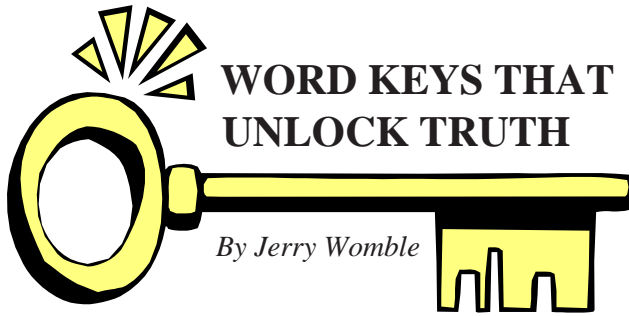


ADVOCATE OF TRUTH





WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

By Jerry Womble

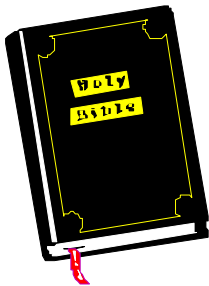
HATE

At first we think we know the definition of hate without giving it much thought; despise, distaste, or even bitterness. I find that in the Bible hate has two basic meanings, one is to despise and the other means to "love less". Jesus speaks of this in Luke 14:26 when He says that a

person wanting to be his disciple must hate his father, mother, wife, children, brethren, sisters, and self. We know that we love those people that are in our life very dearly; but as I look up the meaning of hate used here, it is that meaning of "love less" than something else. That is, love these people in our lives less than we love the Lord.

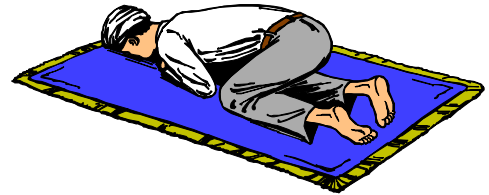
The thing that God hates and that we are allowed to hate is sin and this is the hate of detest; that is, the thing that He nor us can tolerate; He in the world and us in our personal lives. Psalm 97:10 tells us to "...love the Lord and hate evil..." So when we look at people today and see the evilness in their lives, remember it is the sin that we are to hate and not the person. When we fail God, He does not hate us but only the thing that we did. It is hard for us to separate the sin from the individual. Make every effort to separate these two things and develop a concern and love for them while hating the garment stained with sin. That word that is opposite of hate is love; so we must love our neighbor as our self and hate the sin that may be there.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, 7TH DAY AND ISLAM, THE RELIGIOUS FAITH OF MUSLIMS.



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF PART 3

BY DELL STOUT



THE CHURCH believes that the Ten Commandments are summed up in Luke 10:25-28. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Jesus had been asked what to do to inherit eternal life and Jesus asked, "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" and the individual had answered him as quoted above "Thou shalt love---". Then Jesus answered him saying "Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live (eternal life)."

The Church also believes that we are to love our enemies as instructed in Matthew 5:43-48 Jesus said "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you ; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what

reward have ye? do not even the publican the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Another of its beliefs is that we are not to resist evil as Jesus said in Matthew 5:38-39 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

In ISLAM, the word neighbour does not appear in the Koran, Hadith or Sunah. Since Muslims consider all non believers in Islam as Infidels and are to be conquered the concept of "Loving thy neighbour as thy self" and "Love your enemies" is nonsense to the Muslim and has no place in their religion.

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) reports that during a November 8, 2002 sermon in a Baghdad mosque, an Iraqi cleric made the following remarks, which were broadcast by Iraqi TV: "We challenge (President Bush and the Americans) with our words, before challenging (them) with our weapons.....We are patient ...and we will fight them with all kinds of weapons. Jihad, Jihad, Jihad, Jihad....Jihad for the cause of Allah...Jihad has become an obligation of every individual Muslim" He then exhorted all Muslims to "welcome death, welcome martyrdom for the cause for Allah." "Oh Allah," the same cleric continued, "let the infidels fight each other, and dry their blood in their veins. Send Your soldiers against them....destroy their fleet and their weapons; fight their soldiers....make them prey to the Muslims; Allah avenge Muslims' blood from them...Oh Allah, for Thee we fight. We kill and are killed." This hardly sounds like some one loving their enemies.

THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF THE YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, OF THE BIRTH, DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THE CHURCH believes that, as is recorded in Luke 1:1-46, the approximate time of year of the birth of Jesus can be determined as follows. The birth of John the Baptist was foretold in Luke 1:1-25 and is determined by the

time of the service of Zacharias, his father in the temple. Luke 1:5 states that Zacharias was of the course of Abia. From I Chronicles 24:7-19 lists the courses for the year, two per each month, i.e. 15 days per course. The eighth, or the last half of the 4th month, was Abijah or Abia. The first day of the first month occurs on the New Moon nearest the Vernal Equinox (Spring Equinox.) The Spring Equinox is the 20th day of March. Since from new moon to new moon is approximately 29 days then the one nearest the equinox can be from 6th of March to the 3rd of April. For the purpose of this article, the 6th of March will be used as an example for the 1st day of the first month of the new year. Because the course of Abia is the second half of the 4th month, that will be from June 20th to July 3rd. The reason this date is important is that in Luke 1:23-24 it gives the approximate time that Elizabeth, Zacharias wife and the mother of John the Baptist conceived. Mary the mother of Jesus, became pregnant by the power of the Holy Ghost in the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy which would be approximately the first part of January. Nine months later is the first part of October, for the time of the birth of Jesus, not December 25th.

The Passover date as given in Exodus 12:1-11 is determined also by the first day of the first month of the new year and is 14 days later. Using the new moon that we used previously would make the Passover come on the 20th of March in the evening. In the four gospels Jesus takes the Passover and then institutes the Lord's supper with the accompanying emblems. After the Passover, He is taken and then crucified the next day. This would make His crucifixion in this instance approximately the 21st of March.

