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." It is through the forbearance of God, not in the future, but for sins that are past. We receive the Holy Spirit to counteract sin in the future. It is then that God adds one to the church. When one repents, it is

then that the Holy Spirit adds to the body of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 12:13 Paul said, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

God has a way for you to live sinless if you want to take that way. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." The Truth will set you free if that is what you want, but some people do not really want to be free. They want freedom to do as they please and still go to God's Heaven in the end. Dear one, to get into God's Heaven, you will have to work to get there.

You need to be free here before you get to the final Judg-

ment. In order to live right, you must desire it. If you choose to continue in sin, it will sadden the heart of God, but you are free to do so. We are free, moral agents; therefore, we each have a choice. There are two paths from which to choose. Psalm 119:35 says this: "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." That is only one path. Proverbs 4:14 states, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men." That is another path. God will help you. He desires you to go His way, and He will encourage you to go in the path that He has laid out before you, but He will not force you. I trust that you will make the right decision before it is too late.

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[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]

out of this life without any chance to pray or make amends. It is also possible that tragedy can leave us in a mentally incapable state where we cannot reason soundly. There are times some may be stricken with a sudden illness that quickly leads them to the grave. These issues are not mentioned as scare tactics, but to awaken you to a reality that could face anyone at any time. The adversary is doing his best to blind the minds of men and women to their need of real salvation and the finality there is in death.

There are two devices that Satan effectively uses on a man or a woman in preventing that person from becoming a Christian. These deceitful mechanisms are procrastination and neglect. He knows that if he can convince a soul to be passive about his or her soul and procrastinate, it will be too late to respond. Therefore, he strives to occupy the mind with less important things so that no attention will be given to spiritual needs. Even when a soul

begins to consider his need of God, Satan will be there to try to get the individual to put it off until some other time.

Neglecting to humble your heart before God, repenting of sin, and taking faith in Christ's call is a very serious matter. Refusing to receive Him and His pardoning love would be committing a grave injustice against the remedy. Christ came to earth, lived a righteous example, and willingly gave His life to save us from sin's awful penalty and consequence. It is man's responsibility to come when God calls and not just when he gets ready or feels like it.

Our Scripture text states that you are to seek the Lord while He may be found and to call upon Him while He is near. The admonition is to seek Him while He can be found, or whenever He is speaking. Too often many people have felt that they can get saved whenever they get ready. This thinking is surely unwise. In John 6:44 Jesus tells us, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." It is

the Lord who invites a man or a woman to come to Him and be saved. It is His Holy Spirit that calls one to forsake the life of sin and walk with Him in holiness and victory. If His Spirit does not speak and bring conviction and awakening, then your efforts alone will be futile.

Dear reader, do you feel the precious Spirit of God working with you, striving to draw you to Him? Do you long for real peace of mind and soul? God has just what you are desiring and looking for, but you must not procrastinate or refuse His invitation.

Selected

**THE WAGES
OF SIN NEVER
GO UNPAID.**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the

Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

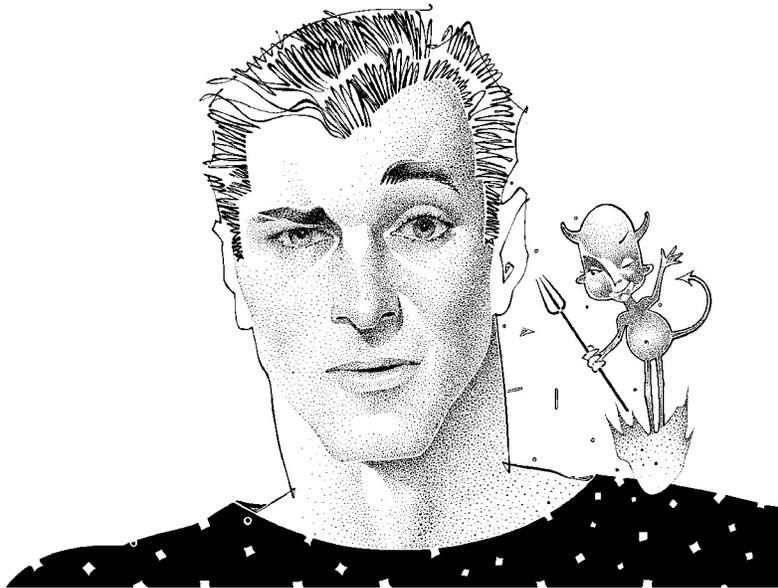
3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light

from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Is Your Light Burning Out?



Brother James Presley

"Let There Be Light"

This passage of Scripture tells us this is the first day that God created. It is the first time in the Bible that the word "light" is mentioned. Prior to this first day, darkness was upon the face of the earth; darkness was everywhere. Have you ever been in a cave where it was dark? It can be so dark that it almost scares a full-grown man to be in it because he does not know what is around the corner. Do you re-

member when you were in spiritual darkness before you got saved? I remember what that darkness felt like. I did not want to do certain things, yet I did them and regretted it.

At the Judgment, each of us will stand before God and give an account of everything done in the body. That should make you fearful of which way you go in this life. If you are unsaved, that should be especially fearful. The Bible says it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living

God.

Without God you cannot see where you are heading. The path you are taking is wrong. You might think that you are living right and doing everything that you should be doing in this life, but in the sight of God, you are lost in your sins and heading to hell.

The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 2:4, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us." Many years ago God saved my soul. He

showed mercy on me when I did not deserve mercy. He showed mercy on me when I was unthankful. I will not go into full details, but the weeks that led up to my salvation were horrible. I never want to go through a time like that again. I almost killed myself in a car accident, but I thank God that I was able to walk away from it. When I turned around and looked at that car, I knew that God had mercy on me, and I am so thankful! He started talking to me one last time, and I thank God that I heeded His voice.

Our Scripture text says in verse 3, "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." That is what happened when I was in darkness. I got saved, and light and understanding came in; then I was able to see where I was headed, just as the headlights of a car enable you to see where you are driving. When I received some understanding, I knew that I was not headed in the right direction. I am thankful God showed me that. Light also shows you what you need to do to change your life, and then after you get saved, that Light keeps you from the dangers of this world. You can make mistakes. Sometimes people make decisions that are not led of God. Some things may not be sinful, but you can make decisions that God does not want you to make. The light and understanding that God has will help you. He can give you the direction that you need.

The world is full of darkness, spiritually speaking. There is darkness everywhere we turn. Sometimes the route that I travel to work is in one of the worst parts of the area. I drive by prostitutes and drug addicts. I have seen some really bad places that are full of darkness, but when I drive in some areas where there are million-dollar homes, there is darkness there too. They may

think they are better, but they are still living in sin. We are surrounded by darkness. We need the light of the Gospel to help us every day.

Bearing Witness of the Light

John 1:1-9 reads: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

There are two things that I want you to look at in these verses of Scripture. First, what was the reason for the light? It says there was darkness, and the light shined in darkness. We need light in the darkness. Verse 5 says, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." As I said before, the world is full of darkness. The majority of people are living in darkness. It takes the Gospel Light to bring people out of that darkness. They go about every day feeling safe in the way they are going and do not really know where they are heading.

Second, what was John's purpose here on earth? The Scripture tells us that John came to bear witness of the Light, so that all men through him might believe. Now, he was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of the Light. John was here to tell folks about that great

Light, Jesus Christ. He was a forerunner of Christ. John's job was to reveal that Light to a lost and dying world. This Light touches every person and gives understanding. It reaches out. God would not be faithful if He did not give every soul an opportunity to get saved.

