

# *The Advocate of Truth*

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# About Being Spiritual

Do And Believe Your Own Thing?

Bond Tennant

Myanmar

Many people that I have been in contact with in my lifetime have claimed to be spiritual, but they said that they did not have any time for religion and church. For these people, “spiritual” is in and “religion” is out. Why is this true? The real reason may be because “religion” suggests the structure of a church. To them “spiritual” means “my own personal faith” or direct relationship with God. Therefore, no church or organization is needed! In these last days, the word “spiritual” seems to have lost all connection with “Christian.”

What is the definition of “religion”? The word comes from the Latin word *relegate*, which is a combination of *re* (“back”) *ligate* (“to tie, to bind”). This suggests that which restricts and restrains one’s freedom.

To the so-called “spiritual” person, there is a “higher” or “inner” or mystical awareness that is unrestricted, unrestrained, and does not limit one’s freedom. “Spiritual” is popular because it is user-defined. To him, “it is all about me” and finding out who he is. One could say that it is a type of self-identity.

The “spiritual” person, who is not religious, may start out on a journey with an emotion or feeling of intimacy for God. He may adopt whatever religious beliefs or concepts or mystical emotions he wishes until he finds a belief system that represents himself! Being “spiritual” but not religious aligns with the philosophy of those who want to take charge of their lives. This includes their beliefs. One young fellow was heard to say proudly, “I bow to no one.”

The idea of being “spiritual” without being religious also appeals to those who wish to avoid the ordinary and

everyday duties. There is no connection with how mothers and fathers teach their children, or earn their living, or get along with their neighbors. Its obligations are personal and social, not moral. Being honest, morally upright, patient, and self-controlled may or may not be included. The choice is one’s own!

The one who is “spiritual” but not religious feels justified in following his or her own thoughts apart from any church or established religion. Even an atheist can be “spiritual” without any belief in God and the Bible.

Eastern religions and philosophies have influenced many who claim to be “spiritual” but are not religious. These Eastern religions and philosophies substitute a belief in the unity of the human body and higher planes. They say that the power of the mind influences reality, and any belief in God and His Word is not necessary.

“Spiritual” has an entirely different meaning to those who are committed to the principles put forth in the Bible. To them, “spiritual” refers to that which comes from God which includes His knowledge, His law, and the attributes of virtue. In the Bible, spirituality is a concept. It means a total commitment to obey the commands of God.

Let us list just two qualities of a spiritual person as put forth in the Bible:

1. A spiritual person restricts his or her thinking to the law of God in contrast to his or her own fleshly ideas. “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

2. A spiritual person makes decisions which obey the commands of God. “If any man think himself to be a

prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord” (I Corinthians 14:37).

Let us list three more verses with regard to biblical spiritually.

1. “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

2. “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of

meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

3. “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:13-14).

May we all be spiritually pleasing to God!



# The Light Bulb

By Daniel Cruz

Have you had a moment when an idea or a problem hit you? You realize how to solve or analyze a situation and provide the best possible solution that will fulfill the need. It happens to us on a daily basis and we find that in the midst of our discoveries that God is with us in our lives. We cannot take for granted the knowledge that The Lord gives us and take credit for the understanding that we have. It is God who has manufactured us with His hands and given us the breath of life that sustains us. Many times we may say, “I have this because of the education that I obtained” or “my life experiences have been many and I know these things to be so.” Who has given you the mind to comprehend things? Who has granted you the life?

Job 37:5 reads: “God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.” Job, in his understanding, knew that he could not understand the will of God or His power. The solace that he finds in this is that God was worthy of all honor and praise in the life that Job was given. Philippians

4:9 informs us: “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” Paul reflected with the brethren and reminded them of all that had been done was for a purpose. It was for them to see that the trials and temptations, though a distraction, could be overcome using all the knowledge that would come into service during their struggles. Peace is a wonderful and comforting feeling for a child of God, and He should be given that gratitude for allowing us to bask in His love.

So, although having that ability to experience and partake of the blessings of God as a gift, we should always remember who is the giver of such things. Can we give God credit in our successes? Yes, it is with Him that we have been kept for His workmanship. Ephesians 2:10 tells us: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” It is evident that we are subject to God and it is the acceptance of our duties that gives us the peace in God. We cannot deny the calling of

our Lord and follow the ideas or concepts of man. This will lead to confusion and our judgment becomes cloudy to the point of not understanding. Romans 8:5 says: "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Paul again advises the people of a choice that is given unto man, and that he can pursue either one, however, not both.

We are living in a time of confusion. Man accepts the variety of religions and the convenience that they provide.



# Fruit of the Spirit--Part I

(Love, Joy, Peace)

By David DeLong

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). One characteristic of a disciple of Jesus is that he or she bears much fruit. Jesus proclaimed in John 15:1-2,4-5,8: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit...Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing...Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

When a disciple of the Lord is empowered by the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in that person's life. However, like any fruit such as apples or pears, the fruit of the Spirit needs a certain amount of tending for it to produce more abundantly. Such things as watering, fertilizing, and pruning are needed for fruit to grow in a healthy manner. Likewise prayer, Bible study, and the rooting out

Where does God say that He created us for confusion? He gives us an opportunity to see the light and to experience that Joy, Love and Peace that can be found in His truth. Let us not become as a fading light bulb or one that works for a moment then burns out. We must maintain a steady course that represents the Father and The Lord Jesus Christ, that we may see all the goodness of God and how He gives us all things for our betterment.

of selfish desires in a disciple's life are necessary for the fruit of the Spirit to mature. Let us now examine some of the fruit of the Spirit and see how we can help in that fruit developing properly.