Jesus had been asked for a sign and He gave the sign of Jonah, that He (Jesus) would be in the grave three days and three nights. Knowing that everything Jesus said came true we can determine when He was placed into the grave by determining when the resurrection occurred. Matthew 28:1 states that Mary Magdalen and the other Mary came to the sepulcher at the end of the Sabbath as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week. Bible days were calculated from evening to evening, i.e. the night was the first part of the day and then the daylight was the 2nd part with the day ending at sunset. Therefore the end of the Sabbath would be at sunset Saturday. They, Mary Magdalen and the other Mary were told by an

angel that Jesus had already risen. In one of the other Gospels they go back to the tomb after sunrise Sunday, and in each case Jesus had already risen. He did not rise Sunday morning. Going back three days from sunset Saturday would give Friday for 2nd day and Thursday for 1st day. The three nights would be Wednesday night, Thursday night and Friday night. Thus, Joseph of Arimathea begged the body of Jesus from Pilate Wednesday evening (before sunset) and wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his (Joseph's) tomb. Jesus could not have died on Friday and then have risen on Sunday, because this would be a contradiction of His own words when He said He would be in the tomb three days and three nights.

Acts 1:3 states that Jesus was seen alive for forty days, and Acts 1:9 states that Jesus was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. He had to return to God the Father before the Holy Spirit could be given. This would make His ascension forty days after the 24th of March, or approximately the 3rd of May. Acts 2:1-4 states that fifty days after the Passover that Pentecost was fully come and that the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost.

In ISLAM, as previously mentioned in other parts of their series, the Islamic religion does not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, or that He was crucified, or was resurrected and was taken up into heaven to be at the right hand of God, nor does it believe that the Holy Spirit is the power of God.

THE TWO PHASES OF THE RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE CHURCH believes that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is in two phases as follows: As recorded in Acts 2:11, we are told that Jesus shall come back on a cloud "---shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." In Revelation 14:14-16, we are told that the Lord Jesus Christ shall reap the saints. The golden crown, one, is the crown representing Him as the king of the saints. The Church believes that this occurs before the beginning of the plagues, and the saints are on the Sea of Glass, the New Jerusalem, during the plagues. The Church believes that this is the "Reaping Phase." At the end of the plagues, the Lord Jesus Christ comes as King of Kings, Lord of Lords with many crowns on a white horse with

an army from heaven. The Beast and the False prophet are taken and thrown into the lake of fire. The rest of the ones fighting against Jesus are slain by the sword from His mouth. This sword is the Word of God. The Church believes that this occurs during the seventh plague, and after this is the beginning of the Millennium where Jesus rules. The Church believes that this second phase of His coming is the "Warring Phase." Thus the return of Jesus is in two phases. At the first phase the Saints are reaped and caught up into the air to meet Him as He comes only as far as the clouds and air. This "Reaping Phase" is proved by verses found in Revelation 14:14-20; I Corinthians 15:51; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 13:39; 24:30-31; 25:31-33; Ephesians 5:27. The "Warring Phase" is proved in Revelation 19:11-16; 17:13-14; II Peter 3:3-7; Ezekiel 39:4-11. Jesus is "The King of Saints," in the first phase of His coming. Revelation 15:3. Jesus is called "King of Kings," when He comes at the second phase. Revelation 11:15; 19:15-16; 17:14.

In ISLAM, the Muslims do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, or that He was crucified, or resurrected, or ascended to be with God in heaven; they could hardly believe that He will return as King of Saints or King of Kings.

The Muslims do believe that there will be an "end time" when the dead will be resurrected and Allah will judge them and the living by their deeds. Sura 56:1-97 describes the judgment and the rewards for those on the right-hand (the good) and those on the left-hand (the evil).

Sura 2:23 states that the reward of those who believe (in Allah) and do the things that are right as to the Koran will abide in Paradise forever.

Sura 11:108-109 indicate that those consigned to hell shall abide therein while the Heavens and the Earth shall last.

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THE SON

*Submitted by
Maryanne George*



A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Viet Nam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, there was knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art. The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." Father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. "It's a gift." The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few

months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of The Son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. We will start the bidding with this picture of The Son. Who will bid for his picture?" There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted, "Will someone bid on this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily, "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs and the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued "The Son! The Son! Who'll take The Son?" Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20? The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!" The auctioneer laid down his gavel, "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "What about the paint-

ings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, in-

cluding the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!" God gave His Son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is, "The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?" Because you see, whoever takes the Son gets it all.

-Author Unknown

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

A LESSON STUDY



"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND NOT SACRIFICE: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:10-13).

Read Genesis 3:1-15.

God created man with the ability to reason, and to know good from evil. Therefore, it was logical that the Creator should give him a law, which He did. God planted in Eden what is called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and instructed Adam that he was not to eat of this tree on the pain of death. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). God did not explain to Adam what would be wrong about eating the fruit of this particular tree. This was not necessary, for Adam should have trusted his Creator even

though he did not understand.

Adam must have communicated this information to Eve. When Eve was approached by the "serpent," who asked if God had really laid down this restriction concerning the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she confirmed the matter, saying, "... We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:2-3).

The serpent, who in reality was a spokesman for the Devil, was quick to reply, and he said, "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). Now we have Satan denying the truthfulness of what God had said. Concerning "that old serpent, which is the Devil" (Revelation 20:2), Jesus said, "...He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

Here Jesus takes us back to the events in Eden. He states that Satan was actually a murderer. It was under his influence that our first parents transgressed God's law, and this resulted in their death. Our Lord further identifies Satan's treachery in Eden by saying that he was "a liar,

and the father of it." It was Satan who fathered the sin of lying, his first being his statement to Eve, "Ye shall not surely die."

