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HELP ME, O GOD, TO PRAISE THY NAME
By Christopher Dart

Lord, Thou art my dwelling place.
Thou art my fortress and high tower.
In thee, O God, is abundant grace.
Upon thy servants thy love to shower.
Now, for prayer, as sentry post
Help me, O God, to praise thy name.
For thou, Lord Jesus, lovest me most.
O for song thy name to praise.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].” (Ephesians 6:12)

Now, more than ever, we must allow the Lord Jesus Christ to be our dwelling place. He also promises to dwell in us:

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God (Revelation 21:3).

But among all of life, here, is an ever present devil who wants only the worst for us. The Lake of Fire is prepared for death, hell, the devil and his angels. We have authority in the name of Jesus, whose name is to be forever praised, over every demon, principality, power, ruler of darkness and wickedness in high places. We must humbly come to Jesus daily and He will cause us to triumph over all the works of the enemy.

Oh, God, help us to praise thy name in battle!

**NATURAL DISASTERS, CLIMATE CHANGE,
AND THE ANTICHRIST’S NEW WORLD ORDER**
By Paula Leanues

Following this brief note is a short article just published by FOXNews.com, titled “Report: Climate Change Could Warrant U.S. Military Action.” Its summary says, “Crises such as drought, violent storms, mass migration and pandemics could topple governments, feed terrorist movements or destabilize entire regions, the New York Times reported.”

Of course we can always count on the New York Times to act as scaremonger concerning “global warming.” But this kind of talk is everywhere now. Liberals around the globe are sounding alarms and feasting on this kind of report: “Now is our chance for global government!”

President of France Nicolas Sarkozy, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and even Pope Benedict XVI are just a few of many calling for a world government, stating that the current economic pressures coupled with natural disasters and other “global warming” concerns demand the implementation of that ever-popular new world order we’ve been hearing about for so long. There is no question current U.S. President

Obama is looking to get all nations together under the guise of a big hug-fest (can't we all just get along?) so that he can further tout his totalitarian nature. He already referred to himself as a "citizen of the world" before an enormous crowd in Germany and called himself "king of the world" as he boarded Air Force One. The man is as cunning, manipulative and evil as Satan himself. He is destroying America through socialist endeavors first because he wants a one-world government, and, in using his popularity, he expects to be the head of it.

History has shown that in times of great stress and turmoil, a nation calls for a new leader and a new order. We are at a time history has not yet seen – nations *collectively and globally* now perceive some kind of need for a new leader and a new order. As I write this, there was just a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in Japan and one million people were just evacuated in China because of a coming typhoon. All we need are a few more of these around the globe that wreak destruction to the point a nation cannot sustain its own way of life, and there is an argument to unite all nations and governments. It will happen clandestinely, while average citizens of their own countries have no say in the matter. Again, it is under the guise of what I call a hippie hug-fest, a way people can "help each other."

I can send money overseas to help hurting people just fine while *staying a citizen of the United States*. God calls missionaries to other lands to spread the Gospel and to help heal the sick and hurting. Why do we need to make a *global oath* to do such a thing? But that is the argument, that the world just cannot handle any more of these disasters without uniting on a global scale.

The intention is to unite governments, regardless of their individual basis and ideologies, and to unite religions by subtly injecting the lie into minds that all religious roads lead to the same god, we are all one and are all the same. (Note the little "g." Not all roads lead to the One True God, Jesus Christ the Savior of man!)

The ranting "climate change" lunatics have a big voice, as they continue to scare more and more people around the globe. What did Jesus say? In the same chapter He talks about earthquakes, wars and pestilence, etc., He says people's hearts would fail them for fear, "for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." (Luke 21:26) We know fear can cause panic attacks and heart attacks. We can look at this in a deeper way also. Proverbs 4:23 tells us, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Jesus also tells us that the Kingdom of heaven (God's Kingdom) is within us – in other words, in our hearts. For those without the Kingdom in their hearts, fear can paralyze them in these most uncertain days. Their hearts will fail, either by lack of spiritual truth enabling them to withstand, or by heart attack, "for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." Right now they are just "looking after." Fears around the world are propagated by leftist and globalist alarmism. It is fear that is causing a breakdown of every nation and an eventual new world order headed by the diabolical leader, the Antichrist.

We have even seen the great "falling away" in the Church, which paves the way for a worldwide, free love, new age, I'm-OK-you're-OK religion. It's an undefined religion really, that sort of "soul liberty" liberal denominations are proud of. So many who call themselves Christians have abandoned the truth order to seek after the world's lies. These have chosen government-preached phony security over the Word of God, which is the ONLY security.

If the world gets hotter, it's because God's judgment is upon us. If it is filled with natural disasters, it is again because God's judgment is upon us. But as ever, man continues to think that he can solve these problems without God. Hence, the judgment becomes greater and greater.

Below is the brief article I read this morning. This is just one of thousands, hundreds of thousands, similarly sounding an alarm that eventually brings on our one world demon-infested, Antichrist order:

Sunday, August 09, 2009 - Climate change will pose profound challenges to the United States in the coming decades, raising the prospect of military intervention to deal with its effects, The New York Times reported, citing military and intelligence analysts.

Crises such as drought, violent storms, mass migration and pandemics could topple governments, feed terrorist movements or destabilize entire regions.

The Times reported that for the first time, intelligence agencies and the Pentagon are taking a hard look at the possible security implications resulting from climate change.

In particular, Saharan Africa, the Middle East and South and Southeast Asia, will face the prospect of food shortages, water crises and catastrophic flooding driven by climate change that could call for U.S. military response.

The U.S. military also faces a direct challenge with climate change, the Times reported, because many of its installations are vulnerable to storm surges and rising seas and plans to protect naval stations in Norfolk, Va., and San Diego, Calif., are already underway.

"The sense that climate change poses security and geopolitical challenges is central to the thinking of the State Department and the climate office," said Peter Ogden, chief of staff to Todd Stern, the State Department's top climate negotiator.

A U.S. government study of glaciers released Thursday said climate change is melting America's glaciers at the fastest rate in recorded history, exposing the country to higher risks of drought and rising sea levels.

"The observations show that the melt rate has definitely increased over the past 10 or 15 years," Ed Josberger, a USGS scientist, said. "This certainly is a very strong indicator that climate change is occurring and its effects on glaciers are virtually worldwide."

JESUS HAS NO JUNK PILES

By Pastor Jackson Morro

Did you know that Christians can sometimes make mistakes, fall into sin, and get out of the will of God? Yes, they can even make serious mistakes. A Christian can get into trouble with the law through crime; a Christian can lose a job or his finances because he wasn't a good steward of what God entrusted to him; a Christian can have his marriage destroyed through sin and divorce. It can happen.

But did you also know that when these failures come, there is One, Jesus Christ, Who stands by wanting to heal and restore? Did you know that Jesus Christ made each one of us a wonderful promise when He said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"? (Hebrews 13:5) "Nor will I ever..." is a long, long time!

Jesus Christ has no junk piles. He doesn't throw away people who are broken, or who have made mistakes, or who have suffered loss. Jesus is rich in healing, mercy

and restoration.

As I read the Bible, I don't see many people in it who lived perfect lives. Most, at one time or another, got themselves into real jams, usually because of their own foolishness or weakness. But as I read the Bible, I also see a God Who is able to heal and restore when those people who got into a mess came to their senses and turned to God for help.

If you are reading this today and happen to be a Christian (or anyone) who has made a serious mistake, I want to encourage you with all my heart to look to Jesus, the Faithful Friend and Healer, and know that help and restoration is on the way. I also want you to know that you are not doing God or yourself any good by remaining in defeat because of guilt. *If you have turned away from your sin and mistake*, God's will is to give you a royal robe, a royal ring, and to kill the fatted calf for a feast for you, just like the good father who restored the Prodigal Son. God has no desire to see you punished longer. You've probably already punished yourself enough by the mess you got yourself into. It's time to get a hold of yourself and really believe in all those verses about God's love and **START MOVING WITH GOD AGAIN**.

Sometimes it's not possible for a particular thing to be restored to us. Sometimes we can't get a specific job back because someone else has it; sometimes a specific marriage can't be restored because someone has remarried; sometimes a specific loss is gone. Then, we just have to say with the prophet Zechariah, "What is to die, let it die." (Zechariah 11:9) Yes, there will be hurt and emptiness for a while; but Jesus Christ will heal the hurt and fill the emptiness of those who have godly sorrow.

It will be OK. It will even be better than OK because Jesus has promised to make the desert blossom like the rose. No matter how dry or empty your life is, Jesus will restore to you the joys that come from sitting at His right hand.

"IT IS WELL..."

By Pastor Jackson Morro

For background on this article, we've included a passage of scripture from 2 Kings, Chapter 4, verses 8 to 37 (NASB):

8Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food.

9She said to her husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually.

10"Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there."

11One day he came there and turned in to the upper chamber and rested.

12Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13He said to him, "Say now to her, 'Behold, you have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you? Would you be spoken for to the king or to the captain of the army?'" And she answered, "I live among my own people."

14So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Truly she has no son and her husband is old."

15He said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

16Then he said, "At this season next year you will embrace a son" And she said,

"No, my lord, O man of God, do not lie to your maidservant."

