



**The Advocate of Truth**



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# THE LIMITS OF FREEDOM

By W.W. KING  
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**THE BIBLE SAYS**, "If the Son...shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). We can say positively that there are no limits to the freedom from sin which it is possible for us to experience. There are no limits to the possibilities of freedom from carnal nature because it is possible for the "old man with his deeds to be crucified." There are no limits to holiness, love, and usefulness in the hands of God except those we impose upon ourselves by our lack of surrender and dedication. But there are some limitations to our freedom as Christians to which we should give serious attention.

We are not free to bind our consciences upon others. A lack of charitableness at this point causes many of our problems. Sometimes problems arise due to a lack of understanding of what constitutes a conscience question. A conscience question is one where no moral principle is involved, one that is answered by our own sense of propriety rather than by the word of God.

The conscience is not always a safe guide. It is safe only when it is predicated upon the truth and is nurtured and inspired by it. It is possible to be sincere about a matter and yet be wrong. It would seem that many of our so-called conscience questions are really matters of personal opinion - and there is a great difference between the two.

The Apostle Paul had much to say about conscience-both his and his brothers'. He said his conscience would allow him to eat meat offered to idols, but he would desist from partaking of it if his eating would cause his brother to stumble. Brotherly love will cause us to hesitate in binding our opinions and even our convictions upon others. However, we should be so in love with the truth of God that our conscience will be educated according to it, and our proclamation of the truth should be so clear that it would assist others in having clear and deep-seated convictions that are Scripturally correct.

A Christian should also consider his influence. This is something with which he dare not be reckless, because it is one of the most useful tools with which he works. Every man is responsible for his influence. It is true, false

reports may injure it for a time, but such usually can be "lived down" by honest, straightforward, righteous living.

When we choose any goal for our lives we follow the path that leads to that purpose. This means that we deliberately limit ourselves to accomplish this specific aim. And this channeling of time and resources demands limits.

Christians are not infallible; only God is.

Therefore we are not immune to temptation and the possibility of being defeated. It is true, we "are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise," but Satan is eternally attempting to break that seal, and he is no respecter of persons. The Bible says, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Both Peter and Demas are examples of that possibility. It is well for us to remember that we could be wrong about some things. It is good for us to keep a good reverse gear and always have it ready for use. Confession is good for the soul.

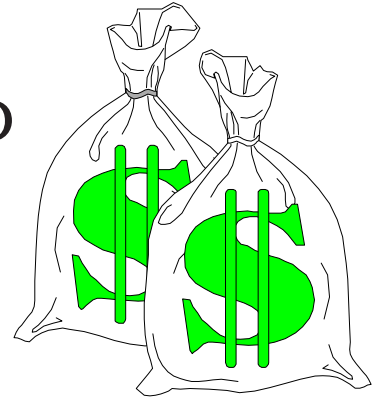
We are free as members of the Body of Christ: but each of us is only one part and not the entire body. Some folks seem to feel that they are the whole church. The truth is: they are not; they are only members of it. Paul compares the church to the human body (I Corinthians 12). All parts of the body are necessary; all should function according to their purpose; all the members are required to make the body complete. There is no place for arrogant independence in the Church of God. Christian unity is God's standard for His church, and He will not tolerate anything that makes for division. True unity is first an experience, then a practice, then a doctrine to proclaim to others.

We can have unity and still have a variety of personal ideas and ways of doing things. But the experience of sanctification does destroy carnality, which is the seed-bed out of which grows bad attitudes, strife, selfishness, and an independent spirit.

Then, there are certain limits which some folks place upon themselves - limits of spiritual depths, knowledge, progress, and cooperation. Remember Jesus' words, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

# THE PROSPERITY FALLACY

## DOES GOD WANT EVERY CHILD OF GOD TO BE RICH?



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According to an advertisement of a Revival Service Poster it said: "All those that restore their relationship with Jesus can walk in success, health and financial prosperity."

I have heard as much implied by Radio preachers and literature sent out to areas with: "You will never be poor again!" Frankly this type of preaching is dangerous and will change the thinking of some people. I am not against success. I am all for the positive message of Jesus that His blessings will help us. I also believe that if you tithe first of your income, there will always be enough for you to pay your bills.

Here is an example of what I have seen, time and time again. A brother shows me his paycheck, \$800.00 Then he shows me his bills for the month, \$814.00. His statement then is if I pay my tithe first, that leaves me only \$720.00 How do I justify tithe paying first? Try it once, and believe that the Lord will open His windows of heaven, and bless you. "Try it, you'll like it." In this case when the brother paid this tithe first he just shook his head. The very next day a man came to his door. I would like to buy the boat you advertised "For Sale." Is it still available? This boat had been advertised over a year ago. But it seemed that no one was interested in buying it. Here the man is in need of cash, and the Lord sent him a buyer for the boat. Do you see what I mean? God will always open the windows of heaven to bless those that do not steal from Him.

In fact we find that godliness, giving offerings and tithing does not guarantee financial prosperity. But it will give our friend above ample to pay his bills for a few months. It makes you wonder, how much of this "God wants you to prosper" message is conditioned by affluent American

culture and how much is really "The truth of God's Word?" To be sure, God's Holy Word talks about prosperity. Jesus did express a profound and far-reaching principle when He said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).

Let us consider the whole Word of God instead of translating those words of Jesus into simplistic slogans such as "God wants you to prosper," or "You can not out give God." It seems to me that the church at Jerusalem is a good example for us to peruse now. The early church is a classic example of great giving to God and His work that does not guarantee material wealth and success. We read of them: "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of things that were sold and laid them down at the Apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." But this system, no matter how much it aided the membership, had to come to an end. The finances were eventually to run out (Acts 4:34-35).