Satan was successful in deceiving Eve on that point, and he has successfully carried on his campaign of deception ever since, with the result that only a few throughout the ages have believed God on the subject of death. The vast majority have unwittingly believed Satan. They believe that there is no death! This work of deception will be allowed to continue until the time when Satan will be bound, "..., that he should deceive the nations no more..." (Revelation 20:3). He will bound for a thousand years, and then destroyed.

The fact that the human race began to die despite Satan's assertion, "Ye shall not surely die," proved that he was a liar. But Satan did not propose to allow the fact of death to prove that he was wrong in implying that "there is no death." Soon the theory began to develop, nurtured no doubt by the great deceiver, that after all it is only the

body that dies. It began to be claimed that within each human, as an entity separate from the body, there is a "soul," which never dies.

Various theories developed throughout the years concerning what happens to the soul" when the body dies, among them the eternal torture dogma, purgatory, reincarnation, transmigration of souls, and various others.

Our memory verses remind us of the time when the scribes and Pharisees were surprised to note Jesus's display of mercy and forgiveness. Throughout the ages, and in essentially all parts of the earth, many have thought of their gods as vengeful and cruel. Fear has been utilized to induce men and women to repent and believe in order to escape the terrible fate of eternal torture in a fiery hell.

This does not reflect the true spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ! Our Heavenly Father, Himself, is loving and kind. Jesus, who reflected the image of His Father during His earthly ministry, was compassionate and forgiving. These are our examples!

-Contributed

The Word Of God - A Spiritual Separation Of Good And Evil.

By Siegfried Maywald



In our society, we have educators telling us what is good and what is not good. We see problems arising not only in our educational system, but also in family relationships as well as in moral standards which are now acceptable and even upheld by laws. People complain about the deteriorating quality of our educational systems. They complain about the disastrous effects in our moral standards and the deprivation of family values in general. The

so called "experts" within our educational system are now wondering what went wrong? Through the removal of guidelines to accommodate a so called freedom of choice with total disregard to the consequences, we see that the majority of our youth demonstrates disrespect for authority and parents alike. They became lovers of their own selves, proud, disobedient, blasphemers, without natural affection, fierce, high-minded and lovers of pleasure more than

adhering to discipline and godly advice (II Timothy 3:1-4). And our educators, instead of looking back to the time when more people feared God; refuse to reintroduce those proven standards of education and family values. Or educational experts again look for more new ideas of their own. The suggestion to look and adopt the advice as found in the scriptures is pushed aside as not applicable for our modern society. They reason that the scriptures are outdated and therefore useless and not applicable. But the scriptures tell us in Proverbs 1:7 that: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

We are admonished to incline our ear unto wisdom and apply our hearts to understanding; especially if we look for knowledge and search for understanding. If we turn to the Lord, we will find the knowledge that is of God (Proverbs 2:2-3,5). We are told in Romans 15:4 that: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17). "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15). "A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way" (Proverbs 21:29).

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches" (Jeremiah 9:23). "Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:" (Daniel 2:20). "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). "For it is written, I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND WILL BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world" (I Corinthians 1:19-20). "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, HE TAKETH THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS. And again, THE LORD KNOWETH THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE, THAT THEY ARE VAIN" (I Corinthians 3:19-20). Paul said in I Corinthians 2:4-6: "And my speech

and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought."

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Galatians 5:17).

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to this flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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 6:11-12).

Jesus said to us in Matthew 10:34-38: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to SET A MAN AT VARIANCE AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND THE DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND THE DAUGHTER IN LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER IN LAW. And a MAN'S FOES SHALL BE THEY OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me".

What Jesus wants to tell us here is that He does not overlook deep differences just for the sake of peace, but indicates to us that conflicts will arise between those who choose to follow the will of God and those who do not. Our commitment may separate us from our friends and family members. God does not tell us to become disobedient to parents, but simply indicates that He wants us to make a choice in our commitment to God, because some friends or family members will not agree and follow us in our commitment to different values, immorality, and purpose of life. That does not mean that we have to neglect our family or friends, but remember to place God first, because we are called to fulfill His commission and not

just to find comfort in life. The love and care for our family should not be made an excuse not to find time to serve God.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing ever to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

We read here that the word of God is likened to a double edged sword which sets at variance, which divides, conquers, and gives judgment. It also gives authority and power and reveals the fruit of the Spirit. For all who follow Jesus Christ, it becomes the separator from all the worldly lusts and desires. It also separates those who oppose themselves against God's will from the kingdom of God. It separates the light from the darkness, the truth from the lie and evil thoughts from those that are good.

The word of God is not simply a collection of stories or history books, but it gives us life changing ideas for the betterment to all who abide and learn from it's wisdom. The scriptures are the maintenance manuals and guide for our daily living. If we adopt and incorporate the word of God, His instructions, into our lives, they become an invigorating, powerful source and means of communicating ideas with others. His word enlivens our thoughts and lifts our spirits. It discerns what we are made of in regard to good and evil which lies within us and directs our moral and spiritual life. For there is continually warfare within ourselves, and only with help of the Holy Spirit, can we overcome the influence of evil within us.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (II Corinthians 10:3-5).

We do not war according to worldly standards but bring Godly standards to those who oppose them. Through God's spiritual weapons prayer, faith, hope and love according to the word of God, we find strength, assurance and comfort. Therefore we are admonished: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye maybe able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt

about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" (Ephesians 6:13-17).