17The woman conceived and bore a son at that season the next year, as Elisha had said to her.

18When the child was grown, the day came that he went out to his father to the reapers.

19He said to his father, "My head, my head." And he said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

20When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her lap until noon, and then died.

21She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door behind him and went out.

22Then she called to her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return."

23He said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath." And she said, "It will be well."

24Then she saddled a donkey and said to her servant, "Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you."

25So she went and came to the man of God to Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Behold, there is the Shunammite.

26"Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well."

27When she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came near to push her away; but the man of God said, "Let her alone, for her soul is troubled within her; and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me."

28Then she said, "Did I ask for a son from my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

29Then he said to Gehazi, "Gird up your loins and take my staff in your hand, and go your way; if you meet any man, do not salute him, and if anyone salutes you, do not answer him; and lay my staff on the lad's face."

30The mother of the lad said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." And he arose and followed her.

31Then Gehazi passed on before them and laid the staff on the lad's face, but there was no sound or response. So he returned to meet him and told him, "The lad has not awakened."

32When Elisha came into the house, behold the lad was dead and laid on his bed.

33So he entered and shut the door behind them both and prayed to the LORD.

34And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands, and he stretched himself on him; and the flesh of the child became warm.

35Then he returned and walked in the house once back and forth, and went up and stretched himself on him; and the lad sneezed seven times and the lad opened his eyes.

36He called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Take up your son."

37Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground, and)she took up her son and went out.

In Matthew 16, Jesus asked His disciples who men said He was and then who they said He was. Peter answered that Jesus was the Christ, Son of the Living God. Jesus

then proclaimed that Peter's confession would be the rock upon which Jesus would build His church and the gates of hell could not withstand the power of the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord over a situation. The gates of hell could be torn open by Jesus' believing church and captives would be set free especially by the power of binding and loosing. The Kingdom of God could tear down the gates of hell and either bind (or not allow) bad results or loose (or allow or cause to come to pass) good results. Binding and loosing would be operated through a *revelation knowledge* and verbal confession that Jesus is Lord over the situation to be bound or loosed.

In 2 Kings we see the prophet Elisha who had succeeded Elijah. Elisha had pestered Elijah for a double portion of Elijah's anointing. Elisha proved he was willing to do what was necessary to get the double portion (2 Kings 2). Elisha had hungered and thirsted after righteousness and proved you can attain a position with God if you really want it. As Elijah went up to heaven, his mantle fell on Elisha and we see that while Elijah had performed 8 miracles, Elisha performed 16 in his ministry.

In 2 Kings 4:8 we are introduced to the Shunammite woman. She and her husband were people of substance and also of hospitality. The woman was a godly woman. They often invited Elisha to eat at their home and even built a little room for him so he could stop and rest on his many journeys. Elisha wanted to bless her for being so kind. He asked if there were anything she wanted him to pray for. She replied that she was blessed enough and was satisfied as she was. Later, Elisha's servant Gehazi, told Elisha she had no son and her husband was old. Elisha called her back and told her that within a year she would have a son. Elisha operated the principle of binding and (in this case) loosing. The Shunammite responded, "Don't lie to me." In other words, don't play with my feelings or tease me. Obviously, it had been a secret desire of her heart.

Of course, a year later she gave birth to a son. One day, after the son had grown, he was out in the field with his father and he developed a severe headache. Then the boy died—and suddenly there was a major obstacle to the fulfillment of the prophet's word and the woman's desire of her heart. The Shunammite was at a crossroads and had to decide—which is bigger? God or the obstacle? The CHOICE was up to HER!

Today, we have the right under the New Covenant to lay hands on the sick before the illness results in death. She had not that option and hence, she was facing a seemingly impossible situation. The Shunammite, however, reacted with the attitude that *God is always bigger* than any obstacle we may face. This put her in a position to exercise the same kind of power of binding and loosing that we in the Kingdom of God have today.

Consequently, we see her act in the following way:

- With our mouth, we bind the wrong results and loose the right results.
- Call the things that are not as though they are when we are on the firm foundation of a promise from God.
- We speak the final outcome we want to see and we believe it in our heart that it will come to pass.
- She fully believed that God doesn't give and then take away. She believed God gives and when a battle arises, you look to God to bring victory against the enemy (sickness, death, poverty, etc.).

The Shunammite decided to go on a journey to Elisha who had originally spoken the promise into coming to pass. She would not be satisfied until she had victory. In going to Elisha she was really going to God, whom Elisha sent and represented.

First, the woman would not confess a negative result **NO MATTER WHAT THE PRESENT MOMENT LOOKED LIKE**. She placed her dead son's body on Elisha's bed. She was bringing the son to God. As she left, her husband wondered why she was

going to seek out the prophet. All she stated was, “It will be well.” (2 Kings 4:23) Then she told her servant who was driving the donkey cart to go forward and not slow down until she said so. Her quest for Elisha (and God) took priority over everything.

As Elisha saw her approaching, he sent his servant Gehazi to greet her, but all the Shunammite said to Gehazi was, “It is well.” The woman was not lying or deceiving people. It’s not lying when we draw upon the resources of the Kingdom of God through a faith-filled confession that will not be deterred. We are speaking the END RESULT of what God has promised. As such, even the death of a child is not bigger than God’s power.

She bypassed Gehazi and went right to Elisha and fell and caught hold of his feet and would not leave until the prophet agreed to go to her house and raise her son from the dead. She told Elisha, in effect, she had not asked for the son, but now that she had him, she would not settle for anything less than God’s best—her son coming back to life. And if she had to hold on to Elisha’s ankles for the rest of her life, she would do so.

The Kingdom of God principle of binding and loosing must be *real* to us. We cannot just go through the motions and expect results. In the process of binding and loosing, we must move in a *revelation* that binding and loosing is true. There is a real LAYING HOLD OF GOD in any exercise of true faith. We see that Elisha (and God) did just as she wished—Elisha went to her home, raised her son, and gave the son back to her.

In using the key of binding and loosing in the Kingdom of God, we must consider:

- How big is God in our eyes? Do we really see Him as bigger than any situation we might face?

- Can we say “It is well” when it doesn’t look well?

- Do we see that in any battle, God is our answer, not our enemy?

- Will we lay hold of God the way she laid hold of Elisha’s ankles?

If we do, it will be well!

GOD’S PROMISES VS. UNANointed PROMISES

By Paula Leanues

We just read a wonderful story about how a woman held onto the promise given to her by God, through His servant Elisha, and she was blessed greatly because of it. At first, the promise of having a son was given to her and it seemed too good to be true. She had a hard time believing. But when this came to pass, she knew it was God’s promise coming to pass.

When the child died, she knew nothing but the promise of God. She kept believing that God would revive her son, and He did. As Pastor Morro’s article states, she didn’t believe that God would give her something just to take it away.

This should be a serious faith builder for us. When we know God’s will in a matter, we should trust that no man, demon or circumstance can take away from us the promises He gives us within His will, as long as we keep faith and trust in Him... and I must add, as long as our lives our lived in obedience to Him.

The sad thing is, we have seen too many charlatans in today’s world claiming to come as representatives of God and declaring phony promises, saying we will have fully blessed, stress-free, problem-free lives with more money than we know what to do with. They manipulate to their own selfish gain the very real truth that if we hold onto a promise of God in faith, it will come to pass. You know who they are – the Mike

Murdocks, Robert Tiltens and many of the TBN crew, those who, because of their lying tongues, blasphemously have given real faith in a real God a bad name.

If a promise is written in the Word, then we can trust its truth. We can claim it for ourselves. For example, here are two good promises where conditions on our part must be met: “Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Psalm 37:4) What loving father wouldn’t want to give and grant desires of the heart of his child, when that child loves his father, respects and admires him, and delights in being his child? Also: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33) When the Kingdom of God is first in our hearts, and we are not relying on the things of the world in and of themselves to make us “happy” or fulfill some lack, God automatically grants us the things we need, both spiritually and materially. He knows *He* is first.

If we hear a word in our heart that we believe to be from God, and we are unsure, we are not out of line to ask Him for some kind of confirmation. Once we are sure we have heard from God, we have every right to claim that His spoken promise to us will come to pass. We have every right to speak in faith that this promise is coming. Actually, when God speaks, we have every right to believe, and *no right not to believe*.

Sometimes we hear a promise, or a “word,” given to us by others – not something that comes into our spirit from the Spirit of God. In these cases, we have to be careful, especially considering the times. If it doesn’t line up directly with scripture, and we don’t know the person well enough, we need to pray. If it goes *against* scripture, we know we can dismiss it. We are not exactly living in a world with an Elijah, Elisha or Isaiah on every corner. There is severe spiritual interference from the enemy that is meant to confuse us as we try to live out the will of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20 states, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” God’s promises are YEA – yes! – we can have confidence in them. If we sincerely seek the truth in a matter, and pray about it, God *will give us a yea or nay* – yes, this promise is from Him, and we must believe until it comes to pass, or no, this was just a word meant to deceive us and we must let go of it. If we must let go of something that at first appeared to be from God (remember, the devil appears as an angel of light), we will be able to do so with no anxiety and no feeling of “loss.”