## LOVE

First, we need to recognize that God Himself is love (see I John 4:8). Then, verse seven records: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Going down to verses 10-11 we find: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." The Apostle Paul wrote, "And now abide faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (or love, I Corinthians 13:13). Love, therefore, is the starting point for a disciple to produce fruit.

Jesus made it abundantly clear what our relationship to God, and to one another, is in Matthew 22:35-40: "Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a

question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Paul wrote that love fulfills God's law. "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10).

Love, by working "no ill to his neighbour", is totally unselfish. For us to have this type of love in our lives we need to turn to I Corinthians 13:4-8 and see the various aspects of "charity" (love) which Paul described. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth:..."

Reflecting upon these verses often will help us love others as God intends for us to do. This love should be reflected in every Christian couple's marriage. Ephesians 5:25-30,33 informs us: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones...Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Some see in the Song of Solomon a comparison of

the love which Solomon had for his bride with the love which Christ has for His church. For instance, Song of Solomon 2:1-4 inspires us with these words: "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."

Loving the brethren and our own family members can be challenging enough, at times, but the Lord insists that we love them anyway. Furthermore, He insists that we love even those who oppose us. Only God's Spirit can help us to love the unlovable. Jesus taught: "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:27-36).

After all, the Lord loved us when we were His enemies. "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:7-8,10). Jesus said that laying one's life down for someone reveals the greatest love. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay

down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:13-14).

## JOY

When a person is filled with God's love there is a joy within her or him that the world cannot understand. The Apostle Peter, when referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, wrote in his first epistle: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (I Peter 1:8-9). Indeed, it is the joy of the Lord which will get us through the down times of life. Nehemiah knew this when the children of Israel wept after hearing the law read to them. "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

David knew that he could draw upon this well-spring of joy. He wrote in Psalm 16:11: "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Jesus also taught about this fulness of joy. However, He said that there is something we must do to receive it. John 15:10-11 gives us His remedy: "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

Part of the fruit of the Spirit, as we have seen, is joy. And yet that joy is not always expressed in a believer's life. That may be one reason why Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to, "Rejoice evermore" (I Thessalonians 5:16). James also had words of advice for his readers. He admonished them in James 5:13: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms." Paul echoed these last words when he wrote to the Ephesian brethren: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

The joy of the Lord is not only for those times when we are feeling especially joyous. James tells us that we should have joy even in troubled times. "My brethren,

count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2-3). And Jesus told us in Matthew 5:11-12: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

## PEACE

Many people in today's world are filled with anxiety and fear. They desperately need peace in their lives to cope with the multitudes of problems and stresses that they may encounter daily. They need Jesus, the Prince of Peace (see Isaiah 9:6-7). We know that in the future, during the Millennium, there will be peace on earth. Isaiah 2:2-4 teaches us: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

But, what about the present? People need peace in their lives today as well. We are thankful that the fruit of the Spirit also consists of peace. Jesus said that He gives His disciples peace. In John 14:27 He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The type of peace that the world gives is an absence of fighting. If people are not quarrelling, or if armies are not fighting, there is a portion of peace at that time. But, the peace that Jesus gives is one that lasts, even in the presence of strife, even in the midst of the storm.

Though peace is a part of the fruit of the Spirit, there are things that we must do to experience peace in its fulness. Psalm 34:14 instructs us in one of those things: "Depart

from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." To pursue peace means that we live according to the ways of God which produce peace in our lives. Romans 8:5-7 reads: "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

We have seen that love, joy, and peace are all based upon obedience to the Lord, including the keeping of God's law. Not only are we to enjoy God's peace in our personal lives, but we must help to keep it functioning in the whole body of Christ. Paul, writing to the church of Ephesus, instructs us in Ephesians 4:1-3: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." So important is this peace that Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

When we have experienced the peace of the Lord in our own lives, we not only share that peace in the body of Christ, but we are to take it to others as well. Paul implies

that we need to be ready to share that peace when he wrote: "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15). Bringing the good news of the gospel will surely bring peace to others. This is emphasized by Paul in Romans 10:14-15: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Finally, several more things will ensure God's peace. We learn these precious truths in Philippians 4:6-9: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

# Be Not Deceived

By F.L. Summers (deceased)

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

Paul, in his epistle to the Galatians, was trying to instruct them in the way of the Spirit and to urge them to lay off the works of the flesh. Paul says, before the above Scripture, for us to keep humble and not to become puffed up. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:3). These

Scriptures, dear one, show us that when we become puffed up, self conceited, thinking more highly of ourselves than we should, that we are fooling no one but ourselves.

We surely are living in the time when men are deceiving on every hand. In Paul's letter to Timothy, where he describes that in the last days men would be lovers of their own selves, blasphemers, unthankful, unholy, false accusers, etc., he also says, "But evil men and seducers

shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Timothy 3:13). Now, let us see what Christ says about being alert so as not to be deceived. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

The devil does not come to us with a pitch fork and horns as we see pictured many times. He generally comes to us quoting Scripture, pretending to be a friend and Christian of the highest type. Paul says: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Corinthians 11:13-15). These deceitful workers claim to be God-called people, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. The Lord says, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

We surely need to study the Word of God carefully and in prayer. We must seek His Holy Spirit, for it is by this power that we are kept from being deceived. It is this power that seals (preserves) us unto the day of redemption. Further, Paul says, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Reading further Paul says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:11,14).

