

The Advocate of Truth

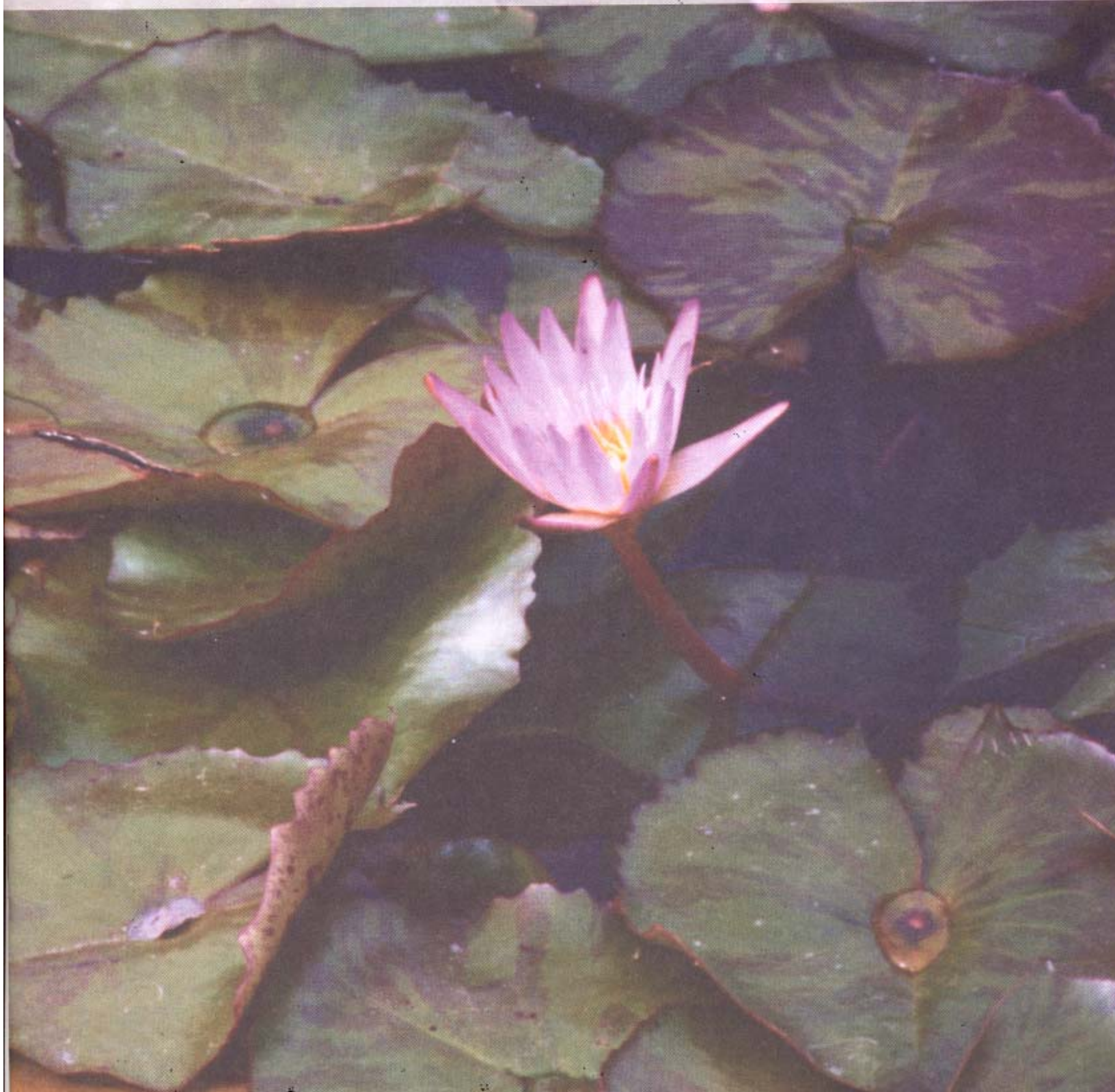




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JESUS GIVES US REST



"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Jesus gives us the rest of SALVATION AND DELIVERANCE.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4).

"Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus gives us the rest of ASSURANCE

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12).

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22).

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 1:24-25).

Jesus gives us the rest of SECURITY.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, nor 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).

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (II Timothy 2:19).

"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:6).

Jesus gives us the rest of PROVISION of daily bread and every other human need.

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:26)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Jesus gives us the rest of CONQUEST AND VICTORY over sin and death.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place" (II Corinthians 2:14).

("For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) 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 10:4-5).

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God" (I John 5:4-5).

Jesus gives us the rest of A FULFILLED LIFE.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Jesus gives us the rest of ETERNAL LIFE.

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-16).

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed" (John 6:27).

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 21).

Jesus gives us the rest of PEACE, THE REST FROM ANXIETY.

"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" (John 14:27).

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

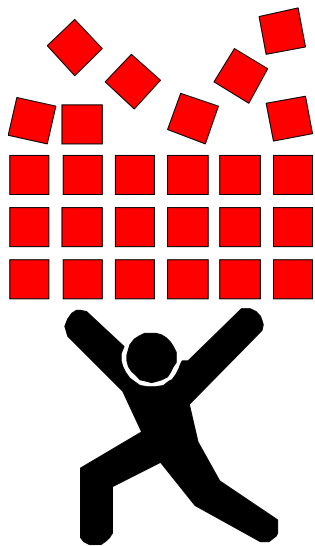
"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord" (II Peter 1:2).

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2:14).

"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" (Philippians 4:6-7).

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

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).



ALL THESE THINGS ARE AGAINST ME

BY BOND TENNANT

"And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me" (Genesis 42:36).