Then there are those, as mentioned, that we see on TV, and even in our local pulpits, who manipulate the promises of God for personal gain. Usually it’s the same old line, “God said there were 100 people out there who would send me \$1,000 dollars” or something like it. And they promise you will have all your dreams come true after sending *their* unanointed ministry your hard-earned money. They tell you things as if “The Lord saith,” as if it is a promise of God, and you are expected to just believe – because if you don’t believe, then you are a doubter, and you know how God hates doubting. They make you feel guilty if you do *not* believe their lies. It is a very manipulative tool that has been around since the days of early Christianity, and it has infiltrated our modern Church in America in most recent decades as a plague. Maybe a ministry starts out right, but gets off track as its leader eventually sees that there is material “prosperity” to be gained if they follow the charlatan ministries before them, and they too in turn dupe many.

Their day is coming to an end soon. Not everyone can believe a lie and see that it doesn’t work out for them and continue being duped in the same manner again and again. As more Christians desire only to know the truth and to be obedient to God and to really believe and lay hold of the true promises of God, the charlatans are weeded out.

An Elijah or an Elisha is a true prophet of God. We may have a hard time finding many, or any, like them in today’s world, but we can say no matter what, we will be on

the side of whatever is true – and the promises that are yea, and amen! The Shunammite woman was a true servant of God, a real believer. If we want to see the promises of God come to pass in our lives, we must believe as she did. Once we know what is true, we must hold on to that truth at all cost, even if our family, friends and neighbors think we're "crazy." I'd rather look the part of a fool for God for a moment than play like a fool into the hands of unanointed liars and thieves, regardless of how popular they are or how inviting their words may be.

1965 PROPHECY BY STANLEY FRODSHAM

This prophecy was given at the Elim Bible Institute USA, in 1965 by the late Stanley Frodsham. Brother Frodsham was one of those who received his Baptism in the Holy Ghost at Sunderland in 1908 where the Pentecostal movement in Britain had its beginnings. He was a recognized prophet and teacher in the Body of Christ whose life and ministry spanned the Pentecostal Revival, the great Healing Revival and the early days of the Charismatic Movement. He also authored the well-known book, "Smith Wigglesworth: Apostle of Faith." It is written: "Despise not prophesying. Prove all things, hold fast that which is good." (1 Thessalonians 5.-20, 21)

With great judgments will I plead with the population of this country. Great darkness is coming upon the countries that have heard my gospel but no longer walk in it. My wrath shall come upon them. The darkness shall be so great, and the anguish so sore that men will cry out for death and shall not find it. There shall be a lingering death, famine, and great catastrophes.

My wrath shall be manifested against all ungodliness. It shall come with great intensity. You have known My love but have not known My wrath, My severity. My judgments are literal and not a thing to be lightly passed over. Realize the severity of My judgments and My intense anger against the sin in My household. My judgments shall begin in My house. For I will cleanse My house that it be not partaker of My wrath against the iniquities of the cities. Before I visit the nations in judgement I will begin at My house. When I do cause My wrath to come upon the cities of the world My people shall be separate. I desire a people without spot or wrinkle, and such shall be preserved by Me in the time of My wrath coming upon all iniquity and unrighteousness.

I am going to prepare you for the coming days by a hard path that will cause you to cry out continually unto Me. For when the going is easy, men do not seek Me, but rejoice in a temporary blessing. And when that blessing is removed they so often turn this way and that way but do not come to Me. I am showing you these things that you may seek Me continually and with great diligence. As you seek Me, I will open up truths to you that you have not seen before; and these very truths will be that which will enable you to stand in these last days. As you are persecuted, reviled and rejected by your brethren then you will turn unto Me with all your heart and seek Me for that spiritual life you have need of. And when tribulation comes you will have that which will enable you to stand. For many shall be tossed to and fro. Men's hearts shall fail them because of trouble on every hand. For these days shall be very terrible, the like of which has never been seen before.

When I visit My people in mighty revival power, it is to prepare them for the darkness ahead. With the glory shall come great darkness, for the glory is to prepare My people for the darkness. I will enable My people to go through because of the visitation of My Spirit. Take heed to yourselves lest you be puffed up and think that you have arrived.

Many shall be puffed up as in the olden days, for many then received My message but they continued not in it. Did I not anoint Jehu? Yet the things I desired were not accomplished in his life. Listen to the messengers, but do not hold men's persons in admiration. For many whom I shall anoint mightily, with signs and miracles, shall become lifted up and shall fall by the wayside. I do not this willingly; I have made provision that they might stand. I call many into this ministry, and equip them; but remember that many shall fall. They shall be like bright lights, and the people shall delight in them. But they shall be taken over by deceiving spirits and shall lead many of My people astray.

Hearken diligently concerning these things, for in the last days shall come seducing spirits that shall turn many of My anointed ones away. Many shall fall through divers lusts, and because of sin abounding. But if you will seek Me diligently I will put My Spirit within you. When one shall turn to the right hand or to the left you shall not turn with them, but keep your eyes wholly on the Lord. The coming days are the most dangerous, difficult and dark, but there shall be a mighty outpouring of My Spirit upon many cities, and many shall be destroyed. My people must be diligently warned concerning the days that are ahead. Many shall turn after seducing spirits; many are already seducing My people. It is those who DO righteousness that are righteous. Many cover their sins by great theological words. But I warn you of seducing spirits who instruct My people in an evil way. Many of these I shall anoint, that they may purify and sift My people; for I would have a holy people.

Many shall come with seducing spirits and hold out lustful enticements. You will find that after I have visited My people again, the way shall become more and more narrow, and fewer shall walk therein. But be not deceived, the ways of righteousness are My ways. For though Satan comes as an angel of light, hearken not to him; for those who perform miracles and speak not righteousness are not of Me. I warn you with great intensity that I am going to judge My house and have a church without spot or wrinkle when I come. I desire to open your eyes and give you spiritual understanding, that you may not be deceived but may walk with uprightness of heart before Me, loving righteousness and hating every evil way. Look unto Me and I will make you to perceive with the eyes of the Spirit the things that lurk in darkness, that are not visible to the human eye. Let me lead you in this way that you may perceive the powers of darkness and battle against them. It is not a battle against flesh and blood; for if you battle in that way you accomplish nothing. But if you let Me take over and battle against the powers of darkness then they are defeated, and then liberation is brought to My people.

I warn you to search the Scriptures diligently these last days. For the things that are written shall indeed be made manifest. There shall come deceivers among My people in increasing numbers, who shall speak forth the truth and shall gain the favor of the people. For the people shall examine the Scriptures and say, "What these men say is true." Then when they have gained the hearts of the people, then and THEN ONLY shall they bring out these wrong doctrines. Therefore, I say that you should not give your hearts to men, nor hold people's persons in admiration. For by these very persons shall Satan enter into My people. WATCH FOR SEDUCERS. Do you think a seducer will brandish a new heresy and flaunt it before the people? He will speak the words of righteousness and truth, and will appear as a minister of light, declaring the Word. The people's hearts shall be won. Then, when the hearts are won, they will bring out their doctrines, and the people shall be deceived. The people shall say, "Did he not speak thus and thus? And did we not examine it from the Word? Therefore he is a minister of righteousness. This that he has now spoken we do not see in the Word, but it must be right, for the other things he spoke were true."

Be not deceived. For the deceiver will first work to gain the hearts of many, and then shall bring forth his insidious doctrines. You cannot discern those who are of Me and those who are not of Me when they start to preach. But seek Me constantly, and then when these doctrines are brought out you shall have a witness in your heart that these are not of Me. Fear not, for I have warned you. Many will be deceived. But if you walk in holiness and uprightness before the Lord, your eyes shall be open and the Lord will protect you. If you will constantly look unto the Lord you will know when the doctrine changes, and will not be brought into it. If your heart is right I will keep you; and if you will look constantly to Me, I will uphold you.

The minister of righteousness shall be on this wise -- his life shall agree with the Word, and his lips shall give forth that which is wholly true, and it will be no mixture. When the mixture appears then you will know he is not a minister of righteousness. The deceivers speak first the truth and then error, to cover their own sins which they love. Therefore I exhort and command you to study the Scriptures relative to seducing spirits, for this is one of the great dangers of these last days.

I desire you to be firmly established in My Word and not in the personalities of men, that you will not be moved as so many shall be moved. I would keep you in the paths of righteousness. Take heed to yourselves and follow not the seducing spirits that are already manifesting themselves. Diligently inquire of Me when you hear something that you have not seen in the Word, and do not hold people's persons in admiration, for it is by this very method that Satan will hold many of My people.

I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly, that you may triumph where I triumphed. On the cross I triumphed over all the power of Satan; and I have called you to walk in the same path. It is when your life is on the cross that you shall know the victory I have experienced. As you are on the cross, and seated in Me, then you shall know the power of the resurrection. When I come in My glory, the principalities and powers in the heavenly places shall be utterly broken. Fear not, for I have given you power whereby you may tread down the powers of darkness, and come forth victorious through every trial. As you are on the cross then you are victorious. It was on the cross that I triumphed over all the powers of the enemy. My life shall flow through you as you enter into these precious truths. Look unto Me, and appropriate My life. As your eyes and desires are toward Me, and you know what it is to be crucified with Me, then you shall live, and your anointing shall increase. It was not in My life that I walked upon the earth, but it was in My life when I was upon the cross that I openly spoiled principalities and powers.

