

# *THE ADVOCATE OF TRUTH*





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**Lord Supper Date -  
Sunday March 24, 2024 at even, Roman time  
Monday March 25, 2024, Bible time**



*"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness;  
and thy paths drop fatness" (Psalm 65:11).*

*Cover photo - Ice glacier on one of the mountains  
in Glacier National Park, Alaska - taken by Ludina Mills*



All of us have been given gifts, or talents, by which we can serve the Lord and one another. Ephesians 4:7-8 reminds us: "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

To those who have been given leadership positions in the Church, we find: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:45-51).

To everybody in the Church of God, Jesus had this to emphasize: "And he came to Capernaum: and being in the

house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me" (Mark 9:33-37).

Some folks think that being a servant to all is really being a doormat, upon which everybody treads. But Jesus said that being a servant to all makes that person to be first of all and great in God's kingdom. One of our brethren once said something like this: "I don't care if I'm only a doorkeeper in God's kingdom, as long as I'm there!" In making this year count let's make our calling and election sure (II Peter 1:10)!

If you feel in your heart that the Lord is calling you into new service with your gifts or talents, then follow Him wherever He takes you. For instance, if you feel the Lord nudging you to teach a Sabbath School class this year then do so! Perhaps the Lord is calling some young (or old) man to go into the ministry this year. As we see our ministers, many with grey heads, aging, we need younger men also to step up to the plate for the Lord.

In Ephesians 5:14-17 the Apostle Paul admonishes all of us by writing: "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." And in Colossians 4:5 we read: "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

Redeeming the time is another way that we can make this year count. That means that we make the most of every opportunity that the Lord gives to us. That includes making the most of our time, making the most of our energy, and making the most of our gifts and talents with which we have been entrusted.

Let us be praying that the Lord will direct us into ways in which we can make 2024 count the most for His honor and glory. May we dedicate ourselves afresh to His service. God bless you to think upon these things!

## THE LINE OF COMMUNICATION



Can you remember the old crank telephones? There were so many people on the phone, and you didn't have a private line. When it rang everyone was listening to hear what was going on. I want to speak about a line of communication that is a private line, and it is never busy. We have access to that line at all times. What one may hear on that line doesn't mean that another can also hear. Prayer is our line of communication to God.

Is there power in prayer? I'm going to do much reading from the Word of God. I believe that it will point out to us very plainly that there is power in prayer to God. The first Scripture is in II Kings 20:1-6: "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my

servant David's sake." Here was a man who God had already told to set your house in order because he was going to die. And he prayed to God, and God heard his prayer because he added unto his days fifteen years. So is there power in prayer? Yes, I believe there is.

Does God delight in the prayers of his children? Let's turn to Proverbs 15:8. "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight." Those who are walking upright in the sight of the Lord are the ones God delights in prayer and listens to when they pray. The prayers of the wicked are an abomination unto the Lord.

How far is the Lord from the wicked? Let us read Proverbs 15:29. "The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." This line of communication to God is just for the righteous. There is another example of power through prayer in James 5:17-18. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." This is recorded in I Kings 17. "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou

shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the

soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth." This is a very extreme example of prayer. Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain on the earth for a period of three years and six months. He prayed again and the Lord gave rain. So there is definitely power in prayer!

We find in I Kings 18 that the Lord did send rain again. "And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts. So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah? And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here. And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth. Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and

he shall slay me. And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day. So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah. And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table. So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD

that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there. And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel."

We find in the book of Acts another example of power

in prayer. Let us turn to Acts 12:1-17. "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the LORD came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place." This is a good example of not

just one individual praying but the whole church praying. God delivered Peter out of the prison. There were no chains that could hold him. The gate to the city opened itself. This makes me think of the time the Publishing House was closed, and we were not allowed in it. An angel appeared to a certain individual and said, "Go possess the Publishing House against your enemies." All the doors that had been locked and barred with boards from the inside were standing wide open. This is the power of God Almighty. Someone was praying for the Publishing House to be opened.

So definitely there is power in prayer. There is nothing too hard for the Lord. But he does command us to pray and to believe we will receive that which we ask.

