

A close-up photograph of purple flowers and green leaves. The leaves are covered in numerous water droplets, creating a fresh and vibrant scene. The purple flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a lush garden or field.

The Advocate of Truth

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2021

A SHORT SECULAR NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Bond Tennant

We enter into the secular New Year of 2021. Although it is not the beginning of a Bible New Year, I feel that it is a good time to consider fear. We know that there are two types of fear as mentioned in the Word of God. There is the fear that means to show reverence to God, and there is the fear of being afraid of what may happen. The world is now in great turmoil. Here in America, race riots and a Covid-19 pandemic have made many people afraid of what may happen and how it will affect their lives. Let us list four fears of being afraid.

There is the fear of want.

There is the fear of suffering.

There is the fear of failure.

There is the fear of death.

Now, let us list a few verses in the Psalms in which God promises to deliver us from the fear of being afraid.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...” (Psalm 23:4).

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

“Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance” (Psalm 32:7).

“O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him” (Psalm 34:9).

“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee” (Psalm 56:3).

“I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust” (Psalm 91:2).

“...Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, ...He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD” (Psalm 112: 1, 7).

Let us put God first in our lives, and He will deliver us from the fear of being afraid.

FOR IT IS WRITTEN

By Josue Torres M

God wrote with His finger on two tables of stone His moral law by which all humanity is to be ruled in a way that gives all honor and glory to Him.

The eternal gospel was also written

“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter” (Revelation 1:19).

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6).

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (II Peter 1:21).

It is written for our learning

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:17).

In the gospel, it is written that “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” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

The gospel that has been written and still remains “shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14, last part).

The devil and his demons also know the gospel. “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (James 2:19).

If we read the narrative in Matthew 4:1-10, we will see that Satan himself knows the Scriptures. In verse 6 Satan said to Jesus, “...If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee

up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.” Here, Satan mentioned a part of Psalm 91, and he tried to make the Lord Jesus Christ fall. However, the Lord resisted him by saying, “...It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:7). Many times in this passage the Lord mentions the phrase, “for it is written.”

Blessings for the ones who believe on what is written

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (Revelation 1:3).

The time to preach the gospel to the Gentiles is coming to an end, and then the wrath of God will fall upon the earth as is written, “and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30, last part).

The nonbelievers will not enter the kingdom of God, just like the Israelites who were in the desert and could not enter into the promised land (Hebrews 3:18-19).

For it is written!

SALESMANSHIP

The child of God is a salesman, not a clerk. What a difference there is! A clerk stands behind the counter and quotes the price of the articles which he is selling. But a salesman goes out and gets business. He is like the Rainbow Sweeper Man, or an Avon Lady, who comes to your door, who makes you think that you can hardly get along without one of the items they are selling. Even though you did not think you needed it, before he (or she) goes he has sold an item to you. and the automobile salesman who makes you think that your old car is in such a condition

that you will not be able to get home in it. You simply must buy another car.

The apostle Philip was a salesman. He went out and found Nathanael. (John 1:45) Andrew went out and found his own brother. (verse 4:1) They did not wait for people to come to them to tell them that they wanted to find Jesus. They were not clerks. They were salesmen for Jesus. They found their customers and sold them on the fact that they needed the Lord Jesus Christ. You be a salesman!

TIME MISSPENT

Few things are more appalling than the flight of time misspent.

Men scoff at repeated warnings to prepare to meet their God not seeming to care, or realize, that Time with its steady, throbbing beat marches on. Thus, many are snatched into eternity without a hope in Christ. The Bible says: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:7-8). Men cannot mock God because they deceive themselves.

Someone told of a man who fell out of a fifteenth-story window. As he passed the tenth floor he called out, “Well, I’m all right so far.” Supposedly, he was a real optimist!! Many think that because they are living “so far” there is no danger. But it is a false hope because they have no assurance of the morrow--or even of one hour. God’s Word plainly states that “...now is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2). Time is not measured to us in years, but in days, hours and minutes; and “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...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). Just so there is a time to accept Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour from sin, and



Principles and Reasons

TWO BREATHS OF LIFE

By Moises Torres M.

FIRST BREATH OF LIFE:

1. How did man become a living soul?

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7).

NOTE: This account says that God breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of the man he formed from the dust of the earth and he immediately became a LIVING SOUL, not a living spirit. Analyzing this event, and evaluating it in all its magnitude, this becomes something wonderful, it is a miracle that only God and His Son can bestow, give life to whom they want. “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself. (John 5:26). “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and gives them life; so does the Son to whom he will.” (John 5:21).

Job 33:4 reads: “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” This is the first breath or spirit of life given to man when he was created as a living soul.

2. What model did God take to create man?

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...” (Genesis 1:26-28).

NOTE: Man was created according to the “image of God and of His Son”. With a spirit and a mind of his own; with understanding, with a memory to store knowledge, etc. In general man was created with all God’s own characteristics. This first BREATH of life helped man to be a LIVING SOUL, A HUMAN being in the image and likeness of God. “And God raised man in his image, in the image of God he raised him; male and female created he

them.”

SECOND BREATH OF LIFE:

3. How did the Lord introduce Himself to His disciples after His resurrection and what did He do?

JOHN 20:19-22: “Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, **he breathed on them**, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost”.

NOTE: This second BREATH of life was not for man to become a living soul again, but IT WAS the beginning for man to enter into a new nature, a spiritual nature, to become a spiritual being. As soon as He was resurrected, the Lord went and **breathed on His disciples to take the Holy Ghost**. After His resurrection, the Lord had acquired a heavenly or spiritual nature, so it says, “that even the doors were “closed” where the disciples were, Jesus came and materialized in their midst.” This was possible because the Lord was born of the Spirit after his resurrection, and had acquired all mastery or control over matter, He said, “...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). From then on, no more barriers of time, matter, place, speed, etc., would ever get in His way. He had been born of the Spirit!

4. Did the Lord declare this mystery to Nicodemus?

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind

bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:3-8).

NOTE: We emphasize in the expression, “what is born of the flesh, flesh is; and what is born of the Spirit, spirit is.” For a human being to be born, he first is begotten, and then he is born at his proper time. The same process is for a human being to be born of the Spirit, he must first be begotten of the Spirit.