The giving of these early saints did result in everyone's needs being met at that time, but it did not lead to perpetual prosperity. Eventually when all the properties were sold, great hardship came upon the saints. We read of the Apostle Paul continually collecting money for the poor Jerusalem people. Paul told the Corinthian brethren, for example, that he was gathering this money, "...not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply

for your want: that there may be equality:" (II Corinthians 8:13-14).

This is a very significant passage. Notice first, that giving had not guaranteed the Jerusalem brethren prosperity. They came into wanting after giving all they possessed. Second, the people who were now being asked to help out of their abundance were recent converts from paganism. In other words, while the devout, giving brethren in Jerusalem were becoming impoverished, the Children of God from pagan areas were prospering.

Third, Paul did not suggest that their generous giving would guarantee further prosperity (though he did say that abundant sowing leads to an abundant harvest (II Corinthians 9:6). To the contrary, he suggested the time will come when they would need the contributions of the very people whom they were helping now. The whole context suggests that "God wants you to prosper" is less accurate than "God wants you to learn the grace of both giving and receiving."

Think about it. Being prosperous and giving to those in need is good. It teaches us compassion for others and brings us the joy of ministering to our brothers and sisters. But being in need and receiving from others is good also. It encourages us to be humble and grateful, and to love our brothers and sisters who have helped us in our time of need. The early church is not the only example of giving not leading to prosperity. Paul himself is one who gave everything to God but did not always prosper materially as a result. Some tell us that if we just surrender our possessions to God, He will give them back to us, and more. He does not really mean for us to lose anything; He is just testing us. Paul, however, tells us that when he counted everything at "Loss for Christ," the result was that he actually, "suffered the loss of all things" (Philippians 3:7-8).

Can we honestly assure people today that the same thing will not happen to them?

Later in the same epistle, what does the Apostle Paul tell us he had learned as a child of God? Not how to be assured of prosperity, but how to cope with either prosperity, or poverty, whichever the Lord saw fit to send his way (Philippians 4:11-12). The Apostle could handle being well off. It did not go to his head and make him think he was better than people with less. It did not cause him to become preoccupied with how to make even more money or how to guarantee that he had never lost what he already had.

But Paul could also handle being poor. He knew how to get by without the things others considered virtual necessities. And he could be poor without feeling sorry for himself or putting down those who happened to be more prosperous than he. In this light, "God wants you to prosper" would seem to be less accurate than "God wants you to learn how to handle both abundance and being in need."

"Give and it shall be given unto you." Am I saying that is not true? Not at all. I am saying that those words express a profound principle reaching far beyond what you put into an offering plate. (I do not mean the tithe, that belongs to God). The principle may include tithes and offerings but it also has to do with your education, employment, marriage and dealings with your neighbors. In each of these realms, and in others, "give and it shall be given unto you" is a law of life. You will receive from these things in proportion to what you give unto them. No doubt about it, being a giving person will make for your prosperity. But do not translate that into "more money in the offering will guarantee more money in the bank account." God may have a different idea.

## **TBC: TODAY: BOGUS BELIEFS**

(TBC: The Catholic Church has consistently taught that communication with the dead (necromancy) is possible, hence, the following comments are not surprising in this excerpt from a Polish journalist's interview of Pope Benedict:)

Q. Holy Father, often in your speeches you evoke the figure of John Paul II. You say he was a great Pope, a venerated late predecessor. We always remember the word you pronounced at the Mass last April 20, words

dedicated precisely to John Paul II. It was you, Holy Father, who said - and here I quote - "it seems as though he is tightly holding my hand, I see his laughing eyes and I hear his words, which at that moment he is directing to me in particular: 'do not be afraid!'" Holy Father, finally a very personal question: do you continue to feel the presence of John Paul II, and if you do, in what way?

A. Certainly. I'll begin by answering the first part of your question. Initially, in speaking of the Pope's legacy, I forgot to mention the many documents that he left us - fourteen encyclicals, many Pastoral Letters, and others. All this is a rich patrimony that has not yet been assimilated by the Church. My personal mission is not to issue many new documents, but to ensure that his documents are assimilated, because they are a rich treasure, they are the authentic interpretation of Vatican II. We know that the Pope was a man of the Council, that he internalized the spirit and the word of the Council. Through these writings he helps us understand what the Council wanted and what it didn't. This helps us to be the Church of our times

and of the future. Now for the second part of your question. The Pope is always close to me through his writings: I hear him and I see him speaking, so I can keep up a continuous dialogue with him. He is always speaking to me through his writings. I even know the origin of some of the texts. I can remember the discussions we had about some of them. So I can continue my conversations with the Holy Father. This nearness to him isn't limited to words and texts, because behind the texts is the Pope himself. A man who goes to the Lord doesn't disappear: I believe that someone who goes to the Lord comes even closer to us and I feel he is close to me and that I am close to the Lord. I am near the Pope and that helps me to be near the Lord and I try to enter this atmosphere of prayer, of love for our Lord, for Our Lady and I entrust myself to his prayers. So there is a permanent dialogue and we're close to each other in a new way, in a very deep way:

([http://www.oecumene,radiovaticana.org/en1/benedict\\_XVI\\_itv2.asp](http://www.oecumene,radiovaticana.org/en1/benedict_XVI_itv2.asp)).

The Berean Call

# OPEN TO TRUTH

## A LESSON STUDY



"And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it" (Mark 4:33).