God is not deceived. He knows the heart of everyone. There is a day coming soon when the secrets of the heart will be made known. If we have fooled others, as well as ourselves, what will we do in that day? How badly we will feel. It is no wonder people will cry for the mountains and the rocks to fall upon them (see Revelation 6:12-17). It will be too late to repent and how sorrowful we will feel. Our time to make believe and bluster our way out will be at an end. May God help us to keep our eyes on the Lord and seek to please Him. Regardless of what people say, if their lives and works are not founded upon the Word of God, they will not stand, neither will it do to follow them. Those who have had their sins covered by

the precious blood of Jesus Christ must keep on praying and searching His blessed Word, for the truth of God will not deceive.

We are truly living in a great age: the time when the church is to be made ready, not by deception or coercion, but by the Holy Spirit of God: "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). Let us live a life of prayer, seeking Him often, because that kind of life caused Daniel and the three Hebrew children to be delivered. Let us also remember that the record we make here will determine where we will spend eternity.

Jesus says, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24). Christ means here that there will be those who are falsely anointed, that will, if possible, deceive the very elect. Satan cannot tempt these people by the regular route of sin he has put over on the world, but as pretenders of righteousness. Why is he not able to deceive them? Please notice that the above Scripture says "if possible" to deceive the very elect. The reason he cannot is because the Spirit of God is in them, and their Spirit will not bear witness with the evil spirit. Fear not little flock, if you are meek and humble and let God lead, you will be kept from the hour of temptation. John says, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelation 3:10).

May God impress it upon the heart of each one of His children to earnestly pray that His Holy Spirit will be manifest among His people. This is an individual salvation and it is up to each one to be what He would have the Church of God to be. If this were so, there would be no need to fear about the church. There would be no suppression of truth nor any hinderance whatever to the truth being preached in its fulness. May our blessed Savior soon come that His kingdom of righteousness might be established, in which there will be no more sorrow, no more crying nor broken hearts. Let us lift up our eyes, for our redemption that draweth nigh!

# Covet The Best Gifts

From "The Advocate Of Truth" (Circa 1950)



Myanmar

The Word of God is true, and heaven has not changed. Ancient miracles are performed in modern times when God's true servants pay the price. The gift of the Holy Spirit has been given to men in every age of the world's history. During the Dark Ages, when the church was driven into the wilderness under the constant fires of persecution, the gifts of healing and of the miracles were very pronounced. By this manifestation of God's presence, faith was renewed and kindled in the hearts of His children until they were unmoved by all opposing forces.

The greatest obstacle between God's servants and the acquiring of these wonderful gifts is "satisfaction"--being satisfied with conditions as they are. We sometimes are satisfied to just preach a message of salvation and warning without the sympathy and compassion for the sick and unsaved that we should possess. Jesus wept over the sin and suffering of His day, which is many times worse now. Yet the minister's feelings may not be much affected, or our tender compassion, if we possess it, may not be stirred over sinners and those who are sick and afflicted through the results of sin. Being satisfied with enough to eat and wear, and our families provided for, with laws protecting us from persecution, we may not be really desiring spiritual gifts, or seeking them.

The Lord commands His servants to, "...covet earnestly the best gifts..." (I Corinthians 12:31). Also, we are to desire spiritual gifts (see I Corinthians 14:1). How many of us are really coveting and desiring these great gifts so badly needed in these times of sickness, suffering, and death? The command of Jesus to His apostles and ministers was, and still is, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lep-

ers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8; notice also Matthew 11:5; Luke 7:22).

The dead were raised by Elijah, by Elisha, by Peter, by Paul, and by Christ who is our example in all things (see I Kings 17:22; II Kings 4:32-36; 13:21; Acts 9:40; Acts 20:10; Matthew 9:24-25; Mark 5:41; Luke 7:12-15; John 11). God has the same power today. He has not changed. Not one prophecy has ever failed; God is true. Therefore, we know that the works of Christ shall be performed in a greater degree by His disciples (see John 14:12-14). Are we satisfied, or do we earnestly crave, hunger and thirst, and yearn in the spirit for God's power? Do we have the tender, contrite spirit that Jesus possessed when He often wept because of suffering humanity? "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:..." (Isaiah 53:3). Just before His greatest miracle was performed, it was said of Him, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). When Church of God ministers (and other members) weep and shed tears because of the sufferings of humanity, there will be mighty works performed by that power which accompanies the compassionate heart. It will require self-denial and personal sacrifice.

A careful study of the Old Testament will reveal the presence of an unchangeable law of sacrifice before blessings. There is a price to be paid for the great blessings of heaven, and power from above. Before Abraham received the sealed covenant and promise of blessings for him, and his seed, he was called upon to make a sacrifice of temporal possessions (see Genesis, 15th chapter). Before Elisha received the power he most earnestly

craved, he left his twelve yoke of oxen, his fields and earthly possessions, bidding his father and mother and loved ones good-bye and became a follower of Elijah. He was not to receive the Spirit of Elijah unless he saw him when he went away. Therefore he followed him, witnessing his miracles, sharing his sufferings and deprivations.

The apostles whom Jesus called sacrificed their fishing nets, their businesses, and the presence of their families and loved ones, to follow the meek and lowly Jesus, sharing His privation and suffering.

The law of self-denial and personal sacrifice is further most beautifully set forth by Jesus, who being the richest in possessions, yet came to earth as the poorest, denying Himself and even suffering the terrible death of the cross before being glorified and triumphantly exalted above all principalities and powers.