When my father passed away, it was horrible for me. As far as I know, he died lost. It troubled me because he was so willing to listen and talk about God, and I thought, "He could have been saved." I was troubled over that for a long time until one day God said, "I was faithful to him."

If you are living in sin, God is faithful to you. If you have never been saved, God is faithful to you. Remember, He does not have to give you more than one chance to get saved. He does not have to deal with you anymore. That is a scary thought. God wants souls to be saved, and He wants you to make Heaven your home. He is faithful. The first chapter of John lets you know that Jesus is the Light, and when a person gets saved, He lives within that person. John 14:23 states, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Just like John, we also are to be witnesses of that Light. He said He will make His abode with us. The Light that John spoke of will come in and abide with us. He will live in this temple that we are walking around in. We are the light of the world.

Letting Your Light Shine

Matthew 5:16 reads, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Verse 14 states, "Ye are the light of the world. A city

that is set on an hill cannot be hid." You are to let your light shine in this world. As a Christian, your purpose is to bear witness of this Light. God saved and changed you, and now He wants you to be a witness to others. When you get saved, you talk differently, you act differently, and you do things differently. Do you desire to witness to others? If everyone who claims to be a Christian would work to see one person saved this year, imagine how many people could be saved.

Do you have a desire to witness to souls or is your mind and your heart so filled with other things that the desire is not there to see souls saved? Do you look for opportunities to say something about God? Suppose you are at work and someone says something. Do you think, "I had better not say anything"? The devil will try to quiet you around lost souls. Why is that? You are the light of the world. You are to be as a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

If you are saved, is the light that you have in you burning out? How do you stand right now? Are you working for the Lord as you should be, so that when the time comes for you to pass over into eternity, you know that your light has not burned out?

The little children sing a beautiful old song, "*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*" The key words are "I'm gonna let it shine."

The devil will try to put things in your way to hinder you from letting your light shine. You have to keep everything out of the way so your light can shine brighter and brighter. That Scripture said, "Let your light so shine." The more things you get out of the way, the more your light will shine. When you go out

on a clear, bright day with no clouds in the sky, the sun is bright. How brightly is your light shining in this world?

That little song also says, "*Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.*" Satan wants to do that to each of us. The flame burning in your heart is what the devil wants to blow out. He does not want you to be on fire for God so that more souls can be saved.

The old devil tried hard to blow out Job's light. He took all his animals, his property, and even his children; then the devil afflicted him with painful boils. The devil left him with only his wife, who told him to curse God and die. That was terrible advice. He did not have any encouragement or support, but the devil could not blow out his light. Job still trusted in God, even when the devil worked through the three so-called friends who came around to condemn him and to tell him that he must have sinned. Job still stood for God, and God knew that Job was going to stand for Him no matter what. With the spirituality that you have right now, could you stand the test that Job stood? What would you do if the devil were to take your family and your job?

While studying, I thought of Horatio Spafford who wrote the song, "It Is Well With My Soul." He lost all four of his children, so he went back across the sea and wrote that beautiful song.

The Devil Wants to Put Out Your Light

If you had to go through all the hardships that Job went through, could you do it with victory in your soul? It would be tough. Job found himself all alone in his stand for God. His wife had nothing good to say. It was a very difficult time for Job. If you do not think you could

make it through that, it is time to get closer to God. Could you have come through with victory or would your light have been blown out? Would you have given up? That is exactly what the devil wants you to do now.

The devil is no respecter of persons. He does not care about you. He does not care how you feel. He does not care if you are sick or if you are going through hardships. The only thing he wants to do is take out your light. He wants to kill that flicker, because that flicker is what others see.

My son James and I hunt in the wilderness on the east side of the state. We have little lights that we stick on our hats with a button that makes the light flicker for safety. If a person gets lost, someone can see that flicker from a distance. When you are out on thousands of acres and you get lost, you want someone to see that flicker. As a Christian, that is the way your light shines for other people to see. They can see your life and see how you handle difficult circumstances with victory. They can see how you do not get angry and throw things or say things that you should not say.

Ephesians 4:14 reads, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." The devil will use anyone and anything to try to defeat you. You need to be careful who you lend an ear to. The devil is out there talking in people's ears. Remember, he uses people to see souls destroyed. He wants to put out your light. You should not listen to those who talk about others.

You can read in the Old Testament about how Korah got in trouble for speaking against Moses and went up against him with two hundred fifty men of

renown. They all died suddenly. What happened? The earth swallowed them up.

First Corinthians 15:33 states, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Your light can be blown out if you get around the wrong people and listen to them. You need to stay in good standing with God.

Another individual in the Bible who had his light blown out was Judas Iscariot. He was one of the original twelve disciples. He walked and talked with Jesus. He sat and listened to teaching lessons by Jesus. No doubt, he was on the mount spoken of in Matthew, Chapter 13. Although he spent time with Jesus, his light was blown out. As close to Jesus as Judas was, how could he have let his light get blown out? Jesus was not in first place in his life. John, speaking of Judas, said in John 12:6, "This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein." He had the money, and he was a thief. Apparently, they had problems with Judas.

Loving This Present World

Things of this world can slowly cause your light to go out. There is nothing wrong with making money, but the love of money can affect you. It has caused some people to rob banks and to steal and break into people's houses. If you start putting money before God, that is where the problem lies. Some people work extra hours on Sunday because they want to make extra money. If you come to church, it will pay you far more than that Sunday overtime will.

How about when it comes to paying your federal income taxes? Do you cheat on your tax forms? Remember, God is watching. You may get away with it with the government, but God is

watching, and He knows everything. You may get an extra \$1,000 back that year, but you are going to lose more in the long run.

How do you stand when it comes to tithing? Letting down on tithing will hinder your light. Has the devil ever told you: "That bill is due, so you cannot pay your tithe. You can pay your tithes later"? That is easy to do if you are not careful. What might happen? Next week comes around and something else takes its place, and then something else. If you put God first, God will take care of you and your financial needs. You can get caught up with material goods and wanting more and more. When something affects you that way, then it is time to get more serious with God.

What else will cause your light to blow out? Second Timothy 4:10 tells us, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." What was going on back then that drew Demas away? The Bible does not tell us, but the devil will use any means he can to draw people away. What he tries to entice you with may not be sinful, but it can be a hindrance to you spiritually and eventually draw you away. The things of this world can get hold of your heart, and your light could go out.

How does seeing a lost soul go to hell affect you? There are people who claim to be Christians who get upset when their favorite sports team loses a game, but a soul going to hell does not bother them. Do you love this present world? Things of the world are what caused Demas to turn his back on God.

Many things in this world can get hold of you if you are not careful. A boyfriend or a girlfriend can draw you away. That is the reason dating is so serious. Praying about a companion is serious. You may say, "I am

lonely." I would take loneliness over marrying the wrong one. If you get the wrong one, you are going to be miserable rather than lonely. It is important to pray. I like what Brother Wayne Hafley used to say. He said, "It is better to pray them in than to chase them in." You need to keep God first in your life, and He will lead you to the right companion.

God knows exactly what He is doing. He knew exactly what it was going to take to cause me to get saved. He knew I needed my wife as a companion. She has been a blessing to me. God knows exactly what you need. If you need a job, He knows where you need to work. If you are trying to decide on schooling, God knows what courses you need to take in school. If you need a companion, He will give you the right one. God knows everything. If you get the wrong job, it can hinder you spiritually.

Are You a Lover of Self?

Second Timothy 3:1-2 reads: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves. . . ." The love of self causes many people's lights to go out. If you put yourself before anything else and anybody else, including God, you are not going to worry about others or about what God wants, because you love yourself more than you love God. Too many people do not want to deny self.