In Colossians 4:2, we are instructed to continue in prayer and to give thanks that God will answer. Many times prayers are not answered in the way that we might think they should be. When the answer comes, many times we see that the Lord knows best. Another example of power in prayer is in James 5:14-16. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Praying for the sick and anointing them with oil is God's way for his children to receive healing. There is power in prayer. The Bible says for the elders to anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord. Their sins will be forgiven at the same time.

Another example of power in prayer is in Matthew 17:14-21. "And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith

as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Again there is great power in prayer if we heed and obey the instruction that is given to us. His disciples could not cast this devil out because of their unbelief. Do we have unbelief that God is able to answer prayer? We need to pray, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief".

I Thessalonians 5:17 is a very short verse that tells us to pray without ceasing. Does that mean that we continually pray for twenty four hours? No, God doesn't mean for us to do that, but don't forget that there is power in prayer if we keep on praying, God will answer our prayers.

Let us read Matthew 21:22. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." But remember one thing, the Lord knows what we have need of before we ask. In Matthew 6:5-13 we will find recorded the model prayer. "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Always keep in mind that God has instructed us to pray. And he knows of what we have need. Let us follow this example of prayer because it is our line of communication to our heavenly Father. The one that operates the switchboard is His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. All of our prayers are directed to God through Christ. He is our great mediator, and He intercedes for us. Let us keep these things in mind as we continue down the road of faith.

## LIVING IN UNION WITH CHRIST

BY APOSTLE  
HENRY MIRORO  
KENYA EAST AFRICA

God created man in His own image, which means that man was pure before God before Satan deceived Eve. Therefore, through Satans's deception, man became impure because he disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. So sin came into the world through one man, and this sin brought death. However, through His great mercy, God gave his only begotten Son to save man from his sins.

Due to that factor, we must not live in sin. When we were baptized into union with Christ, we were baptized into His death. This means that we are buried with Him and share in His death. Just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, we live a new life in Jesus Christ and know that our old being (nature) has been put to death. We are no longer slaves to sin, but we sit together in union with Christ. Read Romans 6:3-6.

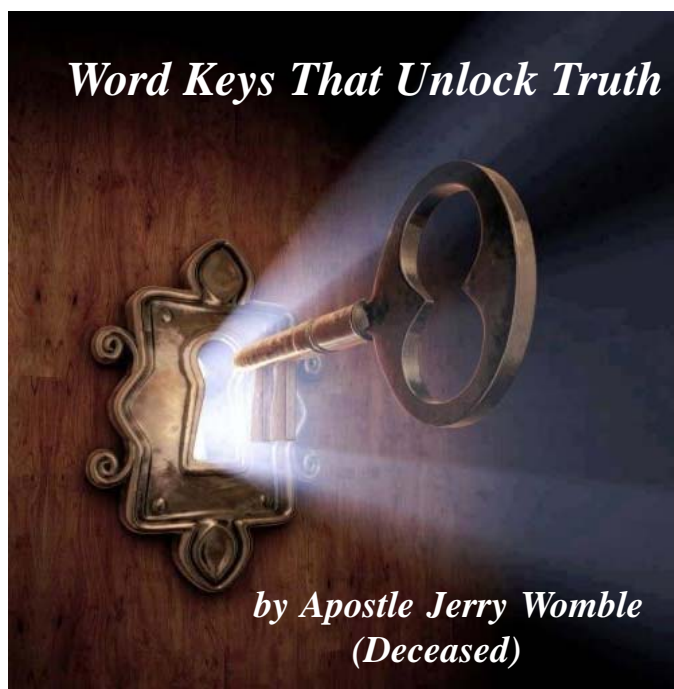
Jesus said, "I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 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. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in



his love" (John 15:1-10).

Since we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord, we have to live in union with Him. We must keep our roots deep in Him, build our lives on Him and become stronger in our faith. We must clothe ourselves with compassion, gentleness, patience, kindness, humility. We must be tolerant with one another and forgive one another just as Christ did.

Brethren, I urge you to live as wise people in this corrupt world. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17). There are many temptations which may hinder the faith of the children of God.