I well remember visiting the old ruins of the house of Lazarus and the house of Simon the leper, at Bethany, and walking down the steps with my family to the bottom of the tomb where Lazarus was buried. Then I climbed up to the top of the west wall of the house of Lazarus and looked over inside to see how it was divided up into different rooms, still marked off by stone walls about three to four feet high. I remembered how Jesus often stayed with His friend, Lazarus, and how these two mansions of that time were open for Jesus to enter. No doubt the room

they gave Him to occupy was furnished the very best, with feather bed and nice, soft pillows. Yet Jesus, often denying Himself these comforts, walked north up the sloping, rocky brow of the Mount of Olives, spending the night alone in prayer to God (see Luke 6:12; 21:37-38). He was living the life of self-denial and personal sacrifice that we must follow in order to be partakers with Him of heaven's power. God is going to prepare a people who will find such joy in His presence that they will deny themselves at times of bodily comforts, bear their crosses, and present their "...bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

After Jesus had spent the night in prayer, He was charged with a power with which He healed every sick man who touched His body, or even the hem of His garment (see Luke 6:12,19; 8:44-46). Jesus was willing to deny Himself and found joy in sacrificing for others. By spending all night in prayer, tarrying before God, having His thoughts away from earth and centered on heaven, He was filled to the overflowing with the Spirit power called "Virtue", that healed all manner of diseases, even raising the dead (see Mark 5:25-30). This same power is in store for God's children. The resources of heaven have not been exhausted by any means, and it will be supplied to the servants of Christ on the same terms, and in the same measure as it was two thousand years ago.



# Power

By Mrs. Harry Lacher

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). These were some of the last words of our Lord to His disciples before He ascended into heaven. This promise was fulfilled in their experience a few days later. "And when the day of

Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them

utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). From that time on the word which characterized the life and service of these men was "power". This power rested upon them, and sustained them, until the end of their ministry. The need of this power was emphasized by Jesus when He commanded His disciples to "...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

The disciples might have argued that the need was great, the field large, that they were few in number and that time was flying; but Jesus knew that any effort without this power would be useless. In due time the disciples recognized the wisdom of their Master's words. If all professed disciples of Jesus would follow in their steps, what a power the church might be today! The disciples were a pattern for other Christian workers. So the command to tarry until they would be endued with power from on high was directed to them, and also was given for our admonition and learning. We may have to tarry for many reasons. We may be unlearned in the gospel of Christ, we may be harboring unkind and critical thoughts against others. There could be many things that would keep us from surrendering our will so that we might have favor of God. We can rest assured that as we surrender ourselves to the will of God, in the same proportion will we have the power of the Spirit.

Since our Lord has spoken so clearly about the need of the power of the Spirit, how can we engage in Christian service and be a profitable servant unless we have made a definite attempt to gain this power, and be in favor with God and man? We may get a hearing from men, but we will not prosper as a true servant of Jesus Christ to gain souls for His kingdom. Jesus knew He needed this power of the Holy Spirit, and He often fasted and spent all night in prayer. After Jesus had fasted forty days, being tempted of the devil, we read about Him: "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about" (Luke 4:14).

As we study the lives and ministries of the first disciples of our Lord, we are impressed more and more with the power that inspired them. In the first place, the power worked effectively in their own inner lives, giving them victory over the lusts of the flesh. There was a transformation of their characters. Gone were their petty jealousies and personal ambitions. They were a happy Christian brotherhood, each esteeming the other better than themselves (see Philippians 2:3). It was Christ and His

glory that filled their vision. They were willing to go anywhere at any time, and to be unknown and unnoticed, if Christ only was glorified. They were like their Master, both in Spirit and in works. They were full of love for each other, and willing to minister to the few or the many, as their Lord willed. Unless we get power in our own hearts to give us victory over our fallen nature, we will never have power for service. We may confess that we want power, and the power generally sought is for self-advancement. Do we want the power to keep us sweet if we have to remain in obscurity and see others advanced over our heads? That was the kind of power that came upon the disciples and worked through them. Whenever they were called before the highest assembly, they could not be silenced or intimidated by their enemies. The boldness of the disciples was not that of bragging or of false speeches, but it was of men who were committed to the will of God, and who were ready to die for their faith. They did not sit in judgment on the Word of God, selecting such passages as they deemed suitable for their use. They accepted the Word and squared their lives and conduct by it.

If we are to have our lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, we must be specially prepared, disciplined and tested. How many of us have been educated in the school of fasting and prayer? How long a time have we spent in the fellowship of Christ? Do we have a deep knowledge of the Word of God? There is no substitute for the power which our Lord promised to His people. There is one way to receive it: and that is by conforming to the pattern originally given to the apostles. Whenever individuals or groups have sought the power in God's way, they have not been disappointed. The Spirit came upon them and gave them power for various forms of Christian works. This power is still available. God has not changed. The promise still stands. The need is great, but God will not give this power to satisfy human pride or achievement. It is given only to those who are dedicated to witness for Christ, and who prepare themselves by discipline and obedience to do His work in the way He has commanded. Let us keep the trust that has been committed into our care, realizing that neither opposition nor persecution shall deter the church from her aim. "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain" (Philippians 2:16).

# Living Godly Lives

By Mrs. Brandeberry



God and Jesus are one in belief. They are holy, perfect, and with all power. They created the angels lower than themselves, without sin, but with wills of their own. Then God created men a little lower than the angels, also without sin, and also with wills of their own. When Adam and Eve were created they had no experience of sin. God taught them in the Garden of Eden, but they were as innocent as a small child. If you would tell that child to not touch a hot stove or he would be burned, the child would not understand what it is to be burned, never having had the experience or known the results of a burn to another person.

So it was with Adam and Eve. When God said of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, "...Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:3), they probably did not fully understand what death was. So, Eve ate of the fruit, but she had sinned before that when she allowed herself to listen to the devil. Satan told her that she would not die, and God had told her she would die. She decided to find out for herself which one was right. God meant that she would die in the spirit that same day, and that she would also lose eternal life. After that day she would grow older and at last die in the body. The devil, with his clever tongue, tried to make God out to be a liar, just as he tries to deceive us today. I feel that if Eve was living today and could see the terrible results of sin, she would call on God for help to resist the devil.