I am showing you truths that shall cause you to overcome, to have power over the wicked one, truth that will liberate you and those round about you. You shall know also the fellowship of My sufferings. There is no other way whereby you may partake of this heavenly glory and reign with Me. "If we suffer with Him we shall reign with Him." I desire to make those truths real within you. As you keep them before you, you will liberate many who are in bondage. You will have revelation of those who are in darkness and will have the keys to liberate the captives. Many seek to liberate, but they have not the keys. Upon the cross continually you will know the power of My resurrection that you may also partake of My glory. As you are willing to walk with Me and rejoice in your sufferings, you shall partake of My glory. Look unto Me for you have need of power to overcome the wicked one, and the bondages in other lives.

If you will indeed judge yourself you shall not be judged. As you seek My face and desire to be cleansed by Me in all truth and sincerity of heart I will judge you in the secret place, and the things that are in the secret place of your heart shall not be made manifest to others. I will do it in the secret place and no man shall know it. And the shame that shall be seen on many faces shall not be seen on your face. Therefore in

love and mercy I am instructing you. And therefore I have said that if a man judge himself he shall not be judged. It is not My good pleasure that the shame of My people be seen by all. How can I judge the world if I judge not first My own house? Hearken unto these things I am telling you. If you will not hearken unto Me thy shame shall be evident to all.

I would have you consider My life on earth -- the anointing upon Me was great and yet the temptations were great on every side; in one form and then in another, offering Me first the glory of the kingdoms of the earth and then reviling and persecuting Me. There will be great glory given to My people, and yet the temptations shall be intensified from every side. Think not that with the glory there shall be no temptations or persecutions. The glory of My Church shall be great, and so shall be the temptations from the enemy to turn My people from My paths. I am warning you that when the glory shall be manifested, the temptations shall be great, until very few that start shall finish. First there shall be offered them great worldly possessions, and then great revilings and unbelief.

Consider your Lord, that as He walked so it shall be for you. There shall be need of great intensity of purpose. At times everyone shall rise up against you, simply to turn you from the course that I would put you in. It is written of Me that I set My face as a flint to go to the direction My Father had prescribed for Me. If you will finish the course the Lord has laid down for you, you will have to set your face as a flint. With great determination you must walk in the course laid down for you. Many of your loved ones and those who follow with you shall persuade you and try to turn you from the course. With many words that seem right in the natural will they speak to you. Did not Christ rebuke Peter who would turn Him from the course God had prescribed?

Understand these two things and meditate upon them solemnly -- the persecution and the darkness shall be as great as the glory in order to try to turn the elect and the anointed ones from the path the Lord has laid down for them. Many shall start but few shall be able to finish because of the greatness of grace that shall be needed to be able to endure unto the end. The temptations and the persecution of your Lord was continuous. He was tempted by Satan in many forms throughout His entire life and even to the cross when the ungodly cried out, "If thou be the Christ come down from the cross." Think not that there shall be a time of no persecution, for it shall be from the time of your anointing until the end. Difficulties, and great persecution to the end. The Lord must prepare you to be an overcomer in all things, that you may be able to finish the course. The persecution shall increase even as the anointing shall increase.

In paths of judgement and righteousness shall the Lord God lead His people and bring them into that place which He has chosen for them. For the Lord has chosen a place for His people, a place of righteousness and holiness where He shall encamp round about them. And all who will be led of the Lord shall be brought into this holy place. For the Lord delights to dwell in His people and to manifest Himself through His people. The holiness of the Lord shall be manifested through His people. Let the Lord lead you and He will lead you in difficult places. He led His people of old through a place where no man dwelt, where no man had passed through, in a place of great danger and in the shadow of death. The Lord will indeed again lead His people through such places, and yet He will bring them out into a place of great glory. Understand that the way toward the glory is fraught with great danger and many shall fall to the right or to the left, many shall camp on lesser ground. But the Lord has a place of holiness and no unclean thing shall dwell among His people.

Put your trust in Him and He will bring you into a place of holiness. He desires to bring His people into great glory -- the like of which has never been seen for what the Lord will do for those who put their trust in Him. It is a place of darkness and great

danger that separates His people into the place He would have them walk in. He will protect them from the voices that would turn them from His path. He will bring them through the dark places, and through the treacherous paths, out into the light of His glory. He will rejoice greatly over His beloved and cause you to be filled with joy unspeakable. He seeks to lead His people into a new place of grace and glory where He will indeed encamp among them. Put your trust in Him and He will surely bring you into this new place.

Fear not the days to come, but fear this only -- that you shall walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord. In this time I am ordering and setting up My Church and it shall indeed be pure, without spot or wrinkle. I will do work in My beloved that has not been seen since the foundation of the world. I have shown you these things that you may seek the Lord diligently with all your heart, and that you may be a preserver of His people.

Run not to this one nor to that one, for the Lord has so ordained that salvation is in Him and in Him alone. You shall not turn to this shepherd or to that one, for there shall be a great scattering upon the earth. Therefore look unto Him for He will indeed make these things clear to you. You shall not look here nor there, for the wells that once had water shall be no more. But as you diligently seek Him He shall increase your strength and your faith, that He may be able to prepare you for this time that is coming.

The truths that I have revealed to you must become a part of you -- not just an experience, but a part of your very nature. Is it not written that I demand truth in the inward parts? It is the truth of the Lord expressed in your very being that shall hold you. Many shall experience the truth, but the truth must become a part of you, your very life. As men and women look upon you they will hear not only the voice but see the expression of the truth. Many shall be overcome because they are not constant in My ways, and because they have not permitted the truths to become part of them. I am showing you these things that you may be prepared, and having done all, to stand.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD – Mark 11:22

By Nancy Williams

There are many supernatural, heavenly resources available to those who have partaken of the abundant grace, love, and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is the key that releases those heavenly resources into our situations.

In Mark 11:22, Jesus instructs His disciples to "...Have faith in God." The Amplified version adds the word "constantly." That is an important statement if Jesus really means that His disciples should constantly be in a state of having faith in God.

Is it hope, or is it faith?

The Collins English Dictionary defines "faith" as "strong or unshakable belief in something, especially without proof or evidence. (In Christianity it is) trust in God and in His actions and promises."

God's Word says in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

It is so easy for us to express our hope for something we want or need, either for ourselves or someone else. We say it with great conviction and sincerity. Hope, however, is for something that "will" happen. It is almost always future tense. If we stay in the hope realm, we may never realize what we are "hoping" for. Faith "real-izes" our hope. Faith completes our hope and makes it real. Faith believes it has already happened and translates our hope into substance that God can work with. Faith is for

NOW!

There are probably very few Christians who haven't heard that statement or memorized Hebrews 11:1. But perhaps there are many who, like me, have asked, "How? How do I change my hope to faith? How do I know I'm moving in faith and not mental assent? If faith is substance, should there be tangible evidence I can lay hold of?"

These are questions that sent me on a quest to learn more about faith. The Bible says if we seek, we will find when we seek with all our hearts.

In Matthew 17:20 (AMP), Jesus spoke to His disciples when they questioned Him about their inability to drive out a demon from a young epileptic, "Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith that is living like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

Many of us struggle at times with wanting desperately to believe but wondering if our faith is strong enough to meet the challenges. When we are believing in faith for something, we know our faith must be foundationally based on God. But what does it really mean to "have faith in God" and to have it constantly? You may think I'm pretty dense, but I needed that charge, "Have faith in God" to be broken down in order to fully understand what Jesus was saying.

The problem some people encounter, especially the young or immature Christian, is that their concept of God may be tainted by life experiences. If one has grown up with a father figure who was abusive, indifferent, or even absent, it's very difficult to have faith in a loving, caring Heavenly Father. It is much easier for the person who has suffered such childhood pain and disappointments to grow up having "faith" for the negative. How can he (or she) put his faith in someone he doesn't know or trust?

I believe that's why it is important to examine the dynamic of having faith in God because there is often the temptation to stubbornly have faith in one's own strength and ability, or even to have faith in our faith, as if to say, "If I exercise faith hard enough, God will surely approve of me and answer." I can picture my little grandson sitting with his eyes and his fists tightly clenched, saying, "I will believe! I will believe! I will believe!" It is a childish picture, but we must always examine ourselves to see if this subtle, self-righteous pride is working in us. Any self-righteousness is bordering on idolatry, if it hasn't already crossed the line. We must die to "self" daily.

What, then, does it mean to "have faith in God"? Are we to blindly, passively trust that God will work things out on our behalf? He is the Almighty God, the Sovereign of the universe. We may know intellectually that He is trustworthy, and most assuredly, there will probably be times when we must blindly trust Him. But that kind of blind "faith" is passive, like an infant resting in his mother's arms. Faith is a very active word. Perhaps that's why it is called exercising faith.

