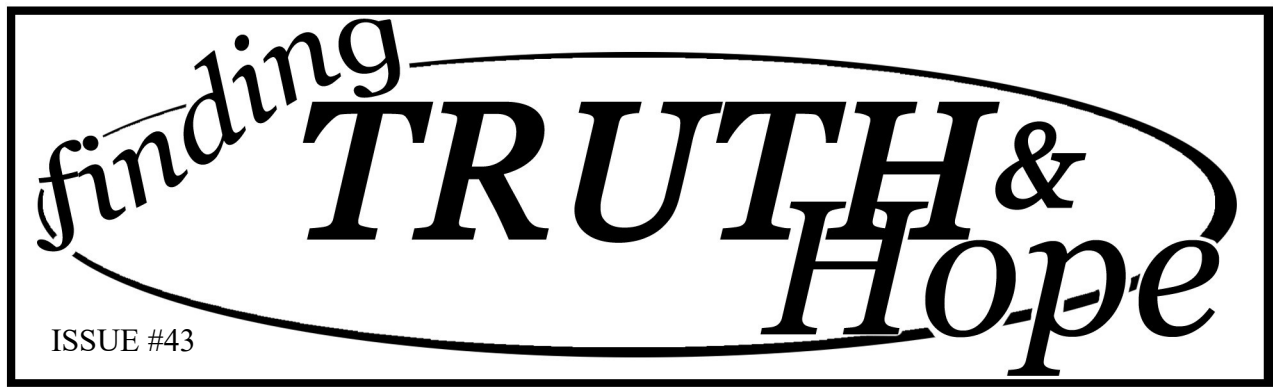




HOME CULTURE

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Rod Smith at Loranger, LA February 1, 2026

Culture involves norms, atmosphere, the lived out environment, beliefs, the feel of the home, patterns, spirit, emotional, relationship, and climate, what household consistently practices, what's real and lived out.

Some homes have a little more discipline. Some are louder; some are quieter. Some are more loving and affectionate. Some have teaching and correction. **The Lord cares a whole lot about the very fabric of our lives!** Our lives are intended to reflect Jesus Christ. Our homes are to be our own Eden, and the Lord is welcomed to abide in my home.

The Lord wants our homes intentionally tended, not negatively, but deliberately. *I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live* (Deuteronomy 30:19). **Values** and **beliefs** lead to **thoughts**, which lead to **actions**, which lead to **consequences**.

What's most important in your home? Don't let your feelings dictate it. Christian homes should be by design and not by default. You can start to predict beliefs, rhythms, and habits. When you leave Mom and Dad's home and start your own, your responsibilities increase exponentially. Your expectations, actions, and followups set the tone. Consequences of not choosing LIFE are not very pleasant. They flow by the decisions and actions that we take and influence what follows next.

USE your MIND

A great deal of lethargy with respect to mind and will abounds among the Lord's people. Many seem to think that when they are saved, God will decide things for them, instead of giving them the ability to see for themselves what is right and wrong, and what is wise and unwise.

Some of them will do anything rather than get into the place of a responsible person endowed with the wisdom and decision of "the new man in Christ." . . . Most of them cut their lives into two departments—one natural and the other spiritual. In the former, they use their brain and will, but in the latter they just drift along. You never know what they are going to do in the spiritual realm, for their guidance is enveloped in some vaporous mysticism which nobody understands.

"Be sober." Use your mind. Your brain has been redeemed as much as your heart. "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10; Rom. 12:2). Let the light of God create for you a new intelligence department— "UNDERSTAND what the will of the Lord is." Say, "I must get to understand the will of the Lord." This will call for faith and patience, but persist in coming to know God's will for yourself by regular searching of His Word. If you will do that, you will guard yourself against falling into many a snare of Satan.

In addition, you will become increasingly efficient in the Lord's service as His fellow worker (2 Cor. 6:1). A word of caution is needed here, however. There are some things that for the time being are designedly veiled from our eyes, and the recognition of this sometimes places faith in its best setting to mature (John 13:7).