Since Eve sinned we have all been born into sin. We all have a sinful nature that, if not conquered through Christ, will lead us into actual sin. We all have been sinners, many of us practically eaten up with sin. But, no matter how vile we have been, there is power in the blood of Christ to cleanse us from sin and to make us new creatures. However, we must first realize that we are sinners, then

repent and ask God to forgive our past sins. Then, Jesus wants us to present ourselves a living sacrifice to God, holy and acceptable (see Romans 12:1-2). We begin this process by being baptized in Jesus' name, and then having hands laid upon us for the reception of the Holy Spirit. We must not tarry in so doing, for if we let our heart remain empty after it has been cleansed, the devil will gather his angels and return, and the end shall be worse than the beginning (see Luke 11:24-26).

When we are baptized we signify that we are burying the old man of sin with which we were born, and when we come up out of the watery grave we are resurrected to a newness of life. Then, when the minister lays his hands upon our head for sanctifying, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within our pure heart to lead and teach us in the works of God. Although we are not perfect as God and Jesus are, we are considered sinless at this time. However, we still have a will of our own, and God never forces us against our will.

It takes a daily life of prayer, faith, and obeying the light we receive to stay saved. When we neglect to feed ourselves on God's Word, to pray or to obey, we will begin to die again. We can live without sin, but not through our own strength, but through Christ's. If we turn our lives over to God completely and walk out on His promises by faith, He will mold and reshape this lump of clay. He will melt it in the fire and reshape it into a vessel for His use. We must love and fear God--fear Him because we should be afraid to disobey Him. We should love Him and wish to obey Him because we know He wants only what is best for us. Many people are walking around without any fear of the Lord, while others are obeying Him through fear. If we do not fear God we will do many things contrary to Him. God knows our heart.



# 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.*

## **A Familiar Scripture Revisited**

The familiar Scripture is Matthew 24:21-22 which says, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

Children of God are watching and waiting for the return of Christ in the air to transport them to the New Jerusalem. While they are watching and waiting, there are two categories of events which they must continually consider. The first category is the events over which they have no control. These events would include earthquakes, famines, wars, pestilences, and violent weather. The second category is the many things which impact their spiritual lives directly and, therefore, require an active response on their part to please God. Many of these graces are listed in II Peter 1:5-7. Faith is the first requirement for the child of God. Peter tells us the many things that must be added to faith. Let us also include verse 8: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Apostle Paul wrote about conditions which seem especially pertinent to our day. He wrote, “This know

also, that in the last days perilous (dangerous) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 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; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (II Timothy 3:1-5).

Children of God know that the world is in turmoil. With each passing year, they see changes which cause new problems. And many old problems seem to become more severe. Some of God’s children might be inclined to wonder how much worse things can get before divine intervention. The following is another list of conditions in America and throughout the world which the child of God cannot control or enforce purity. They are: governmental corruption; moral disrespect; global economic turmoil; terrorist activity; trading in drugs; invasion of privacy through technology; availability of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of destruction; violence; wars; murders; suicides; religious and racial hatred; satanic cults and worship; a general lack of civility and respect; child abuse, and a decline in formal religious worship; the spread of new age philosophies; starvation. I am sure that there are many more items that can be added to this list. Although God’s children are anxious for this night of sin and evil to end, they are ever mindful that they have no control over these matters. However, they must carry out all of their vows of consecration even while living in such severe surroundings. The psalmist gives a helpful admonition in

this connection: "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:14).

## European Stopgap

Remember when all of the financial troubles in Europe were in the headlines? I read an article in the newspaper which told that the European leaders counted on stopgap measures to keep the bond market turmoil at bay. It said that there was no overall plan to solve the bond market problem and that Europe's policymakers were working to fight the crises with smaller localized attacks. The markets were calmed. However, the European leaders were warned that they must target the crisis at its roots, where undercapitalized banks, mounting borrowing costs and weak economic growth make some countries' debt burden look unsustainable.

## COMMENT

The *Webster Handy College Dictionary* defines stopgap as "a temporary expedient". It says that an expedient is "serving to promote a desired object". In other words, a stopgap may solve the bond market turmoil for a very short time, but it will soon flare up again.

The only long term solution to all the problems of the world will be realized during the kingdom of God where no mortal and fallible men will rule.

## Kicking The Can Down The Road

As we have heard, there is also American financial trouble. Congress and the president violently disagree on the policy they should implement to cut the national debt. No one in a governing position wants to compromise with the other. It is said that they "kick the can down the road". They have a stopgap situation the same as the European countries. American lawmakers come to a compromise which really does not satisfy them. This means that they must consider the problem later to come to a lasting solution. There will be no stopgapping or kicking the can down the road solutions in the kingdom of God.

## Labor Day 2013 Crisis

There appeared an article in the **Houston Chronicle** which tells us of a crisis which has been with us for some time, and it is growing. The following is a portion of the article:

### A growing crisis greets Labor Day

Frustration is boiling over, expert says,

With low wages, sense of inequality

By L. M. Sixel

It was mostly janitors and fast-food and other low wage workers on the front lines last week protesting their pay, but the movement for a "livable" wage may resonate with a broader swath of Americans who lost ground during the recent recession.

"We're in a situation where a quarter of Americans are earning poverty wages," said Arne L. Kalleberg, author of "*Good Jobs, Bad Jobs*." For a family of four, that's a little less than \$24,000 a year. The rallies across the nation last week focused on boosting wages to \$15 an hour, which is more than double the federal minimum wage of \$7.35.