All things in the Bible are not universally true. Satan said, "...all that a man hath will he give for his life" (Job 2:4). This is not true of all men, but possessions are worth more than life to some men. The statement, "He saved others; himself he cannot save..." (Matthew 27:42), is half true and half false. David said, "I said in my haste, All men are liars" (Psalm 116:11). All men are not liars. The text was spoken by a good man, but it was false. It was an error of the head and not the heart. Jacob's judgment was wrong. He was not reasoning rightly. It was a wrong viewpoint. When a few things go wrong, we say, "All these things are against me." We forget God. Jacob lived to see differently. Joseph was not dead, but was the prime minister of Egypt. Simeon was not in prison awaiting execution. Benjamin's life was not demanded. Jacob was to have his long-lost son restored to him. Peace and plenty awaited him in Goshen. Things that seemed against him were for him. God sent Joseph ahead into Egypt for a purpose.

Older men are more easily discouraged. The weight of years, the sorrow of a life, and time break the spirit of a man. The man who is not easily discouraged is really blessed. Some look at trouble through the small end of a telescope. We should turn it around. The world despises a fainthearted man. He says, "I can't do much," and the

world agrees.

Elijah became discouraged and ran from a woman. "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about his time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there" (I Kings 19:1-3).

A period of discouragement is the most dangerous time of a man's life." And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). A discouraged man says things that he is sorry for later. A discouraged man acts contrary to reason. A discouraged man hinders others.

Some people are born with a disposition to look on the dark side of life. When a man first saw a train, he said, "it will never start", and when it started, he said, "it will never stop." The world owes little to such men. The faithful disciples, whose words are recorded in the New Testament, were all optimists. By faith, they looked for a bright future.

Acts 28:15 informs us that Paul thanked God and took courage after a certain thing happened during his traveling.

After a terrible calamity, David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all

the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (I Samuel 30:6). He looked ahead of difficulties and made them stepping-stones to victories for God.

Joseph might have had excuse to say, "all these things are against me." He was sold by his brethren, put in prison, and falsely accused, but he was on this way to a high position in the government of Egypt.

Many years later David might have said, "all these things are against me," but he did not. King Saul was against him. He became an exile and lived in caves. He was a companion of outlaws, people who could not pay their debts. But he was on his way to the throne. God was with him!

He who reckons that all things are against him and forgets that God is with him makes a great mistake. God was with Jacob. He made a covenant with him, and God never breaks a promise. Read Genesis 32:24-32 and 28:10-22.

We should do our best and fear nothing. Whatever comes to the true child of God is for the best. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Do we say, "all these things are against me," when things go wrong? Do we say, "people treat me wrong?" Do we say, "I am talked about?" No matter how dark the night, there will be light tomorrow. God is not dead! Let us take courage, as the Apostle Paul did, and look up. Things will also work out for our good. The man who has shut God out of his life is the only man who can say, "all these things are against me." Jacob's last days were his best. For the child of God, it is always better farther on. "... If God be for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31).

God wants a tried people. When trouble or trials come, we must believe they are for our good and for God's glory. God is upholding us, and we cannot fail!

Why Dogs Don't Live Longer Than People?



Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for their six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of this mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

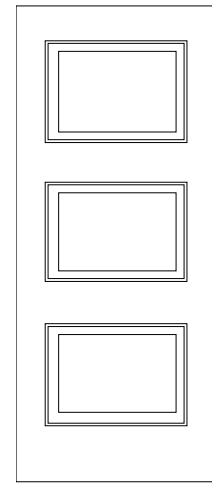
He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice." The boy continued, "well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply. Love generously.
Care deeply. Speak kindly.

- From the internet

HIDDEN SECRETS OR BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

by Laura Tennant



I had been in the house just a few moments when my daughter came for a visit. When she walked in she noticed only one light and asked why it was so dark in my house. She spoke softly but her next words ignited a spark and my temper flared. "Why was I sitting in the dark like an old person?" she asked concerned. First, I informed her I wasn't an old person and I wasn't sitting in the dark. Our conversation continued until I allowed myself to lose all control of my words. I had encouraged an argument. I proceeded to say things I shouldn't say. I know my words were hurting my daughter. I knew I was way out of line. She began to cry and my heart was saddened with my actions. Her next comment pierced my heart with its truthfulness. "How would I feel if the brethren heard my words and witnessed my behavior?" I knew they wouldn't know, but I felt ashamed. I had let my daughter down and been a bad example. If I had another audience would I have acted the same? Did I care so little for my daughter to behave that way? I know her comments were out of concern and love. I knew this when I first got upset. How much better it would have been to let her or myself turn on more lights. After all, I could have turned them off when she asked. How easy it would have been to keep silent. If I had been thinking of her before myself, that is what I would have done. This is not the first time I have gotten upset behind closed doors and perhaps that is why her words pierced my heart even deeper. I had read recently, "Our task here on earth is to show the world an accurate reflection of what God is like. To show them, through our lives, who God is." I certainly had fallen short of my responsibility as a child of God and as a mother.

Often times we allow ourselves to fall short as a child of God because of some secret, something we are hiding, something we may only do occasionally. Perhaps it is something we haven't even acknowledged to ourselves. If we look at the word "hidden" we see it can mean concealed, out of sight, unseen, unknown, or buried. Perhaps no one else knows what is keeping us from a closer walk with God. Our situation may be strictly between God and ourselves, but one thing is for certain, we know and we don't want anyone else to know. In Psalm 32:1-5 we read, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer, Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."

It is common to have a contrite heart and continue on with our life and allow our secret to be buried, but God expects more from us. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whose so confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). Are you really safe because no one knows? We do not have to share our secrets with mankind, but we must share them with our Heavenly Father. It is imperative to acknowledge our hidden secrets, to confess them before God, to repent and turn away from anything that is keeping us from God. "If

we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). Sometimes our sins may not be easy to forsake. That is probably why we keep them hidden secrets. But God can help us overcome any obstacle. Remember the words in the song, Jesus Is Always There? "Never a burden that He doth not carry, Never a sorrow that He doth not share; Whether of our hidden secrets, Jesus is always there."

Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin from God, but they were unable. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8). We can sometimes hide our sins from others, but not from God. We may try to sooth our conscience and say there is justifying circumstances for our behavior. We may say we had no other choice, but to live a little, cheat a little. In Exodus 2:11-14 we read, "And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him who did the wrong, wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known." How would you feel if your hidden secrets were revealed...ashamed, relieved, afraid?

There is a consequence for our hidden secrets. Joshua 7:19 reads, "And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me." We can try to hide some things, but often times they are uncovered before men as well as God and there is a consequence. If we read the entire chapter of Joshua 7, we see Achan tried to hide his actions. Because he did not make the right choice, and tried to hide his deed, he suffered the consequence, death. We too will suffer a consequence if we continue to sin, if we continue in our hidden secrets.

There is no door wide enough or tall enough to hide our secrets. Mark 4:22 states, "For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad." "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12).

Do not deceive yourselves. We are not safe when our sins are hidden. Let us be as the Psalmist and cry, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24). Let us ask for God's help. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

Which is more dangerous, a sin that is seen or one that is hidden? When we hide something we are saying it does not exist. Let us have no hidden secrets. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). Ecclesiastics 12:14 reads, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun, God put U in the name of His Son. And each time U pray, you'll see it's true. You can't spell out Jesus and not include U. You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name. For U, He was begotten; that's why He came. And His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crucified. Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand, He rose from the dead, with U in His plan? The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew, and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U. When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention. "Go unto the world, and tell them it's true, That I love them all - just like I love U." So many great people are spelled with a U. Don't they have a right to know JesUs too? It all depends now on what U will do, He'd like to know. But it all starts with U.

-Adapted from the internet

"LOVE" WHAT OR WHO IS IT?

BY MICHAEL GEORGE



The Bible tells us that, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:8). We can all say amen to that! To the child of God, love implies the mutual and reciprocated affection of God and His people.

The greatest of all joy is to love. God is the first giver of love. "We love him because he first loved us" (I John 4:19). Love entails giving. "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35). The Scriptures testify of God's great love toward us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). There is no fear in love. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18). Christ tells us that we should not fear. "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" (John 14:27).

If we have the Father and Son in our hearts, why should we fear? That is the question. Many times we hear this saying, "I was so afraid." There is a saying, "Empty tin makes loud." Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father; (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also" (I John 2:23). Sin is the barrier that hinders and blocks the free flow of God's love with His people. The children of Israel are a good example of this. The Lord was always willing to shower His blessing of love upon them. He delivered them from bondage in Egypt!

However, sin always came in to place a barrier of separation between God and His people. Yet because he loved them, He always showed mercy on His people.

Hear the words of love from God to His people! "At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:1-3).

Even our Lord wept over Jerusalem. "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19:41-44).

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." (I John 4:7). May God bless us and give us all strength to walk in love as He commanded us.



"THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND THE FULNESS THEREOF"

by Bibi Shimon Allicock

We must realize that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). We are born to serve God and to give praise, honor, and glory to Him. Instead we may carve images and put physical things before Almighty God.

Our Lord advised us that we must keep the Ten Commandments, but some of us choose to keep a few and disregard the others. James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." So it is not advisable to keep just eight or nine of the Ten Commandments. We must keep them all!

Sometimes our main focus may be on the tradition of men. We may wish to be in all the festive seasons and the gluttonous eating. Our Lord was never a glutton, but He was accused of being one. "And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like? They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept. For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!" (Luke 7:31-34).

In John 4:31, Jesus' disciples urged Him to eat. His reply was, "... , I have meat to eat that ye know not of" (vs. 32). "Therefore said the disciples one to another, hath

any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (vss. 33-34).

Many times we are so taken up with the cares of this life as the man in the parable that Jesus told in Luke 12:16-21: "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years: take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts,

as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" (James 5:1-7).

Our Lord said unto His disciples, "... , Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?" (Luke 12:22-24).

"And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are

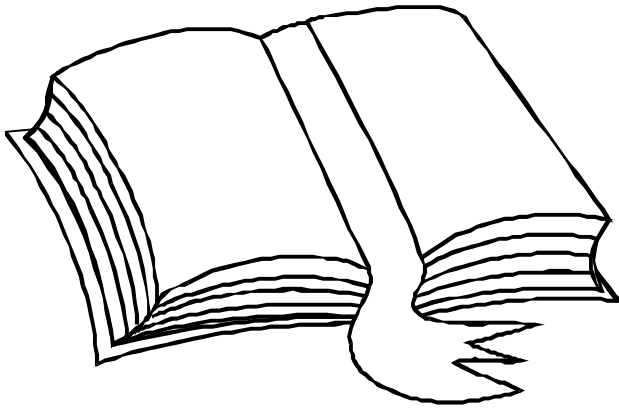
those servants" (Luke 12:25-38).

Usually when we have a dinner or supper, we invite our relatives and/or our best friends. However, Jesus advised us to do the following: "... , When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:12-14).

Jesus continued with another illustration: "... ,A certain man made a great supper and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." (Luke 14:16-21)

It is like unto us today. We are allied to do the Lord's bidding, but many times we are more concerned with physical things which can be moth-eaten and corrupt with rust. Our Lord said the following, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26-27).

We have to make certain that if we decide to follow the Lord, we have to do all the things necessary with a willing heart and mind. We must not allow anything to distract or discourage us because our Lord warned that, "... ,No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).



FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

In the Old Testament, there are 39 books. There are 27 books in the New Testament. This is a total of 66 books in the Bible.

There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament. There are 260 chapters in the New Testament. This is a total of 1,189 chapters in the Bible.

There are 23,214 verses in the Old Testament. There are 7,959 verses in the New Testament. This is a total of 31,173 verses in the Bible.

There are 592,439 words in the Old Testament. There are 181,253 words in the New Testament. This is a total of 773,692 words in the Bible.

There are 2,728,800 letters in the Old Testament. There are 838,380 letters in the New Testament. This is a total of 3,567,180 letters in the Bible.