Read Mark 4:1-9, 26-34.

Jesus was sitting in a boat while a multitude of people had gathered on the seashore to hear Him preach. The majority of those who were assembled may have appreciated His gracious words and considered Him to be a great teacher sent from God, but they doubtless understood little of the deeper meaning in this parable of the sower.

Others who were listening to Him, however, included the twelve apostles and other interested followers, who

had crowded around Him to ask the meaning of the parable. This was in response to the Master's words, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:9). They had ears not only for the interesting story, but also for the interpretation of the symbols used.

"And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how

then will ye know all parables?" (vss 11-13) The worldly-wise and self-seekers did not heed our Lord's message. Therefore, they remained ignorant of the more meaningful lesson.

In this parable of the sower, there is deeper significance in the very basic teaching concerning four different kinds of soil in which the sower cast his seed, and these represent the heart condition in which the seed of truth is sown. In the first illustration, some of the seed fell by the wayside where birds quickly ate it up. This represents those who never make the truth their own, and Satan steals it away from them, or because of the hard-packed clay soil where people walk, the seed never penetrates the soil to germinate. Such are the hearts of most mankind.

Other seed fell on stony ground where there was little soil to nourish it and to take root. The shallowness of nature in this kind of Christian becomes manifest when the sun of opposition and discouragement begins to wither the seed. The stonehearted ones lack character to develop acceptable fruitage.

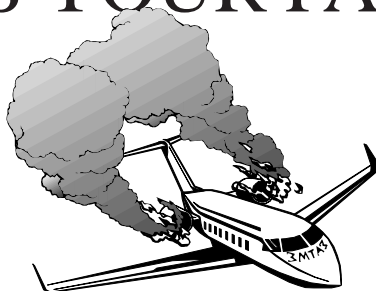
In another instance, thorns choked some of the seed that had been sown. Although the soil was deep with rich nutrients and could have brought forth good fruitage, these Christians had other concerns and earthly ambitions that conflicted with the interests of the truth. They may have had the potential for developing strong, deep characters, but because of the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, no fruit was produced.

Lastly, there was good ground on which the seed fell. By God's abundant care on their behalf, the experiences of life have developed in them the proper appreciation of the Gospel call, as well as the necessary fruitage of His grace. These are the ones who will rule and reign with Christ in the kingdom.

May we be of those who receive the seed into good and honest hearts. May we bring forth much fruit to the honor of God. May the thorns of earthly interest and the world's spirit not separate us from God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Contributed

## WHO PACKS YOUR PARACHUTE?



Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped

in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor." Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate

of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometime in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say "hello", "please", or "thank you", to congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, to give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.

I am sending you this as my way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute. And I hope you will send it on to those who have helped pack yours!

Sometimes we wonder why friends keep forwarding jokes to us without writing a word. Maybe this could explain it: When you are very busy, but still want to keep in touch, guess what you do - you forward jokes. And to let you know that you are still remembered, you are still important, you are still loved, you are still cared for, guess what you get? A forwarded joke.

So my friend, next time when you get a joke, don't think that you've been sent just another forwarded joke, but that you've been thought of today and your friend on the other end of your computer wanted to send you a smile, just helping you pack your parachute....

From the internet

## FAITH AS A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED

BY SHANNA WILLIAMS

Webster's New World Dictionary defines faith as an unquestioning belief, specifically in God; Complete trust or confidence. The Bible defines faith as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).

Have you ever wondered why things just don't go your way no matter how hard you try? Perhaps it is because you have doubt in your life. Faith is significantly important in the Christian life. It helps the child of God to live a godly life. In everything that we do, we must believe. When we get sick and call for the elders of the church to anoint us, we must believe that the Lord will heal us. If we want to pass an examination at school, we



must believe that we can pass it. If we are traveling overseas, we pray to the Lord to guide and protect us and let us have a safe journey. We must believe that the Lord will do just that - protect us!

With these facts established, we can say that faith is just as important as breathing. Even to breathe, we must believe. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3). That is what's so magnificent about faith! It is the things not seen. We cannot see the breath that is in our nostrils, but we believe in the Lord to keep us alive and protect us. When one possesses this great quality in his life, he



can do prodigious works for the Lord. There is nothing too enormous or intricate to undertake. Enoch is an example of a man with great faith. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (vs 5).

In order for someone to experience great faith, a proper connection with God is necessary. One must believe in God wholeheartedly and trust in Him in every way for guidance, support, and direction. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (vs 6). When we go to God, all reservations should flee our minds. The Lord wants us to be persuaded and to believe in Him with all our might. He wants us to lean on Him and not on our own understanding.

"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised" (vs 11). It takes a believing in the unbelievable to really pass the faith test with God! He wants us to prove Him and try Him. Only when we do this, will we truly experience the miracles He can work in our lives.

Let us explore the scriptures to see some of the benefits to be gained from having faith in the Lord. In Matthew 6:30, we read: "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" At times when the going is tough and we are in the down and out, we may wonder where the money is to come from to send the children to school or what to give them to eat. During these times, let us remember the grass of the field. Let us ask ourselves if the Lord does this for the grass, wouldn't He do this for me also because I am His child? Of course He will! When we repeat the Lord's prayer, we ask our Heavenly Father to "give us this day our daily bread." We are asking the Lord to provide for us.

Let us consider the woman with the issue of blood. "And, behold, a woman which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.

And the woman was made whole from that hour" (Matthew 9:20-22).

In Matthew 21:18-22, we read: "Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." The Lord wants us to have faith in Him, and He wants us to bring to fruition our true potential with Him, and acquire power from on high.

