

The  
**Advocate**  
of  
**Truth**





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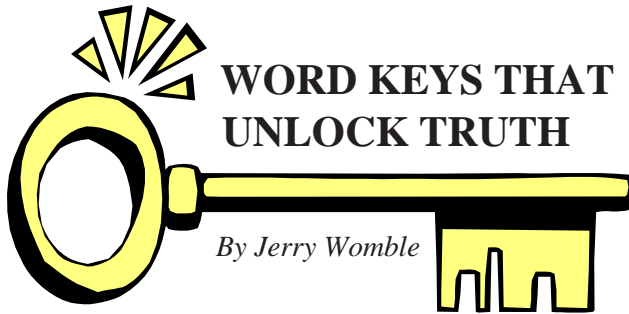
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## EXAMINE

I am thinking of the way "examine" is used in I Corinthians 11:28 where Paul says "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread, and let him drink of that cup". The word "examine" here has the Greek meaning of scrutinize. The meaning then is not to take a quick look at ourselves but to dig deep into all things of our life.

It is the things that we say, and one of things we are told to do is to put off filthy communications of our mouth.

It is things that we do and the Bible says "do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31).

It is the things we think, and in the Old Testament the psalmist says "Create in me a clean heart" (Psalm 51:10). In the New Testament we are reminded that we should have the mind of Christ if we profess to be a Christian.

With the detailed cleaning that Israel was to do to put all leaven out of their homes at the time of the Passover, we are to use the same scrutiny in putting sin out of our

lives.

I encourage you to do this, not just at the time of the Lord's Supper, but throughout the year so that we would be ready to meet Jesus should He come today.

## HE LOVED US

**"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5).**

To have found us and to have borne with us would have been wonderful indeed, but the blessed Lord Jesus not only manifested His patience in bearing with us- He loved us! And what a difference it makes when one is loved. We may recall those who have found it possible to bear with us. By some means they have succeeded in developing sufficient patience to take into consideration our many infirmities and suffer the same. So there are those who have found it possible to respect us, notwithstanding allow weakness, but in the mercy of God we have been blessed with another class, a smaller circle of friends, it may be, who have really loved us.

We read of one who asked Hudson Taylor the question: "Are you always conscious of abiding in Christ?"

"While I was sleeping last night," he replied, "Did I cease to abide in your house because I was unconscious of the fact? We should never be conscious of not abiding in Christ." Let us never lose the consciousness of our Redeemer's undying love.

## THE BLESSING OF THE RESURRECTION

**PARDON, PEACE, PURITY, POWER,  
PRESENCE, PRIVILEGE, PROMISE**

Reprinted from "The Advocate of Truth" March 1993



### PARDON

With the Lord's Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus comes the most joyous time of the Church of God. For this season means a new beginning and one of radiant joy, and it brings with it some of the best blessings of Jesus Christ, the Risen One, to His believing people.

The resurrection of Jesus brings and seals our pardon. "Who was delivered of our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25.) The offering of Jesus for us being accepted, and the offered being raised

from the dead, God can now offer a full pardon to Believers in Christ. "God acquits the ungodly who believe in Christ, and declares them just ... This acquittal, insofar as it is the act of God as judge, an Executive administering law, may be denominated pardon." (Strong).

### PEACE

Peace is a blessing of the resurrection of Christ. It would seem that the one particular blessing the Lord wished His disciples to have was the blessing of peace. Just before His resurrection He spoke peace to them. In the upper room He said to them: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). He wished them to be courageous. Then, almost as a last word before His apprehension, having left the upper room He spoke to them again: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

It was to confirm that peace that He came for them in the resurrection, and spoke peace to their fearful hearts. "Then on the same day at evening being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, peace be unto you" (John 20:19). It was the word of the victorious One to banish fears. He had made peace through the blood of His cross (Colossians 1:20). Jesus now came to proclaim and confirm it in the Person of the resurrected One.

### PURITY

Purity of life is a blessing of the Resurrection. Chapters 5 and 6 of Romans teach it. The Child of God needs more than pardon. He needs purity of life after pardon in the resurrection of Jesus. Provision is made for the Believer to walk in purity of life. Romans 5:10 tells us of it: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." We shall be kept safe in His life, in the life of the risen One, who now lives for us, and we in him. Romans 6, the provision for purity of life through the resurrection of Christ is "more fully unfolded." There are shown "the life aspect, our vital incorporation with our Redeemer, our part and lot in His resurrection -life." (Elder Strong).

Through the resurrection of Christ a pardoned sinner may live the life outlined in Romans 6 - a life in which "he liveth unto God" (verse 10) a life that is "free from sin" (verse 18, 22), a life that has its "fruit unto holiness" (verse 22). The Holy Spirit was sent forth by the living Christ to do in us subjectively what was done for us objectively on the cross. Elder E.W. Strong (now deceased) wrote: "I often pray, Lord, make me as holy as a ordinary sinner can be made."

### POWER

Power is a blessing of the resurrection of Christ. The Apostle Paul desired to know Christ "and the power of his resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). The Believer in Christ needs and must have power - the power of the resurrected Jesus.

Power is associated with and displayed in the resurrection of Christ more than anything else connected with Him. We read of "the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead" (Ephesians 1:19-20). Our Lord's present resurrected life is by the power of God, as the Scriptures say, "For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God" (II Corinthians 13:4).

### PRESENCE

Perhaps the most personal blessing of the resurrection of Christ to the Believers is His Presence. The last words of Matthew 28 are of great precociousness to the Children of God. The resurrected Jesus said, "And, lo, I am with you always." The original is quite expressive, and reads, "And, behold, I with you am all the days." The words emphasizing continuity more than the English adverb. (Ellicott's commentary).

It is interesting and instructive to note that each Gospel has an ending peculiar to itself. Matthew ends with the resurrection of Christ. Mark ends with the ascension of Christ. Luke ends with the promise of the Holy Spirit. John ends with a word about the second coming of Christ.

In his life of warfare for the truth, Paul was encouraged by the knowledge of the presence of Christ. In Corinth the Lord said to him, "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace; for I am with thee, and no man

shall set on thee to hurt thee" (Acts 18:8-10). And in his final "defense" of the faith then "all men forsook": him, the Lord stood with him, and strengthened him (II Timothy 4:16-17). The resurrection of Jesus makes him personally present with us; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you" (John 14:18).

### PRIVILEGE

The resurrection of Jesus brings with it a special privilege to the believer. Every Believer is united with the resurrected Christ. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead" (Romans 7:4). Believers are privileged to sit with Christ in His resurrected state: "And that raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). This privilege that belongs to each Believer through the resurrection of Christ, is emphasized in Colossians 3:1-3: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth, For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." This may make you think that you will go to heaven, but at the res-

## THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS

BY DANIEL SANCHEZ

The power of the blood of Jesus can not be measured. Through it we can obtain the gift of God, eternal life. It is the only way we can receive forgiveness for our sins.