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that in the next decade, seven out of 10 of the fastest-growing jobs will be in low-wage industries such as fast food, personal services and retail," said Kalleberg, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina.

Middle-income jobs such as manufacturing, clerical and administrative roles are not growing quickly.

"Lots of folks are working hard and not getting anywhere," he said. "Frustration is boiling over."

That growing sense of polarization gave rise to the not-so-distant Occupy Wall Street movement that spread around the country. While the rallies have stopped, the rallying cry about the "top 1 percent" lingers as shorthand to separate the highest earners from everyone else.

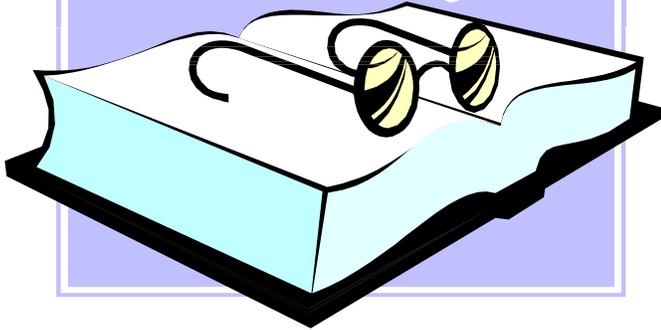
"Those protests capitalized on the seeming inequality of working hard yet not getting ahead," said Kalleberg. "The latest round of protests at fast-food restaurants for a \$15 wage is an extension of that growing movement that's not as much about unions as it is about social values," he added.

--*Continued in the March issue.*

**ERRATUM:** The article, "The Ten Commandments Before Sinai", in the January 27th issue of "The Advocate of Truth", page 9, first column, second full paragraph, contains a statement which should read: "There can be no doubt that God's commandments were in force before Sinai."

# BIBLE

## Study



**QUESTION:** Luke 6:12 tells us that Christ "...went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Why did He continue all night in prayer? That sounds like He was desperate for help which would not reflect well upon His being the Savior of the world. What do you think?

**ANSWER:** Let us give a simple definition of prayer. Prayer is primarily communion with God. Unfortunately, most people, and that includes many Christians, only think of prayer as begging for some favor or intervention or help from God, and they pray to this end. This is not what prayer is all about! Christ's continuing in prayer all night to God does not indicate that He was desperate for help. It indicates the depth and closeness of His communion with His Father.

**QUESTION:** Did Jesus sweat blood in Gethsemane? I have heard some say that He did.

**ANSWER:** No, He did not! Do not believe what some people tell you. Please read Luke 22:44. It says, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." This means that Jesus, being in agony, sweat profusely as if He were bleeding, but He did not sweat blood.

# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** During His earthly ministry, did our Lord Jesus Christ have the Old Testament books just as we have them?

**ANSWER:** The Scriptures of our Lord's time upon earth were the same 39 books as are now included in the present Old Testament, though they were not arranged in the same order. They were grouped into three parts: (1) The Law; (2) The Prophets; and (3) The Psalms. This seemed to be in our Lord's mind when He said, "...These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44).

**QUESTION:** What is the only food for the saints?

**ANSWER:** There is only one thing with which to feed the church. It is the Word of God. It is "milk" for the babes (I Peter 2:2), and "strong meat" for those more advanced and matured (Hebrews 5:13-14). A church fed upon philosophy, scientific findings, Liberal theology, modern sentiment, and the like will starve. But the church fed upon the milk and strong meat of the Word will grow and thrive.

The Christian minister himself, as well as the church, needs to be "nourished" by doctrine (I Timothy 4:6). The minister who does not feed his own inner life by constantly and diligently studying the Word of God is a starved minister. He is a minister who is weak in the faith and compromising in his testimony and conduct. A minister who is not himself fed in the doctrine of the Word cannot

possibly feed others. An underfed minister will mean an underfed and weak church.

**QUESTION:** I have a friend who said that she believes that the antichrist will be a resurrected person. What do you think?

**ANSWER:** Your friend's idea is far-fetched! A popular theory is that the antichrist will be Judas Iscariot. Those who believe this say that Judas is called a devil and son of perdition in John 6:70 and 17:12, and Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, and also that Satan dwells in and acts through the antichrist (John 13:27 and Revelation 13:2). However, there are many sons of perdition and many men of sin. There are many who yield themselves to Satan.

**QUESTION:** Do you think that it is wrong for a child of God to be ambitious?

**ANSWER:** It is not wrong for a child of God to be ambitious. But he or she must not be selfishly or fleshly ambitious.

**QUESTION:** What is the difference between the Parable of the Pounds and the Parable of the Talents found in Luke 19:11-27 and Matthew 25:14-30?

**ANSWER:** There is a difference between these two parables although they have many points of similarity. The emphases in the Parable of the Talents seems to be that the Lord's return will be a test of professed service. In the Parable of the Pounds, the emphases seems to be upon the postponement of the kingdom. Luke 19:11 says, "And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear."

**QUESTION:** What does Matthew 7:6 mean?

**ANSWER:** Matthew 7:6 says, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

Dogs in Scripture are a type of men who are openly unclean. Compare Deuteronomy 23:17-18 with

Philippians 3:2-3 and Matthew 7:21-23. Swine are a familiar figure. See II Peter 2:22. It seems like this verse is speaking about those people who do not only reject the Word of God but also despise it.

**QUESTION:** What are two verses in the Book of Micah that speak of the peace and safety that will be in the millennium?

**ANSWER:** Two verses in the Book of Micah that speak of the peace and safety in the millennium are Micah 4:3-4 which reads, "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it."