5. Did Paul say something on these two breaths of life?

I Corinthians 15:45-50: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made **a living soul**; the last Adam was made **a quickening spirit**. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

NOTE: Because of disobedience man lost the first breath of life and died. But God, through his Son Jesus, sent a new BREATH OF LIFE, giving man the opportunity to become a quickening spirit to enter into eternal life.



ABOUT THREE FALSE TRADITIONS

Bond Tennant

Traditions that are not supported by the Word of God could have had small beginnings. The doctrine of the trinity is a humanly conceived tradition. There is no authority for this teaching in the Word of God.

Could it be that someone may have thought that these three are in some way the same? Yes, the Bible speaks of God the Father, and it also speaks of Jesus, His beloved Son. The Bible also speaks much about the Holy Spirit of God. This thought was possibly passed on to others, and then to still others. Finally, it was debated in church councils and accepted by the majority as fact. Many of those who fought against it, insisting that the Bible taught that there is but one God, were pacified by the suggestion that “these three are one.” This tradition has become so deeply rooted in the minds of millions that to question it makes one disobedient, in their minds, to the Word of God. Yet, it is not taught in the Bible at all. Rather, this tradition makes void the teaching of the Word of God that “...there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, ... and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things...” (I Corinthians 8:6). It also makes the Holy Spirit a “ghost” instead of the holy power or influence of God.

During the Dark Ages, many other traditions developed. Among them is the teaching that the end of the world means the destruction of the earth by literal fire. However, the Bible teaches that the end of the world is really the end of an age, the age in existence before Christ’s kingdom will be established on the earth. The end-of-the-world prophecies are better understood when we recognize this. God assures us in His word, “For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:18). “...the earth abideth for ever” (Ecclesiastes 1:4).

The last false tradition we will consider is the “immortal soul” tradition. This false idea began very early in man’s experience, when Satan said to mother Eve, “...Ye shall not surely die” (Genesis 3:4). As this tradition developed, it took the form that there is no death. Then the reasonable conclusion was reached that since actual death is not the punishment for sin, some form of conscious punishment must await those who only “seem” to die. This idea, thought by many to be so reasonable, developed into the God-dishonoring doctrine of eternal torture in a fiery hell. This tradition makes void the Word of God with respect to its simple statements that “the soul that sinneth, it shall die,” that “the wages of sin is death.” See Ezekiel 18:4 and Romans 6:23.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES

FAITH MAKE?

By John Cooper

What difference does “faith” make? Does it matter if you have “faith?” How does having faith affect our daily lives? These are really important questions, and they have a bearing on how we live. Let us consider a few of the ramifications of having faith.

One of the first considerations is what, or who, do we have faith in. All people have faith in something or someone. Some have faith in money. Some have faith in armaments. Some have faith in government. Some have faith in science. Some have faith in education. Some have faith only in themselves. It is important to place our faith in something that is real, helpful, and lasting.

FAITH IN GOD IS REAL.

Paul declares in Romans 1:20, “For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made . . .” There is no other explanation for the origin and order of our universe. Denying the existence of God causes one to live under the delusion that somehow everything we see has no explanation, no purpose, no meaning. How can anyone make good choices when he lives with inaccurate, false information? Atheism leads to bad choices because it is built on a denial of observable proof of the supernatural origin of the universe.

FAITH IN GOD IS HELPFUL.

God gives us hope for the future, guidance in the present, and forgiveness for our past. Suicide is a major problem in the country where I live. Several recent articles in the paper indicate no one really knows why people take their own lives. Certainly, every case is different, but some over-arching reasons should be considered. People take their own lives when they have no hope, when they are overcome with guilt, when they feel abandoned, overwhelmed, and alone. When people see no positive future in life or when their possessions or relationships

disappoint them, they lose hope. Suicide becomes a way out. Faith in the real God of Creation will help a person deal with the deadly perils of life.

FAITH IN GOD IS LASTING.

Even death cannot conquer us since Jesus conquered death. Christians do have hope, help, forgiveness, and loving, caring relationships. Through “faith” we are victorious people. It does make a difference to have faith! Keep the faith – enjoy life!

From Does God Exist?



SENATOR JENNINGS RANDOLPH SPONSORS BILL FOR SABBATH

The United States Senate approved 55 to 0 on Friday, **January 21, 1972**, an amendment assuring non-discrimination in employment to men and women who observe the Sabbath on days other than Sunday.

The Bill was sponsored and the amendment was authored by Senator Jennings Randolph (D) of West Virginia. Senator Randolph said his amendment to the "Equal Employment Opportunity" bill would be applicable to many Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists and others.



Senator Jennings childhood home in Salem, WV

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But ye shall receive power - (ability, efficiency and might) - when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8.

Glimpses of the Holy Spirit empowering individuals for service to God and His Church - The Body of Christ

The plan of redemption was divinely structured upon two basic spiritual purposes. According to Luke 19:10, Jesus Christ came into the world "to seek and to save that which was lost" in order to restore fallen man to his rightful relationship with God.

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is foundational to the entire Christian experience. Therefore, it should be clearly noted that the operation of **BAPTISM** in the name of Jesus Christ is subsequent to the new birth by water and a life of holiness. The grace of the Lord Jesus is not only a method of Divine indwelling in the new creature, but is also the method of God in the believer's life and service.

Having brought, by grace, the believer unto a saved condition (Ephesians 1:7-11) he then becomes a receptacle for the Holy Spirit. He becomes begotten by the Holy Spirit. God then works through grace, to impart to him and to perfect in him, corresponding graces. (John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:22-26).

Grace, therefore, stands connected with service and with Christian growth. The Gospel according to John 16:7 discloses the expediency of Christ's return to the Father centered upon the fact that the Holy Spirit must be in us and we must grow thereby with spiritual graces and virtues for service. Jesus emphatically pledged in the words of Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power (ability, efficiency and might) when the Spirit dwells in you." For "as

my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he (Jesus) had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, **RECEIVE YE THE HOLY GHOST.**" -John 20:21-22.