Those are powerful weapons which can break down human arguments against God and the wall Satan erects to keep people away from His word. The Apostle Paul refers in illustration to military strategy to describe this warfare against sinful nature and Satan. Nothing is more successful in breaking down those barriers than God's word which is His weapon. Many people may claim this perception in faith as seeking, but God is more powerful. He has more wisdom and does see things in a different way than men do, because we are told that the peace of God transcends all understanding and keeps our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:7). God's peace is different from that of the world (John 14:27). The important thing is to remember that we have to determine ourselves what goes into our minds, because it in turn also determines what comes out in word and action. Our actions speak louder than words, and therefore, we are advised to think only on all that is good and edifying to others. If we have problems within ourselves, let us examine our inputs from television, radio, books or conversation, and rid ourselves of all those things which are of harmful nature and replace them with wholesome thoughts. Read God's word. In it we find comfort and assurance. Let us heed God's invitation when He said in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest to your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received and heard, and seen me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9).

JUST



P.U.S.H!

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man He had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years, he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind. Satan said, "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." Thus, he gave the man the impression that the rock was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time giving just the minimum effort, and that will be enough." That's what the weary man planned to do, but he decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength into doing that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task

was to push. And now you come to me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, and your hands are calloused from constant pressure. Your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in my wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just a simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong...just P.U.S.H!

When the job gets you down...just P.U.S.H!

When people don't react the way you think they should...just P.U.S.H!

When your money is "gone," and the bills are due...P.U.S.H!

When people just don't understand you...just P.U.S.H!

P= Pray...

U= Until...

S= Something...

H= Happens...

From the Internet



CROSS BEARING

By Bond Tennant

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Our Lord made it plain that discipleship requires a willingness to take up a cross to follow Him. What does cross bearing really mean? It does involve our doing God's will and obeying Him under unfavorable conditions. If everything and everyone around us were in complete harmony with God's instructions, the doing of His will would not be a cross! But doing God's will against the oppositions of the world is indeed a cross.

The doing of God's will by Jesus brought him envy, hatred, malice, abuse, persecution, crucifixion and death. Our crosses come to us as a result of doing the Father's will under unfavorable conditions - not merely by saying we approve of His will! God's will must be done day by day. Even if others manifest toward us coldness, resentment, bitterness, malice and abuse, we still must bear the cross!

We are to persevere in doing the will of God even though conditions are unfavorable. We cannot take up our cross one day and put it down the next. We are to be faithful in cross bearing against all oppositions, maintaining our willingness to stand firmly for the Lord, for the truth, and for every principle of righteousness. We do it meekly, humbly, yet firmly. We are to let our light shine before men, and we are to speak the truth in love, and we are to grow in Christ likeness. We must shine as lights in the world and hold forth the Word of life.

We must do the Father's will no matter what the cost to us. Earthly friendships may be broken and enmities enkindled. Evil words may be spoken against us for Christ's sake. We must display self-denial and self-sacrifice. We must be fully conscious of our Lord's words found in Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord,

Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

The Scriptures admonish us to be faithful. We are to be faithful ambassadors of Jesus Christ. "All things are of God who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of the reconciliation; namely, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not counting to them their offences; and has deposited with us the word of the reconciliation. On behalf of Christ, therefore, we are ambassadors; as if God were inviting through us, we entreat, on behalf of Christ, - be you reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:18-20, Emphatic Diaglott). We who will grow in Christ likeness, and faithfully exercise his ambassadorship, will surely know something of the sufferings of Christ, and will be able to say, "..., THE REPROACHES OF THEM THAT REPROACHED THEE FELL ON ME" (Romans 15:3). Jesus did bear witness unto the truth. He proved His loyalty in connection with it, and we are exhorted to do the same!

Suffering as busybodies is not the cross to which Jesus refers. "But let none of you suffer a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (I Peter 4:15). Suffering as children of God, because we are doing our Father's will against all oppositions of the world is bearing the cross. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). Our Lord Jesus Christ is a wonderful leader. It is a privilege to follow Him. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

We are to consider Him who endures such opposition from sinners, so that we may not be wearied and

discouraged in our minds. "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" (Hebrews 12:3). By comparison, we suffered very little. Do we at times complain? Let us consider Jesus. Let us study and meditate

upon His course of action. Let us realize what He overcame by the power of the Holy Spirit Let us read His gracious words of encouragement and take advantage of His wonderful promise to help. In our own strength, we cannot carry the cross. With the Lord's help, we can!

RAISING CHILDREN, GOD'S WAY WHO'S IN CONTROL?

By Melany DeLong



Think about your life before you asked God for forgiveness. Did you feel out of control? Just thinking about it makes me so thankful that I have a God whom I live for. He makes me feel safe and secure, I know that no matter what, He is in control. I like that feeling, as I am sure you do, too. Let's think about our children now. Who is in control of their lives? Are we teaching them that they are the ones in control? Or that we, the parents, are in control, therefore placing God in ultimate control of our lives and theirs.

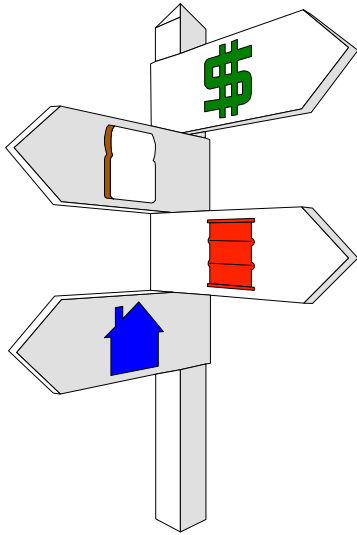
I have seen it many times, the more control a child is given over their own behavior, the worse their behavior becomes. A child can not handle being in charge. It is overwhelming for them, they feel insecure and frightened. They don't feel they can count on their parents to bring them security, what are they to do? They act out more, some throw multiple fits, some hit other children, anything they can do to get someone to say to them "Stop, you may not act this way!". Children need and want someone to set up boundaries of what is acceptable behavior and what is not. If their own parents will not provide this for them who will? Children who are controlled by their parents are happy, content and feel safe.