The middle book in the Old Testament is Proverbs. The middle book in the New Testament is II Thessalonians.

The middle chapter in the Old Testament is Job 29. The middle chapter in the New Testament is Romans 13,14.

The middle verse in the Old Testament is II Chronicles 20:17-18. The middle verse in the New Testament is Acts 17:17.

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. The shortest verses in the Bible are I Chronicles 1:25 and John 11:35.

The longest chapter in the Old Testament is Psalm 119. The longest chapter in the New Testament is Luke 1.

The middle verse of the whole Bible is Psalm 118:8.

The longest verse of the whole Bible is Esther 8:9,

containing 90 words.

The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah.

Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except "J".

II Kings 19 and Isaiah 37 are exactly alike, and Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7 are similar.

The last two verses of II Chronicles and the opening verse of Ezra are alike.

The name of God does not occur in Esther or the Song of Solomon. The word "and" occurs 46,227 times in the Bible.

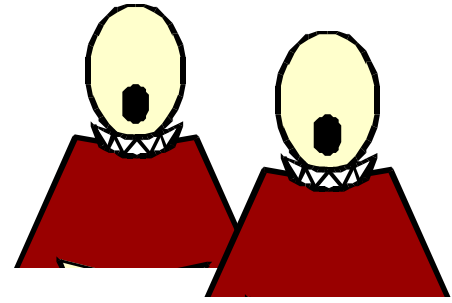
In Psalm 107, four verses are alike: 8,15,21 and 31. Each verse in Psalm 136 ends alike.

Our Bible is the combined writing of about forty men, all inspired by God. These men were not contemporary, but lived at various times during a period of more than 1,500 years. These men wrote under the most varied conditions, some in prison, some in palaces, others in caves, in deserts, by the river bank, in exile, in victory, in defeat, in success, in fact, under most every possible condition. These men were from every walk of life. Kings, peasants, priests, fishermen, tax gatherers, doctors, lawyers, statesmen and politicians are among its writers. They made use in the writings of every form of expression used by men to convey thought—prose, poetry, government decrees, laws, parables, pictorial symbols, even personal letters and most particular, prophecy.

- From an old reference Bible

PAUL AND SILAS SINGING AT MIDNIGHT

BY BOND TENNANT



"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:25).

Paul and Silas had been brutally beaten and put in jail. They were falsely accused, condemned without a trial, thrust into prison, and their feet were fastened in the stocks. However, their detainment only added to their determination! Yes, at midnight in the dungeon of a Roman prison and their feet in stocks, they broke into song. After they were beaten, bruised and humiliated, they were still victorious enough to sing.

Many would have grumbled, fretted, fumed, and fussed about their treatment. Some would, perhaps, question God or drown in self-pity. Some would have sought counsel or hired an attorney, but Paul and Silas sang. They were in serious trouble, yet they chose to sing rather than sob out their pain and discouragement. They admitted no defeat, though things looked black and hopeless.

The work into which they were putting their lives had been abruptly halted. As far as they knew, it was stopped completely. They could have asked each other, "What's the use?" or said, "We have been working for God, and He has allowed us to get into this predicament, so we will just quit." Less courageous men would have hung their heads and given up the fight. Like Naomi they could have said, "...for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" (Ruth 1:20). They could have complained like Jacob, "...all these things are against me" (Genesis 42:36).

They did not know what tomorrow would bring. No doubt, the treatment they had received already made them wonder if their lives would be cut short and their mission for Christ ended. The natural thing to do was to pray. All

of us can pray when we are in trouble. However, they not only prayed, but also sang.

In an earlier era, one Christian was told by the king to recant his faith or be banished. He replied, "You cannot blame Christ, for He hath said, 'I'll never leave thee.'" "Then I'll take your property," said the king. The Christian answered, "My treasures are laid up on high; you cannot get them." In great rage, the king cried out, "I will kill you." The Christian triumphantly stated, "I have been dead with Christ for fifty years, and my life is hid with Christ in God." To this the king replied, "What can you do with a fanatic?"

The one who will put his faith in God can rejoice in trials, temptations, and persecution. James said, "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). Paul's testimony was, "... I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation": (II Corinthians 7:4).

In this life, we all come to the midnight hour. The hour comes when all seems to be black, Our hearts may cry out. We might be grieved over the death of a friend or loved one. We may be falsely accused or lied about. We may be persecuted for Christ's sake. We may become severely tempted. Some fear the night. Some shout while the sun is shining, but most sigh and shudder when the dark shades of night fall. Many dread what tomorrow will bring. Many weep, worry, and whine when a little darkness crosses their pathway.

Elihu said, "But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night" (Job 35:10). God gives "songs in the night" when everything seems to turn sour.

The Psalmist said, "Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life" (Psalm 42:8). Asaph said, "I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search" (Psalm 77:6).

What do you think caused Paul and Silas to sing at midnight? Their bodies were bruised, but their spirits were hardy and healthy. There are at least four reasons why this is so. First, they knew whom they had believed and were persuaded that he was able to keep that which they had "...committed unto him against that day" (II Timothy

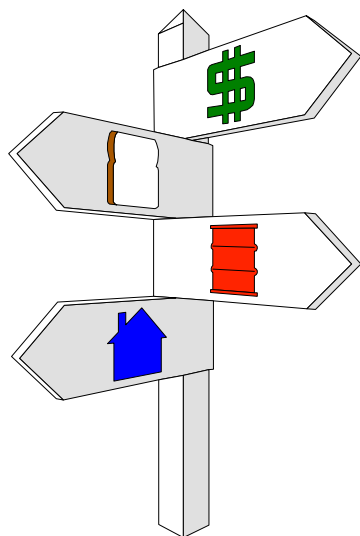
1:12).

Second, they had cast their cares upon the Lord (I Peter 5:7).

Third, they knew "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Fourth, though in prison, they knew that they were fine. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

The world, and many professing Christians, cut and bruise us with their tongues and cause much pain and sorrow. But if we have a good relationship with God, we can sing under any and all circumstances.