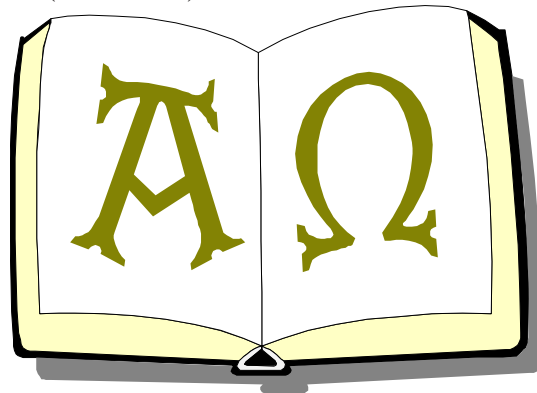
The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is so precious that the world cannot place any value or wealth upon it whatsoever. God, our Heavenly Father, manifested His love toward mankind. He does not want a single person to perish..

The Apostle Peter had this in mind when he wrote,

urrection the Lord comes down from heaven bringing the reward with him (Revelation 22:12). We will sit with Jesus in the New Jerusalem which is the reward of the saints. The New Jerusalem comes down from God out of heaven (Revelation 21:10, 24-27). We must seek the things that are above (The New Jerusalem), and when it comes down with Christ we will "come unto mount ZION, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem..." (Hebrews 12:22). After the reign of Jesus, He will lead us to His Father, and we will be with Him throughout eternity.

### PROMISE

Another blessing of the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus is a precious promise. It is stated in John 14:19: "Because I live, ye shall live also." It is a promise of our own resurrection. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised..." (I Corinthians 15:51-52). The Lord's resurrection is the promise and the guarantee of the resurrection of His people. "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus" (II Corinthians 4:14). The Lord Jesus said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." What a wonderful promise! (John 14:19).



"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). We must repent of our sins! Timothy wrote, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Timothy 2:26). We need a Saviour!

Before Jesus was born, our Heavenly Father raised up prophets who recorded future events to transpire. Isaiah records, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; be-



cause the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he that sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). It was this prophecy that Jesus read in the synagogue. Please read Luke 4:14-19.

The Apostle John wrote, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Man has gone astray, and the call is open to all who will listen and respond. Repentance is needed to be right with God!

The Apostle Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). The Apostle Paul said, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13).

Let us read Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost that made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." To receive Jesus our Saviour we must be sure that we are headed in the right direction. Otherwise we are still lost!

We read the words of the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Speaking of this newness of life, the Apostle Paul wrote, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:9). Hebrews 9:22 records, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission."

The Bible declares that those true believers and doers in the Church of God are perfected forever. We read in Hebrews 10:14, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Who are those that are sanctified? Paul answers this question in I Corinthians 1:1-2, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place

call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's." It is clear that the ones who are sanctified are the saints of the Church of God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper with His twelve disciples in Jerusalem. He showed them how to carry on the example. During the first Lord's Supper, "Jesus took bread, and blessed it and brake it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28).

## THE INSPIRATION OF THE WORD

The Apostle Paul wrote, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). The word Paul used for inspiration means "God-breathed." This is what makes the great difference. God's breath is in the Word. Today, God's people need to place much emphasis on this truth. The enemy, Satan, tries to deny, dilute, or prevent the meaning of inspiration.

Let us remind ourselves of two erroneous positions taken in recent years:

### LIBERAL.

A few years ago the people who were known as modernists and later as liberals took the position that the Bible contains the word of God. They then proceeded to try to decide what was and what wasn't inspired and authoritative. When this position demonstrated its bankruptcy, a new position was advanced.

### NEORTHODOX.

There are various shades of neorthodoxy. It is impossible to state them all. The proponents of this teaching generally hold that though the writers were inspired, it doesn't mean their writings are the word of God. The writings are considered susceptible to historical, scientific, and even theological error. For instance, they try to make a distinction between the fact of Christ's death and Paul's teaching that it was for our sins. "For I delivered unto to you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3-4). So we see that the neorthodox is as bad as the liberal. We

are glad that we don't have to decide which is inspired and which isn't inspired. Both of these positions make an effort to (1) call the Bible a human book, (2) limit its authority, and (3) deny its inerrancy.

The Apostle Peter said, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21). That is exactly what Paul wrote to Timothy in II Timothy 3:16.

God has given us the Bible that is dependable, and we can trust it. We can stake our salvation of it and order our lives by it!

Contributed

### THE TEMPLE OF GOD

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Corinthians 3:17).

David had a desire to build a house (temple) for God to dwell in. However, David was not permitted to build the temple. After Solomon had built it, we find that many times it was defiled by the people. God has said that our bodies are the temple of God and that He will dwell in us. I am sure that if you were looking for company to come and see you, you would want to clean house and get ready for them. Even so, we should clean house before we expect God to come and dwell in us. Sometimes we invite God to a very unclean house. Perhaps that is why He does not stay with us. Neither should we clean house and let it stand empty. We know how, in life, people are al-

ways looking for someplace to live. If they notice an empty house, they want to move right in, So when our house (our body, the house of God) has been cleaned, we should not let it remain empty or else some unclean spirit will enter in and take up his abode with us. We should pray to God to come in. He stands at the door wanting but will wait for an invitation. God will never force an entrance in to our lives

Neither can we expect God to take up His abode in an unclean house. There are many ways in which we can defile the temple of God. It may be through some unclean habit we have, or through an unclean disposition. We may even be as the Scribes and Pharisees. Christ called them hypocrites because they cleaned up outwardly only. They never thought of eating without first washing their hands. They were clean in garments. However, Christ said that they were like white sepulchers that were painted white on the outside but were full of dead men's bones. God has said He would destroy those who defile His temple, but our fear of punishment should not be our incentive to prepare our bodies to be the temple of God. But rather we should want to be clean in body and spirit that we might aim the blessing by having God dwell with us. God wants to dwell in a people that love Him. If we truly love Him, we will want to do the things that please him.

It is true that God warns people what the result will be if they do not obey Him. However, He is much more pleased with us if we obey without him having to threaten us. Parents are much more happy over their children when those children honor and obey them through love rather than from fear of punishment. So it is with God!

Contributed



## NEVER GIVE UP WHEN YOU ARE FRUSTRATED, NEVER GIVE UP!

Read Luke 5:1-11.

Some have the idea that Jesus was an unpopular man while on earth. However, one could never read the Gospel account and believe such a thing. Multitudes pressed

upon Him to hear what He had to say. Such was the case recorded in Luke 5:1-11. Jesus stood by Lake Gennesaret. He saw two ships by the lake. He entered

into Simon's ship and asked him to thrust out a little from the land. He then sat down and taught the people out of the ship. What was Jesus's message that day? What did He say to the multitude? What was His text? No one really knows. In His omniscience, God felt it more important to tell us what Jesus said to one man than what He said to the multitude.

Jesus told Simon Peter to launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a drought. Jesus was saying, "Peter, you blessed Me by allowing Me to use this boat, and I'm a debtor to no man. Now I'm going to bless you." Hear the words of Simon Peter as He laments to the Saviour. "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing." We must keep in mind that these were experienced fishermen. They fished for a living. Yet Peter says, "We have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing." It wasn't that they had not put forth great effort; they just had nothing to show for it.

It isn't difficult for many of us to identify with what Peter was saying. Trying, struggling, doing every thing possible, yet when it seems like we've tried our hardest, we have the least to show for it. We toiled all night and took nothing!