Jesus said in Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Jesus let people know they have to deny themselves. This flesh does not want to do the things of God. Sometimes I do not want to get up and go to church when I am tired, but I have to bring my flesh under subjection to the will of God and keep it under. We have a cross to bear, and that

cross is not going to be easy to carry. It is going to be painful. There is some suffering to do. The Bible says if we suffer in the flesh, we cease from sin. Quitting sin could bring suffering. Sometimes it is hard to give up what the flesh wants, but we have to give it up. Most people do not want to do that. They want their flesh to be happy.

How do you know if you are a lover of self? I will give you some examples. Second Timothy 3:2-4 states: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [Young person, are you a lover of your own self? Are you disobedient to your parents, not doing what your mom and dad want you to do? Do you do exactly what they want you to do at all times? If they tell you to clean your room, do you say, 'Okay, I'm going to clean it,' but you keep putting it off? If you do not listen to your parents, you are probably not going to listen to God as you get older. We are living in such an unthankful world.] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

I want you to think about that. Those examples show that you might have some problems with being a lover of self. Would you rather go to a football game than to church? Would you rather go to a movie than to church? What would you rather do than go to church? The only thing some people want to do at church is take a nap, because they do not want to be there. Too many people are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. You need to get serious about serving God. You need to keep your light burning brighter and brighter every day.

Suffering as a Witness

Let us look at a couple of examples in the Bible of those who remained faithful to the end. Stephen was working for God until he left this world. He died doing what God wanted him to do. What was that? He was a witness of the light. You can read of that in Acts, Chapter 6. There was a problem with the widows being taken care of.

The disciples did not think it was good for them to leave the Word of God and serve tables, so they said, "Let us choose seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost, and wise." Those were three requirements to serve tables. What would such a report say about you? How honest are you? Are you honest with God when a message goes forth? When it touches your heart, do you make a move?

The second requirement was being full of the Holy Ghost. You need to be full of the Holy Ghost. Is the Holy Ghost in your life? Are you as spiritual as you once were?

The third requirement was, one needed to have wisdom. If you are not careful, you can fall. You need to ask God for wisdom. When you walk out the door in the morning, you are going to need wisdom to know how to deal with people and to know how to talk to people.

John 1:8 reads, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light." We have the same requirements. We are to bear witness of that Light. Stephen told the Pharisees what they needed to hear, and they could not take it. Oftentimes a man of God will stand at the pulpit and preach the message, but the message may hurt some people. If it shoots you right through your heart, you ought to take it. It could be painful, but take it anyway. Stephen did not say what he said to hurt the people,

but he was saying those things to help them. When a man of God is preaching, he says what he says to help people, not to hurt them. He bears witness of that Light. Do you know what happened to Stephen? They stoned him.

Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, and he became a great man of God. He spoke about that Light being above the brightness of the sun. What was the first thing he heard out of that great Light? "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." History tells us that Paul did great things for the Lord. He made many missionary trips and was used mightily of God. He wrote thirteen books of the Bible and witnessed about Jesus to kings and others in authority. We read in Acts 26:28 that King Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Along with his witnessing came suffering. God wants your light to shine brightly. He wants you to work for Him, but you are going to suffer some things. Just imagine what Stephen and Paul faced for telling others about the Light. They were stoned and beaten. In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 11, Paul said he was beaten five times by the Jews, three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned, three times he suffered shipwreck, plus he was in many other perils. Why was he in so many perils? Because he was a witness of the Light.

If you are a witness of the Light, you will have to endure some suffering. Not everyone is going to like you. If you are not careful, you will fall into the worldly thought of, "People *have* to like me!" If you are a faithful witness, you are going to upset some people when you tell them the truth. However, with the suffering comes great benefits. Psalm 68:19 states, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."

Consecrating Your Service to the Lord

Are you working for the Lord as you should? Are you going to work until the day you cross over into eternity? You may say, "I read my Bible and pray," but are you working hard for Him? God wants people who are working for Him. Do you allow things or people to affect you to the point where you give up and quit? It is easy to listen to others, but an old adage says, "Quitters never win and winners never quit."

We are in a race. I want to win this race. I want to finish strong and see souls saved. It is great to work with souls and to see them saved. It is not a proud occasion, as if to say, "Oh, I did that," but it is a great feeling to see souls saved when you have worked with them.

If you want the light in you to keep burning brighter and brighter, you need to keep oil in your lamp. If you do not keep that fuel there, your light will go out. Your job is to share it with others. Do you have a desire to work for the Lord as you should? There are many callings spoken of in the Word of God. One of them is to be a witness for this

Light. How is your witness? Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." We have a big part in the shining of this Light. We cannot hide this Light. If you are not a witness for this Light, then you are hiding it. If you put a bushel over a candle, the light is going to go out. God did not save you so you could be a secret Christian. There is no such thing as a secret Christian. God saved you so you can be out in the world working for Him.

What do you want to accomplish for the Lord? Are you as fully consecrated to the work of the Lord as God wants you to be? Does everything else take second place in your life? God should be in first place and the work of God should be first. We have a great work to do.

As I was studying, I thought of Nehemiah. He said in Nehemiah 6:3, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" What was he doing? He was building up the walls of Jerusalem. The world is full of unsaved individuals.

First Chronicles 29:3-5 reads:

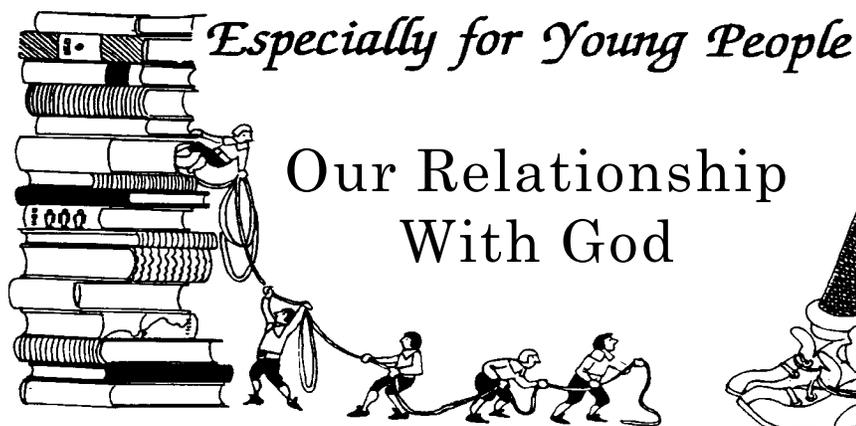
"Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God [that is where your affection needs to be], I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal: The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?" Are you willing to consecrate your service to the Lord? We have a great work to do.

Do you have a need? Have you been working for God as you should be? It is beautiful to see souls saved. If you want help from God, why don't you pray and consecrate yourself to the Lord and to the work of the Lord? If you have backslidden or if you have not been where you need to be for God, it is time to get things straightened out with the Lord.

(Compact Disc TR-1831)

The Way to Get Clean

Sending a small boy away from a mud puddle to play on a green lawn will not clean his face, hands, and clothes. He must be washed and have clean garments. Reforming never obliterated anyone's past. The good works of today cannot blot out the record of yesterday's sins. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin, and the God of grace gives us the garments of Christ's own holiness when we pass from death to life.



Especially for Young People

Our Relationship With God



I want to talk about a relationship with God and what that should be like. When I was younger, I believed that a relationship with God was just doing what you were supposed to do and what you know is right because your parents told you to do it. I thought it was just a set of rules to follow, so I never felt like I was right because I was just doing something I was told to do.

When you know something is right, to believe it you have to put your whole heart into it and really give it your all. For a long time, I struggled with knowing that God is real and knowing that He is there for me and believing it with my whole heart. I really wanted to be a Christian and to have a relationship with God, but finding the motivation and the push to move forward was really hard for me.