How to Resist the Devil by F. J. Perryman

Bring your hurts to Jesus

Won't you let Him and His love break your barriers down? Emotional hurt and pain can be such a deep and dark thing. Before you know it, it can have you bound in hate and deception. The size of the hurt doesn't necessarily determine the results it has in your life. The smallest hurt can bring the biggest chains. It's all a matter of what you do with it. Anything besides truly bringing it to Jesus will result in some kind of a chain in your life. Anything less will leave you at the disposal of a power that seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. That power is greater than you are, but he is not greater than God. Just as you are, bring it to Jesus today. Completely. And rest in Him. He can do it. He can break those chains if you will truly hand them over to Him. He loves you. And so do His children.

Brandon Martens

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, Whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

KEEP YOURSELF PURE

The Key to Peace by A. Marie Miles

God created our bodies, and every part is for a purpose. We want to keep our bodies free from impurities. There are urges in our body, and sometimes a drawing to the opposite sex, but we must not let that urge have control. We must keep our bodies under control. The Apostle Paul tells us what he did. He said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor. 9:27.

Jesus also tells us "that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matt. 5:28. We need to be very careful of our thoughts, and where our eyes wander. Keep the right kind of thoughts. A mother told her son when he was taking a trip, "Son, never do anything to place your body where your soul would not be the master." Petting and kissing among young people will lead to wrong thoughts and lead them into traps. We need to be careful and watchful about all of these things. "Keep thyself pure." We are in a battle in this world against all evil. The devil wants to destroy our souls and cause us to miss eternal life with Jesus Christ, the Lover of our souls. The devil has many agents in the world who also help him.

In the schools today your teachers are taught how to change your thinking. They will slowly but surely work on you day by day to do so. Beware of this. Don't let anyone destroy your faith in God, in the Bible, nor in what it teaches as being the Eternal Word of God. Guard this faith and live by it. It means your eternal destiny. Whether anyone says God's Word is true or false, it will still be true.

Men's thoughts and ideas will never change God's Word.

PRAY WITH COMPASSION

by Sis. Sarah Irene Spanogle

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.
Psalms 112:24

“Compassion” is defined as a feeling of deep sympathy, sorrow, or pity for another person accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate their suffering! Compassion is key to being able to pray the prayer of faith and see results. Jesus, our example, was and IS very compassionate. “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14). Deep compassion for another person's suffering will move us to pray effectually. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). “The Lord is gracious, and FULL of compassion” (Psalms 145:8). Compassion will inspire our faith as we pray for others. Compassion is an attribute of God, of Jesus, and also of us IF we have been made a partaker of His divine nature. Self-love will hinder compassion. As we keep the second greatest commandment, we will love others to the degree that their suffering becomes ours. Just as we must increase our other fruit bearing, we must increase our compassion. We must desire to see other people's suffering alleviated as if it were ours! We must weep with them that weep! (Romans 12:15). -----

Don't feel sorry for or fear for your children/grandchildren because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident. Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of His Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know that they can help to make a difference in the world.

Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan. He knew Daniel could handle the lions' den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution.

He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life [with God's help]. He created them specifically for it! Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime. Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters!

God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.

Unknown

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Finding Truth & Hope is edited by Nelson & Genece Doolittle, assisted by Carlos Doolittle.

The local Loranger congregation volunteers with cutting, folding, labeling addresses, and tabbing for mailing each issue. Many hands marvelously make swift work of hundreds of papers. Thankfully, now, the Lord has permitted the congregation to obtain a nonprofit postal permit for mailing individual papers to your homes.

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In Spirit and in Truth

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Ivan Eck at Loanger, LA 6-28-26

I want to be one of those that follow the Lord with all my heart. I want to influence people around me. Do you know God wants us to enjoy living for Him? He wants us to portray Godliness to the world! He is interested in stamping His image on every one of us. We don't have to be given over to old carnal natures. The Lord would like to move us to a fuller understanding. Let's give ourselves to be vulnerable to the Lord. The Lord wants to do a great work in our hearts. He wants to send the Spirit of His Son in our lives.