**FOREVER** means as long as a thing or situation shall last; whereas, eternity means never ending.

The first example is in Ex. 21:2-6. If a person bought a fellow Hebrew to be his servant, he would serve for six years and then go free. If that servant had a family while working for this master, he could take the family with him but if he liked working for this master and declared that he wanted to keep working for him then he could stay. Then vs. 6 says he will serve that master forever but that cannot mean for eternity as at some point in time that servant will die; therefore, forever is as long as the servant lives.

Lev. 25:29-30 pertains to a man buying a house in a walled city. The seller may redeem the house (that is take it back) within one year of its selling but if he does not take it back within one year it will belong to the new buyer forever even throughout his generations. However, it would only last as long as the life of the house existed. It may be destroyed by an earthquake, fire or some other disaster; therefore, forever would end at that time. A house within a walled city could not be redeemed even in the year of jubilee. Contrary to that, a house that was not within a walled city, even though it was sold forever could be redeemed in the year of jubilee (vs. 31). Again, forever was not for eternity but as long as the situation was called for.

Hannah in I Sam. 1:22 declared that she would give Samuel to the Lord and he would "there abide forever". But then in vs. 28 she says that he would be given to the Lord as long as he lived. So here the situation of forever would have limits.

Finally, in Rev. 20:10 the Bible tells us that the Devil will be cast into the lake of fire and will burn forever. Then we look back at Ezek. 28:17-19 and see that God will create a fire within the Devil and will consume him and he will be no more.

Then we can see Rev. 21 and 22 take place with a new heaven and a new earth because the first heaven and earth will vanish away. This, then is going into eternity to be with the Father and the Son. The spiritual life for the children of God will be in eternity but life and all things on this earth will have an ending.

*Answer to Abraham Crossword Puzzle  
on page 10*

*Across:*

*4-Jehovahjireh 5-Machpelah  
7-Dust 11-Pharaoh 14-Keturah  
15-Sarai 16-Sarah 17-Isaac  
19-Righteousness 22-Hagar 23-Three  
25-Altar 26-Famine 28-Eliezer  
29-Laughed*

*Down:*

*1-Melchizedek 2-Sodom 3-Lot  
4-Jordanplain 6-Abraham 8-Saltsea  
9-Ram 10-Covenant 12-Canaan  
13-Tithes 17-Ishmael 18-Prophet  
20-Hebrew 21-Sarah 24-Haran 27-Bera*

Who says puzzles are just for kids? Test your knowledge about ABRAHAM

ACROSS

- 4 Place called the Lord will provide \_\_\_\_\_ (22:14)
- 5 Sarah's burial place (23:19)
- 7 Abraham's seed described as \_\_\_\_\_ (13:16)
- 11 Name of Egyptian ruler (12:15)
- 14 Abraham's second wife (25:1)
- 15 Abraham's wife name (12:5)
- 16 Mother of kings (17:15,16)
- 17 Abraham's second son (21:3)
- 19 Abraham's reward for believing (15:6)
- 22 Sarah's handmaid (16:1)
- 23 Number of divine visitors to Abraham (18:2)
- 25 Abraham built this in Hebron (13:18)
- 26 Ecological plight in Canaan (12:10)
- 28 Steward of Abraham's house (15:2)
- 29 Sarah's childbearing response (18:12)

DOWN

- 1 King of Salem (14:18)
- 2 City Lot's tent faced (13:12)
- 3 Abraham's brother's son (12:5)
- 4 Land chosen by Lot (13:11)
- 6 Father of many nations (17:5)
- 8 Vale of Siddim called \_\_\_\_\_ (14:3)
- 9 Animal caught in a thicket (22:13)
- 10 God's agreement with Abraham (15:18)
- 12 Abraham's land of destination (12:5)
- 13 Abraham paid this to Melchizedek (14:20)
- 17 Abraham's first son (16:11)
- 18 Abraham was called a \_\_\_\_\_ (20:7)
- 20 Abraham's nationality (14:13)
- 21 Abraham's half-sister (20:2,12)
- 24 Abraham's departed country (12:4)
- 27 King of Sodom (14:2)

Hint: Find your answers  
Genesis 12-25

Directions: Fill in the crossword puzzle with the words missing from the sentences above. Match the number of the sentence to the boxes placed across or down the grid. If filled out correctly, the words will fit neatly into the puzzle.