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.

The following article appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*.

SEXUALITY DOESN'T IMPEDE FAITH FOR GAY EVANGELICALS

**More are finding a way to balance
lifestyle and beliefs**

**by Neela Banerjee
New York Times**

RALEIGH, N.C. - Justin Lee believes that the Vir-

gin birth is real and that salvation comes through Christ alone and that he, the 29-year-old son of Southern Baptists, is an evangelical Christian.

Just as he is certain about the tenets of his faith, Lee also knows he is gay, that he did not choose it and cannot change it.

To many people, Lee is a walking contradiction, and most evangelicals and gays alike consider Christians like him horribly deluded about their faith.

"I've gotten hate mail from both sides," said Lee, who runs www.gaychristian.net, a Web site with 4,700 regis-

tered users, most of them gay evangelicals.

'Dark' impulses

The difficulty some evangelicals have in coping with same-sex attraction was thrown into relief Sunday when the pastor of a Denver megachurch, the Rev. Paul Barnes, resigned after confessing to having sex with men. He said he had often cried himself to sleep, begging God to end his attraction to men.

His departure followed by only a few weeks that of the Rev. Ted Haggard, then president of the National Association of Evangelicals and pastor of a Colorado Springs megachurch, after a male prostitute said Haggard had had a relationship with him for three years. Though Haggard did not publicly admit to the relationship, in a letter to his congregation, he said he was "guilty of sexual immorality" and that he had struggled all his life with impulses he called "repulsive and dark."

Gay evangelicals seem to have few paths carved out for them: They can leave religion behind; they can turn to theologically progressive congregations that often differ from the tradition they grew up in; or they can enter programs to try to change their behavior, even their orientation, through prayer and support.

But as gay men and lesbians grapple with their sexuality and an evangelical upbringing they cherish, some have come to accept both. And like other Christians who have embraced other, though less charged, issues, like the environment or AIDS prevention, gays are trying to redefine what it means to be evangelical.

"A lot of people are freaked out because their only exposure to evangelicalism was a bad one, and a lot ask, 'Why would you want to be part of a group that doesn't like you very much?'" Lee said. "But it's not about membership in groups. It's about what I believe. Just because some people who believe the same things I do aren't very loving doesn't mean I stop believing what I do."

Clyde Zuber, 49, and mate Fowler, 55, remember sitting on the curb outside Lakeview Baptist Church in Grand prairie, Texas, almost 20 years ago, Sunday after Sunday, reading the Bible together, after the pastor told them they were not welcome inside.

The two men met at a Dallas church and have been together 23 years. In Durham, N.C., they attend an Episcopal Church and hold a Bible study for gay evangelicals every Friday night at their home.

Faith-based lives

"Our faith is the basis of our lives," said Fowler, a soft-spoken professor of philosophy. "It means that Jesus is the Lord of our household, that we resolve differences peacefully and through love."

Their lives seem a testament to all that is changing and all that holds fast among evangelicals. Their parents came to their commitment ceremony 20 years ago, their decision ultimately an act of loyalty to their sons, Zuber said.

But Zuber's sister and brother-in-law in Virginia remain convinced that the couple is sinning.

"They're worried we're going to hell," Zuber said. "They say, 'We love you, but we're concerned.'"

Comment

Gays and lesbians are not pleasing God. Many of these men and women choose to ignore the subject because it condemns them.

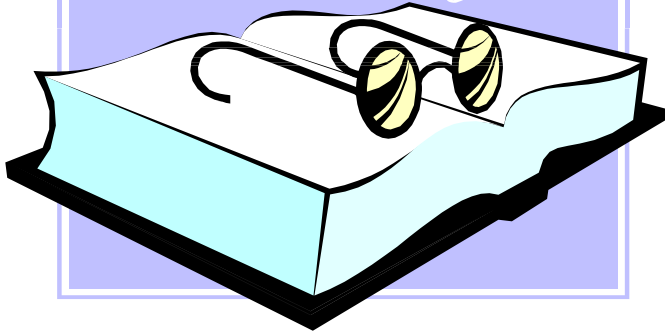
The article states, "Lee also knows he is gay, that he did not choose it and cannot change it." Being gay or lesbian can be overcome. There have been testimonies by gays and lesbians who tell of their being delivered from this sin.

God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gommorah because of these and other sins that were committed by their residents. If a people feel that they are gay, they should get down on their knees and ask the Lord's help. The power of God will help them in their problem if they will turn their lives over to Him.

God made us male and female, and designed our sexuality accordingly. He does not tolerate sin. That is why we must confess our sins, ask forgiveness for them, and continue in them no more. The acts and thoughts of homosexuality are sin.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Why is Christ's coming necessary? Will His coming be in two phases?

Answer: Christ's coming is in two phases. He is coming first of all into the air in order that all who love Him may be caught up to meet Him and be forever with the Lord. Those who are alive when He comes will be caught up instantly, and those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will be raised up to Him, and their bodies will be raised incorruptible. He is coming first of all into the air for His Saints. Then He is coming to the earth to reign. He is coming to the earth to deal with the situation on the earth among nations.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (I Corinthians 15:51-53). As the apostle John wrote, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2). The Lord Jesus Christ died not only that our sins might be forgiven, but He died also to bring us into His body. Therefore to complete His work of redemption, He must return. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I

go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). It is necessary that He should come again and receive us unto Himself. It is the necessity of everlasting love.