One common mistake that parents make is to tell their child to do something, then add "OK" at the end. For example: "Time for a nap, OK?" By adding "OK" the sentence becomes a question, to which the child can answer "NO!". Never say "OK" to your child when you are telling them to do something. Instead, for children 2 years old and older give them a choice between two options.

Both options should achieve what the parent is requiring. For example: "It is bed time. Would you like to hold your teddy bear or dolly, while you sleep?" The child should make their choice between the two, then no matter what they choose they should obey their parent's wishes. If this means your forcing them too, then so be it. Sooner or later, your child will catch on that you are the one in charge.

To say that we fully give our lives to God, do we not have to give our children to Him also? We trust God to show us how we must live. We must also trust Him to show us how to raise our children. Christian parents who tolerate their children's bad behavior are teaching their children to defy God. How can parents expect children to fear or respect God when they are not taught to fear or respect their parents? You can be sure that God will hold parents accountable for not raising their children the way he commands them to. Think of Eli, "For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." I Samuel 3:13. God is telling Samuel that he will punish Eli for not punishing his children. Indeed he did, his sons were killed in battle, and Eli's life was cut short too.

Take charge now, before it's too late. Give your children the security they are begging for. Show God that you are an obedient servant. Soon you'll be hearing compliments about how well behaved your children are, instead of disapproving looks or comments about their bad behavior. God bless you and your children.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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

The following articles appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**.

Mormons fastest-growing religion

**Evangelicals also up;
Presbyterians show big decline**

**by Rachel Zoll
Associated Press**

The Mormon church and evangelical faiths grew during the past decade while more liberal Protestant denominations shrank, according to a new census of U.S. religions conducted by a Roman Catholic research group.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grew at the fastest rate, with the Pentecostal denomination Assemblies of God following closely behind, the 2000 Religious Congregations and Membership study found.

The Roman Catholic Church also posted strong growth while its population shifted. More Catholics now live in the West than the traditionally Catholic Midwest, and the Catholic population in the South grew faster than it did in the Northeast.

"That has a lot to do with the growth of the Hispanic population in the United States," said researcher Clifford Grammich, who collected Catholic figures for the study. "How well the church has been holding onto Hispanic Catholics, a study like this can't determine."

The survey, conducted once a decade, was released Tuesday.

The latest version includes Muslims for the first time finding 1.6 million in the United States. The count was

low by millions than some other surveys, but researchers said the figure was only a tally of those active in mosques, not the total American Muslim population. Estimates of all Muslims vary dramatically from 2 million to 6 million.

The study was conducted by the Glenmary Research Center in Nashville, Tenn., a Catholic research and social service organization that coordinates the study with analysts from several faiths.

It's one of just a few religious surveys across denominations.

The 149 participating faiths sent membership estimates to Glenmary, which adjusted the figures to make them comparable. The U.S. Census Bureau does not collect information on religion.

The numbers for each denomination may not be exact, but are close enough to help uncover important trends, said the Rev. Dale Jones, a Church of the Nazarene minister who oversaw the survey.

The study found the Los Angeles metropolitan area was the most diverse urban center, with 106 different denominations reporting members. Illinois was the most diverse state with 120 different faiths.

The evangelical Southern Baptist convention grew by only 4.9 percent during the last decade, but remained the nation's largest Protestant group, with nearly 20 million members, according to Glenmary. Other surveys put the figure closer to 16 million.

Roman Catholics remained the largest denomination in the country, growing 16 percent to 62 million believers. The Mormon church grew about 19 percent to 4.2 million members, while the Assemblies of God grew nearly as quickly to 2.6 million.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was among moderate and liberal Protestant denominations posting a significant loss, dropping by nearly 12 percent to 3.1 million. Mainly Protestant churches have been losing members for decades.

The study put the Jewish population at 6 million, but Jones said the figure researchers gave Glenmary included Jews who were not members of congregations and therefore was difficult to compare with other participating denominations.

Predominantly black denominations, such as the National Baptist Convention, did not participate in the study, since many lack the resources to count their membership, Jones said.

Comment

Mormonism is a religion founded upon the teachings of Joseph Smith. The subject of Mormonism is important because of the Church's influence, power and evangelistic operations. It has over 30,000 missionaries who actively engage in proselytizing throughout the world.

Mormonism claims divine inspiration as its source. Mormons state that their religion was divinely instituted in 1820, when God and Jesus Christ allegedly appeared to Joseph Smith in a dramatic vision. "Jesus" told Smith that Christianity was in a complete apostasy and that he would be guided into the truth, presumably the reestablishment of true Christian faith.

The fact that Joseph Smith or anyone else claims to have divine visions does not automatically prove the visions are from God! People may invent stories of visions for unknown reasons. They may even be the recipient of mental delusions. Even if Joseph Smith was the recipient of genuine supernatural manifestations, how does anyone know they were not clever counterfeits by deceiving spirits who were lying when they claimed to be angels and saints?

The issue of all revelations is reduced to one simple test. If Joseph Smith's revelations deny, contradict, and oppose the Bible, they cannot possibly have originated with God. If they did not originate from God, they have no divine authority and must not be heeded.

Every person has a responsibility to be certain what he or she claims to be from God really is from Him. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians

5:21). "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the father by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Hebrews 1;1-2). The words of God's Son, Jesus Christ, are found only in the Bible!

Scientists discover gene that helps regulate fear

Washington Post

Scientists have long been interested in the brain mechanism's underlying fear - one of the oldest emotions in evolution. Now, they've taken another step in understanding this emotion, which underlies many psychiatric disorders involving anxiety.