Let us consider the time when Jesus went to a Pharisee's house to eat. "And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but

this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much; but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:36-50). What a wonderful demonstration was made by the woman. Beyond a doubt, she believed that Jesus was the Christ who was sent by God. Her faith in Jesus caused her to show her love for him. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6). So we can clearly see that faith causes one to produce other fruits of the Spirit.

Let us now consider Abraham. "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:1-5). What a mighty hero of faith Abraham was. He not only had faith in God, but he also did all that God commanded him to do. Abraham pleased God through his works. There is an old saying which says, "actions speak louder than words." However, actions and works are the crowning glory of faith. They go hand in hand. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:1-9). The record states, "He that believeth and is

baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). "What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith" (Romans 9:30). Yes, faith is necessary in becoming a true follower of Christ.

In one place in the Bible, faith is called a shield: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16). The shield is an important component for one's spiritual armor. Without this shield of faith, we would not be able to withstand the evil days.

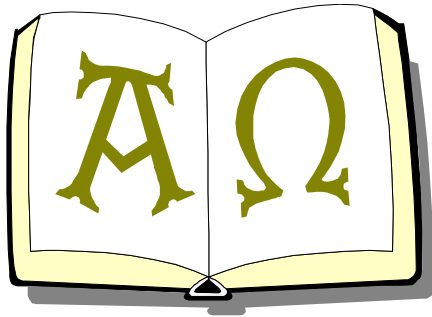
It is only by faith that we can be "grounded and settled," and not be "moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven" (Colossians 1:23).

The Apostle Paul tells us, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:22-24). Paul also stated, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Yes, the Apostle Paul confessed his faith in Christ. Christ lived in the apostle through faith. Near the end of his life, Paul stated: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7). Without this faith, Paul would not have had the strength to fight the good fight of which he spoke.

Christians must constantly reassess their perspective with God. Every waking hour should be spent meditating on the words of the Lord and asking Him to bestow on us more of His grace and faith.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

"For we walk by faith, not by sight:" (II Corinthians 5:7).



# ***REAL SPIRITUAL FREEDOM IN CHRIST***

***BY BOND TENNANT***

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:32-36).

July 4 is Independence Day in America. It is the day on which the American Declaration of Independence was signed. The word, "Independence", brings to mind the thought of freedom. This is as it should be since by signing the Declaration of Independence, the original thirteen American colonies declared themselves to be free from the burdens imposed upon them by the king of England.

Much is said today about freedom. Some of the most common freedoms that people want are: freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. However there is still fear, want, religious persecution, etc. Real freedom is found only in Jesus Christ, and it is spiritual freedom!

Jesus Christ frees us from the law. He frees us from the law of Moses, and it is the Law of Moses of which the following verses speak. They are not speaking of the Ten Commandments Law which is still binding upon the children of God today. For a more detailed description and comparison of the two laws, please contact the Publishing House. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow

of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Colossians 2:14-17).

Jesus Christ frees us from sin which is the transgression of the law. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: For sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Romans 6:6-7). "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Vs 22).

Jesus Christ frees us from condemnation. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1). Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and beliveth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Jesus Christ frees us from Satan's power. "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (I John 5:18).

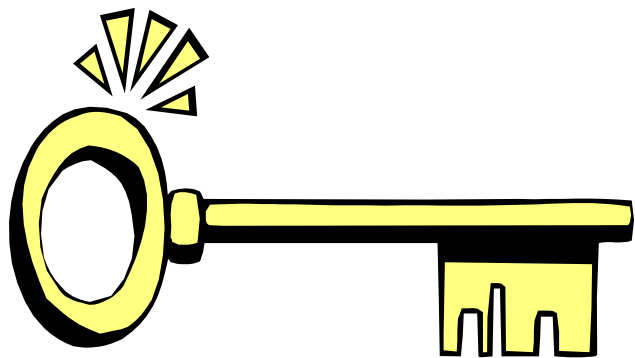
Many people are bound by the spirit of prejudice, envy, unforgiveness and hatred. This is because they are bound by Satan's power. Satan is a powerful foe. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). We can be free from Satan. I John 4:4 gives us the reason why, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

Jesus Christ frees us from death. "And whosoever

liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:26). "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6). "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). "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through

Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell ( the place of the dead) and of death" (Revelation 1:18).

It is very foolish to allow Satan and sin to reign and have dominion over us. This pathway leads to heartaches, hopelessness, and finally death. When Jesus sets us free, we are no longer bound by other powers. We find hope and happiness as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ.



## WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

### ABLE

Two of the definitions of "able" found in the Webster's New World Dictionary are: 1. having enough power, skill, etc. (to do something); 2. Having much power of mind: skilled: talented (an able teacher). Scripture tells us many things which Jesus is able to do.

Jesus is able to save. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Another translation renders it, He is "able to save those who approach God through him." This scripture is speaking of His high priest work He is doing now. It declares His ability to atone for us and to protect us.

Jesus is able to keep us from falling. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 1:24). Another translation reads, "able to keep

you from slipping." We must keep our eyes upon Jesus. There have been many who once were faithful brethren. Something happened somewhere along the way during their lives to cause them to fall away. It is a great loss to the body of Christ when one or more members are severed from it. "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these

things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:5-10). "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12).

Jesus is able to succour (give assistance in time of need or distress). "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:17-18). He has gone before us, and he knows how to help us.