**QUESTION:** What was the purpose of the mark that the Lord set upon Cain?

**ANSWER:** Many believe that the mark that the Lord set upon Cain was a brand placed upon him that identified him as his brother's murderer. However, the mark was not an indication of the Lord's curse. Quite the opposite is true! After killing his brother Abel, Cain pleaded with the Lord, claiming that if he wandered the earth as a fugitive he would have no one to protect him, and he himself would be slain. The Lord then set a mark upon Cain as a sign of protection, not as a curse. Please read Genesis 4:10-15.

**QUESTION:** How are we to understand John 7:15 which says, "And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"

**ANSWER:** The phrasing of the Jews' question has caused some readers to think that the Jews were amazed that Jesus could read and write because He was a carpenter's son. But they were not impressed by His literacy, rather by His learning. The best reading of the Greek seems to tell us that they were astonished that He knew so much about the Law and Prophets. He never went to rabbinical school.



## Myanmar

**A wedding ceremony taking place in Myanmar.**





**The wedding ceremony (above). The happy couple (below). The congregation enjoying a meal.**



## LESSON I

## JEHOSHAPHAT FASTS AND PRAYS

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:1-19.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:3.**

**“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.”**

NOTE: We are continuing our study of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. We have learned that he sought the Lord in all things. He established courts of justice throughout the land, and sent out priests (Levites) to teach the people. Now we are going to study about his fasting and praying to God, and what his purpose was in doing this.

1. Who had come against Jehoshaphat to battle? II Chronicles 20:1.
2. Who brought a message to him, and what was this message about? II Chronicles 20:2.
3. Did Jehoshaphat seek the Lord's help? What did he proclaim throughout the land? II Chronicles 20:3.
4. Did the people gather with Jehoshaphat to seek the Lord? II Chronicles 20:4.
5. What praise did he give to God in his prayer? Read II Chronicles 20:5-9, and then tell some of the things he praised God for doing for them.
6. Now what petition does he ask of God? II Chronicles 20:10-13.
7. While all Judah stood before the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord came into their midst. Whom did He cause to speak? What was His message to the congregation and to Jehoshaphat? II Chronicles 20:14-17.
8. What did Jehoshaphat and all Judah do when they heard these words? II Chronicles 20:18-19.

## LESSON II

JEHOSHAPHAT OVERTHROWS THE ENEMY  
(PART I)

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:20-26.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:22.**

**“And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.”**

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Jehoshaphat sought the Lord by fasting and prayer when he heard a great multitude was coming to attack Judah. The Lord answered his prayers, and we will now see how the enemy was defeated.

1. As the people of Judah went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa, what did Jehoshaphat tell them to do? II Chronicles 20:20.
2. Whom did Jehoshaphat appoint in II Chronicles 20:21?
3. What did the singers do in II Chronicles 20:22? What happened as a result of their singing?
4. What happened to the enemy? II Chronicles 20:23.
5. When Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, what did they see? II Chronicles 20:24.
6. What did Jehoshaphat and his people find among the dead bodies? How long did it take them to gather the spoil? II Chronicles 20:25.
7. What did they do on the fourth day? II Chronicles 20:26.

## LESSON III

JEHOSHAPHAT OVERTHROWS THE ENEMY  
(PART II)

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:27-37.****Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:30.****“So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.”**

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how God helped destroy the enemy when the appointed people sang praises to Him. They also received riches and jewels from those who died. We will now study about the joy and peace the people had following the victory over their enemies and about some trouble they had with a wicked person.

1. Where did the people return to, and how did they feel? II Chronicles 20:27.
2. What did the people take unto the house of the Lord? II Chronicles 20:28.
3. Was the fear of God on all the kingdoms when they heard how the Lord fought against the enemy? How was Jehoshaphat at this time? II Chronicles 20:29-30.
4. How long did Jehoshaphat reign over Judah? II Chronicles 20:31.
5. Did he walk in the way of his father? II Chronicles 20:32.
6. After this, with whom did Jehoshaphat join himself? Was this person wicked or righteous? II Chronicles 20:35.
7. Why did he join with Ahaziah? II Chronicles 20:36.
8. Did the Lord break up their works? II Chronicles 20:37.

**LESSON IV****JEHORAM SUCCEEDS JEHOSEPHAT****Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 21:1-20.****Golden Text: II Chronicles 21:5.****“Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in****Jerusalem.”**

NOTE: We have just finished studying about Jehoshaphat who was king of Judah for twenty five years. He was a good king and sought the Lord in all things. After his death, Jehoram, his son, reigned in his stead. Let us see whether he was as good a king as his father.

1. How many sons did Jehoshaphat have? II Chronicles 21:2.
2. What gifts did he give each of his children? Why did he give the kingdom of Judah to Jehoram? II chronicles 21:3.
3. How old was Jehoram when he began to reign, and what did he do to all his brethren? II Chronicles 21:4-5.
4. Did Jehoram do that which was good in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 21:6-7.
5. What did Jehoram do to the Edomites? Did they revolt from under his hand? What other group of people revolted? II Chronicles 21:8-10.
6. What did he cause the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do? How did he do this? II Chronicles 21:11.
7. What did Elijah prophesy would happen to him and to his people? II Chronicles 21:12-15.
8. What did the Philistines, the Arabians and the Ethiopians do to Judah? II Chronicles 21:16-17.
9. The Lord smote Jehoram with an incurable disease and he died. How long did he reign in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 21:19-20.

**Answer To Picture Puzzle: SABBATH DAY**

## ROGER, SUE AND THE MARBLES

Roger and Sue were always playing together, sometimes in the sandpile in Roger's backyard, sometimes in Sue's little playhouse or sometimes, especially on rainy days, in the basement of one of the houses.