Peter was tired, discouraged, despondent and defeated. Perhaps he had visited his favorite fishing holes-places where he had caught fish before! He used the same nets that he had used before. Yet after laboring all night, he caught nothing. But Simon Peter said, "nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." Circumstances say, "There's no need to try." Faith says, "Try it one more time." Feelings say, "Give up, resign, leave." Faith says, "With God I'm more than a conqueror." The devil says, "You'll never do any good where you are." God says, "If I am for you, who can stand against you?"

Jesus was saying, "Let down your net for a drought: I want to bless you." Peter let down his net, and as he began pulling it in, the net was so full of fish it began to break. Peter called for his partners, James and John, who were in another boat, to come over and help. They filled both boats until it seemed like they would sink.

When Peter realized what was happening, "He fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." But Jesus said, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." On this particular day, Peter caught a boatload of fish. Later, his preaching would be used to save 3,000 souls in one day and 5,000 an-

other day.

Perhaps Jesus was saying to Peter, "Peter when you're discouraged, when you're down and out, when you're despondent, when you're defeated, when you feel like quitting, remember this: Never give up!"

**WHEN YOU HAVE FALTERED,  
NEVER GIVE UP!**

Read Matthew 14:22-33.

Peter would need that lesson many times in his ministry. On one such occasion, Jesus sent His disciples to the other side of the lake while He stayed behind to pray. He prayed until the fourth watch-the darkest hour. With a storm raging over the sea, the disciples were anxious. They kept rowing, getting nowhere.

Finally Jesus came to them, walking on sea. The disciples thought He was a spirit and were afraid. Jesus spoke, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Then Peter spoke up, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me to come unto thee on the water." Jesus responded, "Come." Peter climbed out of the boat and started walking to Jesus on the water.

We must not ask God to do something if we really don't want Him to do it! Peter walked out a little way and took his eyes off Jesus. He looked at the water, the waves, the winds, the storm and the circumstances; He began to go under! What would Peter do now? He could have given up and sank to the bottom. The devil could have said, "Peter, you are a total failure. You've tried and you failed. Why don't you give up?"

Peter could have attempted to succeed in his own strength. He could have tried to come back to the boat. Sometimes when we lose the Spirit, we try in the flesh. The Apostle Paul said, "Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3)

Fortunately, Peter knew what to do. He cried out to Jesus. When we fail, when we sin, we must call out to Jesus. He wants us to "sin not," but if we sin, "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for...(our) sins." Jesus is saying, "I don't want you to sin, but if you so sin, don't give up. Call on Me."

Peter cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus reached down, took Peter by the hand, and helped him return to the boat. If you once walked with God but now are sinking in the waters of sin, if you feel like quitting and never trying again,



cry out to Jesus. He'll reach down His hand to you as He did for Peter, and you who walked before can get up and walk again.

**WHEN YOU HAVE FAILED,  
NEVER GIVE UP!**

Read Matthew 26.

"Peter, never give up!" He'd need that lesson again as time neared for Jesus to be crucified. Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31). Peter insisted he would never be offended because of Jesus, that he was ready to die with Jesus if necessary, that he would never deny his Lord. But Jesus told him, "Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."

Jesus and His disciples went to the garden to pray. He left most of the disciples in one part of the garden, taking only Peter, James and John further into the garden with Him. Then He left even them behind. He went yet further to pray. It is wonderful that we in the church have the privilege of sharing one another's burdens? At times, however, we only feel comfortable sharing with the inner circle. Other times, it's just God alone. Jesus must have similar feelings.

After Jesus had completed His self-purging prayer of commitment, a posse from the house of the high priest came for him. Peter had told Jesus, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee." Now he had a sword to prove it. He was ready to fight off the entire posse by himself! He took out the sword to attack. Perhaps he

was aiming for the head of Malchus, servant of the high priest. Perhaps when he swung the sword, Malchus saw it coming and ducked, and Peter cut off only his ear.

It seems that Jesus would have looked at Peter and said, "Thank you, Peter. I appreciate that." Instead Jesus rebuked him. It's tough serving God when you can't totally understand what is happening.

Peter followed afar off all the way to the courtyard of the high priest. While there, he thrice denied knowing Christ. He denied being one of the disciples, even to the point of cursing. About that time, Jesus was led across the courtyard. No words were exchanged, but the eyes of Jesus met the eyes of Peter. Volumes were spoken in that look!

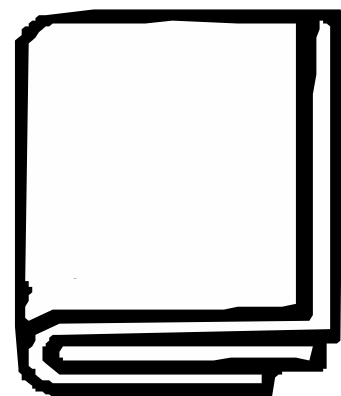
Perhaps Peter was reminded of what Jesus had said, "Simon, didn't I tell you that Satan desired to have you, to sift you as wheat? I told you you'd fail Me, Peter, but don't forget that I've prayed for you-and I have confidence in my prayer. So when you're converted, I want you to be the one to strengthen the brethren."

Peter had done what he had said he would never do-deny Jesus. So what did Peter do now? Quit? Give up?

No sir! Perhaps he still remembered that lesson from way back in the beginning-"Peter, when it looks like there's no hope because you've become a total failure, never, never give up! Get up and try again. "Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Peter became a leader of the church. Oh no, Peter, never, never, never give up.

## THE FOLDED NAPKIN - A TRUCKERS STORY



**(If this doesn't light your fire...your wood is wet!!)**

I try not to be biased, but I had my doubts about hiring Stevie. His placement counselor assured me that he would be a good, reliable busboy. But I had never had a

mentally handicapped employee and wasn't sure I wanted one. I wasn't sure how my customers would react to Stevie. He was short, a little dumpy with the smooth facial features and thick-tongued speech of Downs Syndrome. I wasn't worried about most of my trucker cus-

tomers because truckers don't generally care who buses tables as long as the meatloaf platter is good and the pies are homemade. The four-wheeler drivers were the ones who concerned me; the mouthy college kids traveling to school; the yuppie snobs who secretly polish their silverware with their napkins for fear of catching some dreaded "truck stop germ"; the pairs of white-shirted business men on expense accounts who think every truck stop waitress wants to be flirted with. I knew those people would be uncomfortable around Stevie so I closely watched him for the first few weeks.

I shouldn't have worried. After the first week, Stevie had my staff wrapped around his stubby little finger, and within a month my truck regulars had adopted him as their official truck stop mascot.

After that, I really didn't care what the rest of the customers thought of him. He was like a 21-year-old in blue jeans and Nikes, eager to laugh and eager to please, but fierce in his attention to his duties. Every salt and pepper shaker was exactly in its place, not a bread crumb or coffee spill was visible when Stevie got done with the table.

Our only problem was persuading him to wait to clean a table until after the customers were finished. He would hover in the background, shifting his weight from one foot to the other, scanning the dining room until a table was empty. Then he would scurry to the empty table and carefully bus dishes and glasses onto the cart and meticulously wipe the table up with a practiced flourish of his rag. If he thought a customer was watching, his brow would pucker with added concentration. He took pride in doing his job exactly right, and you had to love how hard he tried to please each and every person he met.