It is clearly evident that true love for Jesus Christ and the hope of salvation began at Calvary's Cross. Power for service is the inalienable birthright of every child of God. But the rendering of effective and meaningful Christian service is relative to living under the complete control of the Holy Spirit. The reception of the Holy Spirit is the entrée to abundant and triumphant living. Therefore, without the begetting of the Spirit there can be no **FULL WITNESS** and no effective service.

In order to understand the workings of the Holy Spirit it is necessary to distinguish the various ways the Holy Spirit empowers the servants of God. Many people think that the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles and disciples at the Day of Pentecost. This was just a specific incident and was to give power to the Apostles to preach and the listeners to hear the Gospel message of salvation and be saved. This was an outstanding event but it was just one of the events recorded of the Holy Spirit's work. Within the confines of the Bible, the Holy Spirit equipped men for specific purposes, as demanded by the needs arising at that given moment.

The Holy Spirit clothes Himself with Gideon so as to impart a special military prowess which enabled him to lead the people to victory through difficult encounters. The Spirit of God came upon Zechariah, son of Jehoiada the priest, and made him vocalize in protest against the idolatry in holy places. Under the compulsion of the Spirit, Samson slew a lion and wielded havoc to scores of the Philistines. The impact of the Holy Spirit caused King Saul's lips to form words of prophecy. Bezaleel was filled

with the Spirit so that he could perform cunning and creative workmanship on the Tabernacle and especially the Ark of the Covenant.

Joseph was called from prison, in Egypt, to interpret the Pharaoh's dream. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and his wisdom was acknowledged by the Pharaoh as being from the Holy Spirit. "And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?" -Genesis 41:38.

Even Balaam, who was contriving against the children of Israel, for personal gain, was filled with the Holy Spirit to preach and present the truth in the form of a parable. "And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. And he took up his parable..." -Numbers 24:1-4.

Filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, Mary and Elisabeth magnified the Lord as they served as chosen vessels. Zacharias' mouth was filled with prophecy (Luke 1:67). Filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, was enabled to fill a distinguished role and to render unprecedented service (Luke 1:15). The culminating reference (Luke 3:22) focuses upon the Holy Spirit descending upon the Lamb of God to assist in the exercise of His Messianic mission and work.

Job testified that the Spirit of God was within him. The Spirit of God came upon Azariah so that he could cause Israel to repent and seek the Lord their God. In fact, I am sure, that every child of God had to have the Holy Spirit in him whether it be in the Old Testament or in the New Testament. The only difference between the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ while in the New Testament the Holy Spirit is "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossian 1:27). For children of God to be resurrected (from any age) they must have the Holy Spirit in them. For if the same Spirit that RAISED UP Christ from the dead dwell in you, that same Spirit that brought about the resurrection of Jesus Christ will also bring about the resurrection of the saints (Romans 8:9-12).

We are told of an incident in II Kings 13:20-21: "And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man

into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on this feet." The power of the resurrection of the Spirit of God was so great in the body of Elisha that when another body was let down upon Elisha's body the other man was revived and stood up. This is just another example of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God empowers the individual as an instrument through which God accomplishes notable and worthy ends. The final notable act of this energy of God is to raise the saints from the grave.

Notice that this power could not be an angel that remains in the grave with the saint that has died. It is the energy of God that will raise all mankind from the grave. Those that have a part in the first resurrection will be raised through the power of God and the bodies that were energized by the Holy Spirit power will come forth to eternal life, while the wicked will be raised by the power of God and will go into perdition after being judged by the righteous Judge, Jesus.

Under the Old Testament, the Law of God was revealed by God speaking and then writing His will on two tables of stone. In the New Testament the Will of God is placed on the fleshly tables of the individual's heart. But the power to obey God and serve Him properly comes only from the Holy Spirit. By our own might we can do nothing. The work for the Church of God is augmented through the Holy Spirit.

When the seven financial stewards were chosen they had to select men filled with the Holy Spirit. Steven and Philip were chosen for work with the finances (this business) of the Church as well as preaching the Word of God. An interesting facet of enduement for specialized and solid service is revealed in Acts 13:9-10. Elymas, the sorcerer, had been deceptive, reckless, unscrupulous, wicked, an enemy of uprightness and goodness, perverting and making crooked paths and plotting against Jesus Christ's saving purposes. Paul, filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, rose to the occasion by sternly rebuking the son of the devil and by issuing corrective discipline.

It was evident in the case of Barnabas (Acts 11:24) that the condition for service emerged from the fact that he was full of faith and the Holy Ghost.

In the Spirit-filled life there is a great diversity of operations. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, proph-

ets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11). These are distinctly different orders of work, with varying methods and techniques of procedure. But all are jointly formed together, and all are going in the same direction toward the same great end -- "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the **BODY OF CHRIST**" -- Ephesians 4:12-14.

The Holy Spirit does not purport to create a singular talent and a unique likeness among various recipients, but the promisory commitment insures a power which well enables the child of God to labor in the best interest of the Lord's estate. it is a power sent from the heart of God and made functional through the indwelling in the heart of the saint.

Obedience to the Commandments is the NORM for the abundant and victorious living. The divine imperative: **"BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT"** (Ephesians 5:18) framed a responsibility that rests upon every member of the Church of God. The route to spiritual enduement is via baptism. There are no other ways or shortcuts.

We must become baptized for the remission of sin. SIN IS the disobedience to God. SIN IS the "transgression of God's law." Jesus addressed His disciples, and gave THEM POWER (the Holy Spirit) against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal ALL manner of sickness and ALL manner of disease. (Matthew 10:1). And viewing the complexities of this new era, the Lord Jesus rested assurance in the projection that this power for His work would be sufficient because the Holy Spirit would sustain them . He would be their teacher, comforter and guide. And in logical sequence, that the disciples would be channels of communication (preaching and confirming His gospel) to the inhabitants of the earth. In the final analysis, the central hypothesis of the Lord's open declaration was that fitness for SERVICE IS precisely within the sphere of the necessity of the Holy Spirit.