Think of a soldier on a battlefield. Does he blindly have faith that he will prevail over his enemy in the middle of battle? Does he blindly charge a hill toward the enemy and expect God to preserve him? As Jesus told the devil in Matthew 4:7, "It is written, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'" "

No, the good soldier is trained to follow orders and planned strategy. His training has taught him how to protect himself while obeying his commander's orders. Through his training, he can instantly lay his hand on his weapon, his bayonet, his grenade, his ammunition, or any other thing he is carrying. He can react with lightning speed. He has an objective; he knows what to look for, when and how to move, the range, the trajectory, and the rules of engagement. He has a job to do, and he is committed. He knows his life and the lives of others are on the line.

I had an instructor in Bible college who would always pray on exam day, "Lord, help

them to the level of their preparedness.” Because I always came prepared, I had faith that God would help me and bring to my remembrance what I had learned. My exam papers were always returned marked “A.” Second Timothy 2:15 became real to me, especially the part about not being ashamed!

As I sought to understand what it means to have faith in God, I learned that there are three basic elements involved.

God’s Character and Attributes

First, faith in God involves knowing God personally—His character, His attributes, His nature, His heart, His will. These are absolute, and they are absolutely trustworthy.

It is refreshing to remember that there are absolutes in our world to which we can cleave. Amid all of its political correctness, our society, driven by the agenda of the god of this world, has tried to whitewash many absolutes into an anemic relativity. “Your truth is your truth, and my truth is my truth!”

Well, there is one absolute truth that we can stake our lives on: God IS! He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. His name YHWH, translated “Jehovah” or “Lord,” comes from the Hebrew verb which means “to be” (God is) and emphasizes God’s absolute being.

He is the Source of all being, all reality, and all existence. Everything else derives its being from Him. He is utterly transcendent, beyond all His creation. He is without beginning and without end because He always is. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all-true, all-loving, all-faithful, all-merciful, and all-righteous. God is wisdom, glory, faithfulness, goodness, beauty, and patience.

He is Jehovah-Jireh, our Provider; Jehovah-Rapha, our Healer; Jehovah-Shalom, our Peace. He is the Lamb of God, our Redeemer, our Savior. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is our Abba Father. He is Love. He is Truth. God is perfectly holy and perfectly just. He is Jehovah-M’kaddesh, the Lord who makes us holy (Lev. 20:8 NIV).

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) offers us so much hope and comfort: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” This scripture says to us that God is good, He loves us, and we can trust Him. He doesn’t change.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that He is pleased only when we have faith in Him and that He is a Rewarder when we diligently seek Him: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (NIV).

As we get to know God intimately and learn about His character—that He is faithful, true, and loving—our love and trust grow. As the child who so freely propels himself into his daddy’s arms, we learn that it is quite safe and comforting to rest, in faith, in Abba’s loving arms, constantly.

The Word of God—The Bible

Second, having faith in God involves knowing what God says. Romans 10:17: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Having faith in God involves the Word of Truth, the Bible rightly divided. Second Timothy 2:15 (KJV) says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Rightly dividing God’s Word has nothing to do with segmenting it. It means to rightly discern its truth by capturing the spirit of the Word.

We must not lean to our own understanding in studying God’s Word but, rather,

depend on the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to receive the Word in truth according to the intent of the Holy Spirit.

First Corinthians 2:13-14 (NIV) explains: “This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

The Word of God tells us that in order to have faith in God constantly, we must constantly walk in the Spirit so that we are able to hear what God is saying to us.

Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The Word of God judges us, in that it exposes to us our own sin and unrighteousness, much as a mirror will do. A two-edged sword cuts on both sides. It separates the good from the bad coming in and going out. It divides the unredeemed soul—the mind, the human will, and the emotions—from the born-again spirit of man so there is no doubt who’s doing the ruling in our life. It will show us if we are walking in the Spirit or walking in the flesh—the natural man, usually the mind of reason. It’s impossible to have faith in God if you are walking in the flesh.

The Word of God not only reveals the sinfulness of the human heart in order to bring conviction and repentance, it reveals the Person, character, works, and the will of God. It makes known His eternal purposes in creation and His divine will for man. It records the history of man—his successes and failures, past, present, and future. It is our guidebook and our compass in the life that now is, and in things eternal.

Ephesians 6:17 says the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. That’s weaponry! It is to be used both defensively and offensively.

The Amplified Bible says the Word of God is the sword “that the Spirit wields.” When we speak or stand on the Word of God, in faith, in full armor, the Holy Spirit wields the sword for us.

The Collins English Dictionary (HarperCollins Publishers) says “wields” means: 1) to handle or use (a weapon, tool, etc.); 2) to exert or maintain (power or authority); 3) (obsolete) to rule.

The Holy Spirit handles the sword, bringing to our remembrance the Scriptures we need when we need them (if we have planted them in our hearts). He exerts the power and maintains the authority of the Word. In other words, He rules! (This idea has become rather obsolete in our politically correct society!) I don’t know about you, but I want to be on His side!

As I meditated on this concept of the Holy Spirit reserving the right to wield the sword of the Word of God, I could see the wisdom of God, because there are times when we, with the sword in our hand, might use it wrongly to harm, to literally cut people. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for protecting us from ourselves!

This is another example of how the Lord uses His Word to teach us to trust Him. Studying, learning, and knowing God’s Word is vital to Christian growth and to having faith in God.

The Cross

Third, understanding how to have faith in God involves understanding what Jesus accomplished when He gave His life on the cross.

Many Christians have not studied and meditated on the scriptures enough to begin to understand what all Jesus did for us on the cross. They have not learned, and sadly, most have not even been taught, the wealth of the gifts and the rights that Jesus provided for us on the cross when we believe on His name, accept His marvelous gift of atonement, give ourselves to Him to be our Savior and Lord, and receive His indwelling Spirit. And the devil—the enemy of our souls—loves keeping us in our disadvantaged, ignorant state.

Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins of humanity, and hanging on Calvary's cross, He gave His life to pay the penalty for them all—past, present, and future—when we repent and accept Him as our Savior. But what God accomplished through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death doesn't stop there.

God provided the sacrificial Lamb, just as He had done when Abraham obediently bound his son, Isaac, on the altar, except this Spotless Lamb of God satisfied the righteous requirements of God's Law and justice once for all and rent the veil that separated God and man, as a result of Adam's sin in the Garden, and gave all believers access to God's covenant promises (see Romans 3).

In Christ's suffering and death, He accomplished much more than atonement for the sins of man. Christ suffered in His body a suffering that was not necessary in providing atonement. He suffered in order to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. He suffered for our peace and for our healing. He suffered for our abundant life.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV) says, "Surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

I believe we have only just begun to tap the surface of the many benefits and resources Jesus bought for us on the cross of Calvary and in the resurrection. As a good and loving earthly father plans good things for his children, how much more our Heavenly Father has planned for us.

Ephesians 1 has become one of my all-time favorite chapters in the Bible. It is full of promises to the believer in the Beloved. In the Amplified Bible, we see such words and phrases as "blessing," "favor and mercy," "deliverance and salvation," "the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor which He lavished upon us," "we obtained an inheritance," "the guarantee of our inheritance."

The more I meditate on verses 17 through 21, the more I am blessed by it. If this doesn't thrill your soul, maybe you should check your pulse: "[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, by having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), and [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come."

When the revelation, the rhema, of Scriptures like these settle into our hearts and minds, our eyes are opened to the love God has for us, and our faith in Him and our love for Him will grow in leaps and bounds. He wants us to know and understand the hope to which He has called us—that we are joint heirs with Jesus, that the things He did we will do and greater, that we can speak to the mountains in our lives, and they will

be cast into the sea.

In Summary

As my heart and mind were being opened to the understanding of how to “have faith in God, constantly,” He began showing me that my faith had often been based on my view of my own righteousness, or where I felt I stood with God at the moment. Had I done everything I should have done? Had I been “good”? Had I failed in some part of my life? Was God mad at me about anything? Would He even hear my prayers?

Brothers and sisters, I believe many of us struggle with that kind of questioning, especially when we long to please our Lord. However, it must become deeply ingrained in us that our righteousness is always as filthy rags before the Lord. We will never measure up in our own flesh because no individual can rise above his nature. We are accepted by God only through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says: “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Jeremiah wrote that the coming King would be called, “The Lord our Righteousness.” Notice that he did not say that Christ would make us righteous. Instead, the usage is in the abstract: Righteousness. We become the righteousness of God. How is this possible? Christ becomes our righteousness by personal substitution. When Christ becomes our Lord, we live an exchanged life—our life for His. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20 NIV).

Now, I can have great faith in God, constantly, when it is based on the Person of God, on what God says in the Bible when it is rightly divided, and on the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Our sin penalty was PAID IN FULL on the cross, and we have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus when we believe, in faith, and accept Him as our Savior.

What does this mean for the believer? It means that no weapon (no matter what it is) that is formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). It means that when you encounter sickness, whether your own or in others, you can stand in faith and speak to the mountain of sickness to be removed and cast into the sea. It means that you have the authority and the power to speak to all of the circumstances in your life to come under the authority of the name of Jesus. And you have the power and the authority to pray for others.