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Power of Prayer

Edited excerpts of message by Sis. Marsha Cortaway at Loranger, LA, 6-28-26

(Psalms 4:1, 5:3) O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is (Psalms 63:1). God wants us to get really sincere about prayer. Add more prayer in your life (Daniel 6:10). Thoughts are words to God. There's power in your words. You can ask God, and He will help you! There's nothing you can't ask Him for. Keep prayed up! We can live on the sunny side of life! Keep conquering. You can praise God and pray at midnight (Acts 16:25). We've got to go through life anyway, why not be happy?

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He has HIS Way in the Storm

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Marty Clevenger at Loranger, LA, 6-30-26

God loves and cares about you. I want the Lord to work in my life. Sometimes God seems to send a wrecking ball into your life. You and I don't have a chance if the Lord doesn't help us! He's going to do what we need Him to do. Job and his boils – we can read about that in 30 seconds. He longed for more of God. Job had a pretty good attitude. I've had worse attitudes than Job had.

We live in a dangerous time. Our minds are being robbed of our spirituality. He wants us to be alive and vibrant! Lord help us to be true in the time we live in! **Lord, I want to accept what you do in my life, because I can't do it for myself! God has His way/purpose in the storm.** He'll let you get wet and scared. **Master, carest thou not that we perish?** (Mark 4:38). God's love for us will have Him bring a storm. **The Lord knows how to deal with our lives. He can surgically work on you with a whirlwind!** If you live long enough, you'll go through some storms. He's not going to tear down anything that He doesn't build back up better.

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RESISTING SEDUCING SPIRITS

Transcript from YouTube: Church of God Tulsa – Bro. Don Elwell June 13, 2026

Seducing spirits are alive and well, functioning and have power to transform themselves and come in a way that seems logical and plausible. It just makes sense. It appeals to your common sense, your natural disposition. We all have a natural way of thinking. I'm going to remind you that seducing spirits understand that (1 Timothy 4:1). These spirits come in a way that appeals to you.

I'm here to tell you we don't have to go that way.

THE SINGING HEART

by Sis. Irene Spanogle

Psalms 9:11 "Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings."

Singing sincere praises to the LORD can only come from a joyful heart. Psalms 137 teaches us this. Being held captive in Babylon had caused God's people to hang their harps on the willow trees. They lost their joy. They did not feel like singing the songs of Zion. Neither would we if we were held captive by sin and Satan.

Ephesians 5:18-20 exhorts us to be filled with the Spirit, to speak to OURSELVES in psalms, hymns, and in spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our HEART to the Lord, giving thanks ALWAYS for ALL things. This should be our practice even when we are alone. If we think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report, then we can sing and make melody in our heart. We need to sing together in church. But we also need to sing and make melody in our own HEART to the Lord. In New Jerusalem today, we have been made a spiritual king and priest. As a spiritual king we reign over sin. As a spiritual priest our duty is to offer continual sacrifices of praise to God. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God CONTINUALLY, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15). Every day we need to have a song in our heart and not hang our harp on the willow trees. We have absolutely nothing to be sad about because we have the burden bearer. Praise God. His yoke is easy. His burden is light.

Life in this age is intense.

People live so much in the public that many feel they have no time for quietness. Others are so disturbed in their minds and so constantly under a strain; they are so continually facing real or imaginary difficulties that they have no rest of spirit. God does not want us to miss the quiet side of life. **He wants us to be able to sing the songs of quietness that differ from all other songs.** Before we can sing these songs, we must become quiet and enter into a place of restfulness.

Here is a promise: "Whoso harkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Proverbs 1:33.

We need to come to quietness before God and to see Him as He is **and to submit to His will without reserve.** Straining and struggling come from rebellion. Submission is the cure for this. If your life is in a turmoil, God's promise of rest is not being fulfilled in you. It is not God's fault. You are not giving Him a chance. You may have that rest of soul by deliberately turning away from the thing that prevents your rest and diligently seeking the way that leads to quietness and peace.