I had good intentions but they always fell flat. I wanted to move up, but I would not follow through, and it was really frustrating. However, God started giving me thoughts about looking at my relationship with Him differently. He showed me what a relationship with Him should look like. As I started looking at my relationship with Him, it really started to change my outlook. When thinking of a normal relationship or friendship, you do not really think about it as something forced, or as something that you have to do. If I

were to treat every relationship in my life the way that I have treated my relationship with God when I was younger, it is not likely that people would even want to be my friend.

I started thinking about my relationships now and what they look like. Think about your best friends, those you are closest to right now. Did you just start to become friends? When you think about the connections that you have, what are some things that come to your mind? They may know a lot about your life. They may look at you and know what you are thinking in different situations. They may know your interests, your likes, and your dislikes. Maybe those individuals are there for you and would drop what they are doing if you needed help. Perhaps you share a lot of good memories.

If you are as close as you think, then you are all these things to them as well. What if they were not there for you? What if you put a lot of effort into these friendships and they acted as though it was a struggle to be your friend and to cut a little piece of time out for you, as if it were really inconvenient and they just did it because they had to? What if you took the time to contact that person and he or she said, "I'm too busy." How would you feel? You probably would feel forgotten and mistreated.

Sometimes people put Jesus

on the back burner, thinking: "I'll get to Him later; it will be fine. I can read my Bible tomorrow. I don't have to do it right now." Jesus came to this world and died on the Cross for each of us. He is the ultimate Friend. He did everything for us. He put much effort into this relationship because He knows what is best for us. He knows the future, and He only wants what is best for us. Do you treat Him that way and choose your own selfish desires?

We each have a flesh. Do you do what your flesh wants because it is what feels good in the moment, not really thinking about the future? You need to take the time to build your relationship with God. Some have pushed Him away and do not even know what His voice sounds like anymore. If you have done that, He cannot really talk to you. He is your friend, and this is a relationship into which you have to put continual effort.

When thinking about this thought, the verse that comes to my mind is Proverbs 18:24, which reads, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." God is that Friend who is closer than even family. He will always be there for you. I think I forget a lot that I have to put that effort in. You have to be friendly.

This walk with God is a

personal relationship. You cannot rely on someone else's salvation and follow someone else's path. You have to gain that relationship with Him, and then God will be there for you. No one can walk this walk for us, no matter how much they try. It really made me think that I am not sure if I have ever looked at this relationship with God in this aspect. I had never really treated Him like my best friend. I had not really cared about His desires, His wants, and His feelings as much as I know He cares about mine.

In order to build a friendship, you cannot jump into the middle of it. You have to start at the beginning. No matter how much you want to be the best Christian possible, you have to work at it. It is not really easy. When you meet someone new and become friends, you do not know anything about that person at first. You do not know what he or she is really like. That person is not going to tell you secrets. It takes time to build trust and develop a relationship. You have to be there for this person so that one can depend on you. You should treat that person like he or she is important. You have to give your time, even when you do not feel like it.

The same is true in your

relationship with God. You have to put forth effort, even on the days when it is hard and you do not feel like it. You must pray and talk to God. Some days you may feel that you are just going through the motions, but that cannot be every day. You have to really try. When you read the Bible, you need to think about what you are reading and really give it your all. You cannot just read it as you would a book. Those are God's words to you. Also, you have to realize that you are not always going to get answers immediately. That does not happen in a friendship when you are starting it, and you do not always get what you want immediately.

You have to keep in mind that the end goal is to have this beautiful relationship, just like the end goal of meeting someone new is to have a great friendship, someone you can really trust. God is the ultimate best friend. He will always be there for you when you are sad, angry, happy, lonely, or whatever you are going through, but you have to put the effort in now. You cannot wait until difficult times come and expect God to be there. God does not want to be your fair-weather friend. You cannot just be His friend when it is convenient. This is a relationship that

you have to work on every day.

Reading and praying are important. Maybe it will help you think about reading like it is God's text to you as a friend. It is His conversation to you. A walk with God is not something that is just going to click in place and be a cakewalk, so to speak. You must put forth effort every day. If you do not put forth enough effort, the devil will get a place in your life. You need to think about how God must feel when you are not always the friend to Him that you are supposed to be. You expect Him to answer your prayers, but if that does not happen, you may get upset and say, "God, why are You not answering my prayers?" He wants to answer, but maybe you do not know what His voice sounds like. God is there, and He is waiting for a relationship with you. He has already done His part. Jesus died on the Cross, and He has written a whole Book for you. He is just waiting for you to respond and talk to Him.

I hope this has helped you. It really spoke to me. It made me feel guilty that I have not treated Him in the way that I would treat a friendship and really put that kind of effort into my relationship with God.

Sister Whitney Strelecky

Spelling "Love"

This is a story of a little girl learning to spell by imitating the sounds that animals make, spelling in this way "dog," "cat," and other simple words. Finally, the teacher asked her to spell "love." Quickly, the little one ran to her teacher, threw her arms about her neck, kissed her, and said, "We spell 'love' that way at our house."

"That is beautiful," the teacher replied, "but do you know any other ways of spelling love?"

"Yes," said the little girl, and she began to put the books away and set the teacher's desk in order. I spell 'love' by helping everybody when they need me."

A home built upon love in action is sure to be a happy home.

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them

unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to

write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.



There Is Only One Gospel

Brother David Watson

Truth Is Divinely Revealed

How wonderful it is to have those things set forth that we surely do believe in. I thank God for the great Truth that we have. As the Church of God, we believe the written holy Word of God. We believe the witnesses that have stepped forth and given their testimonies, even some of them at the peril of death. They set forth great truths that we hold dear and precious to our hearts. The Truth will set you free. I thank the Lord for the Truth of God. Church of God, we need to reassure our children that we have the true, infallible Word of God. It is that which Holy Ghost filled men of God

wrote. The Holy Ghost gave them the inspiration to write these things to us. These truths are divine. The only understanding that we have of them is by the revelation of God. That certainly gives us assurance that these truths are precious and sure. These are what we believe.

John said in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This is divine, and it is from Heaven. It is not of men. This is of God, and with all our hearts we endorse these precious truths that we hold to be true. We have the evidence that the Truth is true. The Scriptures are in harmony and do not contradict one another. This

gives us the understanding that they are divine and revealed to us by God.

The Bible teaches there is only one Gospel. We are living in a world where there is much theology put out by mankind. This and that is said to be true, but whenever it is put on the balances of God, we find much of that has not been divinely revealed by God. Therefore, we cannot support and endorse that which is not wholly written in the Word of God. We must hold these Truths precious to our hearts and endorse the one Gospel that God brought to us. That one Gospel is good news, that one Gospel is revealed, and that one Gospel brings God to you

and me for our needs, for our problems, and for the progress of our lives in this present world.

The Apostle Paul, the writer of the Book of Galatians, had this to say in Galatians 1:6-8: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Paul let us know there is another gospel, but he stated very plainly that it is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We live in a day when many are saying: "I believe this and I believe that," but I want to take you back to that which we hold to be true.

The Godhead

The Prophet Isaiah stated in Isaiah 52:8, "Thy watchmen [who stand upon the mount] shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion." When Jesus came to this world, He came to give mankind the Gospel. He did not come to cross the prophets or to be in contradiction of the Law age, but He came to fulfill Truth to you and me. The prophets before Him brought it eye to eye, precept upon precept, and line upon line so that you and I could be one in voice, in harmony, and in unity with one another.