Let us make a resume of what we have been trying to point out to you concerning the Holy Spirit:

1. To become children of God we must become begotten of the Holy Spirit.

2. As children of God we then have a power, a dynamic power at our disposal.

3. Children of God receive an enduement for triumphant and consistent living.

4. Children of God have received a revitalized grasp of the things of God and His Word.

5. Children of God receive an enlarged idea of the truth and are able to proclaim it.

6. Children of God will continue to have an unfeigned love for all mankind.

7. Children have received stamina of an unrelenting will that refuses to compromise with error and warns people to come out of Baylon.

8. Children of God will stand by the organizational fitness as set up by God an presented by Jesus Christ who is the head of the organization.

9. Children of God have found themselves in Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus within them. They have lost themselves in the Spirit and are begotten of the Spirit awaiting the birth of the Spirit from the mourtal to the immortal.

10. Children of God have possession of the spiritual mantle and the invitation to do greater things.

Is this not all worth being a child of God and being in the Holy Spirit? I urge you to be on fire for the Lord and do better service than you have ever done before. Let us vindicate the promises of God and be completely empowered by that wonderful power of God. The world around you needs to be enlightened to the truth and awaits the manifestation of the undeniable power of the Holy Spirit through **YOU**-- the sons and daughters of God.

**"Thy word is true
from the beginning: and every
one of thy righteous judgments
endureth for ever."
Psalm 119:160**



STORED TREASURES

By Vera Hutchcroft

From the February 24, 1992 issue

of *The Advocate of Truth*

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Matthew 6:19-20).

Mr. Brown came back to his country house – a solitary little place away from people who might bother him. He had been away for about two years and now wanted to get back to writing his book.

“My,” he thought, as he opened the door, “this looks so good! It’s nice to be back. It needs a good cleaning but that is all.” And Mr. Brown sat down on a chair to relax a bit before he started in with the cleaning.

He didn’t get to relax then, though, for when he sat down the chair collapsed, spilling him on the floor.

This was a surprise, for the chair had looked as strong as ever. After a little examining, he went out on the back porch to do some thinking. But here, too, he had trouble, for his foot went right through the floor. Now Mr. Brown did some serious investigating and finally decided, much to his dismay, that he would have to rebuild his house. The termites had taken over!

Yes, termites can be pests. Their food is wood – usually dead wood – and quite often this is their home too. To someone passing by their home of wood, however,

it wouldn’t seem that anything was living in it. The termites always leave the shell of whatever they’re occupying unharmed. Their bodies are soft and cannot stand the sunlight.

In spite of being pests, they are interesting – for they are classed as social insects like the ants. They have their caste, with the king and queen and secondary kings and queens – and sometimes a third lesser set – all being in the top caste. The queen does nothing but lay eggs after the home has been established. The larger and older queens sometimes lay up to as many as 80,000 eggs a day! The king is her constant companion.

The other caste consists of the workers and soldiers. These have larger heads than the other ants. The soldiers have large jaws and some fight by biting, but others fight using what we might term chemical warfare. They have a tube extending out of their head and from this they shoot a kind of substance that is sticky and quickly thickens. It gums up the enemy so badly that he cannot move.

The other workers spend their time enlarging the home, eating and feeding the others, including the soldiers, and keeping things clean. So they keep busy.

There are many things that could be told about these termites, but one of the most interesting is the way they digest their food. You see, by themselves they could not digest the wood, but they have the help of tiny one-celled animals called Protozoa. These tiny animals live in the intestines of the termites. As the termites swallow the wood, the tiny Protozoa digest the wood for them. The termites in turn absorb the sugar that the Protozoa form. Scientists have killed the Protozoa in some termites and found that the termites have starved to death. Of course, the Protozoa cannot live outside the termites either. So it is a peculiar but real partnership they have.

As interesting as these termites are, they are very destructive and cause millions of dollars’ worth of damage each year. Most of this is in the South. Any wood or anything made from wood is in danger of being attacked by these creatures, especially if it is something that is stored for any length of time. Pianos, organs, guns, and furniture

have been tunneled through and destroyed. Books have been opened only to find that the pages were all eaten away in the middle. Yes, it is rather difficult to store treasures where they live.

They aren't the only pests that destroy things of value, though. Another such thing is the clothes moth, a sneaky little thing! The mother moth flies to a dark corner where there is a supply of wool, be it your favorite winter coat or a luxurious wool rug priced at \$20 a yard. Here she lays her eggs. When the eggs hatch into tiny little worms called larvae, the larvae start looking for food – and they do not care if their food is worth \$20 or \$200. Soon they start spinning a cocoon for themselves to live in, but mixed in with the spun silk is a good quantity of wool fibers – maybe from your favorite sweater. What a sorry looking mess these moths can make out of your best garments!

These termites and moths remind me of a verse in the Bible that says, **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal”** (Matthew 6:19-20).

Many people, old and young, think only of the things of this earth. Some adults think only of working hard so they can have the best house and car. They forget to take out time to work for the Lord. Boys and girls do this too, except they are not so interested in a house and car; they would rather have a shiny new bike or a nice dress. They love these things so much that when they earn some money they decide to keep it all for themselves rather than give a tithe to the Lord. The things money can buy, however, only last for a while, and then we do not have them anymore. But the treasures we lay up for ourselves in heaven, which are gathered by the things we do for Christ here on earth, will last throughout eternity. Among them are eternal life with Jesus and never-ending joy and happiness. Those are treasures no one can destroy.

Do work for eternal treasures. Eternal means that they will last forever and ever.

JACOB'S TREATMENT OF ESAU LEGAL

Reprinted

Among various neighboring peoples as well as the Hebrews, a man's first son occupied a special position. He inherited the bulk of his father's estate at the death of his father and became the head of the clan even though he might have brothers close to his own age. The right of the firstborn, familiar to Old Testament readers as birthright, was far more than a custom that members of a family could choose to accept or reject. Rather, it was an important feature of organized society and had the status of law.

To dramatize the importance of the birthright, sons, who ate with their father were customarily seated in the order of their ages (Genesis 43:33). Some patriarchs had several wives, all of whom bore sons. In the case of a man whose favorite wife was not the first to present him with a boy, normally the father was not permitted to give the birthright to a son of his choice; it had to go to the first male child whom he sired (Deuteronomy 21:15-17). Abraham's treatment of Ishmael (Genesis 21:9-14) was based on the fact that the boy's mother was a bondswoman; here the law of birthright apparently did not apply or was deliberately violated.