Answers on page 9

## CHURCH IS HARD

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sabbath best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation, where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, when I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

**I'll remember,  
He has never failed to meet me there.**

**A BRAND NEW YEAR**  
by Eleanor Hammond

*A brand new year's a splendid thing  
For one to use!  
A year to fill with all the things  
You wish to choose!  
Let's see how many kindnesses  
Will pack in there!  
Perhaps then at the end we'll find  
A well filled year!  
Let's put in smiles of folks we know  
And of our own,  
So this will be as bright a year  
As we have ever known!  
Let's share our happiness and fun,  
Make folks less sad!  
We'll find our year a bit more full,  
A bit more glad!  
A new year is a splendid gift-  
Now we begin it,  
Let's stop and think a while and choose  
What we'll put in it!*



*Unscramble The Names*

1. Peter is known also as **SOMIN** and as **CAEPSH**
2. Peter once lived in **TSHAEIBAD**
3. Peter's brother was named **ERDWNA**
4. Peter's occupation was that of a **RESIHNMFA**
5. Peter's fishing partners were **MAESJ** and **NJHO**
6. Jesus said He would make Peter a **HEFSIR OF NME**

**LESSON I**

**PAUL AT ATHENS**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 17:15-34.**

**Golden Text: Acts 17:30.**

**"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent".**

1. Who did Paul ask to join him at Athens? Acts 17:15.
2. While Paul waited at Athens, what did he see that bothered him? Acts 17:18-21.
3. With what did Paul charge the men of Athens? Acts 17:22.
4. What did Paul find on Mars' hill? Acts 17:23.
5. Name seven ways Paul described God or a relationship to Him. Acts 17:24-31.
6. When the people heard of the resurrection, what did some do, and what did others say? Acts 17:32.
7. Who were the two mentioned that believed the words of Paul? Acts 17:34.

**LESSON II**

**PAUL AT CORINTH**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 18:1-11.**

**Golden text: Acts 18:10 (first part).**

**"For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee..."**

1. Paul leaves Athens and goes to Corinth where he meets Aquila. Tell three things about the man Aquila. Acts 18:1-2.
2. What was the occupation of Paul and Aquila? Acts 18:3.

3. On what day did Paul go to the synagogue? Acts 18:4.
4. Of what did Paul testify? Acts 18:5.
5. What did Paul say to the Jews when they blasphemed his words? Acts 18:6.
6. Whose house did Paul enter, and was he a believer? Acts 18:7.
7. Who was Crispus, and what happened to many of the Corinthians? Acts 18:8; I Corinthians 1:4.
8. What did the Lord say to Paul? Acts 18:9.
9. How long did Paul stay in Corinth? Acts 18:11.

### LESSON III

#### PAUL'S JOURNEY CONTINUES

**Scripture Reading: Acts 18:12-28.**

**Golden text: Acts 18:23.**

**"And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples."**

1. What did the Jews do to Paul in Acts 18:12-13?
2. What was the reply of Gallio? Acts 18:14-15.
3. Who was punished by the Greeks? Acts 18:16-17.
4. Where did Paul then journey to, and who did he take with him? Acts 18:18-19.
5. Did the people at Ephesus want Paul to leave? Acts 18:20.
6. What did Paul do in Galatia and Phrygia? Acts 18:23.
7. Describe Apollos. Acts 18:24-25; Titus 3:13.
8. When Apollos spoke in the synagogue, what did Aquila and Priscilla do? Acts 18:26.

9. By what means were the people shown that Jesus was Christ? Acts 18:28.

### LESSON IV

#### PAUL AT EPHESUS (Part I)

**Scripture Reading: Acts 19:1-12.**

**Golden Text: Acts 19:11.**

**"And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul".**

1. What did Paul ask the disciples at Ephesus, and what was their reply? Acts 19:1-2.
2. The disciples had been baptized unto John's baptism. What did it mean to be baptized unto John's baptism? Acts 19:3-4.
3. What did the disciples find it necessary to do in Acts 19:5?
4. What happened when Paul laid his hands upon them? Acts 19:6.