We ought to stop and consider these things because our souls are at stake. We are heading for a place called eternity. We have the Gospel, and this Gospel is Truth. It points you and me to the ministry of Jesus Christ and the very Gospel that He brought to this world.

I thank God for the precious

Truth that Jesus brought to you and me. God brought the church to you and me under one Godhead. There is a Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. There are three, and these three are One. I will illustrate it this way to help you to understand: My wife and I are two people, but joined together of God; therefore, we are one through marriage. Whenever we look at God, we see there was none before Him and none after Him. He had no beginning and He has no ending. He is the Almighty; He is God.

Jesus is the Son of God and He is of God, yet He has no beginning or ending. He is equal with God, yet He is the Son of God in the Godhead. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, proceeding from them, yet He has no beginning and no ending, and He is equal in the Godhead. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are One. We hold these precious Truths to be true.

The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." This is not hard to understand. God is the Head of the great Church of the Living God. As Christians, all that we believe and enjoy comes from God, is of God, and is the Truth of God. I thank the Lord for the precious Truth that God has given us. There is only one Truth to believe. The Bible teaches there is one faith, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that which He has given you and me. We have the written Word to believe.

There is one faith and one body. Colossians 1:18-19 reads: "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the

preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell." It is all in Christ. I believe in this Truth that the body of Christ is His church. He bought it; He paid for it, and it is His. Man did not organize it, man did not put it together, and it is not built on man. It is built on God, and it is built on Truth and a revelation of God. Jesus shed His blood for it; He purchased it with His own blood, and it belongs to Him.

God Named the Church

The body comprises those who are saved by the grace of God and born of the Spirit. Water baptism does not put you in the church, and your name in a church book does not put you in the church. No, you must be born again to be in the body of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that we all are baptized into the body of Christ by the Spirit of God. You must be born again, and the Holy Spirit will baptize you and induct you into the body, which is the Church of the Living God. When the Spirit puts you in the church, man must take his hands off you.

Some people are leaning on man. Man is their head, and man is the governor of what they are doing. You need to get the Book and do some reading for yourself. You need to search the Scriptures, and you will find that man cannot fix you with the church. It is the Holy Ghost of God that puts you in the body, which is the Church of God.

I invite you to take the King James Version of the Bible and search the record and see what God has to say. You need to get away from man's theology. Your soul is at stake. You are heading for eternity. When you stand before God at the Judgment, man cannot get you through the Judgment of God. You need to know the precious Truth and be washed in the blood of Jesus

Christ if you are going through.

God has given His church one name. His name is not confusion or division. His name is divine. He has a name that is above every name. He is far above all powers and principalities, and He is the head of His church.

Philippians 2:9-11 states: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." His name is divine. I thank God for the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Zechariah 14:9 reads, "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one." God calls it the Church of God. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 and 1 Corinthians 15:9 when Paul addressed the Church of God. A man got saved who had been persecuting the Church of God. It was Paul, who was first called Saul. He was a Pharisee who was converted and became Church of God. He confessed and said that he persecuted and wasted the Church of God. He said that because what he had been putting his hand against belonged to God. It was divine, but at first he could not see it. God brought him down by the power of God, and he was saved and redeemed and put in the Church of God.

One True Foundation

Every soul that belongs to God holds the Truth precious. Anything that builds on man is not of God; it is built on the sand. There is only one true foundation to build on. Surely Paul understood this when he said in

1 Corinthians 3:11-13: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

The Word of God and the Holy Ghost of God try our works. When Paul spoke about the foundation, he was talking about building on this foundation. God is going to try you and know whether or not you are good building material. Too many people try to be the church, but they have never burned their works. When you get on this solid foundation, you have to burn everything that you are of and stand with the Truth of Jesus Christ.

Paul let people know that he was a Pharisee of the Pharisees, but when God saved him, he had to give it all up. He had to let God burn all of that. I have met people in my ministry who have been down among confusion and division, going here and there, following theology and men's opinions. They were separated from the Truth of God. When they heard the Truth, some had honest hearts. Some wanted to know: "What do I have to do, because my soul is at stake? I'm going to die, and I want to know for certain that I'm ready to go. I want to be right with God when I leave this life. What must I do?"

I said: "Surrender all. You need to die out to yourself, to the teachings of men, and to the doctrines of men. You need to make sure that Truth is revealed to you by the Word of God. If it does not come from God and you cannot prove it by rightly dividing the Word of God, you should run as fast as you can. You ought to get out of that place and come home to God." You need to be

sure that you are standing on the foundation that God laid. The foundation is Jesus Christ.

In Acts, Chapter 4, some were disputing and would not come to acknowledge the Truth of God, so the Apostle Peter spoke to them. Verses 8-12 tell us: "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner [Jesus Christ]. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

God Put the Church Together

The Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the pagan worshipers were trying to worship in some other name, but whenever they set this Stone aside, Peter let them know there was no salvation in what they claimed. This is the Stone that Daniel spoke of that was cut out of the mountain. That Stone crushed the whole kingdom of Babylon and they became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away.

The Truth stands just as true today as it was in the day that Peter preached it. You may pray in man's name, but you are not going to get your prayer any higher than your voice goes. If you expect God to answer you, you need to get it right.

Peter said there is no salvation in any other. Jesus is the only One who can save and

redeem the soul. Jesus offered Himself and paid the supreme sacrifice. It was finished once and forever. This is salvation that Jesus paid for, and we hold these Truths precious and dear. Man wants to tie you up with an organization and fix you by baptizing you, by getting you to sign a card, or by shaking a preacher's hand.

I want to show you how God put His church together. Ephesians 4:11-16 reads: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ [which is the church]: Till we all come in the unity of the faith [the one faith], and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

God puts us together by the Holy Ghost of God. You can have all the memberships you want and go through all the rituals you want but still not be together. When God saves a person, He puts the Holy Spirit in that person. Then God puts the saints together, and we walk together and have all things common. We hold the same Truth, believe the same thing, walk by the same rules, love one another, and have fellowship in the Spirit of God.

The Church of God believes in water baptism, but water baptism does not put a person in the church. It takes the Holy Ghost of God to put you in the church. We believe in feet washing because it is an ordinance that Jesus taught. God took us from the Law to grace. Thank God, He gave us something far better. We believe in the ordinance of communion. Thank God, when we partake of it, we do it in remembrance of Him. This ordinance belongs to the church. Every Christian is to examine himself or herself to see if he or she is right with God before partaking of it.

Examining Yourself

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 13:3-5: "Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you. For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

How can you examine yourself? You must get the Book and read it for yourself. Ask God to come and commune with you and to show you the Truth. God will show you the Truth if you are honest and sincere. My wife was in another religion, and she did not know the Truth, but she came where I pastored and heard some truth. She went home and began to read the Bible. God revealed the Truth to her because she had an honest heart. It got her out of what she was in and put her in the Church of God.

If you are sincere about your soul and concerned about dying, you had better make sure that you are right with God. More

people are going to hell in the name of religion than anything else. You can read in Galatians, Chapter 4, that the church is outnumbered. People are scattered here, there, and yonder. There are still honest people out there.

In Revelation 18:4 John said, "Come out of her, my people." What was he talking about? He was talking about coming out of false teachings and false doctrines and that which is not built on the Word of Truth. We need Truth. The Truth will set you free. There were those who said: "Look, Jesus, we are Abraham's seed. Abraham was our father. We were not born of fornication." Jesus told them, "If you had the Spirit of My Father in you, you would not be talking as you are."

When you get the Spirit of God, you will not argue with Truth; you will love Truth. You will not search for any kind of excuse. You will search for what is right. The Pharisees and the Sadducees paid tithes of mint, anise, and cummin, but Jesus told them that they left out what was most important. They left out matters of the Law, judgment, mercy, and faith. He said they left out the weightier matters.