There is a way into this secret place. The strange thing about that way is that each of us must find it for himself. Most of us who do not find it do not look for it intently enough. We seem too busy to do this. We should like to be in God's secret place, but we assume that under our circumstances we cannot be there. There is a road, a short road, from wherever we are, into God's secret place; that secret place of quietness and rest where He would commune with us and where our hearts can grow tranquil. God wishes His people to be tranquil. Tranquility brings calmness and peace.

The Secret of the Singing Heart by C. W. Naylor

Prayer Meeting Night **Excerpts**

He restoreth my soul (Psalms 23:3). The Lord is there to make us whole.

Give me, Lord, the mind of Jesus. Let's be vessels the Lord can use. We may have to go through some hard things. We don't want to cower in fear. We want to be a conduit – an example of someone having hope in difficult times.

Regardless of how we sometimes feel, the Lord is going to carry us safely through, even though we may feel like we are falling. The battle before me is not other people – it is myself.

"He walks with me, and naught of earth can harm me, for I'm sheltered in the arms of God."

There is more going on than you see going on. I'm working on you! ***These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*** (John 16:33). "Be of good cheer." He's there saying, "I have peace for you." In the midst of my troubles, He's there for me.

Jesus paid for our victory. Let's recognize that Jesus already paid for us to come through to the other side with victory. When there are storms, we as humans want to "get rid of it." **Just because the storm is there doesn't mean that Jesus isn't there.**

I don't have to figure it all out, but to get up each day and say, "Lord, here I am." I want to humble myself before God.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested (1 Chronicles 4:10). The Lord was so willing to bless this man because he asked for things that were good for him.

I want to be the one that gives a cup of water to someone else. They may be in desperate need of it. Let the peace of God be the controlling factor in my heart (Colossians 3:15).

I can trust Jesus. Jesus never once failed to meet my need. He is my strong tower, the strength in my weakest hour.

Jesus is our friend. True friends care and love you. That's what the Lord wants to be to us and more.

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: . . . he will make . . . her desert like the garden of the Lord (Isaiah 51:3).

Be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me (Psalms 31:2). ***Thou hast been my . . . refuge in the day of my trouble*** (Psalms 59:16). ***I shall not be moved*** (Psalms 62:6). Religion can be something you can set aside, but true salvation will go all the way through us and influence everything we do.

"Treasures of a Godly Home"

Taken from BIBLE LESSONS 2nd Quarter, 2016

Home evokes some kind of feeling or memory in us all. For many of us, the feeling is warm and comforting. Unfortunately for some, it is not a pleasant memory. As we look into the Scriptures, we find God's plan for the home and His design is always one of blessing.

The dynamics of each individual home may vary; to many, home is father, mother and several children. But home may also be a childless couple or a single parent raising children. It may be an older couple living alone whose children are on their own. It may be a blended family, a family caring for elderly parents, a single person living alone—a widow, widower, divorced person, or someone who never married. It could even be several adult siblings living still at home together, like the Bethany home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, whom Jesus loved and often visited. For the purpose of the general discussion, we will primarily be mentioning the father-mother-children home scene.

To each of these different home situations, however, the principles of Scripture apply. The spirit, the atmosphere, and the tone of the home can be one where God's presence and blessing is known and felt—a heavenly place.

Years ago when we were a family with young children, the Lord visited us with a vision of what it meant to have a true godly home. In the years that have passed since that time, we have endeavored to put that vision into practical daily life. There were times we were discouraged with our progress on the journey toward this goal. But God held the vision ever before us. He gently led us (Isaiah 40:11).

In this series of lessons, we feel inspired to put some of that vision into instructional teaching. It is our prayer that others will catch the vision and be encouraged on their own journey.