Along with social status and property rights, the firstborn was entitled to a special blessing from his father. In early periods this was a symmetrical formula thought to confer special potency and a protection against death. The blessing was treated as a closely guarded secret and transmitted orally from father to firstborn for generation after generation.

Small wonder, therefore, that Jacob coveted the birthright that belonged to Esau. Scholars once questioned the validity of the account of Esau's hasty sale on the basis of the conjecture that birthright was purely biological and could not be transferred. But archaeological finds at the site of ancient Nuzu indicate that a birthright was negotiable property. Documentary evidence concerning this attitude among their contemporaries strengthens the likelihood that it prevailed among the Hebrews, too. Though Jacob was greedy and crafty, he probably stayed well within the law when he used his brother's hunger as an opportunity for profit.

Yielding To Sin, Or to Righteousness?

By David DeLong

When a person comes to a yield sign on a highway, he or she allows other traffic to pass on by before proceeding. So, too, when we yield to God, or to sin, we are allowing them to have control over our walk in life. In Romans chapter 6:11-13, 16 we read: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God...Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

What a person yields to, he or she will eventually be like. Therefore, yielding to God will eventually make us to become like God. Tragically, the same is true of sin. We see a graphic example of this in Romans 1:21-25. We read: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

If these people had glorified the Lord and had been thankful to Him they would have become like Him. But, instead they became like the beasts that they worshipped, and even worse than the beasts. The Apostle Paul gives us a good illustration of this principle in II Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass

the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

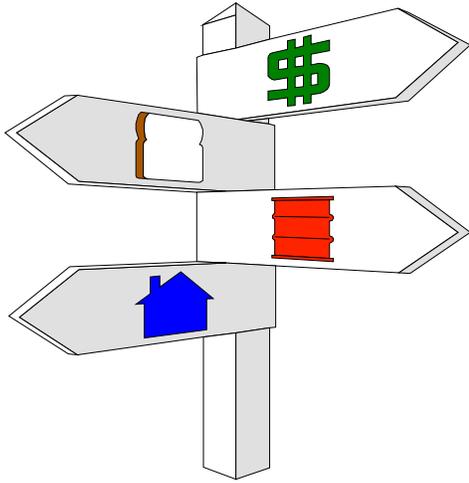
All children of God are tempted to do wrong at some point in their Christian lives. To be an overcomer the child of God must also, with God's help, overcome the temptation. James 1:12 informs us: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Yielding to sin may start out very slowly in a person's life. Just a "minor" compromise at first. Such actions are usually justified by the person committing them. For instance, a thief may have justified his stealing by reasoning that his boss owed him more in wages than what he was paying him. Another person may hold back reporting income on her taxes because, she reasoned, the government is unfair, anyways.

Yielding to the Lord takes a conscious decision on the part of the child of God. It must be made purposely and often. Yielding to the Lord must be done with every part of a person's being, holding nothing back. Every part of his or her life must be dedicated to Him, as well as every possession that they have. Nothing belongs to us. We are only stewards over what the Lord has entrusted to us. If we hold back anything in our lives from the Lord we are not truly yielding to Him. He is not truly our Lord. We are worshiping that thing, or part, that we have not yielded to Him. In effect, we are breaking the first of the Ten Commandments!

Yielding to the Lord involves yielding to Him our every thought that we have. Paul put it this way: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5).

Yielding to the Lord also involves yielding to those who are in authority over us. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves..." (Hebrews 13:17).



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

At the time of the writing for this column, America is faced with several crises happening all at the same time. There is the COVID-19 health crisis, an economic crisis, and a racial crisis. The following is a condensed article which was published in the **USA TODAY**. The title is *Deepened distress may linger long after crises:*

The science is screaming: Americans are in turmoil.

More than 80% of U.S. adults report the nation's future is a significant source of distress, according to a report Thursday from the American Psychological Association. Americans are the unhappiest they've been in 50 years, according to a COVID Response Tracking Study released this month. And a survey published this month in the medical journal JAMA found three times as many U.S. adults reporting symptoms of serious psychological distress in April as they did two years earlier.

The studies were conducted to better understand how Americans are coping during this unprecedented period, with millions sickened and more than 100,000 dead in a global pandemic, anti-racism protests gripping the country and an economy in tatters after its longest expansion in history.

America is a nation unmoored, and experts say that for many people the harm to mental health will outlast the current crises. Research suggests the extreme stress triggered by these events may even lead to longer-term psychiatric disorders.

The nation must prepare, experts say, for the mental

health crises that looms next.

"We are facing a culmination of crises unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes – in coronavirus, economic turmoil and racism," said Jaime Diaz-Granados, deputy chief executive officer and acting chief scientific officer at the American Psychological Association (APA).

"Each of these crises are taking a heavy psychological toll on Americans and particularly our African American citizens and other people of color. The health consequences could be dire. As we look toward the future, we need to consider the long-term implications of the collective trauma."

More than 70% of Americans in the APA report said this is the lowest point in the nation's history they can remember. Experts say social isolation, grief, fear and uncertainty are already pervasive, and those feelings will not automatically abate when physical distancing ceases or because a handful of police officers are arrested after centuries of racial violence.

"These events absolutely will, for a large segment of our population, have long-term mental health consequences, including leading to diagnosable conditions," said Vaile Wright, senior director of health care innovation at the APA.

Distress could lead To future Diagnosable Disorders

Beth McGinty, lead author of the JAMA study and an associate professor at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said in April 2018, about 4% of American adults reported serious psychological distress, which has

been typical for the past decade. When she conducted her survey in April, that number had more than tripled.

“It’s huge,” McGinty said. “I expected to see an increase in distress here, but to see such a major increase in this measure of serious distress, as opposed to some more mild or moderate anxiety about the situation – I was surprised by the magnitude of increase.”