I must give a caveat. I am writing about the true disciple of Jesus who understands that his or her salvation came through a costly grace. As a natural father understands that the amount of power and liberty his child is given depends on the maturity and the behavior of the child, so our Heavenly Father will deal with us. “For if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for [our] sins [no further offering to which to look forward]. [There is nothing left for us then] but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God]” (Hebrews 10:26-27 AMP). I would also like to mention as a reminder that 2 Corinthians 4:7 states: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

We have sung about “standing on the promises.” Isn’t it about time we do start standing on them and actually become doers of the Word instead of hearers only because we have faith in God constantly? I say, “Yes!”

TRUE PROPHETS

By Nancy Williams

There are many people in our generation who are being called prophets who are, in reality, wolves in sheep's clothing, false prophets who are out to fleece the sheep. There are also sincere and genuine, God-loving Christians being called prophets who are simply moving in the gift of prophecy; they are not prophets. This has brought great confusion and distraction to the body of Christ, especially in America. There is a world of difference between these three groups of people—1) the office of a true called-out prophet, 2) someone with the true gift of prophecy, and 3) the false prophet.

How does one tell the difference between these three groups of people?

True prophets, as Jesus said in Matthew 23, are often killed or stoned; they are not popular because they do not speak a popular message. Many of them live in relative obscurity because they do not like calling attention to themselves and are therefore, for the most part, unknown. They know Jesus intimately and His Word thoroughly. They are often crying out to God in tears for the Church. They are calling for repentance and a return to God's way of doing things. They weep for a lost and dying world and for a Church that is lukewarm and divided. Their hearts and minds are on restoring to God all that is His.

The true gift of prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit to exhort, edify, and comfort the Church and will always line up with or lead one to the Word of God. The true word of prophecy is clear and concise, not disjointed and obscure. Its fruit is maturity.

The (self-appointed) false prophet (wolf in sheep's clothing) will prophesy great swelling words that people want to hear, and they usually have a large following. Their appeal is often worldly (1 John 2:16). People practically throw their money at them, hoping that God will see and honor them with a fulfillment of the word that was spoken, usually for riches. My daughter and I attended a meeting with one of the well-known "prophets" not long ago. I whispered to her well into the service, When is he going to talk about repentance and the cross? Regretfully, it never happened, but the offering was taken up in buckets after he reminded everyone of the prophet's reward!

I am sure that false prophet left the building in a limousine, while true called-out prophets are on their knees in the wilderness crying out to God to have mercy on us. True prophets are seeing people leave them or not even respond because of hard sayings of truth. They, the few true prophets, are in good company, for the Word says that many left Jesus because of His hard sayings and walked with Him no more.

When are we going to wake up and start hearing? What is it going to take? The warnings are coming forth, the enemy is at the door, but who is listening! Let's listen to the prophets while we sit at the feet of Jesus. Let's not become prophet-followers, but remain always Jesus-followers; true prophets will always point us back to Jesus (that's a clue to recognizing them). God has always spoken through His called-out prophets. Why are pastors not reaching out to them asking, What is God saying? What am I to do? Please teach me! Please prepare me for what is ahead so that I can help to prepare others! Why are we as individuals not doing the same thing?

Again, I ask: Instead of seeking out those ministers who will bring in people and their money, why are pastors of churches, the shepherds of God's flocks, not seeking out the prophets to help them lead the Church? True prophets will help pastors build mature disciples.

"It was [God] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and

in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Eph. 4:11-16 NIV) [brackets added]

These are serious questions, and I could list many more that we should be asking ourselves, as the clock is ticking. I was often told by my mother when I was growing up that a word to the wise is sufficient. Those words carried a very subtle threat that if I did not listen, there would be consequences. I believe that is still a valid principle today.

Psalms 107:43 AMP: “Whoso is wise [if there be any truly wise] will observe and heed these things; and they will diligently consider the mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord.”

ELIJAH & the FAMINE **By Dale Garris**

SOURCE: www.revivalfire.org

“And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.” - 1 Kings 18:30

Just a few years before this showdown on Mount Carmel, Israel had been lush with prosperity and wealth. King Ahab had led the Israelites on a path that led farther away from the old, established worship of God than any before him, and had brought them to a life of riches, prosperity, and licentiousness.

The gods that he and his wife Jezebel had enticed the people of God with appealed to their earthly and fleshly desires. No longer did they have to be constricted with an old religion that demanded holiness and the fear of the Lord. No longer did they have to lead a life of separation from the things of the world that other, more prosperous nations enjoyed. They could enjoy the prosperity and fullness of riches without the constraints of a religion that had become outmoded and old-fashioned.

Life was good. So when Elijah pronounced the judgments of God upon Israel, they laughed him out of the king’s court. The true prophets of God had been eradicated from the public place and were no longer a thorn in the side of everyone who wanted the rewards of love, peace, and prosperity. You were no longer allowed to mention the name of Jehovah, much less pray to him in a public place. They now had priests and prophets of Baal that had replaced those old critical and judgmental men who had caused such consternation in the land.

Elijah had stood as the one, lone voice who cried for a return to righteousness.

And who was this hairy old man? He didn’t seem to be of any real consequence. He had no credentials, no theological bearing, and no consequential importance. Even his dress revealed his lack of social prominence and his irrelevance in such a modern, sophisticated time as this.

Ahab’s ears may have been deaf to Elijah’s pronouncement, but when Elijah spoke, God listened. The Ahab’s court may have derided him with laughter as he stood before the king, but 3 years later, no one was laughing.

We have followed a course similar to the one that Ahab had led Israel down. The Gospel we listen to is far different than the Gospel our grandfathers believed in. We

decry the old brush arbor revivalists as hard, judgmental men who did not understand the love of God, and we have traded their message of repentance and holiness for one that is a kinder, gentler approach which promises love and peace and prosperity.

But the love, peace, and prosperity that our modern prophets have promised us are but a worldly shadow of that which God offers us through a walk of righteousness in the fear of the Lord.

We have been like the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai - we feared and trembled at the presence of God when the mount shook with fire and smoke, but as soon as Moses departed up the mountain and we were left to our own devices, we made for ourselves a golden calf to worship in God's place.

I have said for 7 years now that something is coming to America that will be far worse than 9/11, but I never knew what form that judgment would take. Would it be a dirty nuclear explosion in one of our cities, or an epidemic, or some natural disaster? We would be hurt, but it wouldn't take long to go back to our old ways. We are the great and mighty America, and we have an innate belief that we will always bounce back and dominate.

What if it wasn't any of those imagined disasters, but something that struck right to the heart of that which we cherish the most? What if we lost our prosperity and wealth? And what if it consumed every level of our society and every part of our country?

We are living in that time of drought when the ravens fed Elijah by the brook Cherith, right after he fled the king's court.

We look to our televangelists who promise us blessings, and refuse to consider that our lust for those promises is what has led us to this drought in the first place. But we still flip on the TV and hope for a word of encouragement that will convince us to hang on to a Gospel that has a form of godliness, but denies the power thereof. And of course, they tell us exactly what we want to hear, along with an encouragement to send them your money so that God can release His blessings all over you - but never a word of reproof or repentance.

The job of a prophet is not to tell you how beloved you are, how many blessings God wants to bestow upon you, or how much love is in your church. The job of a prophet is to rebuild the old broken down altars of God and declare unto the people of God their sins and transgressions so that they may come to a place of repentance and, once again, return to the true God of Israel.

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." - Rev 3:17-19

QUOTABLES

"Today the enemy has come in like a flood. There is a flood of pornography, a flood of V.D., a flood of stealing, a flood of divorce, a flood of broken marriages, and a flood of unbelief. So, right here we have the right to ask that the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against it all. He will do this through revival in the Church....Against this flood of hell-inspired living, what has the Church to offer? It is easy to curse the darkness, but who can strike the light? Let's leave the cultists alone for a while and get our own house in order first. The so-called evangelical church is in trouble. We have had twenty-five years of massive gospel crusades, the greatest healing meetings in history, the greatest output of Christian literature ever, the greatest conferences on evangelism, the greatest

outreach on radio and now projection TV that can fling pictures of so-called 'revivals' right into your living room. But at the same time we have a higher crime rate than ever, a higher rate of V.D. among the kids, a higher rate of illegitimate births, more drunks than ever, more kids on dope, and more couples crowding our divorce courts. Could it be that right now we need a mighty baptism of honesty in the Church – a mighty bending of the knees and breaking of the heart to admit that we are sleeping on the job?"

- Leonard Ravenhill, *America Is Too Young To Die*

"Revival – no denomination has a monopoly on it, neither can we birth it or stay its birth. It ignores our massive, costly crusades. It evades our weekly million dollar radio outreach by preachers. To be painfully honest, what we have preached for the last twenty-five years by the biggest budgets that the Church has ever known has not moved the nation to God. Why continue a formula that has been so patently ineffective?"

- Leonard Ravenhill, *America Is Too Young To Die*

"This is the day of arrogant iniquity. It struts and strides, it screams from the billboards, it flashes from the television tubes. In a day when crime and cruelty saturate the press and television news, the public thirsts for more; it devours television mayhem, murder, and sadomasochism. This is the day when all that is vile, vulgar, vicious, vain, and virtueless gets the headlines; and millions of dollars are invested to see that this tide of moral scum does not decrease. The barbarians were a mild bunch compared to us educated savages."