Sis. Angela Gellenbeck "

. . . He blesseth the habitation of the just." Proverbs 3:33

- Love in the Home -

"Here's a picture of love gleaned from real-life examples: Love is a man always putting the comfort, pleasure and happiness of his wife ahead of his own. Love is a wife thinking constantly of her husband's needs and desires and putting forth the strength and time of her whole day to meet those needs—without always being asked. Love is a son who lays aside his wants and dreams in life to assist and be a blessing to his father who is not well. Love is a daughter being a best friend to her mother—sharing with her, helping her, praising her, encouraging her. Love is a mother staying up all night to be beside a sick child, praying, getting drinks, cleaning up sick messes. Love is a wife taking the Biblical steps to forgive and

restore the erring husband and never broadcasting the story of his weakness to others. Love is a grandmother lying on the floor beside the bed of her granddaughter who has shingles, praying all times of the night until God takes all pain and itching away completely. Love is a husband who cleans up the kitchen for his sick wife – after working twelve hours on his own job. Love is a dad who is dead tired after a hard day, reading stories to his toddlers.”

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

"For God so loved, that he gave..." Giving is a reflection of the love that God has put down in our hearts. Many of my fondest childhood memories wrap around my Grandma, whom I dearly miss. Her home always meant warmth, acceptance, stability. I loved staying at Grandpa and Grandma's, although the snoring would often hinder me from getting to sleep.

I remember the many times she held me in her bosom and rocked me to sleep in the wooden rocking chair. I remember the beautiful colored chicks she would buy in early spring and keep in a cardboard box by the stove until they got a little larger. She always seemed available to take me and stay for my school activities; afterwards we would go eat. I also remember the wheat harvests, riding with Grandpa on the combine or with Grandma in the truck in the hot summer sun.

I went with her on many trips to visit her sisters, brothers and family. There were also all the times she loaded me and a lawnmower in the truck to help her on rental houses. She would single-handedly load up us cousins and haul us off to camp-meeting, stopping by a fruit stand on the way.

I don't remember her giving extraordinarily; it was just the ordinary, everyday stuff that counted. She was there. I remember her often calling me from her back porch—"Bobby, supper is ready." I could smell the fried chicken as I raced to the back door and I knew that mashed potatoes and gravy went with it!

—Bro. Bob Wilson

The spirit of submission is obviously something that can be practiced by each member of the family. This creates a happy and harmonious home. While meditating on this subject, it seems that there are a few key ingredients that can be helpful in bolstering this kind of environment:

The importance of prayer: "The family that prays together stays together." While praying individually is a necessary part of our personal devotion to the Lord, it is also needful to pray collectively as a family. Praying together is a wonderful time to learn how to bring our needs to the Lord, as well as thanking him for all that he has done in our lives. This is something that can be practiced by each member of the family; it should not always be left up to the parents to do. I have heard some sweet prayers from the mouths of little children, as they have an innocent and pure faith.

The power of repentance: "I'm sorry." While the Lord has placed parents to be the authority over their children, it does not mean that there will be no mistakes made. Just as no child is perfect - no parent is perfect either. When the father or mother makes an incorrect call of decision, judgment or discipline, it is completely okay to say, "I'm sorry." This also works well with the husband and wife to each other and children to their parents or siblings. Repentance practiced by each member of the family goes a long way toward building a consistent and strong relationship.

The necessity of service: "Each for the other and all for the Lord." No matter what position you hold in the family, remember to serve one another well. Acts of courtesy and a good dose of manners should be commonly exercised between each other. Words of derision, sarcasm or harmful teasing should cease. Look for ways to make life easier for one another. A helping hand with an unsavory chore, a sweet note in a lunch bag or a favorite dish prepared with love - all of these expressions of service lead to a healthy and happy home environment. Building a strong and harmonious family unit is no small task. It takes a lot of time and humility. It is not for the slothful or the faint hearted, but the benefits are reaped from time to eternity. May you too enjoy the benefits of a "home sweet home."

--Sis. LaDawna Adams

I must honestly tell you that when I finished compiling these Scriptures and their definitions,* I was convicted in my own heart and could not stop weeping for over an hour! I could see where there were times in raising my family that I had been sadly lacking in these areas. *[These scriptures and definitions were omitted for space.]

Oh, the pain and sorrow we would avoid if we could keep these essential qualities in our hearts and manifest them to our families! "Thy gentleness has made me great," David said, meaning, "You have made me to grow, abound and flourish by your gentle way of dealing with me." Surely, that is how we can nurture our little ones and encourage our spouse to greatness—by that true compassion and deep sympathetic feeling that expresses itself in gentleness and kindness.