To measure psychological distress, researchers used The Kessler Screening Scale for Psychological Distress, which asks questions about symptoms of depression and anxiety that occurred in the past 30 days, including, “How often did you feel hopeless?” and “How often did you feel worthless?”

In the study, the authors note “acute distress during COVID-19 may transfer to long-term psychological disorders” because serious psychological distress as measured by the Kessler scale has been shown to predict clinical mental illness.

“It’s not a perfect prediction,” McGinty said. “It’s not a diagnostic tool. It doesn’t mean that every single person who had a serious psychological distress in April is going to go on to develop a clinical diagnosis of depression or anxiety, for example. But it means that they are very much at risk of going on to develop that clinical diagnosis.”

Stigma, lack of access Contribute to Crises

A 2018 survey found while most American adults say having a mental health disorder is nothing to be ashamed of, a third of respondents agreed with the statement, “People with mental health disorders scare me.” And nearly 40% said they would view something differently if they knew that person had a mental health disorder. These attitudes could prevent some people from seeking treatment.

For those who know they need care, it may not always be available or sufficient.

The APA said in 2016 11.8 million adults believed they needed mental health services but couldn’t access them.

Approximately 6.3 million said they received some mental health services but needed more. Of those who reported an unmet need, 38% said it was because they couldn’t afford it, 28% said they thought they could handle the problem without treatment, and 21% said they didn’t know where to go for treatment.

A June survey found more than half of responding clinicians were seeing fewer patients than before the pandemic began, which some experts say could be related to loss of health insurance.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs as the nation shut down to slow the spread of COVID-19, and for those who get health insurance from an employer losing a job means losing health benefits, too.

Comment

Without a doubt, the title of the above article is true for those who do not know God and who do not understand that these crises are among the many things that confirm that we live during the last days. Many rely upon science and worldly leaders to give them good answers and lead them out of all crises. Now as an invisible virus and economic hardship has threatened them, they recognize that science and politics can’t give them all the answers and point the way they can make their lives better.

Let us read what Jesus said about the days in which we live. He said, “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (Matthew 24:6). We have heard of wars, and America has actually been, and is now, involved in wars. Notice that Jesus said, “but the end is not yet.”

Next He gives the reason for the wars and rumours. “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: AND THERE SHALL BE FAMINES, AND PESTILENCES, AND EARTHQUAKES, IN DIVERS PLACES. ALL THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS” (verses 7-8).

The well informed children of God are not distressed.

when they experience crises. They lift up their heads because their redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28).

No doubt, crises brings about grief. The child of God may grieve, but he knows that he is not alone. Through all his grief, Job acknowledged God, and his faith carried him through. The child of God has the prayers of his brethren. In crises children of God do not lose their faith in God just because they may suffer in a physical or material way or even know that they may die.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

COLLEGE STUDENTS JOB MARKET

The coronavirus pandemic at this time has negatively affected the job market for college students. Many internships and employment opportunities have been dissolved. The following is just one example which is taken from an article published in **USA TODAY**:

For Hannah Arbuckle, a summer internship focused on helping people cultivate wild foods at the River Reservation was an opportunity to help the tribe she belongs to.

It was also the University of Wisconsin-Madison senior’s chance to complete her last requirement for graduation.

But when she called her supervisor at the reservation to ask whether her internship was still happening, Arbuckle learned the program had been canceled.

“They responded that they weren’t going to try and make it work,” said Arbuckle, a community and environment major.



Questions And Answers

Question: Will you please cite five verses from Psalms that speak about God comforting the poor?

Answer: "For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy" (Psalm 72:12-13).

“For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners” (Psalm 69:33).

“He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer” (Psalm 102:17).

“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill” (Psalm 113:7).

“... thou, O God, has prepared of thy goodness for the poor” (Psalm 68:10).

Question: What book of the Bible records the following prophecy concerning the resurrection? “But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them

that slept...For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive...For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

Answer: I Corinthians 15:20,22,25-26).

Question: What do we learn about forgiveness in the parable that Jesus gave in Matthew 18:23-35?

Answer: This is another parable which Jesus begins with the statement “Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto.” This indicates that there was a lesson for those who are sincere children of God.

The parable begins, “...the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.” One servant owed the king a tremendously huge debt, “ten thousand talents.” How descriptive this is of the human family and its relationship to God in the present fallen and sinful state. In like condition we come to God and realize how impossible it is for us to pay our great debt of sin and unworthiness of life (verses 23-24).

In the parable, the servant was brought before the king to see if some method of working out his debt could be devised, but it was clear the man did not have anything with which to pay. Neither does the human race have anything to offer God as payment for the great debt they owe to their King. Therefore, the king “...commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made” (verse 25). Likewise, the debt of sin under the sentence pronounced upon Adam included his entire family, the whole world of mankind, selling them into a condition of servitude and slavery.

The servant of the parable pleaded for patience, but the king was aware that the servant could never pay the money he owed. However, Jesus explained, “...the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt” (verses 26-27). By these beautiful words, our Lord Jesus Christ taught us something which He knew about the character of our heavenly Father. God is merciful toward the human race and has

compassion for them because of their inextricable plight of sin and resulting death.

As in the parable, we, too, go before the Almighty King and bow down before Him, realizing our helplessness, and asking forgiveness. God, in His great mercy, having been moved with compassion, even long before the foundations of the earth were laid, made provision through Christ to remove our great debt. Of this, Paul wrote: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Ephesians 1:3-4).

There is another powerful lesson to be found in Jesus’ parable. The servant who was forgiven of his great debt also had debtors. He began to press for payment from one of them who, by comparison, owed him a very small amount. His debtor also pleaded for patience, but the servant was too hard-hearted to listen, and had him thrown into prison (Matthew 18:28-30).

We can well imagine Jesus’ showing His displeasure with the servant’s ingratitude and lack of mercy. By expressing the king’s feelings with the words, “His Lord was wroth,” he tells us how God would feel about a circumstance of this sort. The king was justly angry, calling him a “wicked servant,” and taking away his favor. Jesus said, “So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses” (verses 32-35).

It has been written, “To err is human, to forgive divine.” The Word of God well confirms this as fact. His plan is a plan of forgiveness. Those who aspire to serve in His kingdom must themselves, of necessity, be forgiving. Let us, therefore, not follow the common “tradition” of fallen man, which tends toward vindictiveness and retribution.