- Leonard Ravenhill, *America Is Too Young To Die*

PLURALISM, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

By Nancy Williams

I received an email today from a close friend that said:

"As a child I was always very patriotic. I would always cry when we sang patriotic songs. It was no different today as I listened to [this song]. I cried again ... Very Beautiful. Click on the link to be blessed!! What a great song."

The link to the Born Again American website was attached. I opened the website and in bold red, white, and blue letters, it read BORN AGAIN AMERICAN. My first thought was, "I'm a born again American, so I will enjoy listening to this."

I listened to the song, which featured a diverse group of individual singers and groups. It was very moving. I kept waiting to hear praise to God or something akin to new birth in Jesus, but it never came. My spiritual antennae had been going up, and by now was high enough to decide that I needed to look deeper into this website. It took me to a page where I was supposed to sign a pledge. I'm careful about making pledges (Jesus had something to say about that), especially to something I'm not familiar with. As I delved deeper into the website, I discovered it was not Christian at all; it is quite the antithesis.

I started writing about my findings to my friend, but it kept growing into this post. I post it

as a reminder and a challenge to all of us who are true, born again Christians!

.....

I would like to challenge you to stir up and exercise your discernment. We are moving into an era when this is CRITICAL! As Christians, we must look beyond the surface to see what force or agenda is behind the things being presented to us as good and patriotic. Instead of taking things at face value, like the Born Again American (BAA) video that is being passed around, we must learn to delve deeper to the core of what they are about. BAA at first glance appears to be a Christian movement. IT IS NOT! But the way it is presented and its name are designed to deceive even the elect. What born again means on the BAA site is that one has a renewed realization of how great America is, and they, therefore, pledge to serve her more actively. It is really true that the American dictionary is being re-written, and many words have new meanings.

There is a subtle move afoot to change the mind/thinking of people, not only Americans, but around the world. The goal of this move is pluralism, and the ultimate goal is global pluralism. Who is behind it? It is those who are pushing for a New World Order (NWO). The NWO will have a one-world government, a one-world economy, and a one-world religion.

I went searching for definitions of pluralism on the Internet and found some interesting things. Pluralism is: “A process of compromise [that answers the question right there!] characterized by mutual appreciation and respect between two or more groups, such that members of different groups are permitted to maintain their cultural ways, as long as they conform to those practices deemed necessary for the survival of the society as a whole.” [emphasis added]

A very important question we should ask is: Who does the deeming of what is necessary?

Another notable definition of pluralism: “Theologically implies there being more than one principle at work in the universe.”

Well, isn't that what Christianity is all about? Good vs. evil? Life vs. death? Hope vs. despair? Wiki.answers.com says the opposite of hope is despair: To lose all hope. Complete loss of hope. To not know Jesus. So, then, the way of hope is Jesus, and without Jesus, there is despair. Even Wiki knows that Jesus is the only way. Okay, okay! I know that is not exactly what that definition meant. It was not referring to opposites, but “likes,” as in there are more than one equally legitimate principles at work, such as, “You can go to heaven through Jesus, and I will go to heaven through Mohammad, or Buddha, or love.” How about, “You have a right to marry a person of the opposite sex, and I have the right to marry a person of the same sex”?

The question to ask here is: Can one simultaneously and equally possess right and wrong, good and evil, life and death, hope and despair? It is an impossibility to accept two opposing ideologies at once, as the next definition of pluralism states: “The tolerance of different and often incompatible views.”

Here is where compromise must enter. Incompatible views naturally repel each other, like oil and water. It is impossible for them to be close without some kind of compromise. It is impossible for them to be together and each maintain their own purity. Well, guess who is expected to compromise in this pluralistic agenda? That's right, the Christians. Not only do those pushing this agenda want Christians to compromise, they want them extinct.

Besides pluralism, the goal is also called diversity and inclusion, depending on the group using it. Diversity is used more in societal dynamics, while inclusion has become quite the popular word in parts of religion. Carlton Pearson has embraced inclusion, with

his idea that all roads lead to heaven. Even some of the popular drama series on TV now have their characters attending All Saints Inclusion Church. I saw it on “Bones.” Many businesses are going beyond training their employees in acceptance of diversity and are cultivating an inclusive environment in the workplace. The propaganda is everywhere!

When you sign up to be a part of things like Born Again American, as well as others of their ilk, they begin sending you subtle mind-altering propaganda. It comes in bit by bit. They use things that sound very noble, loving, and patriotic. They are primarily targeting young people, as their commitment statement shows, because the youth are easier to influence and are the future leaders.

Behind this Born Again American movement is Norman Lear’s People for the American Way, a very liberal and anti-Christian organization. This is what Wikipedia says about them:

People For the American Way (People For) is a progressive, politically liberal advocacy organization in the United States.

Purpose

People For The American Way was created as an advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. It has also been active in recent years in battles over judicial nominations and on issues including school class size, separation of church and state, civil rights, voting rights for Washington, DC, in the U.S. Congress, while its main purpose is equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) people, and promotion of civic participation.

People For describes itself as “an energetic advocate for the values and institutions that sustain a diverse democratic society ... threatened by the influence of the radical right and its allies who have risen to political power.” Its principal targets have been Religious Right organizations such as Christian Voice (USA), Moral Majority, and Focus on the Family.

History

People For The American Way was founded by television producer Norman Lear (All in the Family, Maude, The Jeffersons, etc.) in 1981 specifically to attack the efforts of the religious right as an advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. According to People For’s website, Lear was particularly concerned with the growing number of televangelists such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. Co-founders included Barbara Jordan, Andrew Heiskell, and other leaders from the political, religious, business, and entertainment communities.

You will find People For The American Way advertised on the Born Again American website. If you read their purpose and the pledge they are asking people to sign, you will see how they encourage the elevation of self when the Word of God says, He must increase, but I must decrease.

We, as Christians, must wake up from our slumber. Wake up, O sleeper! What these liberal NWO voices are touting is not really diversity but the silencing of the Christian voices and their influence. They are tolerant of everyone but Christians. We are approaching the time when those who are against us will attempt to silence our Christian voices by any means necessary. Many Christians are going to be martyred like we have never seen in history. It’s already happening in other countries, and we are

closer now than we have ever been to it happening in America. More and more, minds are being programmed to see Christians as narrow-minded, non-thinking, unintelligent individuals who are a blight on society and a hindrance to pluralism and diversity and must be silenced and/or eradicated. Even our new President stated that America is no longer a Christian nation, “We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and nonbelievers.”

How easy it is to change a mind that is not convinced. Remember that 1 Timothy 4 says: Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons ... The Amplified Bible adds in verse 2: through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized) ... Deceiving spirits operate through people.

Now you can see the importance of having your senses trained to examine everything. If someone can deceive you and re-program your mind and cause you to fall away from Christ, the next great step is to draw you into allegiance to Antichrist...

We are to put on the mind of Christ rather than the mind of the world, or of those in the world. The Bible does not teach inclusion or pluralism but, rather, to come out from among them and be separate. Jesus the the ONLY way, the ONLY truth, and the ONLY life. Those who come to the Father must come through Jesus Christ. I leave you with this truth:

2 Cor. 6:14-16 : “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.’”

PURPOSE DRIVEN GIMMICKS

By Pastor David J. Meyer

The following is from a tract published by Last Trumpet Ministries, PO Box 806, Beaver Dam, WI 53916; website: www.lasttrumpetministries.org

I am writing this tract primarily in response to the immensely popular book by Rick Warren entitled *The Purpose Driven Life*. These last of the last days that we are living in are a very strange time indeed. We watch in amazement as nominal “Christian” religions are rotting from within while our entire nation wallows evermore in perverseness and immorality. Fundamental “Christian” churches are especially vulnerable as they try to meet the world halfway. Satan knows that in this late hour there is only a small remnant left, and he keeps busy providing clever gimmicks that are so cleverly created that if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived. We have seen the rise of the “Promise Keepers”, which is a Masonic project, and I have evidence of that. We have seen the “Passion of the Christ”, which was a Vatican-Jesuit project. Many other things have emerged.

There are many satanic gimmicks, which deceptively present only part of the truth, and they are always bestsellers, because Satan knows that undiscerning people always gravitate toward evil. It is spiritual fast food and junk food that people clamor for in

search of gimmicks that compensate for their lack of true repentance. The Purpose Driven Life book by Rick Warren is one such masterpiece of deception!

Rick Warren is the pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. The church grounds and complex is designed like a theme park and has a budget of 90 million dollars per year. The church features psychedelic rock concerts with music that would rival Jimi Hendrix, "K.I.S.S.", and the "Grateful Dead." In fact, Rick Warren admitted that one of his dreams was to become a rock star. In an interview for network television, Rick Warren freely admitted that he never preaches against homosexuality or abortion. He stated that he believes abortion is wrong, but he would never say it from the pulpit. Warren considers himself to be a marketer, salesman, and preacher. He says that we must always accentuate the positive and that worship should be fun. Rick Warren has been known to rub elbows with high-level politicians, such as President George W. Bush, and has become a multi-millionaire through his various efforts and enterprises. The Purpose Driven Life book has sold 20 million copies generating \$400 million in sales. He also teaches his thousands of church members to give ten percent of their gross income.