The little niceties that we often extend only to newcomers—may we keep them for home folks, too! We can soften requests by the simple word, "Please." We can cultivate appreciation by always saying, "Thank you. I appreciate that." We can look our loved ones in the eyes, and smile when we first see them in the morning, or when they come in during the day. A gentle caress, a warm hug, or an "I love you," given sincerely, can brighten someone's whole day. **Kindness truly is a simple way to make the home a heavenly place.**

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

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KINDNESS AND COURTESY IN THE HOME

Proverbs 31:26 She [the virtuous woman] openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Ecclesiastes 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

I Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

MEMORY VERSE: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. —Galatians 5:22-23

CENTRAL THOUGHT: The wise man and the virtuous woman both make graciousness and kindness the law of their conduct. Courtesy, gentleness, compassion, and forgiveness are qualities that should be practiced in every godly home.

Mutual Honor in the Home

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul gives the comparison of the institution of marriage to the union of Christ with his bride, the church. As the church submits to and honors Christ, so the wife honors, reveres and submits to her husband.

Peter also speaks specifically to husbands and wives in I Peter 3. After outlining the principle of godly submission of wives to their husbands, he shows the balance in God's plan by commanding the husbands to use good judgment, self-control and understanding when dealing with their wives, giving them honor and courtesy. The practice—or neglect—of this important principle, Peter says, has directly to do with how effectual a man's prayers will be.

Paul also admonishes the men of Thessalonica to use self control, holiness and honor in their relationships with their wives.

Specific commands were given in the Old Testament law concerning honor shown to parents. The elderly were especially to be shown honor and esteem. They were never to be neglected or despised—a command so important that Solomon emphasized it in the book of Proverbs (Chapter 23:22).

This reverence for the aged and the widow was also taught and carried out by the early New Testament church. Children and grandchildren were to make sure that they cared for their aged or desolate parents—practicing true godliness at home.

These Scriptures give a clear picture of the atmosphere or attitude of mutual honor that God wants in the home, and is the underlying secret of the obedience God requires of a wife to her husband and children to their parents. It sets in place a structure of honor in the family, each component building upon the foundation of honor and worship to God; then a man toward his wife; a wife toward her husband; children to their parents; and adult children toward aged or widowed parents or grandparents.

Indeed, according to the Scriptures, the whole plan of marriage—the bond of matrimony—is to be held in great esteem and sacred honor.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

KINDNESS AND COURTESY IN THE HOME

A compelling, relevant, and heart-capturing picture is drawn in Nehemiah 9. God paid attention to His children. He talked and listened to them, He taught them, led them, fed them, and forbore with them. Ultimately, He showed them multiple mercies with great kindness when they selfishly went their own way. Kindness takes time and effort and shines most brilliantly in situations where mercy must also be shown!

A cardinal rule of a company for which my husband and I used to work was this: Always answer the phone with a smile. It became a cultivated habit to portray a smile to potential customers whose business we coveted -- regardless of our feelings. Our feelings should not be dictators of our actions. Rude, indifferent, or harsh words spoken because we are tired, had a long day, or are fighting our own inward battles come with a high price tag. The childhood saying that "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," is simply not true.

Familiarity with the faults and/or weaknesses of our family members, whom we know best, should not be a reason to excuse a lack of kindness or good manners! Let us humbly ask forgiveness when we fail and prayerfully strive, by the grace of God, to cultivate the same kindness and courtesy in our lives which God has extended to us!

--Sis. Julie Elwell

WORSHIP AND GODLY INSTRUCTION IN THE HOME

The importance of daily worship and diligent instruction cannot be overemphasized. It starts with the parents in the home loving and following God's Word in their own lives and being an example of the truths they teach. It has been said, "More is caught than taught."

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www.churchofgodeveninglight.com/bible-lessons/ and can be downloaded for printing.