Much of the research into fear has focused on the amygdala, a brain structure known to be involved in Pavlovian responses: When harmless signals get associated with unpleasant stimuli, fear is produced when animals next encounter those signals.

In a paper published last week in the journal *Cell*, researchers reported the discovery of a gene active in the amygdala that seems to help regulate how such fears are learned. The gene, dubbed Grp, is active in the regulation of the fear mechanism.

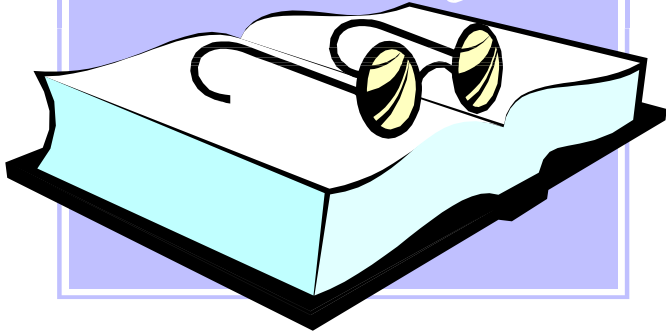
When mice were engineered without the gene, they had a powerful increase in learned fear, in dictating that the gene's effect is to dampen fear by producing a feedback signal. Medicines that activate the gene may produce a new approach to anxiety disorders, researchers said.

Comment

It seems as though every ailment and phobia of man these days is caused by some gene in the body according to some otherwise intelligent men. This is not true when we consider fear from a scriptural standpoint. Let us consider some scriptures on the subject of fear from God's word. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: I have heard of the terms, "The Mystery of Godliness" and "The Mystery of Iniquity." Will you please comment on these two mysteries?

Answer: From the day Satan entered the Garden of Eden, the system of iniquity has been working in the human family. The Mystery of Godliness has also been working. We will not dwell on these two mysteries from a prophetic viewpoint, but we will try to explain them.

When Able offered his lamb by faith, it was the Mystery of Godliness working. When Cain brought his own works without faith, this was the Mystery of Iniquity working. When Cain hated his brother, iniquity was working in its very beginning of a hidden principle. When this mysterious principle went into action, it caused Cain to murder his brother - iniquity and lawlessness in its final stage. Abel meekly bowed and did not resist. This was the Mystery of Godliness. These two mysteries will work in the world until the mystery of God is finished. *"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous"* (I John 3:12). *"But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now"* (Galatians 4:29). These two opposing principles are foremost, but there are many others manifest daily before our eyes - in this working of godliness and of iniquity.

Paul says, "I show you a mystery." If a mystery is

revealed or understood, it is no longer a mystery. Here we are only shown a mystery. There are hidden principals and forces working. You cannot at the present see and comprehend "how" and "why" all these principles and forces are working, but you can observe their "working" which are their outward activities.

There is "truth" and "the lie." These are continually working in every human being and in every segment of human society. The newly born babe manifests both truth and deception. The judge who watches humanity pass before him each day sees these two principles constantly working - the truth and the lie. He may not think deeply of the mystery before him, but he sees it working. There is the lie - the untruth. There is only one truth, and no lie is of the truth. One works on the side of the Mystery of Iniquity, and the other works on the side of the Mystery of Godliness. In the subtleness of the mystery of iniquity, the lie is made to appear as truth. When Jacob presented himself as Esau, that was deception, the lie, iniquity. When the Jews made false accusations against Jesus (Who is Truth), and when Peter swore that he did not know the Man, this was the lying mystery working against the mystery of truth.

Whenever we hear or see a man or woman, preacher or politician, a child of God or a reprobate use deception in any degree, who denies the truth, or who remains silent when he ought to speak, this is the working of the Mystery of Iniquity. Jesus declared, "they that are not for us

are against us." There can be no middle ground between the two mysteries. In divine and moral principles, there cannot be any so-called shades of relevancy. It is either the truth or the lie. It is either right or wrong in God's account. Yet we mortals persist, knowingly or unknowingly, in our effort to confuse the two principles. All of us must have "our own way," our own ideas. This is the way I see it, not as God sees it. When we change God's truth into a lie, it is the working of iniquity.

If we have been baptized and have made a religious profession, we're prone to esteem ourselves to be free from this working of the Mystery of Iniquity. We are also prone to think of other religious people as incapable of working on the side of iniquity. However, past events and the present activities of men and women prove otherwise. When our Lord told His disciples it was necessary that He should suffer and be put to death, Peter said, "..., Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee" (Matthew 16:22). Jesus did not say "Peter," but, "..., Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (verse 23). The real spirit motivating Peter to make such a statement was the same that actuated Judas to betray the Lord of glory and truth. It behooves every child of God to recognize this fearful and frightening possibility that he or she can be the mouthpiece of unrighteousness, and the actor for the enemy of our Lord! This is as part of the mystery. The Lord did not pray for Satan, but for Peter. However, Satan "desired Peter" and used him as his own mouthpiece. Whether or not we can change such events, we must recognize them, and we should recognize our own evil tendencies to drift over on the side of iniquity. Some acts we can recognize as diabolical, but other are so subtle in their working that we fail to recognize them for what they really are. We ignore them, or excuse them, especially in ourselves, or if we are members of the party that "work" them. God is not the author of confusion, but there is confusion, schism, every kind of doctrine, hatred, malice, evil surmising, etc. This is the working of the Mystery of Iniquity. Are we in any way party to it? We must recognize our guilt, great or little though it may be.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father; but is of the world" (I John 2:16). these three things are working today on every hand. It is most

abominable and iniquitous when it is found working in the child of God, the false or the true professor, in the church, and in the pulpit. Instead of "Mortifying the flesh" and seeking the things of the Spirit and of godliness, professing Christians today are seeking to please their fleshly desires, comforts and pride. This is the working of the Mystery of Iniquity. We live in the very dregs of time when Satan is pouring out his filthy lies over the whole earth. We have mounting evidences that Satan is in his "short time" because of the iniquitous flood he is casting forth.