India, Part 2

Apostle Yehoshuva cutting the ribbon for dedicating a new church.





Some of our brothers and sisters in Christ, with Apostle Yehoshuva.



Baptismal candidates, receiving a blessing.



LESSON I

DAVID SMITES THE SYRIANS

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 10:1-19.

Golden Text: II Samuel 10:19 (first part).

"And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them..."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied about David restoring Saul's possessions to Mephibosheth in the memory of his beloved friend Jonathan. Now we shall see why David smites the Syrians.

1. After the king of the children of Ammon died, who reigned in his stead? II Samuel 10:1.
2. Why did David send his servant to Hanun? II Samuel 10:2.
3. What did the princes of the children of Ammon think David had sent his servant to do? II Samuel 10:3.
4. What did Hanun do to David's servants, and what did David then tell his servants to do? II Samuel 10:4-5.
5. Who did the children of Ammon send for in II Samuel 10:6?
6. When David heard what they were doing, he sent Joab and all the mighty men to meet them. Read II Samuel 10:8-12, and then tell how Joab and the Syrians prepared for battle.
7. As Joab drew near to the Syrians to battle, what did they do? II Samuel 10:13-14.
8. The Syrians gathered themselves together when they saw they were smitten. Where were they at this time, and who went before them? II Samuel 10:15-16.
9. When David heard where they were, what did he do? II Samuel 10:17.

10. Did David defeat the Syrians and have peace with them? II Samuel 10:18-19.

LESSON II

ABSALOM CONSPIRES AGAINST DAVID

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 15:1-12.

Golden Text: II Samuel 15:10 (first part).

"But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel..."

NOTE: We have been studying about the many victories of King David. He has subdued the enemy neighbors and has defeated the Ammonites. Now we are going to learn how Absalom, his son, conspires against his father, hoping to become king in David's place.

1. Where does Absalom position himself so that he can judge the people? II Samuel 15:1-3.
2. Read II Samuel 15:4. Do you find any jealousy in Absalom's heart?
3. How was Absalom trying to steal the hearts of the men of Israel? II Samuel 15:5-6.
4. What was Absalom's wish or request to leave? II Samuel 15:8.
5. Did King David grant Absalom's request to leave? II Samuel 15:9.
6. Where did Absalom go, and whom did he take with him? II Samuel 15:10-12.

LESSON III

DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 15:13-37.

Golden Text: II Samuel 15:28.

"See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Absalom conspired against his father, King David, because he wished to become king. We will now study how David flees from Jerusalem into the wilderness.

1. What did the messenger tell David in II Samuel 15:13?
2. Why did David want to flee Jerusalem? II Samuel 15:14.
3. Did David's servants agree to follow him? II Samuel 15:15.
4. What did the king say to Ittai the Gittite about leaving Jerusalem? II Samuel 15:19-20.
5. What was Ittai's reply to the king, and did he go with David? II Samuel 15:21-23.
6. What did the king tell Zadok to do with the ark, and did he do as instructed? II Samuel 15:25-29.
7. Why did David go to Mount Olivet, and whom did he meet there? II Samuel 15:30-32.
8. What did David tell Hushai to do? II Samuel 15:33-36.
9. Did Hushai obey David? Where did Absalom go? II Samuel 15:37.

LESSON IV

SHIMEI CURSES DAVID

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 16:1-23.

Golden Text: II Samuel 16:7.

"And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Absalom wanted to become king and go against his father, King David. David flees to the wilderness to escape harm and

to protect Jerusalem. Now we are going to study how David is again deceived and cursed and how it grieves his heart to have these things happen to him.

1. Who met David over the top of the hill, and what did he have with him? II Samuel 16:1.
2. What was their conversation in II Samuel 16:2-4?
3. Who met David at Bahurim? II Samuel 16:5.
4. What did Shimei do and say to David? II Samuel 16:6-8.
5. What did Abishai say unto the king, and what was the king's reply? II Samuel 16:9-12.
6. Hushi meets with Absalom in Jerusalem. What did they say to each other? II Samuel 16:16-19.
7. What did Absalom say unto Ahithophel in II Samuel 16:20-21.
8. With whom was the counsel of Ahithophel? II Samuel 16:23.

FIND THE NAME

Cross out the letters that are not used to spell the name of the person.

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| GOBLIASATH | ADSAVMIND |
| REHSVTABE | JOMHSAEPH |
| AMEOLOSES | SABMSDONS |
| GESNTVHER | FRAJMOHEB |

Name of the giant David slew.

Name of Jonathan's friend.

Name of the first woman.

Name of the boy who had a coat of many colors.

Name of a baby put in the bulrushes.

Name of the strongest man ever to live.

Name of a brave queen.

Name of a very patient man.



THE GOOD ANGEL

By Ruby Lund

Clyde lived on a cattle ranch. It was fun to live on the cattle ranch. But there were no other boys nearby to play with him, so he usually had to play by himself. However, one day Felix came to see him. Felix lived a long way down the road. He lived so far that his Daddy had to bring him in the car.

Clyde showed him his new calf and his new baby ducks.

Then the boys decided to play store. They got Clyde's wagon and loaded it with his toys.

In the barnyard there was a big truck. It had a little ladder on it. It was fun to climb up and down the ladder. This is where the boys wanted to play store. They put the toys in the truck. They played for a long time.

Then they heard a strange sound. Felix said, "Shhh!" They heard the sound again.

"I know what it is," Clyde said. "It's just our old cow. She is our milk cow. She is in the barn." Then Clyde smiled. He said, "It is all right. She cannot get out of the barn. She cannot hurt us."

Clyde put his drum in a big paper bag. Then he tied it with a string.

They heard the noise again. It was louder. It was closer.

Felix stood up in the truck "Oh, the cow isn't in the barn! She's right here outside of the truck! I'm going to run back to the house!"

"No," said Clyde. "You must not go back to the house. The cow will run after you. She will hurt you. You must

stay right here. She thinks we have her calf. She thinks we are going to take it away in this truck. That's the way Daddy does. She wants to keep her calf."