Over time, we learned that he lived with his mother, a widow who was disabled after repeated surgeries for cancer. They lived on their Social Security benefits in public housing two miles from the truck stop. Their social worker, who stopped to check on him every so often, admitted they had fallen between the cracks. Money was tight, and what I paid him was probably the difference between them being able to live together and Stevie being sent to a group home. That's why the restaurant was a gloomy place that morning last August, the first morning in three years that Stevie missed work.

He was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester getting a new valve or something put in his heart. His social worker said

that people with Downs Syndrome often have heart problems at an early age so this wasn't unexpected, and there was a good chance he would come through the surgery in good shape and be back at working in a few months.

A ripple of excitement ran through the staff later that morning when word came that he was out of surgery, in recovery, and doing fine. Frannie, the head waitress, let out a war hoop and did a little dance in the aisle when she heard the good news. Belle Ringer, one of our regular trucker customers, stared at the sight of this 50-year-old grandmother of four doing a victory shimmy beside his table. Fannie blushed, smoothed her apron and shot Belle Ringer a withering look.

He grinned. "OK Frannie, what was that all about?" he asked.

"We just got word that Stevie is out of surgery and going to be okay."

"I was wondering where he was. I had a new joke to tell him. What was the surgery about?"

Frannie quickly told Belle Ringer and the other two drivers sitting at this booth about Stevie's surgery then sighed: "Yeah, I'm glad he is going to be OK" she said. "But I don't know how he and his Mom are going to handle all the bills. From what I hear, they're barely getting by as it is." Belle Ringer nodded thoughtfully, and Frannie hurried off to wait on the rest of her tables.

Since I hadn't had time to round up a busboy to replace Stevie and really didn't want to replace him, the girls were busing their own tables that day until we decided what to do. After the morning rush, Frannie walked into my office. She had a couple of paper napkins in her hand and a funny look on her face

"What's up?" I asked. "I didn't get that table where Belle Ringer and his friends were sitting cleared off after they left, and Pony Pete and Tony Tipper were sitting there when I got back to clean it off" she said. "This was folded and tucked under a coffee cup." She handed the napkin to me, and three \$20 bills fell onto my desk when I opened it. On the outside, in big, bold letters, was printed "Something For Stevie". "Pony Pete asked me what this was all about," she said, "so I told him about Stevie and his Mom and everything, and Pete looked at Tony and Tony looked at Pete, and they ended up giving me this." She handed me another paper napkin that had "Something For Stevie" scrawled on its outside. Two \$50 bills were tucked within its folds. Frannie looked at me with

wet, shiny eyes, shook her head and said simply: "Truckers."

That was three months ago. Today is Thanksgiving, the first day Stevie is supposed to be back to work. His placement worker said he's been counting the days until the doctor said he could work, and it didn't matter at all that this was a holiday. He called 10 times in the past week, making sure we knew he was coming, fearful that we had forgotten him or that his job was in jeopardy. I arranged to have his mother bring him to work. I then met them in the parking lot and invited them both to celebrate his day back. Stevie was thinner and paler, but couldn't stop smiling as he pushed through the doors and headed for the back room where his apron and busing cart were waiting.

"Hold up there, Stevie, not so fast," I said. I took him and his mother by their arms. "Work can wait for a minute. To celebrate you coming back, breakfast for you and your mother is on me!"

I led them toward a large corner booth at the rear of the room. I could feel and hear the rest of the staff following behind as we marched through the dining room. Glancing over my shoulder, I saw booth after booth of grinning

truckers empty and join the procession. We stopped in front of the big table. Its surface was covered with coffee cups, saucers and dinner plates, all sitting slightly crooked on dozens of folded paper napkins.

"First thing you have to do, Stevie, is clean up this mess," I said. I tried to sound stern. Stevie looked at me, and then at his mother, then pulled out one of the napkins. It had "Something for Stevie" printed onto the outside. As he picked it up two \$10 bills fell on the table.

Stevie stared at the money, then at all the napkins peeking from beneath the tableware, each with his name printed or scawled on it. I turned to his mother.

"There's more than \$10,000 in cash and checks on the table, all from truckers and trucking companies that heard about your problems. "Happy Thanksgiving,"

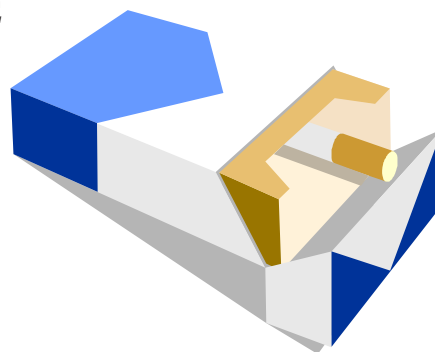
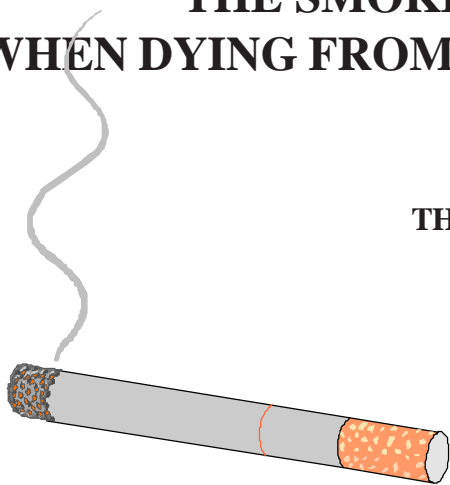
Well, it got real noisy about that time, with everybody hollering and shouting, and there were a few tears, as well. But you know what's funny? While everybody else was busy shaking hands and hugging each other, Stevie, with a big, big smile on his face, was busy cleaning. Gathering cups and dishes from the table. Best worker I ever hired.

Plant a seed and watch it grow.

- From the Internet

## THE SMOKER'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT WHEN DYING FROM SMOKING ISN'T THE WORST OF IT

BY MARY TURNER  
THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE



This is a very emotional subject for me; it's about my own personal holocaust. If it's graphic, it's supposed to be. It's about what a lifetime of smoking can do to you. I

know that it's a smoker's right to choose to smoke, but I think smokers also have a right to know what they're choosing. And I think that when you've read this, you'll



know why I implore smokers to quit.

You see, my mother smoked for 44 years, starting at the age of 16, and smoked at least a pack a day. Always a stylish woman, my mother proved to be very avant-garde when she developed a perforated ulcer (a disease nearly unheard of in women at that time) at the age of 39. After that, she frequently suffered from bleeding ulcers as well. Her ulcers problems dogged her until she was 61, when she went to the dentist, who told her, "That spot on your tongue doesn't look good!" She quit cold turkey, but she did indeed have tongue cancer. (It was no coincidence that she didn't get ulcers again. Cigarettes inhibit the stomach's ability to maintain its lining, leaving it more vulnerable to its acids.)