Because Jesus is able, we are also able to do things in His name. God gives us strength and power only through the Lord Jesus Christ. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

We are able to comprehend Christ Himself. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if one stops the car, or is walking by, one will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

Listening, one will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, one will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her bridle is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As one stands and watches these two friends, one

sees how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges.

He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by God and those whom he places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see God.

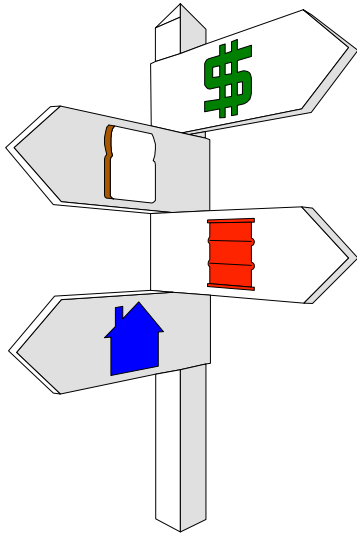
Good friends are like stars...you don't always see them, but you know they are always there..

From the Internet

*(continued from page seventeen)*

can men live under water?" How can men learn the way a submarine can maneuver? There is a spider, which God created, which lives under water. He makes a case of silk which he anchors with fine threads to the weeds at the bottom of a pond. The orifice is turned downward. The spider then goes up to the surface and, by means of hooked hairs which cover the lower part of his body, he entangles a little bubble of air which he carries down and releases inside his home. The air rises to the ceiling of his home, and it displaces a certain amount of water. The spider rises up again for more air and liberates it in the same way. Up and down he gets until finally his home is filled with air, and he lives beneath the water's surface. As he exhausts the oxygen, he goes up for another bubble of air.

Yes, the Bible is inspired because of its scientific accuracy. What a wonderful Word of God we have, and we can totally rely on it. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).



# THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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

The following article appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*.

## Gay couples exchange vows

### Houston church takes part in push for U.S. to legalize same-sex marriage

by **Todd Ackerman**  
**Houston Chronicle**

Undeterred by the state's refusal to acknowledge same-sex marriages, 42 Houston gay and lesbian couples were married Saturday in a mass ceremony.

The couples exchanged vows as part of Freedom to Marry Week, a national campaign to extend the rights granted to heterosexuals and homosexuals. The campaign, begun in 1998, has turned more combative this year because of the issue's political volatility.

"It's sad that we can't have a day like this every day, hosted by every church," said the Rev. Dwayne Johnson, pastor of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in Houston, the site of the ceremony.

No opponents of homosexual marriage protested the event.

The ceremony comes a year after President Bush called for a constitutional amendment stipulating marriages are unions between a man and woman, and as state after state has moved to entrench bans on same-sex marriages. In Texas, State Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, says she'll push this year for a constitutional amendment es-

entially barring gay and lesbian marriages.

Texas is one of 38 states with "Defense of marriage" laws banning recognition of same-sex marriages.

The ceremony may have marked the first time a minister told marrying couples they "may kiss the spouse," and those couples included himself and another minister. The Rev. Chris Chiles spoke those words then turned and kissed the Rev. John Paluch, his co-pastor at Community Gospel Church.

Chiles and Paluch drew one of the ceremony's biggest ovations when one of the twelve ministers participating in the event noted they'd been together 27 years.

Together even longer, 30 years, were Dennis Milam and Bruce Aleksander, though they later acknowledged they were renewing their vows.

"We're going to keep trying to get married until it's legally recognized," said Aleksander.

Unitarian Universalist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, American Baptist, Pentecostal and other nondenominational ministers took part in the ceremony.

Resurrection Metropolitan has hosted the Freedom to Marry Week ceremony in Houston the past three years.

## Comment

We have commented on the evils of homosexuality and same-sex marriage in this column several times before.

The following article appeared in *The Facts*.

## **Study finds more major hurricanes**

by **The Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON** - Powerful hurricanes like Katrina - the most destructive such storm ever to hit the United States - are becoming more common, according to a study sure to fuel debate over whether global warming is to blame.

In the 1970s, there was an average of about 11 storms of the powerful category 4 and 5 range. Since 1990, that has climbed to an average of 18 per year worldwide, researchers led by Peter J. Webster at the Georgia Institute of Technology report in Friday's issue of the journal, "Science".

Katrina's sustained winds reached 175 m.p.h., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center said Thursday.

The increase in powerful hurricanes coincides with a rise of nearly 1 degree in the tropical sea- surface temperatures around the world.

Co-author Greg Holland of the National Center for Atmospheric Research said the researchers can't say rising sea-surface temperatures caused a specific storm, such as Katrina. But, he said, their study shows the potential for more Katrina-like events.

### **Comment**

II Peter 3:3-4 tells us, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." This is what many say when we speak of the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When they consider the facts, they cannot say that all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation. They say that there have always been natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes. That is so, but they have never before caused so much widespread devastation and suffering.

No doubt, the Apostle Peter is referring to the prophecy and words of Jesus in Matthew 24.

The following article from *The Lethbridge Herald*, published in Canada, was contributed by Siegfried Maywald.

## **Canada**

### **New Toronto Health Study Raises Concerns**

#### **Smog proving deadly Pollution behind more deaths than originally estimated.**

Toronto (CP) - Air pollution is to blame for more deaths in Canada's largest city than originally believed, city health officials said in a study released Thursday.

A new study by Toronto's Public Health Department estimates that five air pollutants contribute to about 1,700 premature deaths and 6000 hospital admissions in the city every year.

"These premature deaths and hospital admissions are preventable," said Dr. Barbara Yaffe, the city's acting medical officer of health. "They would have likely not occurred when they did without the exposure to air pollution.