Secondly, He must come again for His own and prepare the earthly sphere for judgment. We read in Revelation 6:16-17, "And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" The time of great trouble and plagues is spoken as the "wrath of the Lamb," "the great day of his wrath." We are His beloved and His body. We do not believe that the church will go through the trouble and plagues and suffer His wrath. If the wrath of the lamb is to come, then something will happen. We read in II Thessalonians 2:7-8 about the Holy Spirit in this connection, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." Who is the one who restricts? The Holy Spirit is restraining that man to come forth, as the wicked one who is coming forth is bound up with that period known as the wrath of the Lamb. That cannot take place until the Holy Spirit in the fullness of this dispensation is withdrawn. Our bodies are the temple of the living

God, and the Lord Jesus Christ must come again to take His own unto Himself, for His own in this dispensation are the temples of the Holy Ghost. The special dispensation to the Holy Spirit finishes in conjunction with that taking of the church, and the scene will be cleared for the wrath of the Lamb to come upon this earth. The Lamb cannot allow His wrath to fall until His own are removed out of the way, for his own and the Holy Spirit indwelling His own, are two facts that are caught up together.

So there are two reasons for the necessity for the coming again of the Lord Jesus for His church: to complete His work of salvation for the saints and to prepare this world for His wrath, His judgment to come - The Seven Last Plagues.

Question: I am much in debt and do not seem to be able to honor God with my tithes and offerings. What can I do?

Answer: For those who are in debt and unable to please God, there is victory. Let God heal your sick finances. Here are some steps toward victory over defeating debt.

1. No one is happy under crushing debt. This shows you that it is wrong. The first step then is to stop making more debt than you can afford. Be determined to never exceed that limit again.
2. Planning is essential to good financial management. Make and keep a personal or family budget. You can find help if you do not know how to do this.
3. The next step is very important. Begin immediately to prayerfully and faithfully pay the full ten percent tithe. Tithing is the only way God asked us to prove Him (Malachi 3:10.) Trust God through tithing for your finances.
4. You may need to make arrangements with your creditors to clear up your debts. If so, explain to them what you are doing and what payments you can make to clear up your debt. When you reach an agreement with them, stick to it, and make your word good. You will feel better for it.
5. Find ways to cut back on your spending habits. You can live on less. Happiness is being out from under that

mountain of debt. Debt is a prison. Let God set you free.

6. When you pay off a charge account, close it permanently. When you pay off a credit card, destroy it, and do not get any more of them. If you cannot keep your checking account in balance, close it. Your goal is to reach a place where you live on a cash basis, not credit or overdraft. You will then be in control of your finances, and God will be able to bless you even more.

7. Finally, if you have unusually high debts, consult financial counsel for he will help you to arrange a plan and solve your problems.

Here is a great truth: Most of us do not need more money. We actually need more wisdom in managing what we have. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

God will help those who want to please God and tithe.

Question: Was anything wrong with the "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage" that they were doing in Noah's day?

Answer: Matthew 24:38-39 records: "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe (Noah) entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Some readers have thought that the contemporaries of Noah were judged because they were "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage." But there is no suggestion of overindulgence in food or drink here. These activities cannot be considered to be blame-worthy in and of themselves. Jesus was emphasizing the point that the generation of Noah, like those of his own time, went about their daily activities without any thought of God's displeasure.

Jesus taught His disciples to be prepared for the "coming of the Son of man," which would occur suddenly, without warning, like the flood of Noah's generation.



The Philippines

The first photograph shows a new church building and the congregation at Prosperidad, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. The other two photos show the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit after two different baptisms.





LESSON I

GOD FEEDS ELIJAH

Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:1-16.

Golden Text: I Kings 17:6.

"And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook."

NOTE: We are going to learn about Elijah who was a prophet during the time of king Ahab who ruled over Israel and brought much wickedness and idol worship to the people. Elijah was completely devoted to the Lord and was given power to perform mighty deeds and wonders. Let us now learn more of Elijah.

1. What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? I Kings 17:1.
2. After Elijah prophesied against Ahab, where did the Lord send him? I Kings 17:2-3.
3. Did Elijah obey God's order? I Kings 17:5.
4. Who brought him bread and meat to eat? I Kings 17:6.
5. After the brook dried up, where was Elijah sent? I Kings 17:7-9.
6. Elijah goes to Zarephath as God had commanded, and he meets the widow woman. What does Elijah say to the woman? I Kings 17:10-11.
7. What was the woman's reply to Elijah? I Kings 17:12.
8. Did the Lord still feed and care for Elijah? I Kings 17:13-16.

LESSON II

ELIJAH PERFORMS A MIRACLE

Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:17-24.

Golden Text: I Kings 17:24.

"And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how God fed Elijah during the drought. He also was sent to the widow's home where God provided meal and oil for them to eat. We will now study of a great miracle that Elijah performs with God's help.

1. What happened to the widow's son? I Kings 17:17.
2. What did the widow say to Elijah in I Kings 17:18?
3. Where did Elijah take the widow's son? I Kings 17:19.
4. What did Elijah say to God, and what did Elijah do to the son? I Kings 17:20-21.
5. Did the Lord listen to Elijah and heal the widow's son? I Kings 17:22.
6. What did Elijah do with the boy after God revived him? I Kings 17:23.
7. What did the widow woman say to Elijah after she saw her son alive again? I Kings 17:24.

LESSON III

ELIJAH AGAINST BAAL'S PROPHETS

Scripture Reading: I Kings 18:17-40.

Golden Text: I Kings 18:37.

"Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again."

NOTE: We have been studying about Elijah, and we will continue to learn about another miracle that is performed to show the children of Israel that God is the true

God. Three years have passed since Elijah told King Ahab there would be a drought. They will now meet each other again.

1. What did Ahab say to Elijah, and what did Elijah respond back to Ahab? I Kings 18:17-19.
2. What did Elijah tell the people that he would do as a prophet of the Lord against the 450 prophets of Baal? I Kings 18:21-24.
3. What did the prophets of Baal do with the bullock they received? I Kings 18:25-26.
4. Did Elijah mock the prophets of Baal, and what did he say? I Kings 18:27.
5. What did the prophets of Baal do to get their god to hear them? I Kings 18:28-29.
6. What did Elijah do to prepare his altar and the bullock? I Kings 18:30-35.
7. What did Elijah do at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice? I Kings 18:36-37.
8. Did God answer Elijah's prayer, and what did the people do? I Kings 18:38-40.