It took two surgeries to stamp out the tongue cancer and another to remove five teeth from the right side of her lower jaw, and part of her cancerous jaw as well. Count five teeth from the back of your mouth. You'll find that without those, it's rather hard to chew. I guess it didn't matter much because during these procedures, she also lost part of her sense of taste, and nerves in her tongue and lips were damaged, making it difficult for her to speak or eat, or even know when she was drooling. But she was able to go back to work and live her life, though not with the same gusto.

I'm happy to report that she enjoyed another eight good years, until, at the age of 69, she developed lung cancer. The prognosis was that if she just had one lobe removed, she'd be just fine; but it was not so. Although she'd had chest X-rays every six months after first developing cancer, the tumor was already inoperable. This meant that she had to endure three rounds of chemotherapy and several weeks' worth of radiation treatment. I never knew that one of the possible side effects of chemotherapies was hearing loss Mom lost about 50 percent of her hearing in just one day. Another side effect is kidney failure, but she recovered from that after about a month of hospitalization.

My Mom was noisy; she went back to work 10 days after the lung surgery. The chemo, she said, is what kills you. But even that didn't kill her, and it didn't destroy her sense of humor or her love of life. Mom trucked along for

another six years, still working every day and travelling. But she couldn't eat or hold conversations much, since she didn't hear or speak well. Too bad, those were always her favorite things to do.

Then, two and half years ago, she developed congestive heart failure, as a result of the earlier radiation, an inflexible esophagus, requiring the insertion of a feeding tube into her stomach. She could take no food or drink by mouth afterward.

Oh, I nearly forgot to mention the osteoporosis, a disease she might have developed anyway, but smoking is a contributing factor. Because of this, she frequently suffered from fractured vertebra, which are very painful. However that didn't kill her, either. Nope, none of these ailments could conquer my Mom.

She used oxygen all the time and was too fragile and ill to live at home with Dad. She missed their home, and Dad missed her, but she lived a few miles away in a nursing home, which cost them \$4,500 per month, plus medicines and doctor's fees. With all this, I think the loneliness and isolation were the hardest for them both. My Mom, the original superwoman, just stayed in bed at the nursing home, didn't watch TV, read or socialize with other residents.

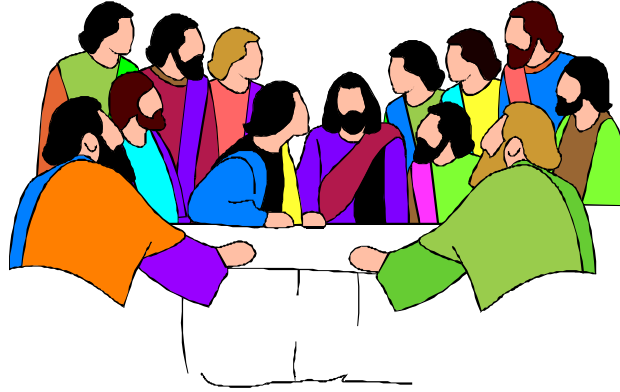
It's been suggested, perhaps facetiously, that since the average smoker dies seven years sooner than the average nonsmoker, and since medical costs for the elderly are so high, if everyone quit smoking and lived longer it could actually mean increases in medical spending. Well, at the time of my Mom's death, there would be no savings, not in money, and not in sorrow and pain. You see, the scary thing is that you might not die from the effects of smoking; you might just have to live with them.

My Mom, Marie Creviere, passed away May 13, 2002, at the age of 77. She was diagnosed with stomach cancer, another smoking-related illness, just three weeks before. Mom decided that she's suffered through enough surgery and chemo, and chose to reduce her feedings.

So, she starved to death.

# A LIFE WITH JESUS

BY CARL STACY (deceased)



I am sure that all of us would like to have grown up with Jesus. We would have liked being His closest playmate, His friend, "chum", and neighbor. We would have liked being His companions while children, and what a wonderful example would have been ours to follow. He would always have suggested some pleasant pastime.

But have you ever thought of how close Jesus really is to us? He sees and watches us all hours of the day. He knows the deeds we are doing and even the thoughts we are thinking.

We all know of the twelve apostles that Jesus chose when He began His ministry. They were with Him listening to His sermons. They saw Him heal the sick, feed the poor, raise the dead and give sight to the blind. Yes, the apostles were with our Master from the time He chose them until His death on the cross. They loved Him and wanted to be with Him at all times just as we would want to be with Him.

However, toward the end of His mission on earth, He began to tell His disciples that He was going away. He told them He would not leave them but would give them another comforter even the Spirit of truth which should be in them (John 14:16-18). Don't you think these words were very encouraging to Christ's disciples - to know that even though Jesus was going to leave, they were still to have a comforter? (John 16:7-13) Peter said in Acts 2:38-39 that we have the same comforter to be with us to instruct us in righteousness.

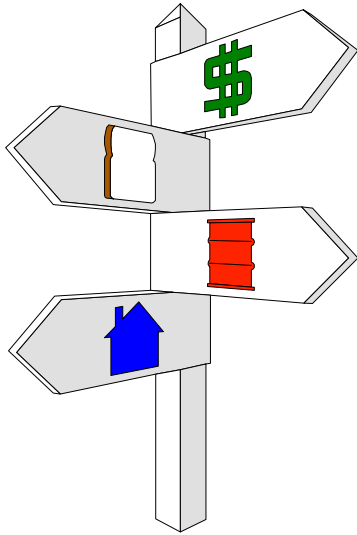
If you have been taking the correspondence courses, you have learned that repentance and faith in God are essential before we receive the Holy Spirit. We read fur-

ther in the Word of God, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). In other words, in a carnal state, naturally do evil and are led away by temptations of the devil unto the day we surrender to the Lord, and He comes into our lives.

After we start walking with Jesus, we no longer wish to do evil things of the world, but life has a new meaning. We are given higher ideals for which to strive. We become children of God and live in Christ through the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5:22-23, we find the results of a fully surrendered life: "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Even though we do not have the fullness of these fruits at first, Peter says, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

Paul says in Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." So let us consider the Lord wherever we are, and in whatever we might be doing, Realize that He is always very near to us. And we have this promise, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2). "...and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:17).

From the Junior Bible Advocate  
Salem, West Virginia  
March 25, 1940



# 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.*

**Vrroom!**

## **Religion moving into the really fast lane**

**by Paul Newberry  
Associated Press**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - When Bobby Labonte takes the green flag in Sunday's Daytona 500, he'll be racing for victory - and the Lord.

The hood of Labonte's car is both a shameless movie plug - "The Passion of the Christ", coming soon to a theater near you - and some new-style poselytizing forth Gospel.

Yes, witnessing has moved from the revival tent to the fast lane.

"It's a chance to get the word out," Labonte said about that on his car. "Someone who is curious about Jesus and has never been saved sees the race and says, 'Hmmm, I'd like to see what that's about.' Maybe we can change their minds."

NASCAR racing and the Christian faith have often worked hand-in-hand, from infield services for drivers, crew men and officials to the pre-race invocation to the annual break in the schedule for the Easter holiday.

Now comes a car promoting, "The Passion of the Christ", a soon-to-be-released movie that already has drawn lavish praise from conservative clergy - including

the Rev. Billy Graham - but angry denouncements from Jewish groups fearing it will stir up anti-Semitism.