We will now look at the book itself and see what is wrong with this project of deception that has affected so many. We will start with the title: *The Purpose Driven Life*. I am reminded of Luke 4:1 which says, "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." As we can see, the Spirit of God does not "drive" us, and we are not "driven" in His purpose. Who is the one who causes people to be driven? In Luke 8:29 we read, "For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was DRIVEN of the devil into the wilderness."

When one reads Warren's Purpose Driven Life book, it would seem innocuous enough, for it contains what appears to be good practical advice. It will be noticed by discerning Christians, however, that there are dangerous errors and new age philosophies interspersed in the book, like raisins in a cake. Before I give some examples of these errors, I must also point out that Mr. Warren does not seem to like the Authorized King James Bible, and you will be hard-pressed to find a verse from the KJV in his book. His book contains 1200 verses from 15 versions. On page 325 of his book Warren says, "First, no matter how wonderful a translation is, it has limitations." In other words, he is saying there is no one true Word of God! What rank blasphemy! What brazen treason to God's Kingdom! God only wrote one book and promised to preserve it. The Authorized King James Bible is the only true Word of God in the English language, period. Warren also said on page 325, "English-speaking people should thank God that we have so many different versions to use for devotional reading." Mr. Warren, they all say different things! God is not the author of confusion!

Here are a few more things that Rick Warren has to say. Page 63: "The moment you were born into the world, God was there as an unseen witness, smiling at your birth." How about Hitler and Stalin, Mr. Warren? On page 104 we read, "Try praising God without using the words 'praise, hallelujah, thanks, or amen.'" He says to substitute other words. Why eliminate those precious Bible words that Satan hates so much? Try to tell that to the Apostle Paul and the early Christians. On page 160 we find the new-age unity theme as Warren writes, "Unity in the church is so important that the New Testament gives more attention to it than either heaven or hell." And on page 167 we

read, "At Saddleback Church, every member signs a covenant that includes a promise to protect the unity of our fellowship..... When God has a bunch of baby believers he wants to deliver, he looks for the warmest incubator church he can find." It should be so obvious that the greatest of Christians came forth in great adversity. We don't need warm, fuzzy incubators.

On page 181, we find Warren using an analogy that every Freemason would recognize as pure Masonic doctrine regarding alignment with the "sacred East." Warren writes, "Imagine riding in a speedboat on a lake with an automatic pilot set to go east. If you decide to reverse and head west, you have two possible ways to change the direction. One way is to grab the steering wheel and physically force it to head in the opposite direction from where the autopilot is programmed to go. By sheer willpower you could overcome the autopilot, but you would feel constant resistance. Your arms would eventually tire of the stress, you'd let go of the steering wheel, and the boat would instantly head back east, the way it was internally programmed."

On page 267, Warren says, "God uses money to test your faithfulness as a servant. That is why Jesus talked more about money than he did about either heaven or hell." Positively false! Warren also believes we can alter the appointed day of our Lord's return. On page 286 he says, "If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy." To top it off, Warren says on page 300 of his book, "Shift from local thinking to global thinking. God is a global God."

Sadly, what is missing from Warren's book is the message of contrition and true repentance, and that God will smite the world with judgement. Warren is a religious businessman and showman and reminds me of Phineas T. Barnum of circus fame. It was Barnum who supposedly said, "There is a sucker born every minute." I feel so urged by the Holy Ghost to warn churches and pastors across this nation and overseas to stay in the Word of God. Do not be duped and driven by deceptive forces. Be led by the Spirit of God.

BEWARE THE DEEP-FRIED GOSPEL AT THE SALVATION DRIVE-THRU **By Paula Leanues**

A sermon full of mere words, how neatly soever it be composed, while it wants the light of evidence, and the life of zeal, is but an image or a well-dressed carcass.

- Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*

You can get it in two minutes, but it clogs your spiritual arteries and does nothing good for your eternal walk. You can respond to it in two seconds, but if it is heartless repetition for you, then you leave without having changed in the inner man. This is the story of Jesus' death and resurrection that is supposed to cleanse us from all sin if we only "accept" Him. It's the deep-fried version, covered in unnecessary ingredients of man's invention. The frialator is the church that cooks up propaganda appearing to be holy.

I'm sure the inventors of the "altar call" had a nice idea. After all, it is through a sort of spiritual "invitation" that we recognize God is speaking to us to repent of our former sins and receive the righteousness of His Son in exchange for our unrighteousness.

The problem with the way churches offer the "invitation" to "accept Christ" by

repeating a prayer is that anyone from the age of two or three and up can repeat a prayer. The question is, do you know what you are saying? Do you understand the implication of what is called “accepting Christ”? There must be repentance, a complete turnover of our own will to God’s, and a determination to walk in His ways and begin a new life consecrated to Him.

Soft, lighthearted, or comical sermons do not prepare the hearts of non-believers for the place of repentance to turn around. When the “invitation” comes, how many are truly prepared to understand what they are raising their hand about or repeating in prayer? These people hear a quick sermon and are told if they raise their hand or repeat a prayer, they’re now on their way to heaven and they have the keys to the good life here.

Today’s sermons are often about ways we can make an easier life for ourselves. Pray to God, and our lives will be easy. Follow the Seven Steps to This and That, and our lives will be easy. Go to church every week and God will reward us and our lives will be easy. Follow every biblical principal, and our lives will be easy.

Books today out of evangelistic ministries are mostly about making your life better, getting all the blessings out of God that you can while you’re here, and the tricks to overcoming obstacles so that – you guessed it – your life will be easy.

Yes, there is some truth to all of these messages, but these messages barely touch on all of truth. Books and sermons about exiting Egypt and finding our “promised land” are a dime a dozen. You’re going to see giants you’ll need to combat – so have faith – you’re going to reap, reap, reap if you just hang in there.

These types of messages are taken from scripture, and Paul even said these scriptures were written as examples to increase our faith. But the emphasis on the blessings of God should come *after* it is understood that we must be pure in heart, repentant, and in alignment with His will and purpose for our lives by absolute determination. We have to be committed in the heart and inner man before God will even free us from Egypt (bondage) and take us on a journey through the wilderness en route to blessings.

Important to note is that once we have repented, His removal of our sins through Christ is the ultimate blessing in itself. We are heavenbound! Yet He offers us more, the abundant life in the here and now. This is the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10, which is not a life without opposition or trial.

From Mark 10, we read:

29And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s,

30But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

I don’t believe that “with persecutions” implies that living our lives for God yields the easy road. In fact, it says just the opposite. We are promised instead of the free ride, a life of victory over every trial. As long as we are truly His, victory is assured, no matter what we go through.

On yet another end of the spectrum, there are those who say God is glorified in our suffering. I believe the best way to say this is that God is glorified in our *victories* after He delivers us from our trials and suffering, not in the actual suffering of His children. Psalm 34:19 tells us, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

We don’t know every last sermon Paul and the early apostles preached, but in

reading about the persecutions they faced, and accepting our place as their spiritual descendents, we have to know there will be persecutions. In fact, there will be continual persecutions, because the devil hates to see the seal of Christ on anyone. It reminds him that he lost another one.

It is true that obedience brings the blessings of God, and disobedience reaps either hardship or even wrath, both on earth and eternally. There is no formula outside of total repentance and commitment to Him that is going to lessen the effects of disobedience or hasten the day of blessing if we are obedient. God's perfect timing is what it is.

So often disregarded in today's laid back preaching with its preoccupation with the promised land is the need for inner purity and a total consecration to God. If we walk in the flesh, God is not with us on our journey to our personal land of promise. God's promises are ours for the believing, and we can be assured His perfect path in our lives – but this is not without sacrifice on our part, and it does not come about by some hocus pocus formula or seven or twenty steps, or even in repeating the “sinner's prayer.”

Fireless preaching today just caters to the sad plight of mankind, the systematic fixing of the problems we all face in daily life. Instead of convicting non-believers of sin and the need for repentance, it moves people to repeat a little “Jesus, come into my heart” as a way to relieve themselves of a life situation that they do not want and exchange it for a life of abundance, which mostly gives the impression of a problem-free existence of great wealth and unlimited happiness.

And for those who are truly saved, we need to know *how* to live in the midst of persecutions and trials, *not* how to grab all the fun and possessions we possibly can while on earth.

It is only true repentance that makes us a new creation in Christ by the Spirit of God and a member of the heavenly Kingdom. It is only the Spirit of God who can draw a man to repentance. It is the Spirit of God who teaches us (through the Word, and through anointed teachers or preachers) how to live as overcomers, not over-indulgers. The sad reality of today is that Spirit-less churches are feeding you a diet of compromise, a “spiritual food” of much less quality than the spirit of man craves and needs.

I call on pastors today to get back to the basic truths of the Word of God and the true Gospel, to nourish your congregations with a true understanding of repentance and salvation and an extra helping of understanding that the Christian life is not always lived on Easy Street. We have our blessings *and* our persecutions. We are living in the end of the end times – there is not a minute more to waste. If you're not helping people live, then you're helping to kill them, and you will answer to God for your watered-down half-truths. People need the TRUTH! It is only the TRUTH that sets us free. “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)