Proverbs 20:10 reads, "Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD." Both of them are just alike. Some measure by this man and some by that doctrine. They have their own rules, and then they have to put up a fight to justify those rules. You do not have to justify Truth. Truth is already justified. I thank God for Truth.

If you are found weighed in the balances and you are not weighing with Truth, you need to get to the place where you become just and honest with God. You can do that if you are honest in your heart. God will bless you for doing so. May God bless you.

(Compact Disc TR-2370)

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is

shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Make Peace With God



Brother Calvin Foster

The Fear of the Lord

If you are saved and have made peace with God, you need to keep peace with God. That is the most important thing. We are heading for the Judgment where each of us has an appointment to meet God. Friend, you want to meet God in peace. I thank God that I have been justified by faith. The word justified means that

one has been declared free from blame. He has had an acquittal, so to speak. God has freed him from the penalty attached to sin. If you are saved, God has justified you in His sight. Therefore, for the rest of your life, as you walk on this earth, you need to make sure that you keep peace with God. Ephesians 2:8-9 reads: "For by grace are ye saved through faith [do not lose faith in

God]; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Salvation is the act of God's free grace, and we thank Him for it. We should want to be faithful to God and faithful to one another as we walk with God. Faithfulness denotes that we are trustworthy, dependable, and standing on a sure foundation. We must be faithful to God and

maintain peace with God. A faithful person is someone who fears God and dreads the thought of disappointing Him. I do not want to disappoint God. If I do not disappoint God, I will not disappoint His people. I do not want anything to come between me and God, and I do not want anything to come between me and His people. One song says, "*We need each other, brethren.*"

Proverbs 16:6-7 reads: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. [If you have the fear of the Lord in your heart, you have departed from evil. I do not know about you, but I do not want to go to hell. Hell is a terrible place.] When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Psalms 111:10 reads, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: [We are surrounded by people in the world who do not fear the Lord. They are living their lives in such a way that they feel like they are good in their own eyes. They say: 'I'm a pretty good person. I'm just as good as anyone else.' By the fear of the Lord, men depart from evil. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. I started being wise the day that I started fearing the Lord.] a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."

Jesus said in Luke 12:4-5: "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

The wisest thing I ever did was to start fearing the Lord. You are not a fool or a coward because you fear the Lord. You are

a wise man or woman when you fear the Lord. You did not make yourself. You have a Creator. This is serious business.

Guarding Your Weak Point

God sent His Son to die for us to eradicate sin from the world. You will not have any excuse if you stand before Him with sin in your life. Jesus said if you die in your sins "whither I go, ye cannot come" (John 8:21). You can have peace with God. In part of the Lord's Prayer, Christ told His disciples in Matthew 6:13, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

James explained temptation so we could understand it, because we all are going to be tempted. Our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted in every point. He went through temptation thinking about you and me. He went through every temptation that you could think of. James tells us in James 1:13-15: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Dear one, you ought to know where your weak point is. As mere human beings, we need God's help each and every day. There is a weak point in each of our lives and self knowledge of our weakness. You know where you are weak, and this is very important in living a holy life. I may not be weak in the same area that you are, and you may not be weak in the same area that I am. You need to know enough about yourself to know where you are weak.

I want to live holy. I have to

protect my faithfulness to God. My usefulness to God will depend on how well I protect and guard my weak point. You have to protect and guard your weak point. If you know that going down a certain street has something there to draw you away from God, what are you doing going down that street? You are putting yourself in a position to be tempted. A hard temptation may come on you. Do not tempt God or play around with God. You need to be serious and guard yourself so that you do not fall. You must guard yourself so that you can be strong in the Lord. If you want to be faithful to God and useful for God, you have to guard your weak point.

The devil is throwing everything he can at human beings. He knows he is going to hell, but he does not want any of us to go to Heaven. He wants us to go to hell. The devil is throwing everything he can at people, whether they are weak or strong. The devil does not care who he comes against. He is out to destroy you and me. God loves us, but old Satan hates us.

Proverbs 6:23-27 reads: "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman [this could be said of a man too], from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" No, he cannot. You need to guard your weak point. You need to keep peace with God, keep peace in your mind, and keep peace in your heart. I repeat, you must guard your weak point. You cannot play with fire without getting burned no matter

how long you have been saved, no matter who is around you, and no matter how much you pray. You have to watch. Jesus said to watch and pray.

Take a Good Look at Yourself

Good common sense would not allow you to ruin your physical health. Common sense would not allow you to hurt yourself physically. Common sense tells older guys that the football and the basketball days are over, but it is okay to walk around the block a few times.

Common sense tells you not to ruin yourself financially. When you take common sense and throw it away, you are going to ruin yourself financially and be in too much debt. You must use common sense, and so it is spiritually. Common sense will teach you to guard your spiritual life. It is not a secret of Christianity that temptation will lead you to sin. Temptation will lead you to sin, so common sense will teach you to ask the Lord to bless and help you.

You must guard your eyes and guard your tongue. In other words, watch what you say and watch what you look upon, because you want to stay saved and make Heaven your home. It is as simple as that. In the forces of evil, the flesh is weak. The flesh does not want to serve God. You have to bring it under subjection and make it serve God. The flesh does not want to do anything but go out and play with the things of the world and seek worldly pleasures. That person looking at you in the mirror is your worst enemy. You might have a headache when you go to work, so you can go to church with a headache. You go to work when it is raining or snowing, so you can go to church when it is raining or snowing. Have you ever noticed that people can see the faults and the weaknesses in

other people but they cannot see their own? One time years ago, a brother preached a message on taking a good long look at yourself, and he had a mirror that people could pass around for everyone to take a look at themselves. It is easy to see the other person, but you need to take a good, long look at yourself.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-5: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." You need to keep peace with God. Do not come to church with a shovel and then shovel the Word off on someone else. You should come with a rake and rake it in to yourself.

We read in John 21:18-22: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me." In

other words, Jesus was saying: "Peter, I told you to follow Me. Why are you worried about what this brother is going to do? You follow Me. Save yourself and obey Me."

Paul kind of echoed that a little in his writing in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 10. People can get so busy looking at what the other fellow is doing and judging the other fellow and quit concentrating on what God is telling them to do. In 2 Corinthians 10:12 the Apostle Paul said, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Obeying God

You may say: "Brother So-and-So does not come to the prayer meeting. If he does not come, why do I have to come?" You are doing just what Paul said not to do. You are measuring yourself by other people. Those who measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves among themselves are not wise. You need to obey God, eat the Word, and do what God tells you to do. You need to be an example.

If you keep peace with God, you will be a blessing to your children and your family. Many people are hardhearted, but you cannot let their hardheartedness and wicked ways stop you from following the Lord. I want to be in my place. I want to be found obeying God. I want to be in the center of His will.

The Apostle Paul stated in Ephesians 6:1-4: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour [respect and reverence] thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest

live long on the earth. [You ought to honor your mom and dad and do your chores in the right spirit. Do not throw things around, slam doors, or murmur under your breath. God hears the murmuring. Murmuring is when you say things under your breath. Your father or mother might not have heard it, but God heard it. God said to honor them so that you may live long on the earth, and so that it might be well with you. That is a promise from Almighty God. I am encouraging you to keep peace with God.] And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

The nurture of the Lord is to nurture them, to educate them, to train them, and to instruct them. You should not smack them in the head and cause them to become angry at you. You ought to talk with them and raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. I love the Church of God, and I love God's house, God's teachings, and God's family. When I was raising my children, I made some mistakes. If I could raise them again, I would do some things differently. I would be more careful and try to do a better job.