For Labonte, it was a no-brainer to plug Mel Gibson's film on the No. 18 car, especially since the movie focuses on the yearly event in the Christian faith - the crucifixion of Jesus.

"I know how much it has impacted my life and my family's life," said Labonte, a former NASCAR Nextel Cup champion.

Stockcar racing is unapologetic about these ties to Christianity, which isn't surprising for a sport that grew up in the Bible Belt. But, mirroring NASCAR's attempts to diversify the good ol' boy image, the word has gone out that all religions are welcome.

"Walking through the garage, yes, I'm unashamed about being a Christian," said Dale Beaver, a chaplain for Motor Racing Outreach, which conducts half-hour chapel services before events. "If you're not a Christian, that's OK. We can still get along."

NASCAR has attempted to maintain symmetry between its predominantly Christian fan base and those of other faiths.

But it's not always easy for NASCAR to pull off the balancing act. Two years ago, Morgan Shepherd put a Jesus decal on the hood of his racing truck before a race in Darlington, S.D. NASCAR officials received complaints - "maybe it was the atheists," Shepherd said - and asked him to remove the logo. He complied, prompting backlash from Christian fans.

A few weeks later, NASCAR told Shepherd he could



put the logo back on this race vehicles. It's been there ever since.

He praised retired NASCAR chairman Bill France for resisting any attempts to eliminate religion from the race track.

From Shepherd's perspective, NASCAR's alliance with the Christian faith gives the sport a more wholesome, family oriented image.

"I guarantee you're never going to see anything like what happened with Janet Jackson," Shepherd said, referring to the singer whose breast was exposed during Super Bowl halftime show. "Those things are not going to happen in our sport . Not while Bill France is around."

While Shepherd said he's received plenty of praise for his Victory in Jesus racing team, that hasn't translated into financial backing. His hopes of qualifying for the Daytona 500 were scuttled by a shoestring budget.

"Why does corporate America spend so much money supporting things that don't have moral values?" Shepherd asked. "And here we are, trying to serve the Lord. There's nothing bad in the Bible. Even if you don't believe in God, if everyone would just live by the Bible and the Ten Commandments, see how much better the world would be."

Labonte has plenty of financial backing. In fact, "The idea to use the No. 18 car as an advertising vehicle for the Passion of the Christ" came from his primary sponsor. Norm Miller, chairman of Interstate Batteries, has teamed up with Hollywood to promote other movies, including "Toy Story 2" and "The Hulk". But Gibson's project took on special meaning after Miller saw the film at a screening in California.

He doesn't believe the movie portrays Jews as being solely responsible for the death of Christ - a concept blamed for centuries of anti-Semitism.

"The Bible is clear: Jesus was volunteering when he laid his life down," Miller said. "I don't feel it's near the issue people are trying to make out of it."

### **Comment**

It seems as though NASCAR is putting Jesus on display for all the public to see. There is nothing wrong with promoting Jesus. But the best way to do it is for everyone to obey His voice and do His commandments. That will influence people more than advertising and creating much hype.

## **Parents urged to teach kids how to avoid capture**

### **Child-safety experts give tips on keeping abductors at bay**

**by Michele M. Melendez  
Newhouse News Service**

A videotape of an 11-year-old Florida girl calmly being led away by her apparent kidnapper, made five days before she was found dead, has prompted child-safety experts to urge parents to sit their children down for a talk.

Avoiding capture, they say, can be as simple as a poke in the eye, a kick in the groin or a top-of-the lungs scream. Parents in need of information can make use of seminars, video tapes and tips on the internet, but the hardest part can be bringing up the subject.

"We strive to stop our vehicles from being stolen more than we do our children," said Paul Stanley, cofounder of the Chicago based "Fighting Chance", a training program for children.

"Educate your child," he said

"Communicate with your child."

In the Florida case, Sarasota county police say 11-year-old Carlie Brucia was taken during the early evening of February 1 from a car wash while walking home from a friend's house.

Security video, played countless times on national news programs, showed a man approaching her and then leading her away by her arm without a struggle.

Police arrested Joseph Smith on Tuesday on unrelated drug charges, suspecting that he was their kidnapper. Carlie's body was found early Friday outside a local church, and Smith, 37, was charged with her kidnapping and murder.

Although the public may never know what Carlie's abductor said to make her go so quietly, experts say predators often convince youngsters that they need assistance in finding a lost pet, carrying heavy objects to a vehicle or some other favor

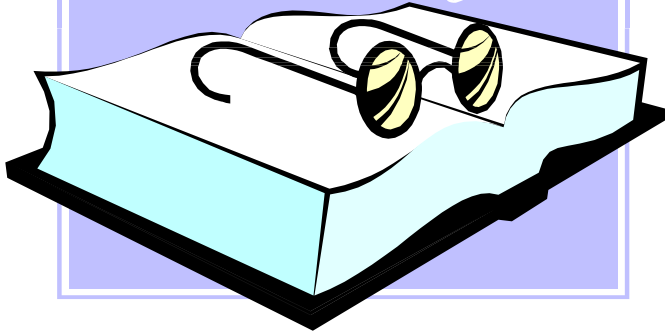
Stanley's No. 1 tip for children: "an adult simply never needs your help for anything."

He said a quick and easy response for children to use, while walking away is this: "Let me get you an adult."

*(continued on page 18)*

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** As an introduction to Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, we read, "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them" (Matthew 5:1-2). Introducing what would seem to be the same sermon, Luke states, "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples, ....And he came down with them, and stood in the plain " (Luke 6:13-17).

Can you harmonize these two accounts, one of which puts Jesus on a mountain to preach his sermon, and the other in the plain"?

**Answer:** The harmony in these two records is in the fact that apparently Jesus preached a similar sermon on more than one occasion. It is true that many of the same things are said in the sermon which Luke records, although the sermon he records is much shorter than "The Sermon on the mount." It is not surprising that Jesus preached essentially the same sermon on more than one occasion. Lecturers throughout the ages have followed the same custom.

**Question:** What do we learn from the Parable of the prodigal Son found in Luke 15:11-32?

**Answer:** The Parable of the prodigal Son emphasizes the fact that Jesus showed interest in sinners. He taught them that upon the basis of true repentance they could attain the favor of His Heavenly Father.

The important lesson of the parable is that of a father

forgiving his erring son and receiving him back into the family. A feast was arranged to celebrate the occasion of the return of the lost son. The older son refused to take part in the celebration. He complained that although he had served his father faithfully throughout the years when his brother had been wasting his life, no celebration had ever been arranged for him. No "fatted calf" had ever been killed, and no opportunity given to make merry with his friends.

The parable illustrates that the sin of jealousy is a grave matter in one's life. Unlike the older son, the father looked upon the return of his younger son as though he had received him back from the dead. The younger son's sin did not destroy his father's love for him.

It is important to note that the younger son had repented of his wrong doing. He returned humbly to his father. He did not even ask to be reinstated as a son, but merely that he might become one of his servants. Here we have illustrated an important principle in God's dealings with all His human creation. The principle is that repentance is necessary in order to have one's sins forgiven.