A similar study in 2000 suggested air pollution was behind 1000 deaths a year. But better information on the effects of air pollution has allowed health officials to paint a more accurate picture, said Yaffe.

If that information were available years ago, the 2000 study would have reflected the high numbers of deaths she said. "I think that's a firm inference."

Overall, the air quality is roughly the same now as it was four years ago, with higher levels of some pollutants and lower levels of others, said Yaffe.

Figures from 2002 show that Toronto's nitrogen dioxide levels were the fourth highest of 72 cities surveyed around the world over a 10-year period.

The study also looked at the effects of other pollutants on people's health, including carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone and fine particles in the air.

### **Comment**

Man is destroying himself and the earth. This is why our Lord Jesus Christ must come to clean up the earth and establish His kingdom.



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Please discuss the word, "inspiration." How can we prove the inspiration of the Bible?

**Answer:** The word itself means "God-Breathed." God "breathed into" the writers of the Bible. This supernaturally qualified them to receive and impart the Divine message. "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).

**GOD SPOKE:** "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1).

**GOD SPOKE TO MEN:** "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).

Let us look further into the word "inspiration." A poet is said to be inspired when he has an idea and writes a poem. An artist is said to be inspired when he paints a picture. A preacher is said to be inspired when he preaches a good sermon. But Bible inspiration goes much deeper than any of the three illustrations given. Bible inspiration involves actual contact with the Father in heaven. Notice again the definition of the word "inspiration." The word means "Breathing-In." It is that connection which God qualified Old and New Testament authors to write without error. This usage of the word, "inspiration", shows the Bible inspiration to be more than what is said of the poet, the artist or the preacher.

How can it be proved that the Bible is the inspired Word of God? How can we know that Bible inspiration is far more than some human emotion? Let us consider the following.

The Bible is God's inspired Word because it sets forth the highest standard of conduct.

Righteousness is commanded, and sin is condemned. The first thing God commanded of Adam was a law. "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). "For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore shall ye keep my ordinance, that ye commit not anyone of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein; for I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 18:29-30).

Inner purity is required. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

The unity of the Bible shows it to be inspired.



First of all, there is unity of structure. Think how the Bible is divided, thirty-nine books in the Old Testament, and twenty-seven in the new Testament. Next, note how each Testament is divided into different lengths and by different men. The main theme of the Bible is love. Out of love, the world was created. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4). We know the verse of John 3:16, but few realize that Jesus commanded love the same as God commanded His love to us. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Jesus said: "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

There is unity of prophecy in the Scriptures. The King and The Kingdom are at the center of the Old Testament prophecies, and the New Testament is the answer and the fulfillment of these prophecies. "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:11). "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

The Bible is trustworthy, and shows itself to be inspired when it touches upon history.

Evidence has been found in the areas of Babylon by archaeologists which points out that a man named Abraham did live and engaged in business activities. Egypt has given up to the archaeologist certain finds which have opened up the store of literature and fixed the rulers of the exodus. We also have seen artifacts from the time of the Tower of Babel up to the time of the birth of Jesus. Also tablets have been found which tell of the times during which the Hebrew people were in Egypt and their tasks were made difficult.

Other archaeological finds have revealed the oldest Aramaic language and writing, and they have opened up the whole Mesopotamian Valley with knowledge which confirms the Bible. Every place where biblical history is touched it is confirmed.

The Bible is inspired because of its scientific accuracy.

Science has found that energy can be changed into matter. The saints knew that Jesus was already risen from the tomb before the angel rolled the stone away. The angel said, "Jesus is not here for he is risen." Jesus changed from matter to energy. He did the same thing in John 20:19. "Then the same day at evening (Saturday night), 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." This will happen to all the saints who belong to the family of God. They will caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and they will be able to change from matter to energy. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the spirit" (John 3:8). The scientific truth is stated in nonscientific language. God created with His power the elements we have to give us the proper way of life.

Isaiah spoke of the world as round. "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in" (Isaiah 40:22). The dimensions of Noah's Ark are a ship that will not capsize. "And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits" (Genesis 6:15). The specifics of the waters in one bed is mentioned in Genesis 1:9-10: "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good." Men who have studied the oceans and their currents find this to be very true.

God created many wonders in nature that have taught men of science so many lessons. For an illustration: "How

*(Continued on page thirteen)*



## *Congo*

*The following photographs show a baptism conducted by Brother Placide Mithonga.*





LESSON I

**JEHOSHAPHAT, KING OF JUDAH**

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 17:1-19.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 17:3.**

**"And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim."**

**NOTE:** In our last lesson we studied about the reign of Asa, king of Judah. Jehoshaphat is now king of Judah, and we will see whether he was a righteous ruler or if he was an unjust one as many of the kings have been that we have studied about.

1. What did Jehoshaphat do in the land Judah? II Chronicles 17:2.
2. Was the Lord with him? Why? II Chronicles 17:3-4.
3. Did he have riches and honor? II Chronicles 17:5.
4. What did he take away from Judah? II Chronicles 17:6.
5. In the third year of his reign, whom did he send out to the cities of Judah? What was their duty? II Chronicles 17:7-9.
6. Why did the people not make war against Jehoshaphat? What did the Philistines bring to the king? II Chronicles 17:10-11.
7. Describe Jehoshaphat's greatness? How many men of war did he have? II Chronicles 17:12-14.