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:15-17: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [I want to keep peace with God. You cannot take anything with you. One poet said that you ought to wear this world like a loose garment, because one day you will have to take it off.] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

My dear friend, God is

looking at how you treat others. He is looking at how you act behind closed doors and wherever you go. The Bible says in Proverbs 15:3, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." The lust of the flesh is pleasures of the world. The lust of the eyes represents the material things that look so pretty. The pride of life is the worldly positions and the titles that people love to put on themselves. Often the pride of life goes to a person's head and causes him to get out of the order of God. You need to stay humble before God and keep peace with God.

Using Your Time Wisely

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

I thank God for the time He has given us on earth. He gives us so many golden opportunities. I thank God that He did not let me get killed in the streets of Chicago. He gave me time and opportunity to get back in school and graduate and go to trade school. Time gives us the chance to do better. You might not have done well, but God is giving you time to do better. Do not throw away the time that God has given

you. Time gives us good circumstances and conditions to succeed. Maybe there was a time when you did not have an automobile, but now God has blessed you with one. God gave you better conditions than you had before, and now you can succeed.

Time gives us opportunities. We have to stay in peace with God. Before I got saved, I almost made a bad decision, but God blessed me with time to think about it. He changed my mind, changed my ways, and changed my life. I thank God for that. Time can be a tool that God uses to bless you, but the devil can also use time against you. You do not want to miss the opportunities that God gives you. Can you think back on a time when you were more spiritual than you are now? Can you think back to a time when you were more on fire for God, singing, testifying, and witnessing? Has time changed you? Do not let the devil use your time. Time used for God is never wasted. You are not wasting your time when you are using it for the glory of God.

The word procrastinate means to put off doing something that should be done right away. Do not procrastinate in making peace with God. If you are not saved, I plead with you to make peace with God before it is everlastingly too late. If you do not have peace with God, I pray that you will not procrastinate. Procrastination is a thief of time. Ecclesiastes 11:9 states, "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

The Psalmist David said in Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way ever-

lasting." If you are saved, you need to keep living for God. God is going to show you what is in you. He does not want you to be lost. God is in the healing business. You need to search yourself by answering these questions: Do I have the peace that passes all understanding? Do I have joy that is unspeakable and full of glory?

Judgment Day

We are heading for the Judgment. Jesus gave us a little picture of what Judgment Day will be like. It is going to be a day of separation. Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-46: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a

stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand [there are only two groups: the right-hand group and the left-hand group], Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

"Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Judgment Day is going to be a great day of disappointment for many people. This is where it gets really serious, because some religious people have the pride of life and want to draw disciples after themselves and want to have special titles and big names, but God will have a message for them on Judgment Day. This is a fearful thing to deal with God.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:22-23: "Many will say to me in that

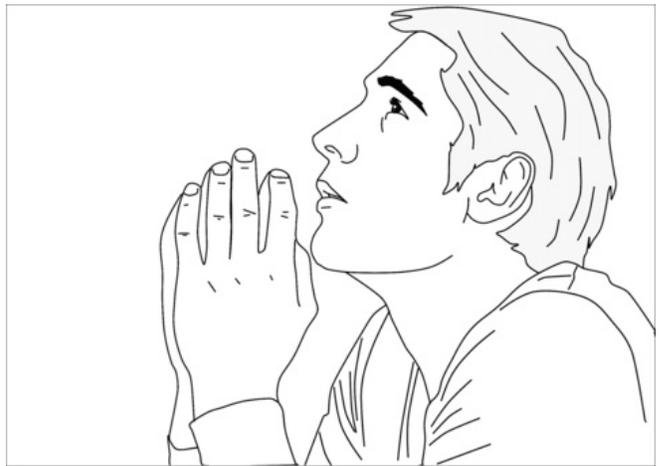
day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, [My dear brother or sister, watch your spirit and your attitude toward people. Watch how you treat others. You might not agree with them, but God is saying that we all are going to come before Him. The Lord will say sad words to some religious people.] I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." That will be a day of great disappointment to some because it is "Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9). Salvation is free, but discipleship costs; salvation is not of works.

Romans 5:1 reads, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Dear one, keep peace with God. If you know that you are not right with God, do not let any preacher tell you that you are right when you know in your heart that you are not living right and that you are not saved. I hope you do not die in your sin. The same Word that I am preaching to you, I have to live. The Word of God is like a two-edged sword; it swings out and it swings back. You have to walk in it, and so do I. No man walking in shoe leather is bigger than the Word of God. My friend, please, I plead with you, make peace with God, and keep peace with Him.

(Compact Disc TR-2394)

CHRISTIANS NEVER MEET FOR THE LAST TIME.

Prayer That Prevails



"Cornelius . . . a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. . . . Cornelius, thy prayer is heard" (Acts 10:1-2, 31).

The Book of Acts does not record the prayer of Cornelius, but God heard it and had it recorded in Heaven. We are not told for what he prayed, but God answered the prayer in such a way that his greatest need was fully supplied. He may not have been praying for his own needs. Possibly he was praying and fasting for some of the soldiers or some of his fellow officers in the Roman army.

Cornelius prayed in his house. He did not confine his praying to that of public worship, but added to his public prayers his own private and family devotions.

Here is an example of a man who had a sum total of prayer banked to his credit in Heaven. God sent His angel to Cornelius to pay him some of the interest. The prayers of this godly man had developed in him a listening attitude, and he was ready for his opportunity.

It is not always the immediate prayer that God hears and answers. He oftentimes honors the sum total of the life behind the prayer. The modern soldier is no more efficient than the supply

line that supports him. Similarly, the prayers of the saint of God are no more effective than the life that he lives before God from day to day. His Christian life supports his prayers.

Circumstances being equal, the prayer of a faithful man should be more effective than the prayer of an unfaithful man. He who is faithful to his daily call to family devotions, his weekly call to the Sunday school, and his call to the church services, and the midweek prayer meeting will find that God will be more faithful to him. If we are faithful, He will be faithful to us. If we fail in our duty to Him, He is not obligated to fulfill His promises to us. If we keep our hearts warm in service to our fellowmen, there will be more of the sunlight of God filtering into our own lives. If we keep our Bibles open and a listening ear open toward Heaven, then God will open the windows of Heaven to us.

God opened Heaven to those in the household of Cornelius by getting them into contact with Spirit-filled Peter. It must have been a step of implicit faith for Cornelius to send his servants to

Joppa, thirty miles distant, to get a Jew who was a stranger to him. The same God that sent His angel to Cornelius had fit Peter into His plan of sending the Holy Ghost to the household of Cornelius. The same God that gave Cornelius the name, street, and town address of the man whom the servants were to bring came to Peter and announced their coming. God answers the prayers of the faithful.

Peter was not the ultimate answer to the prayer of Cornelius. He was merely the medium through which God worked to bring the Holy Ghost to the Gentiles at Caesarea. Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost and fire and was endued with the message that Cornelius needed. He preached holiness of heart and, by his prayers and faith, brought the Holy Ghost into the lives of the household of Cornelius. The Holy Ghost is the answer to the prayers of many earnest Christians whose hearts are yearning for the fullness of His blessings.

Prayer develops faith and builds fires on our altars of devotion. Prayer helps us to live consistently and develops in us a listening attitude. Persistent prayer contacts God and brings His blessings to others.