God's love for the sinner motivated Him to send His beloved Son to be the Saviour and Redeemer. But no sinner can receive any benefit from this except upon the basis of repentance and dedication to do the Father's will. Two aspects are involved in the sinner's return to God. There is God's part in providing the atoning blood, and there is the sinners part of repentance and consecration. Jesus taught that those who sincerely endeavor to be righ-

teous have no right to be jealous when sinners repent and are accepted with rejoicing in the favor of God.

Another lesson is that no matter how outwardly righteous one might be, to take the attitude of the older brother in the parable indicates an impure heart condition. God stands ready to embrace all who return to Him in humility and true repentance.

The father of the prodigal son spoke of having received him back from the dead. It was as though the young man had been dead. We can understand why his father's heart rejoiced!

Another important lesson of the parable is that we are to maintain a sympathetic and loving attitude toward the erring. We should rejoice at the evidence of their repentance and endeavor to walk in the ways of the Lord more perfectly.

Our attitude toward those who repent of their wrongdoing should be based upon their standing today rather than upon their erroneous conduct of the past.

**Question:** In what form are we after the resurrection?

**Answer:** We will not be flesh and blood. We will be spiritual beings. "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:48-54).

We will be as Jesus was after His resurrection. "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them" (Luke 24:36-43).

Our bodies will be changeable as His was. We will be able to go through walls and yet appear in human form.

**Question:** In Deuteronomy 32:4, God is referred to as a "rock." In I Corinthians 10:4 we read, "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Does this not prove that God and Christ are the same person?

**Answer:** A ROCK is used in both these references in a symbolic manner. The texts do not mean that God was actually a rock, nor that Jesus was a literal rock. In II Samuel 22:2, David is quoted as saying of God, "...The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my delivered. "Each of these expressions is used to depict the great strength of the Lord and His saving ability. They do not in their modest sense imply that the word "rock" is applied exclusively to the Creator.

The rock in the wilderness from which water was obtained for the Israelites is referred to by Paul as a "spiritual rock," the reason being that it was by the unseen, miracle-working power of God that water gushed from it. Paul's explanation, that rock was Christ simply means that it was symbolic of Christ and the life-giving waters He came to provide.

Paul also refers to the manna which fell in the wilderness as "spiritual meat," and for the same reason (I Corinthians 10:3). It was not provided in a natural way but by an unseen and unexplained miracle. Jesus Himself drew a lesson from this. Let us read John 6:31-35. "Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you. Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."



(continued from page 15)

Children should know not only to keep away from strangers, but to be wary even of people they know. Children often are taken by acquaintances.

Miami resident Lissette Erez, who developed hearing program, "Survival for Kids", said parents should teach that it is all right to disobey an adult, especially when the adult is requesting something that makes the child feel uncomfortable, threatened or scared. If the child is being taken forcibly, she suggest, "Throw yourself on the ground. You kick. You scream."

Erez said the key is to stay in one place, because the chance of escape dwindles when the child is removed from the location where the encounter took place.

"They should never get to the point where he's grabbed" she said.

Glen Evans, founder of the Xenia, Ohio-based, "Safety Consulting Group", said parents are in denial if they think their children aren't prey.

Parents "use the excuse that the child is the one who's afraid, but really, it's the parent," he said.

Even children as young as 3 1/2 are ready and willing to talk about how to avoid being kidnapped, Evan said he suggests using news sights as a teaching too!

"When you see something happen in the paper, role-play with your children," he said. "Give them the opportunity to think through what they would doing that scenario."

#### Comment

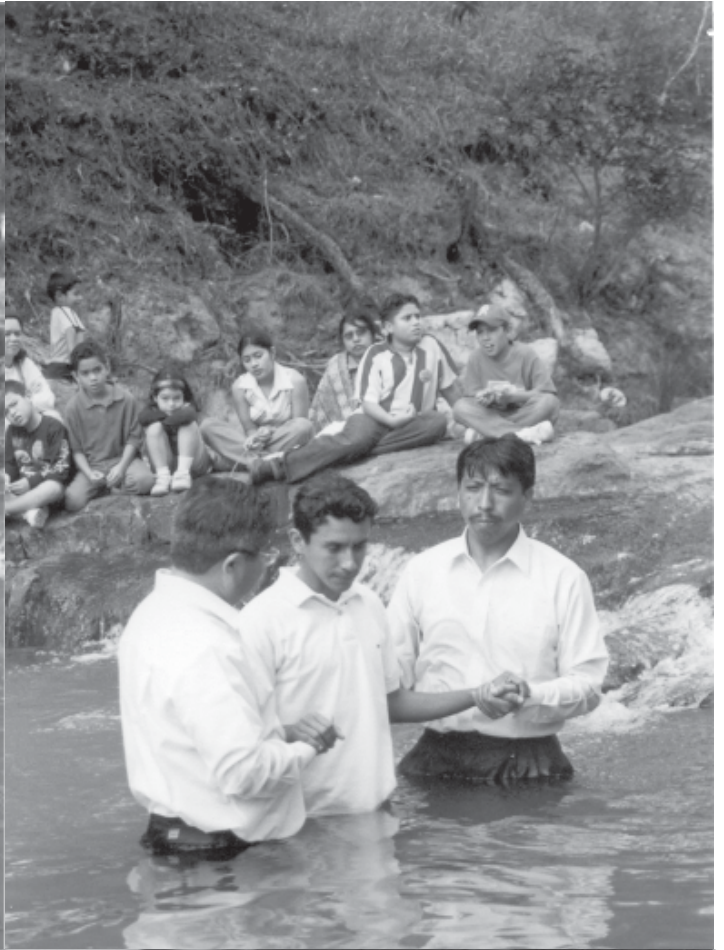
Parents will not have to worry about their children being kidnaped in the kingdom of God which, we be-



### *HONDURAS, CENTRAL AMERICA*

*The following photographs were taken during a baptism service in Honduras.*







LESSON I

THE VICTORY AT GIBEON

Scripture Reading: Joshua 10:1-27.

Golden Text: Joshua 10:8.

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee."

1. When Adonizedek, King of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had taken Ai and Jericho, what did he do? Joshua 10:3-4.
2. What did the five kings do? Joshua 10:5.
3. Did the Gibeonites receive any help from Joshua? Joshua 10:6-7.
4. How did the Lord help Joshua in the battle at Gibeon? Joshua 10:8-11.
5. What request did Joshua make of the Lord and why? Joshua 10:12-14.
6. After Joshua found that the five kings had fled and had hid themselves in caves, what did he do? Joshua 10:17-21.
7. When Joshua opened the caves and brought out the five kings, how did he utterly destroy them? Joshua 10:22-27.

LESSON II

VICTORIES AT MAKKEDAH

Scripture Reading: Joshua 10:28-43.

Golden Text: Joshua 10:42.

"And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel."

1. After Joshua destroyed the five kings, what success did he have in the battle at Makkedah? Joshua 10:28.
2. When Joshua left Makkedah, where did he go and what did he do? Joshua 10:29-30.
3. After he conquered Libnah, what city did he attack? Joshua 10:31-32.
4. Who came to help Lachish fight against Joshua? Joshua 10:33.
5. Joshua passed from Lachish unto Eglon and took this city, then he fought against Hebron and left nothing there. Where did Joshua go after conquering Eglon? Joshua 10:38-40.
6. Why was Joshua successful in taking all the cities we have just read about? Joshua 10:41-43.