**NOTE: Tongues means languages. When it says they spoke in tongues, it means that they could speak in different languages. They would be able to minister and speak to many people in Asia.**

5. What did Paul speak about in the synagogue, and for how long? Acts 19:8.
6. When the people did not believe and spoke evil of Paul, what did he do? Acts 19:9.
7. How long did Paul work with these disciples throughout Asia? Acts 19:10.
8. What did God do through the hands of Paul? Acts 19:11-12.

Answers to Unscramble the Names on page 12 -

1. Simon and Cephas
2. Bethsaida
3. Andrew
4. Fishereman
5. James and John
6. Fisher of Men



Diana was on her way to Sabbath School, feeling very happy. She wore the new red coat she had received for her birthday. In her new red purse was a bright, shiny silver dollar. It was her birthday offering for Sabbath School. Diana had saved the pennies herself, and that very morning her father had given her the dollar in exchange for them.

Each member of her class gave a birthday offering every year. The offerings were "Thank you" to Jesus for all the blessings they had received from him throughout the year.

Diana had more to be thankful for than many of her classmates. Her heart was singing a little song as she skipped along thinking how glad she was to give Him the offering she had saved.

As she went by the fruit shop, Diana saw a girl staring into the window with delicious fruit. The girl was pale and thin, and her head was bare. Diana felt very sorry for her shivering there in the cold. As she passed by, the girl turned from the window. There were tears in her eyes.

Diana stopped. "What are you crying for?" she asked gently. The girl only shook her head and began to sob. "Please tell me, I want to help you," Diana urged.

Finally, the girl stopped crying and held out her hand. In it were four brown pennies. "They're all I have," she

said sadly. "And tomorrow is Mother's birthday, and she's sick. I wanted to buy some grapes. Mother said she believed she could get well if she had some grapes, but these four pennies won't buy any," she saddened, looking at the pennies with tears in her eyes.

Diana looked at the girl, then at the clusters of luscious grapes in the window. She thought of the shining piece of money in her red purse. It surely would buy a big cluster of those delicious grapes for the girl's mother. But it was her birthday offering. Diana hesitated, but only for a moment. Then quickly she opened her red purse, and taking out the money, pressed it into the child's hand. "Here," she said, "you can get a beautiful, big bunch from this. Now tonight, after the Sabbath, you can come to the store and get them."

The girl looked at Diana through tears. "You're very good," she said. "I'll take your money if you'll take mine," she added, and she thrust the four pennies into Diana's hand.

Diana ran down the street toward the church. When she got there, she began to feel ashamed of the four little brown pennies that were all she had to give. "It's too little for a birthday offering," she said to herself. The more she thought of it, the worse she felt. By the time she reached her class, Diana was about to cry. She had given away her "Thank you" to Jesus and she had only four pennies for Him. He would think she did not love Him.

She stood outside the door for a long time. She was standing there when Miss Field, her teacher, opened the door and saw her.

"Why Diana, what is the matter?" she asked.

Slowly, Diana raised a puzzled face to Miss Field. Then she told of meeting the girl in front of the fruit shop.

"I wanted the sick lady to have the grapes and now I have only the four pennies to give Him for all the blessings He has given me last year," Diana said.