LESSON II

**JEHOSHAPHAT FORMS AN ALLIANCE WITH AHAB (PART 1)**

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 18:1-15.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 18:1.**

**"Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab."**

**NOTE:** We learned in our last lesson that Jehoshaphat was a good ruler who prospered and waxed great during his reign because he feared the Lord. Now we shall study part of chapter 18 to see how he joined forces with Ahab.

1. Jehoshaphat now has riches and honor. After several years, where did he go? What happened while he was there? II Chronicles 18:1-2.
2. When Ahab asked the king if he would go to war with him, what was King Jehoshaphat's reply? II Chronicles 18:3-4.
3. The king of Israel demanded 400 prophets who gathered together. What did Ahab say to the prophets, and did Jehoshaphat wish the advice of someone else? II Chronicles 18:5-6.
4. Who was the man whom the King of Israel said he might inquire? Did Ahab like this man? II Chronicles 18:7.
5. Did they send for this certain man? What was his name? Where did the two kings sit for the prophets to prophesy before them? II Chronicles 18:8-9.
6. What did Zedekiah say to the kings? What did all the prophets prophesy to them? II Chronicles 18:10-11.
7. What did the messenger say to Micaiah when he went to him, and did Micaiah promise to speak what God would say to him? II Chronicles 18:12-13.
8. The kings asked him if they should go to battle. What

was his reply? II Chronicles 18:14.

9. Was the king doubtful that he was telling the truth? II Chronicles 18:15.

### LESSON III

#### JEHOSHAPHAT FORMS AN ALLIANCE WITH AHAB (PART II)

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 18:16-34.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 18:22 (first part).**

**"Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets..."**

**NOTE:** We have learned in our past lessons that Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance. He joined forces with Ahab, and at this point they are about to seek the advice of Micaiah. Let us see if this prophecy is good or evil.

1. What did Micaiah tell the king in II Chronicles 18:16?
2. Read II Chronicles 18:18-22, and then tell what the prophet told Ahab and Jehoshaphat.
3. What did Zedekiah do and say to Micaiah in II Chronicles 18:23?
4. What did the king of Israel command his men to do with Micaiah? II Chronicles 18:25-26.
5. The king of Israel and the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. What did they do before they went to battle? II Chronicles 18:28-29.
6. What had the king of Syria commanded his captains to do? II Chronicles 18:30.
7. Did the Lord help Jehoshaphat when he cried for help? II Chronicles 18:31.
8. Did the captains pursue him again? Why? II Chronicles 18:32.

9. Was the king of Israel wounded? How long did he fight against the Syrians? II Chronicles 18:33-34.

### LESSON IV

#### JEHOSHAPHAT RETURNS TO JERUSALEM

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 19:1-11.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 19:9.**

**"And he charged them saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the Lord, faithfully, and with a perfect heart."**

**NOTE:** In our last lesson we learned that King Ahab of Israel was killed at the battle of Ramoth-Gilead. Jehoshaphat cried out to the Lord and was spared from death. Now he returns to Jerusalem, and let us see what instructions he gives the Levites, judges and priests.

1. Who came out to meet Jehoshaphat as he returned to Jerusalem? What did he say to the king? II Chronicles 19:1-3.
2. Where did the king go to gather back the people unto the Lord God? Whom did he set up in the land? II Chronicles 19:4-5.
3. What instructions did he give to the judges? Do you think he gave them good advice? II Chronicles 19:6-7.
4. Whom did he set up next in the kingdom? II Chronicles 19:8.
5. What were his instructions to them? II Chronicles 19:9-10.
6. Who was to be the chief priest over the people? Who was ruler of the house of Judah? What were the Levites to do? II Chronicles 19:11.
7. Read the last sentence of verse 11 again. That was King Jehoshaphat's final advice to his rulers. Don't you think that was good admonition and something we should remember and apply to our own lives?

## CINDY'S NEW SKATES

by Katherine Blake

Cindy had a new pair of roller skates. She had been wanting skates for a long time. Big sister Ann and brother Jerry both had new skates, but Cindy had only Ann's old ones. Even as she had learned to skate quite well, though the old skates were too big and came off her feet once in a while.

But yesterday had been Cindy's birthday, and Cindy had gotten a new pair of skates. It had been too late after her birthday party to try them out, so this morning she intended to see how much fun it was to skate with her very own new skates.

She put on her sweats and went out on the front porch. She sat down on the bottom step and put on the skates. They fitted just right. She fastened the straps on the skates to be sure they would not fall off.

She stood up. She gave a big push with her right foot. Away she went. Down the sidewalk she rolled. What fun it was! Clear down to the corner she went in a flash, then back again to her own house, then down to the next corner. Cindy had never gone any farther than the first corner on the old skates, but those were hard to skate on. She wondered what it would be like to skate around the block.

When she came to the next corner, she did not turn as she should have, but hopped off the curb and crossed the street. Down the sidewalk she flew. On and on she went.

"It is like flying," she thought. "I never did anything that was so much fun."

Cindy kept going on and on. Sometimes she would turn a corner. Sometimes she would cross the street. But never once did she stop long enough to remember that mother had told her she must never, never go away from home unless she had asked mother. And she must never, never go away from their own block unless some older person was with her.

All of a sudden Cindy's foot caught on a bump in the sidewalk. With a crash Cindy went tumbling. She skinned her knee. She tore the elbow of her pretty new sweater. Cindy began to cry. She got up and started home to get

mother to fix her knee.

Then she looked around. All at once she realized that she had never seen this street before. She had no idea where home was. She did not know how to get there.

Cindy was frightened. She began to cry harder than ever. Then she thought, "Jesus knows where home is. He knows where I am. He can help me find my way."