Selected

FALL 2021 CAMP MEETING RECORDINGS

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-2683 TR-2684	8-01-2021	Our Greatest Responsibility as Parents What Makes a Person a Fool?	Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-2685 TR-2686 TR-2687	8-02-2021	The Power of Words The Seven Abominable Sins: A Proud Look Teach Me to Number My Days	Bro. Jeremy Hupp Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-2688 TR-2689 TR-2690	8-03-2021	The Strait Gate and the Narrow Way The Seven Abominable Sins: A Lying Tongue The Danger of Being Out of the Will of God and Not Knowing It	Bro. Calvin Foster Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-2691 TR-2692	8-04-2021	Hope Maketh Not Ashamed The Seven Abominable Sins: Hands That Shed Innocent Blood	Bro. Mike Miller Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-2693		Being Boxed In	
TR-2694 TR-2695	8-05-2021	The Prodigal Son The Seven Abominable Sins: A Heart That Deviseth Wicked Imaginations	Bro. Willis Neighbors Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. E. David Stegmeier
TR-2696		Holiness Becometh Thy House, O Lord, Forever	
TR-2697 TR-2698	8-06-2021	The Purpose of the Reed Like Unto a Rod The Seven Abominable Sins: Feet That Be Swift in Running to Mischief	Bro. Earl R. Borders Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2699		Do You Truly Believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ?	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-2700 TR-2701	8-07-2021	The Foreknowledge of God The Seven Abominable Sins: A False Witness That Speaketh Lies & He That Soweth Discord Among Brethren	Bro. Josh Thilmony Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2702 TR-2703	8-08-2021	Gospel "Tenses" He That Winneth Souls Is Wise	Bro. Mike Wilks Bro. Larry Dishman

TM-450 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1
 TM-451 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2
 TM-452 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3
 TM-453 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4
 TM-454 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #5

All Camp Meeting Choirs #1
 All Camp Meeting Choirs #2
 All Songs in MP3 Format

Morning Messages in MP3 Format
 Afternoon Teaching Services in MP3 Format
 Evening Messages in MP3 Format

Messages and music recordings are available on CD or in MP3 format. The suggested donation for regular CDs is \$3.00 each and for DVDs is \$5.00 each. (DVDs are not available for the afternoon teaching services.) The suggested donation for MP3s is \$10.00 each. The 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 North Cedar Street, Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling 740-345-1312, the Print Shop. Please make check or money order in U.S. funds, payable to *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

Meeting Announcements

Warrensville, NC
Oct. 11-17

Revival: Church of God, 2042 Teaberry Road, Warrensville, NC 28693
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Monday-Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 6:00 p.m.;
Sunday 10:00 & 5:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor Allen Borders @ 740-485-8881

Summersville, WV
Oct. 25-31

Revival: Church of God, 74 Armstrong Rd., Summersville, WV 26651
Evangelist: Brother E. David Stegmeier, Canby, Oregon
Service times: Monday-Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 6:00 p.m. &
Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Visit the website: www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com
For more information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders @ 304-872-4047

Waipahu, HI
Oct. 27-31

Revival: Church of God, 94-470 Paiwa St. #2, Waipahu, Hawaii
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Wednesday-Friday 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 6:00 p.m.; and
Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
For more information contact: Sister Melanie Granil Lucas @ 808-294-2846
or email: melanielucasx3@mail.com

Warrensville, NC
Nov. 5-7

Revival: Church of God, 2042 Teaberry Road, Warrensville, NC 28693
Evangelist: Brother Joel Barrows, Newark, OH
Service times: Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 6:00 p.m., and
Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor Allen Borders @ 740-485-8881

Canby, OR
Nov. 24-28

Annual Thanksgiving & Fellowship Meeting: Church of God,
522 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR
Services times: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10:30 a.m. &
7:00 p.m.; and Sunday 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor David Stegmeier @ 503-266-9297

Newark, OH
Dec. 27-30

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.
Please Note: The first service begins Monday evening
For lodging reservation, call Bro. Dave or Sis. Ruby Bush at 740-345-1213
For more information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker @ 740-344-2543

2022 CAMP MEETING DATES AT GOD'S ACRES

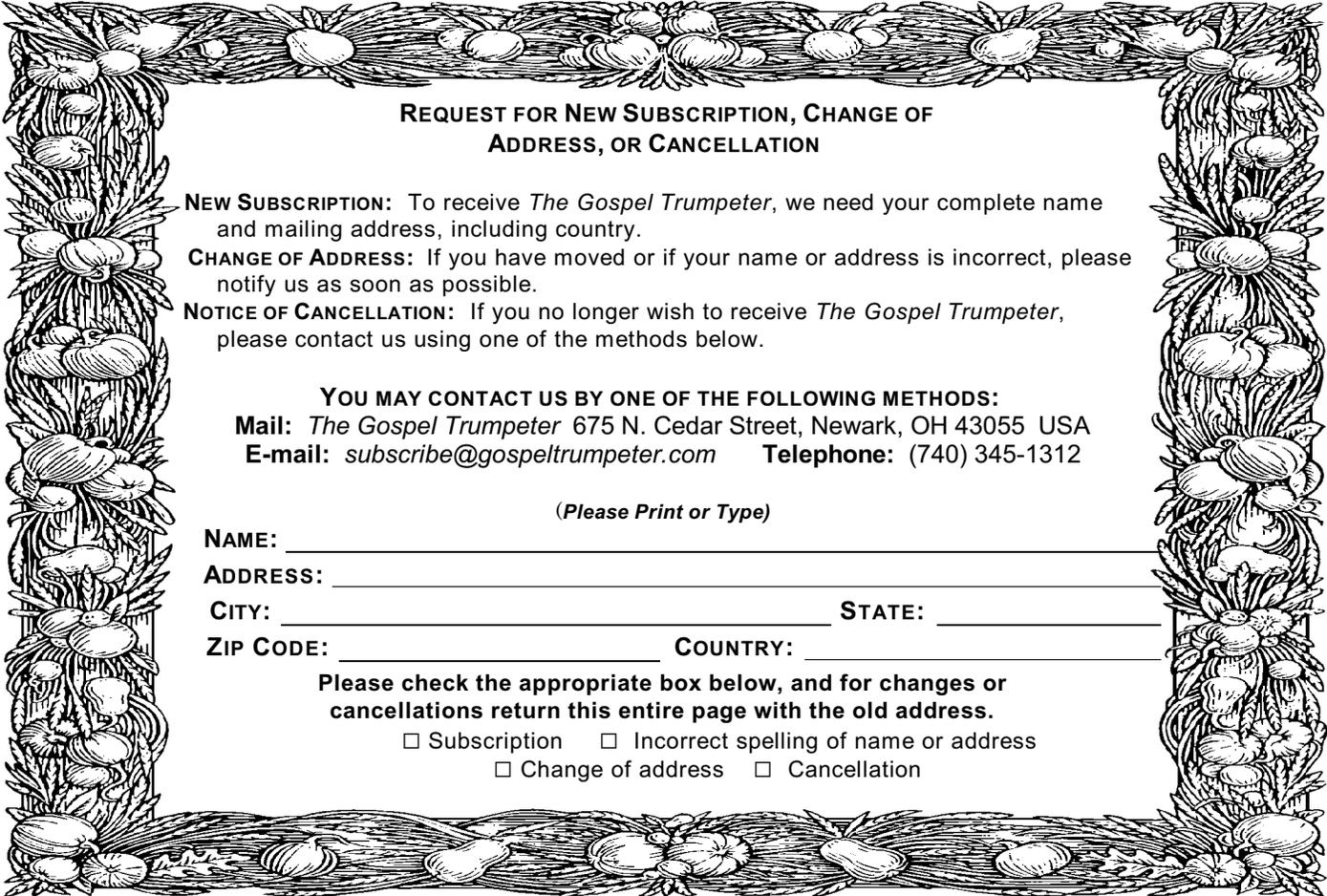
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