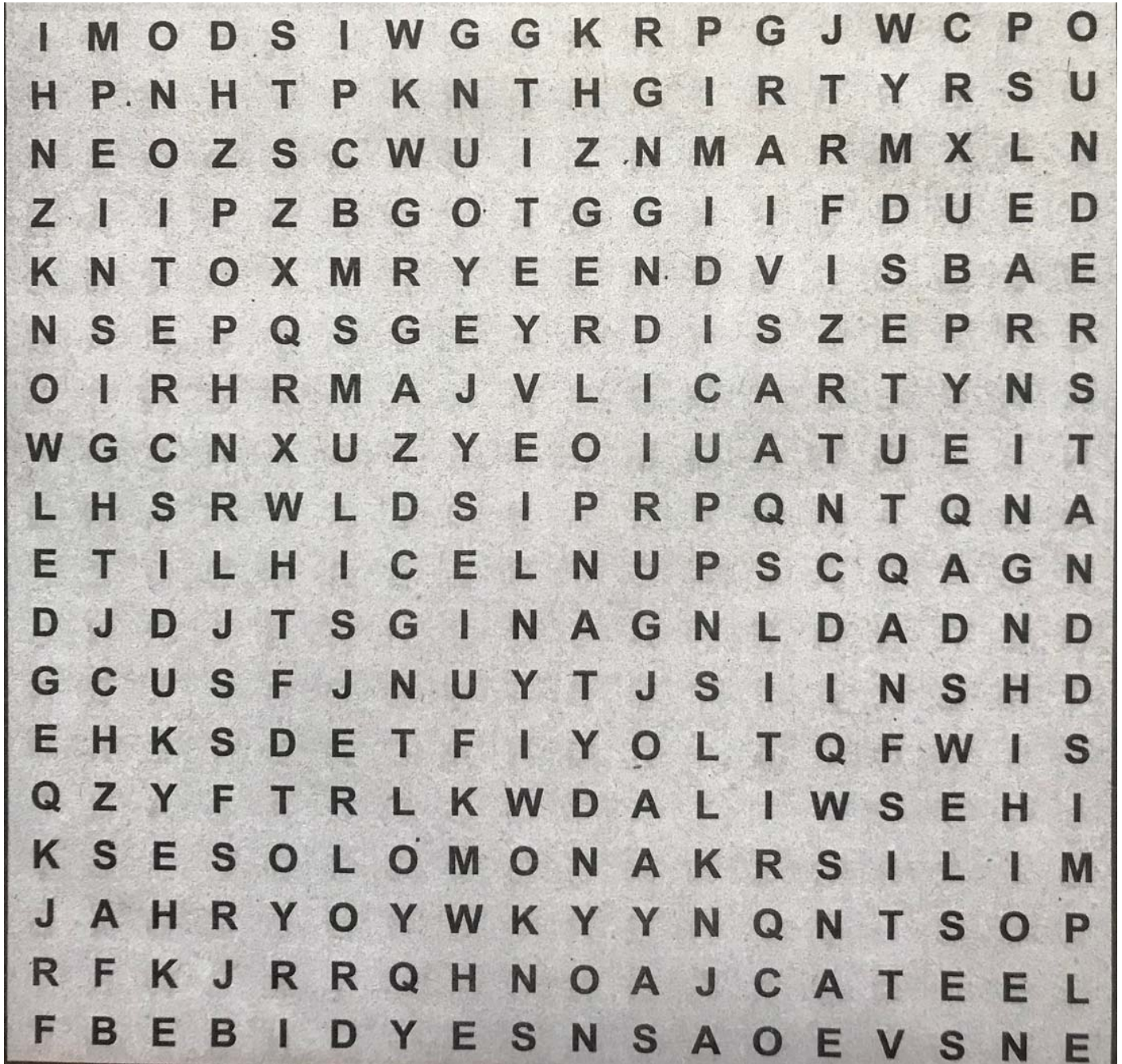
"Why, dear child!" said Miss Field. "You gave Him the gift He loves best of all. Do you remember where it says in His Book, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these...ye have done it unto me'? I think you made Jesus very happy by what you did."

Diana studied a moment, then a bright smile chased away her tears.

"Oh, Miss Field, I never thought of that. I'm so glad I gave her my 'Thank You' money!"

PURPOSE OF PROVERBS - PROVERBS 1 - Circle the words below

ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE SAYINGS  
 ATTAIN LEARNING SIMPLE  
 DISCIPLINE LIFE SOLOMON  
 DISCRETION LISTEN UNDERSTAND  
 FAIR LORD WISDOM  
 FEAR PROVERBS WISE  
 GUIDANCE PRUDENT WORDS  
 INSIGHT RIDDLES YOUNG JUST RIGHT



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### **Love's Lava**

Born in a volcano on a rock surrounded by lava,  
My mother's love kept me from jumping abroad.  
My father's strength kept me from wandering off.  
20 years later, I'm still upon this rock, afraid to move.  
My mother and father both left the nest,  
but I'm still stuck in this cocoon.  
Unable to fend for myself  
because I always had a hand to help.  
Now that the volcano is ready for eruption,  
I have no clue on what to do.  
But without hesitation I jumped in the lava  
and swam through.  
GOD told me to take a leap of faith.  
What are you scared for  
when I'll always keep you safe?

*Poetry By Brother Derrick Shaw Jr.*