She felt better then. She shut her eyes and said, "Dear Jesus, I am awfully lost. I do not know where home is. Will You please tell me how to find my house?"

After she prayed, Cindy was not so scared. When she was not scared, she could remember what mother and daddy had often told her to do if she got lost.

"When I am lost, I must find a policeman," she said. But I do not see a policeman anywhere. I wonder where one is."

Just then she saw a lady watering her flowers.

"Lady," Cindy called. "Do you know where a policeman is? I am lost."

The lady stopped her watering. She came over to talk to Cindy. "There is not a policeman near here, but I can call one for you if you want me to, my dear."

Cindy sat down on the grass. "I will wait here until he comes."

Then the lady had an idea. "What is your name? Do you know where you live?"

"Oh, yes," said Cindy. "Mother taught me that when I was a very little girl. My name is Cindy Ward. And I live at 54 Oak Ridge."

"That is fine," said the lady. "I will just call your mother on the phone. That is better than calling a policeman. If every little child knew their name and address as you do they would not be in trouble if they got lost."

In a few minutes mother came in the car to get Cindy. She thanked the lady for helping Cindy. She started the car.

"Mother," Cindy said. "I did not mean to get lost."

"I know," said mother. "But when we disobey, something usually happens that we do not expect or want."

"Jesus helped me when I was scared," Cindy said. "He helped me remember what to do."

"Jesus always helps us," said Mother. "And we should say a special thank-you for His love and care."

What is the missing letter in each sentence?

When you have found them all,  
put them in the numbered spaces below.

It is a word Paul often used.

1. Paul taught that we must \_elieve.
2. We should \_ll try to be more like Jesus every day.
3. Paul had great faith because he \_rayed every day.
4. The idol worshipers went to the \_emple of Diana.
5. We must not worship \_dols.
6. God wants us to \_erve him.
7. Paul was the first \_issionary.

Important word \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

### DON A SMILE

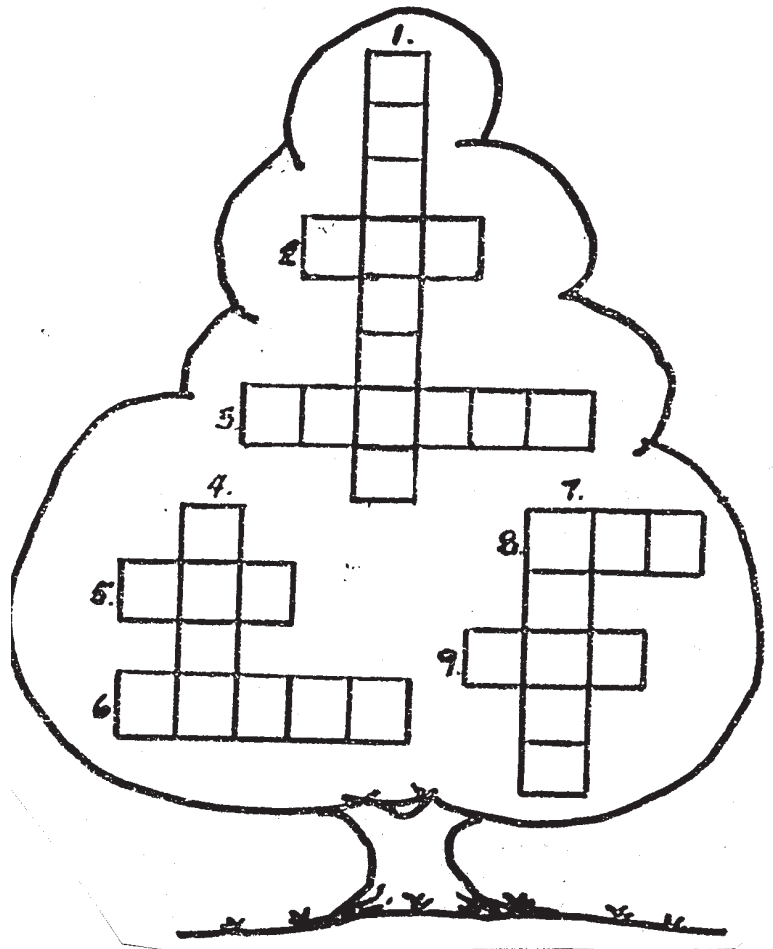
You may not wear the latest shoes,  
No feather in your hat;  
And yet, you need not sing the blues,  
Dear friend, because of that.  
You may not follow fickle style,  
and yet, if you are wise,  
You'll find a good old-fashioned smile  
Will always take the prize.

Though fashions come and fashions go,  
From year to year you'll find  
The fairest faces still will show  
The smile that God designed.  
Then don today the one true style  
That wins the loving cup;  
Put on your very nicest smile  
and pin the corner up!

## BIBLE TREES PUZZLE

The Bible texts below give the names of some trees.  
Fill in the puzzle spaces with letters which will spell the  
names of the trees.

1. Luke 19:4
2. Isaiah 41:19
3. Isaiah 41:19
4. Isaiah 41:19
5. Isaiah 55:13
6. Isaiah 14:8
7. Psalm 52:8
8. Isaiah 2:13
9. Matthew 24:32





## **FOR OUR LITTLE ONES**

**America has stood tall  
from its start through today,  
always finding a way  
to overcome all  
that could make it fall  
whether from within or out  
and never leaving a doubt  
that the future will be  
secure and free  
for our precious little ones to  
play in fun innocence,  
enjoy learning all that is new,  
find their way through adolescence,  
and do the same for theirs  
as the heirs  
to America's noble cares.**