God has rightly, sovereignly and most mercifully made an absolute and decisive SEPARATION between godliness and iniquity, between righteousness and unrighteousness, between the truth and the lie. To whatever degree we are found confusing the two, to that degree we become partakers with Mystery Babylon. We cannot be a partaker of the Lord's table and the table of devils. There is not, and cannot be any concord, nay mixture, any fellowship between Christ (the Truth) and Belial (the liar), between the temple or worship of God and the temple or worship of idols.

May God open our eyes to see ourselves and to discern in our words and daily living - whether it be of God or of Satan, and that we may have our "senses" quickened to discern the difference between the two workings.

Question: What is the Immaculate Conception as taught by the Roman Catholic Church?

Answer: Many assume that the term, Immaculate Conception, is the theological name for the virgin birth. The term does not refer to the birth of Jesus. It refers to the conception of His mother, Mary. The Bible plainly teaches that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35). It says nothing about the conception and birth of Mary. In the twelfth century, many misguided theologians raised the argument that Mary, as the mother of God, must have been immune to original sin, or else her son, despite His moral perfection, would have been born into sin as a natural descendant of Adam.

Although there is no biblical basis for this idea, many accepted it informally for centuries until it was made official dogma by the Roman Catholic Church in 1854.



INDIA

Elder M. Kanakarathnam, our India overseer, (left) and his son Apostle M.Yehoshuva are cutting the ribbon on a recently completed church during the dedication ceremony.





LESSON I

JACOB IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 46:28-34; 47:1-12.

Golden Text: Genesis 47:7.

"And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh."

1. What land did Joseph's family go to? Genesis 46:28.
2. Did Joseph go to meet his family? What did his father do when he saw him? Genesis 46:29.
3. Joseph took his father and five of his brothers to Pharaoh. What question did Pharaoh ask them, and what was their answer? Genesis 47:3-4.
4. What did Pharaoh tell Joseph to do with his brethren? Genesis 47:5-6.
5. Jacob blessed Pharaoh and then Joseph takes his family into the best land of Egypt. What were the names of this city and country? Genesis 47:10-11, 27.
6. Did Joseph continue to see that his family had bread? Genesis 47:12.
7. How long did Jacob live in Egypt, and how old was he? Genesis 47:28.
8. When Jacob became old and sick, what request did he have for Joseph? Genesis 47:29-30.

LESSON II

THE LAST DAYS OF JACOB

Scripture Reading: Genesis 49:28-33; 50:3, 11, 15, 19-26.

Golden Text: Hebrews 11:22.

"By faith Joseph, when he died, make mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave

commandment concerning his bones."

NOTE: Jacob has called his sons together so that he could tell them what would befall them in the last days and to bless them. Genesis 49:1-2.

1. After Jacob (Israel) blesses his sons, what did he instruct them to do? Genesis 49:28-30,33.
2. How many days did the Egyptians mourn over the death of Jacob? Genesis 50:3.

NOTE: A score is twenty years.

3. When Joseph and his brethren returned Jacob to the land of his father, what did the inhabitants say? Genesis 50:11.
4. After Jacob was buried, what did Joseph's brothers say about Joseph? Genesis 50:15.
5. How did Joseph treat his brothers after his father died? Genesis 50:19-21.
6. How long did Joseph live in Egypt? Genesis 50:22.
7. What were Joseph's last words to his family? Genesis 50:24-26.

LESSON III

ISRAEL IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:7-22.

Golden Text: Exodus 1:7.

"And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly; and the land was filled with them."

1. What happened to the children of Israel who lived in Egypt after Joseph died? Exodus 1:6-7.
2. How did the new Egyptian Pharaoh feel about the children of Israel? Exodus 1:8-10.

- 3. What did the Egyptians first do with the Children of Israel? Exodus 1:11.
- 4. Why did the Egyptians still continue to grieve? Exodus 1:12.
- 5. How were the Children of Israel treated by the Egyptians? Exodus 1:13-14.
- 6. What did the evil Egyptian King next command? Exodus 1:15-16.
- 7. Did the midwives do as the king commanded? Why? Exodus 1:17-21.
- 8. What did Pharaoh still command his people to do? Exodus 1:22.

LESSON IV

THE BIRTH OF MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 2:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 2:10 (last part).

"And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that Pharaoh ordered all boy babies be put to death. We will now learn about Moses and how he is saved.

- 1. When Moses was born, what did his mother do to save him? Exodus 2:2-4.
- 2. Who found baby Moses in the river? Exodus 2:5-6.
- 3. What did the sister of the baby say to Pharaoh's daughter? Exodus 2:7.
- 4. Whom did she call to nurse the baby? Exodus 2:8.
- 5. Did the mother take the child and nurse it? Exodus 2:9.

6. Did Moses become the son of Pharaoh's daughter? Why did she call him Moses? Exodus 2:10.

7. Moses' true parents had faith that God would save their baby? Hebrews 11:23.

BIBLE RIDDLES

- 1. Once when Adam fell asleep, This was taken from his keep.
- 2. Once I set fire to a field of corn. That was before my locks were shorn, or I lost the power of eyes to see. The lady who did marry me.
- 3. Once with tears I hard did cry. And use my hair as a towel to dry. The dampness on the Master's feet. When He did with a Pharisee eat.
- 4. Once while traveling down a road. I put a human with my load. Beaten he was and left for dead, but I nursed him well and bought bed.
- 5. Once they found me in a tree, which I had climbed a parade to see. Then I gave a goodly meal to the Christ who the sick did heal.