NOTE: Joshua was successful in conquering all these cities because the Lord God fought with Him. He would never have been victorious if the Lord had not been on his side. We too must have the Lord on our side to help us fight our battles against Satan if we are to be victorious when the Lord comes.

LESSON III

ISRAEL'S TROUBLE  
AFTER  
JOSHUA'S DEATH

Scripture Reading: Judges 2.

Golden text: Judges 2:11.

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim."

NOTE: From Joshua 11 to Joshua 24, we are told how the land which Joshua conquered was divided among the tribes of Israel. He had utterly destroyed the Canaanites in some sections, but some remained in parts of the land. God commanded Israel to destroy or drive them all out. If Israel had obeyed his command, it would have saved



them a lot of trouble.

1. Did the children of Israel serve the Lord during the leadership of Joshua? Judges 2:7.
2. How old was Joshua when he died, and where was he buried? Judges 2:8-9.
3. After the death of Joshua, did they continue to follow the Lord? Judges 2:11-13.
4. What punishment did they receive for not obeying the Lord? Judges 2:14-15.
5. Did the Lord again aid Israel after they had been distressed by their enemies? Judges 2:16-19.
6. Because of Israel's transgression, what did the Lord say He should do to their nations? Judges 2:20-23.

5. How many men did Barak take with Him? Judges 4:10.
6. Was Barak successful in defeating Sisera? Judges 4:14-16.
7. What happened to Sisera Himself? Judges 4:17.
8. How was Sisera conquered and by whom? Judges 4:18-22.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD**

**ANGRY CREATOR ETERNAL  
 FAITHFUL GRACIOUS HOLINESS  
 JUST LOVE MERCIFUL  
 OMNIPOTENT OMNIPRESENT  
 OMNISCIENCE PEACE PERFECT  
 SOVEREIGN SPIRIT TRUTH WISE**

**LESSON IV**

**TWO VERY BRAVE WOMEN**

**Scripture Reading: Judges 4:4-24.**

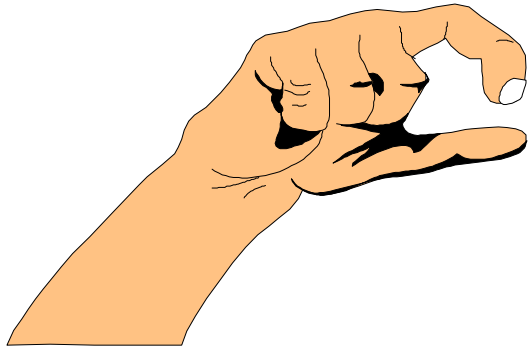
**Golden Text: Judges 4:4.**

**"And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time."**

**NOTE:** In our last lesson we learned again how many times Israel was disobedient to The Lord and how they were punished for it. Please read Judges, the third chapter, to learn more of their punishment for disobedience. We shall learn now how Deborah and Jael helped Barak defeat the enemy.

1. Who was Deborah? Judges 4:4-5.
2. What did she tell Barak to do? Judges 4:6-7.
3. What was Barak's reply? Judges 4:8.
4. What did Deborah tell Barak would happen since he was afraid to trust in God for victory? Judges 4:9.





## HANDS OF BLESSING

Did you ever stop to think what a wonderful gift our hands are! God certainly had a specific plan when He designed them. He did not stick our hands on the sides of our body like stubs or flippers. Think how difficult it would be to shake a hand or pick up anything if this were true. God had a specific purpose in mind when He thought of our hands. He put them on giant swivels that turn in all directions. He did not put one finger or only a thumb on our hands because that would make our hands like pokers. They would be more dangerous than helpful if that were the case. God, in His wisdom, made them with many-jointed fingers (four) and a thumb. Our hands can hold handles, throw a baseball, eating utensils and much more. Our hands have many marvelous skills. They have a delicate sense of touch. Hands are not masters, only servants. They do what our mind orders them to do. If we desire evil, hands respond to evil; if good, they do that which is good. Let us look at some Bible observations in connection with our hands.

Our hands are to be praying hands. "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (I Timothy 2:8). Our hands should be hands extended in hand spies, or handshakes love We could point out the faults to others and conduct a real smear campaign. In this way we could show off our goodness alongside the faults of others. But this is not what God has planned for us." And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:8).

Our hands should be open hands. Open hands are sharing hands, or serving hands. Peter writes; "Use hos-

pitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, a good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Our hands could easily become clenched hands in selfishness, serving only ourself. If our hearts are greedy, then our hands will be clenched. We will live with the "never enough" attitude. If we have hearts that realize we are here to serve God and use the gifts He has given us, we will dedicate ourself to this service.

Our hands are to be working hands. In II Thessalonians 3:10-13 we read: "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing'."

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it" (Psalm 90:16-17).

### PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray!  
 Keep me from any strain of sin,  
 Just for today;  
 Let me both diligently work and duly pray;  
 Let me be kind in deed and word  
 Just for today;  
 Let me be slow to do my will-  
 Prompt to obey;  
 Help me sacrifice myself  
 Just for today.  
 Let me no wrong or idle word  
 Unthinking say-  
 Set Thou Thy seal upon my lips,  
 Just for today.  
 So, for the morrow and its needs  
 I do not pray;  
 But keep me, guide me, hold me, Lord,  
 Just for today.

-Bishop Samuel Wilberforce



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

**BE OBEDIENT**  
Acts 5:29; Eph. 6:1  
Heb. 5:9

**BE TRUE**  
John 4:23; Eph. 4:24  
Heb. 10:22

**BE GENTLE**  
II Tim. 2:24; Titus 3:2; Gal. 5:22

**BE PURE**  
Prov. 21:8; Matt. 5:8; Jas. 1:27

**BE STRONG**  
Phil. 4:13; I Cor. 16:13  
II Cor. 12:9, 10

**WHOSE HANDS ARE THESE?**

1. Whose hands brought a bottle of costly ointment and anointed the feet of Jesus? John 12:3
2. Whose hands lifted up a little brother from the pit and then sold the lad to passing merchantmen? Genesis 37:26-28
3. Whose hands put a fleece of wool on the ground and asked God for a special sign that He would save Israel through him? Judges 6:36, 37
4. Whose hands made iron swim in water? II Kings 6:1, 5, 6
5. Whose hands cut off the thumbs and great toes of seventy kings? Judges 1:7
6. Whose hands made a gallows to hang an enemy and was hung on it himself? Esther 7:10
7. Whose hands lifted the baby Jesus from the arms of his parents and thanked God that he had lived to see the Christ? Luke 2:25-32
8. Whose hands held a rod which when thrown on the ground became a serpent? Ex. 4:2, 3
9. Whose hands held a javelin and cast it at a future king? I Samuel. 18:11
10. Whose hands gathered sticks, laid them on a fire, and had a viper come out of the heat to fasten onto his hand? Acts 28:3
11. Whose hands took a nail and a hammer and smote the nail into the temple of an army commander? Jud. 4:21
12. Whose hands touched Peter's mother-in-law and allowed her fever to leave? Matt. 8:15



# CHART OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