One day, when their mothers thought that they were playing in Sue's playhouse, they ran off down the street and into the "five and ten" store. As Roger walked by one of the counters, he picked up a bag of marbles and put them in his pocket. Sue, very surprised, looked at Roger and said, "Why, Roger, you must pay for that."

"Hush," said Roger, "Why should I bother to pay for it? No one but you saw me take it, so what harm did it do?"

Sue started to protest again, but Roger said, "Be still!" So Sue obediently kept silent.

As Sue went back home with Roger, she said, "Roger, why did you take those marbles? Don't you know that it is really stealing? The Bible says in the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not steal."

"What difference does it make," asked Roger, "As long as no one saw me? Come-on, Sue, let's play with the marbles. We can have lots of fun with them." Roger started rolling the marbles to Sue. At first, Sue started playing with Roger, but then she became all choked up inside. She jumped up and, sobbing, ran from the house and up to her room. There she threw herself onto her bed and thought and thought about what Roger had done. "I wonder what Jesus thinks," said little Sue to herself. "I wonder if Jesus still loves Roger."

Later that day, Sue went over to Roger's home, and his mother gave them some delicious warm sugar cookies and cold milk. As the two children were eating, Mrs. Terry, Roger's mother, said, "Did you children have fun this morning? What did you do?"

"We played in Sue's playhouse" said Roger very quickly.

"But, Roger--", Sue started to protest, but Roger looked at her sternly and shook his head very hard. Little Sue was so surprised and confused that she didn't know what to do or say, so she stopped talking.

That night as Sue went to bed, she thought of all that

had happened that day. "I wonder why Roger stole and lied today," she said to herself. "Perhaps Satan told him to, because our Sabbath School teacher said that Satan tries to make little children do things wrong so they won't be saved." Tears trickled down the little girl's face as she thought what a nice little boy Roger used to be, and how terrible it would be if he became bad and did not see their dear Savior face to face someday, and did not have a home in that joyful kingdom that God has promised to His people.

Then Sue knelt by her bedside and, with her little heart aching, she prayed to God: "Dear Father in heaven, please do not let Roger be a bad boy. Touch his heart and show him that it is wrong to steal and lie. Help him to remember that song we sang in Sabbath School, "Come Into My Heart, Lord Jesus". And please, dear Lord, do not let Satan enter into his heart. Help me also, dear Father, to always be good, and please forgive us both of all our sins."

Then Sue jumped into her little bed, and with a joyful heart, said, "I know that God will take care of it all now, because He truly answers prayer, and Jesus said in the Bible, '...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.'"

The next day, Sue and Roger were playing in Roger's sandpile when suddenly Roger said, "Do you think I should take those marbles back, and then tell Mother what we really did?"

Sue said, "Yes, Roger, I think you should. You said that no one saw you, but actually the most important one saw, because Jesus watches us all the time, and he knows when we do bad."

"I've been thinking about that, Sue," said Roger, "and I didn't sleep very well last night, either. Let's go tell Mother and take the marbles back right now."

"Okay," said Sue happily, thinking how wonderfully God had answered prayer. Down the street skipped Roger and Sue, hand in hand, singing their song: "Into my heart, into my heart, Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, Come in today, Come in to stay, Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."

**FILL IN THE WORDS**

B \_ \_ \_

\_ E \_ \_ \_ \_

L \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ I \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ E \_ \_

\_ \_ V \_

\_ E \_ \_ \_ \_

One thing we must do if we are a child of God is expressed in the word above. What is it?

Put the letters of the words on the blank lines. The clues are at the top of the next column.

**PICTURE PUZZLE**

Write the first letter of each picture below, and you will find something we are to remember.



The ladder of life is full of splinters,  
but we never feel them till we backslide.

**Clues to: "Fill In The Words" BELIEVE**

1. What Christ gave for us. (Luke 22:19).
2. What did Peter do after he denied Christ?
3. Why God gave his Son. (John 3:16).
4. Word meaning God's power.
5. What death is like.
6. NO one wants to die, but .....
7. "This is my ..... Son."

Find and circle every word from the Scripture hidden in the letter maze below. The words may be written down, across, or diagonally.

"And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full" (Matthew 14:20).

F T H E Y T H A Y T U E O  
 I R N T O O K O F T E P F  
 L B A S K E T S O U H B T  
 L A L G B A A N D K L E H  
 E S L E M S K T D F U L A  
 D A N D R E M A I N E D T  
 A T T O T F N T D W E R E  
 N R A K B H U T W E L V E  
 F I L L E B E B S A S K E  
 T W A E L V E Y L L B A T

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## ***FEEDING THE 5,000***

*by Betty Whetstone*

*Jesus had preached many days and was weary,  
So He decided to seek out some rest;  
He called His disciples unto Him,  
And off to Bethsaida they went.  
But the multitude was not tired of hearing  
Jesus speak of His heavenly abode;  
Their wives and children came with them,  
At least 10,000 trudged down the road.  
Then He taught them of mercy and honor,  
And the blessings obedience brings;  
He told of the wonder of Heaven,  
And then a hymn He did sing.  
The disciples then went to Jesus,  
And asked Him to send them away;  
For they knew they had to be hungry,  
For they had been with them all day.  
But Jesus said No, they would feed them,  
And the disciples stood there in stunned disbelief;  
For all that they had to offer  
Was five loaves and two little fish.  
But Jesus fed all of the people,  
At least ten thousand, or more;  
Then hunger no longer a problem,  
Now they were eager to listen some more.  
The disciples could hardly believe it,  
As twelve baskets of leftovers they took;  
He was not only a worker of miracles,  
But the Lord had become quite a cook!!*

*--From Luke 9:10,17*