LESSON IV

ELIJAH ANOINTS ELISHA AS PROPHET

Scripture Reading: I Kings 19:1-21.

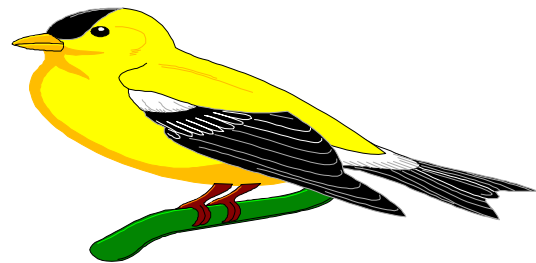
Golden Text: I Kings 19:19 (first part).

"So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how Elijah showed the people that God was the true God and not Baal. Elijah's life is now threatened by the wicked queen, Jezebel, and he escaped to the wilderness. God will then lead him to

Elisha. Let us now study more about Elijah.

1. When Elijah goes to the wilderness to escape, what does he do and say? I Kings 19:4.
2. How was Elijah fed while in the wilderness? I Kings 19:5-7.
3. How long did Elijah stay on Mount Horeb, and what did he go into? I Kings 19:8-9.
4. How did the Lord appear to Elijah while on Horeb, and did God speak to him in any of these? I Kings 19:11-12.
5. Elijah hears God speak in a still small voice. What does God ask, and what did Elijah reply? I Kings 19:13-14.
6. What does God instruct Elijah to do in I Kings 19:15-16?
7. What was Elisha doing when Elijah found him, and did he follow Elijah? I Kings 19:19-21.



IF BIRDS COULD TALK

"Said the robin to the sparrow,
 'I should really like to know
 Why these anxious human beings
 Rush about and worry so.'
 "Said the sparrow to the robin,
 'I am sure that it must be
 That they have no heavenly Father,
 Such as cares for you and me.'"

STRANDED

by Alice M. Brawand

"Mom," called Leon all out of breath, "may Susan and I cross the bridge and climb to the top of Blue Hill to fly this new kite Uncle Henry gave to me? Please say we can go!" insisted Leon.

"I'm sorry children, but I wouldn't think of letting you go so far away all alone. You know the river is rising higher and higher and it might flood the bridge before you could get back. Anyway, it's too dangerous. Go, children, to Farmer's Field, just two blocks away," suggested Mother.

Leon made an ugly face, then marched out of the house with his new kite and string. Susan followed.

"Be back in time for dinner," called Mother.

Leon whispered to Susan as they walked down the street, "Say, it would take just about twenty minutes to cross the river and climb the mountain. The view on the mountain is perfect. Besides we could watch the kite fly high in the sky. Mother doesn't know what she's saying. Let's go!" insisted Leon.

Susan trusted her brother because he was three years older than she. As brother and sister reached the river they saw it was just about three feet under the bridge. Susan was afraid when she saw the mighty rushing waters, but Leon told her they could make it back home in plenty of time. Together the children followed the trail up the mountain until they reached the top.

"We're so high above everything that river doesn't look flooded from here," remarked Susan as she looked far below in the valley.

Leon raised his handsome kite. "Away she goes," shouted Leon as he released the kite. Up, up, up went the kite higher and higher until neither child could see it.

"I know the kite is up there," explained Leon, because I feel its strong pull on the string."

"We also know that Jesus is up there, too, because He draws our hearts close to Him," Susan said thoughtfully.

"I don't feel close to God now," said a guilty lad. "Guess it's 'cause I know Mom told us not to come up

here. I'm getting hungry. Mom might be worried about us. What do you say we start for home?"

"I've been thinking the same thing," Susan said trembling.

Quickly the children went down the mountain. As they neared the bottom Leon said frantically, "My kite, it's gone! I have the string, but the kite - it's gone!"

"It probably got caught in some bushes on the way down." Said Susan.

"Say, Susan, look, we'll be lucky if we get home tonight. Just look at the raging river," a worried boy said.

Every now and then the high waves would splash up over the bridge. "Let's run for dear life," called Leon as he started across the bridge. As the children reached the middle of the bridge the water suddenly became very high. "Quick, climb onto the side of the bridge or else we'll be swept into the flood," called Leon to Susan.

The children climbed onto the side of the bridge, which was just a few feet above water. They called desperately toward town, "Help! Help! Save us! Help!" Leon raised his eyes Heavenward and called, "God, help us, save us! I'll always obey Dad and Mother."

"Look, Leon," called Susan, "there is Dad walking along the side of the bridge."

"Dad, save us! We're so afraid!" shouted Leon.

Carefully Dad crawled along the edge of the bridge. He was risking his own life to save his two children.

As Dad neared the children he called, "Hang onto me and we'll walk slowly holding onto the side of the bridge. I pray God will let us get back."