Clyde and Felix knelt down in the truck. They closed their eyes. Clyde prayed. He said, "Dear God in heaven, we did not know the cow could come. We do not have her calf. We will not take it away. We do not want the cow to hurt us. In Jesus's name. Amen."

Felix was afraid to move. He could hear the cow breathing. Clyde was afraid to move. He could hear the cow breathing, too. Clyde opened his eyes. The cow was looking into the truck. She was looking at Clyde. Clyde closed his eyes tight. The cow hooked the truck with her horns, too. Clyde opened his eyes again. The cow was walking away from the truck. Then the cow went into the barn. She did not come out any more.

Clyde and Felix climbed out of the truck. They were very quiet. They took hold of each other's hands. They ran to the house as fast as they could.

They told Mother what had happened. They told her about the cow. They told her how afraid they were. They told her how they prayed. They told her how the cow went back to the barn.

Mother said, "I think Jesus took care of two little boys because they asked for help when they were in trouble. I think a good angel led the cow away."

Then Mother and the boys knelt down by the bed. Mother thanked God for taking care of them while they were playing store. She thanked Him that they were safe. She thanked Him that they were not hurt.

When Daddy came home, he went out to the barnyard. He brought back the wagon loaded with toys.

Daddy thanked God for taking care of the boys also. He was glad that the cow had not hurt them.

WORD RIDDLE

My first letter is in TEN not TAN.

My second letter is in OX not OF.

My third letter is in TAP not TOP.

My fourth letter is in MORE not PORE.

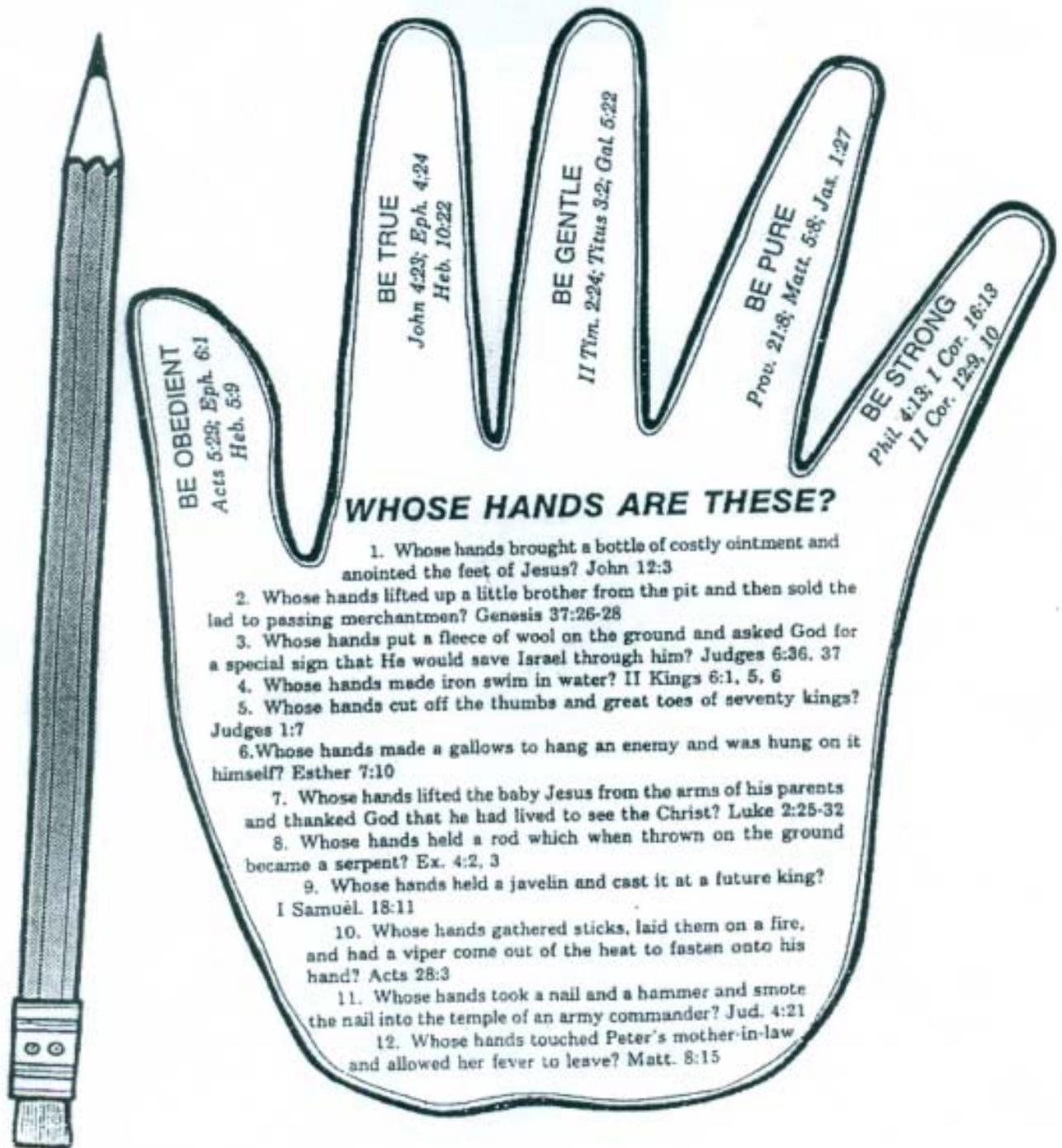
My fifth letter is in TAPE not TAME.

My sixth letter is in LET not NET.

My seventh letter is in TELL not TALL.

I am _____.

**"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
 Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:8).**



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AWAKE! O CHURCH OF GOD!

*Awake! O Church of God!
There're many souls to win;
So onward, forward, march
To fight this world of sin.
Prepare the gospel - Come Out
Upon your feet be shod;
And take the sword of truth,
Which is the Word of God.*

*Put on the shield of faith,
That you may stand this day;
Be strong in God, our Lord,
In supplication - PRAY.
Awake! O Church of God!
Christ's Coming is at hand;
March onward, forward, to
The blessed Promised Land.*

by Sarah Kessler