Answers: 1. A rib, 2. Samson, 3. A sinning woman, 4. The Good Samaritan, 5. Zaccheus

FIND THE WORDS

Find these words in the letters below.

**Disciples Boat Wind Afraid
Quiet Faith**



SOMETIMES GOD SAYS NO

by Dorothy Walter

Jonnie wanted a new wagon for his birthday. He wanted a new wagon more than he had ever wanted anything else in his life.

"Will you get me a wagon for my birthday, Mother?" he asked.

Mother shook her head slowly. "I don't see how we can this time. There have been so many bills to pay since Betsy was sick. No, son, I'm afraid we can't get it this birthday. Maybe later."

But Jonnie wanted a new wagon. "I'll ask Jesus for a wagon," he said. "Jesus knows how important it is for a boy to have a wagon."

"Do you really need a new wagon, Jonnie?" Mother asked.

"We-e-e-ll," admitted Jonnie, "I guess I could get along without a new one. But Billy has a new red racer, and I want one, too."

"Do you think that you should pray for something you don't really need?" Mother asked quietly. "Jesus is always ready to give us the things we really need. But I'm not so sure we should ask Him for things that are just wants."

Jonnie didn't say any more. But he kept thinking about the wagon. And every night in his prayer he would ask Jesus to send him a new red racer like Billy's. And the more he prayed, the more sure he was that he was going to get it.

Jonnie could hardly wait for his birthday to come. He told all his little friends about the new wagon. Only he

didn't tell them about praying for it. He just told them that he was getting a new wagon for his birthday.

Finally the night before his birthday came. Jonnie was so excited that he could hardly go to sleep. He could hardly wait to play with the new wagon.

The next morning Jonnie woke up early. He could hear Mother in the kitchen downstairs. He didn't stop to dress. He didn't even put on his house slippers. He ran down the stairs as fast as he could go. He ran in the kitchen. "Where it is? Where is it?" He shouted

"Where is what?" Mother asked.

"My wagon," said Jonnie. "My new red wagon."

"But, Jonnie," Mother said. "I explained to you that we couldn't buy a wagon for you."

"I know that," said Jonnie. "But I prayed, and Jesus is going to give me a wagon."

Mother sat down in the big rocking chair by the window. "Come here, Jonnie," she said. She set him on her lap. "Now, son, let's talk this over."

"But, Mother," Jonnie cried, "I prayed and Jesus answers prayer."

"Yes," said Mother. "Jesus does answer prayer. But only when we ask for the right things in the right way. Daddy and I have to say NO sometimes when you ask for something. It is the same way with Jesus. Jesus sometimes has to say no, too."

"But, why?" Jonnie asked. "He can do anything He wants to. He's got more money than anyone else in the whole wide world. Why couldn't He give me a wagon?"

"He could do it," said Mother quietly. "But He knows what is best for each one of us. When we ask for something selfishly, then we shouldn't have what we are asking for. For weeks you have thought about nothing but that wagon. I think Jesus wants you to learn about the importance of things. And maybe when you can put what Jesus wants for you first, instead of thinking only of what you want-" Mother smiled down at Jonnie, "Then maybe He might help us get you the wagon after all."

Jonnie didn't say anything for a long time. At last he said in a small voice, "I see. I didn't ask Jesus whether He wanted me to have it. I just said, 'Give it to me.'"

"That's about it," said Mother.

Jonnie reached up and gave Mother a big hug. "I was selfish. Next time I'll try to remember to be unselfish instead."

FATHERS AND SONS

First match the names of these fathers and sons. Then find the names of both in the puzzle.

FATHERS

1. ____ Adam
2. ____ Abraham
3. ____ Jesse
4. ____ Kish
5. ____ Terah
6. ____ Zebedee
7. ____ Nun
8. ____ David
9. ____ Noah
10. ____ Joseph
11. ____ Manoah
12. ____ Shaphat
13. ____ Aaron
14. ____ Isaac
15. ____ Nebat
16. ____ Solomon
17. ____ Zacharias
18. ____ Haran
19. ____ Saul
20. ____ Jacob

SONS

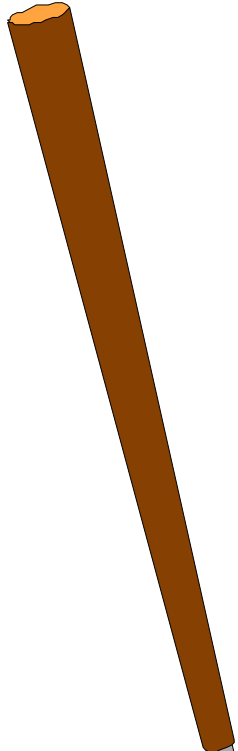
- A. Abraham
- B. Solomon
- C. Samson
- D. Manasseh
- E. Esau
- F. Isaac
- G. Lot
- H. Abihu
- I. Rehoboam
- J. Jeroboam
- K. Seth
- L. Jonathan
- M. Shem
- N. Gad
- O. David
- P. John
- Q. Elisha
- R. James
- S. Joshua
- T. Saul



What Dads Want

By Del DeLong

*A hammer, saw or wrench,
Are things Dads like to get.
Pliers and a ruler,
Are always a sure bet.*



*Dads like to build with wood,
And sometimes metal too.
They like to build with nails,
And fix things up with glue.*

*The best thing that Dads want,
Is obedience and love -
A character that's flawless,
That's guided from above.*

*Dads love to see their children,
Walk in all God's ways,
To keep all His commandments,
Each and every day.*