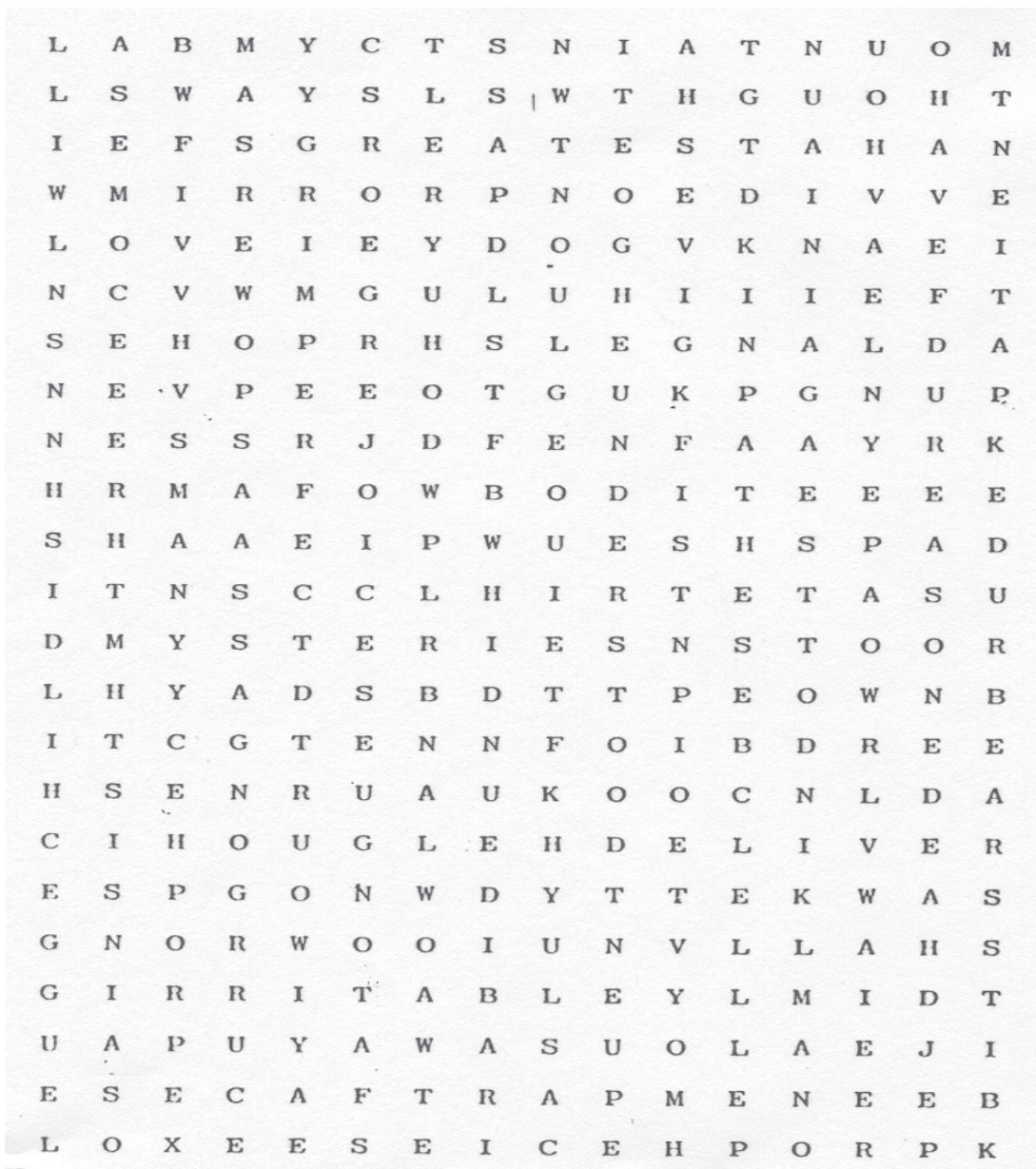
Three grateful hearts reached dry land on the other side. Leon and Susan had learned to obey Dad and Mother the hard way. They promised God, Dad and Mother that they would never disobey their parents again. Dad and Mother know what is best!

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Have you ever wondered what God is like? Draw a line to match each Scripture with what it tells you about God.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Psalm 99:9 | God gave His Son for us. |
| Isaiah 40:28 | God hates sin. |
| Genesis 1:1 | God is holy. |
| Proverbs 15:9 | God never gets tired. |
| John 3:16 | God created everything. |

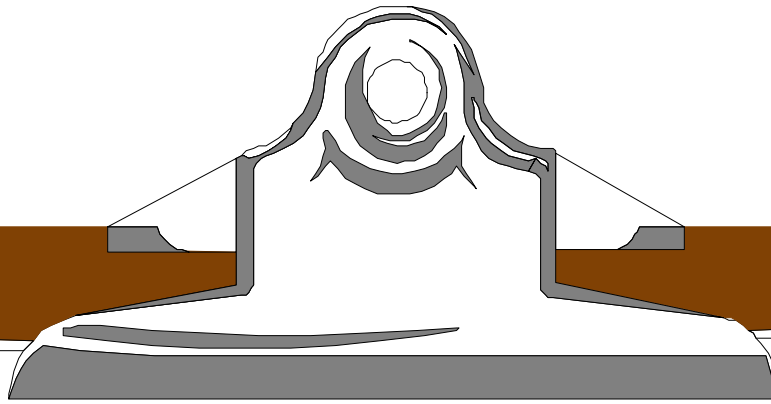
I CORINTHIANS 13



CAN YOU FIND?

Look up the Scriptures below and find the answers.

1. How did we get the Bible? Look up and write out II Timothy 3:15 and II Peter 1:21.
2. How long will the Bible last? Find Psalm 119:89 and Isaiah 40:8.
3. When will the words of Christ pass away? Find Matthew 24:35.
4. Give a reason for studying and memorizing the Bible in Psalm 119:11; in II Timothy 3:15; and in II Timothy 2:15.
5. What was the reason the Bible was written? Look up John 20:31.
6. What is God in Isaiah 6:3; in I John 4:8?
7. Read what God does in Romans 5:8; in Hebrew 13:5 and in Deuteronomy 31:6.



Thoughts From Isaiah Six

by David DeLong

*The Lord was sitting on His Throne
The year that King Uzziah died;
While "Holy!" once, and "Holy!" twice,
And "Holy!" thrice the seraphs cried.*

*High and lifted was the Lord,
The Temple, by His train replete;
Six wings each seraph had. With twain,
It flew, and covered face and feet.*

*The Prophet, this his sight all-seeing,
Uttered that he was undone;
With lips unclean, his eyes had seen
The Lord of Hosts, The Holy One.*

*Then a seraph, from the altar,
Took, with tongs, a living coal;
He laid it on the Prophet's lips,
Whose sin was purged from off his soul.*

*The Voice of God, this question queried:
Whom to send, to preach His Plea?
The Prophet bold, like saints of old,
In truth said, "Here am I; send me."*