The secret to successful teaching is right there in Deuteronomy. As we live, we teach. We don't wait for a formal setting, although that has its place. It is done as we wake in the morning, at mealtime, as we take a trip, a walk, or a ride to the store. It is accomplished as we work, as "teachable" moments arise, all through the day, and at bedtime.

It is important to talk, really talk to each other, as a family. It is vital that we share our family history – that we take the time to explain about people who lived for the Lord successfully and those who did not, and the rewards or consequences of both. Biographies of important people, especially notable Christians, missionaries, and martyrs are very influential reading for the family circle.

I cannot express the value that singing together has in a family. Not only can the simple rudiments of music be learned in the close parent/child setting, but the truths of the songs can be explained as well. Singing together promotes family unity and makes precious memories.

Yes, it is possible to establish the WORSHIP of God in your home. Keep God's presence near at all times by constantly calling, freely and naturally, on God in times of need; praising Him and practicing an "attitude of gratitude" for all things, and eliminating worldly distractions and ungodly media that constantly vie for our attention.

– Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

JOY IN THE HOME

The little-known, underrated secret to the success of the home is joy. Many times we diligently plod along, faithful to the "duties," obedient to all the "standards," embracing the form of righteousness, but lacking in this essential component. Yet joy is the one thing which can make all the difference.

We're not talking about a surface happiness. "Everybody look happy, now – people are watching us." The Scriptures speak of daily living, of inner qualities. It's not that we let go of the standards and dismiss the boundaries, but true joy is the motivation for those high standards, giving ease and energy for their application.

Let us not overlook the importance of good, wholesome laughter and fun in a family. Family trips, birthdays, games, meals, worship times – all are times where we can secure the loyalty of our children by giving them warm memories of all the fun they had at home.

Joy is a choice. Joy is deliberate. We can present the rules of the home with a sour face or a cheerful one. Chores and jobs can be coerced at the constant threat of punishment or transformed into fun and games. God is our source; He can give us creative ideas for how to incorporate joy into our daily lives.

– Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

In visiting many different homes over the years, you can pretty much sum up the environments of the home into three categories: the toxic home, the refrigerator home and the cozy home.

The toxic home: Once you enter the toxic home, you automatically feel the stress and hostility of the family unit. Words spoken are laced with anger and sarcasm. Members of the home, as well as visiting friends, do not feel cherished or loved in this environment. Sadly, there is a lot of emotional damage in this type of home.

The refrigerator home: Loving words, actions, or deeds are sparse or non-existent in the refrigerator home. Parents are demanding or domineering with lots of rules and no positive relationships. Children cannot wait to become of age so they can flee this cold environment, and rarely do they return; there is just simply no warmth to draw them back.

The cozy home: The minute you walk through the door of a cozy home, the members of the family make you feel cherished, wanted and loved. It is as though the host or hostess has "rolled out the red carpet" just for you. Conversation flows easily, and the memories made will last a lifetime. The children of the cozy home grow up and leave this happy place to build their own nests, but they will always love migrating back. A joyful and happy family is a little piece of heaven on this side. These are the heart ties that keep the members of the family, as well as visiting friends, returning again and again.

So what kind of home do you have?

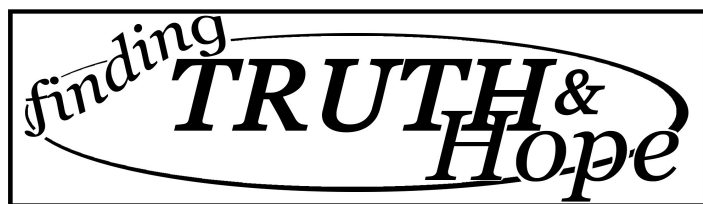
--Sis. LaDawna Adams

19 Aug 2026 - 23 Aug 2026	Pacoima	CA	Campmeeting	Pacoima Campground
04 Sep 2026 - 07 Sep 2026	Myrtle	MO	Campmeeting	Myrtle Campground
07 Oct 2026 - 11 Oct 2026	Balch Springs	TX	Fall Meeting	Dallas Chapel
18 Oct 2026 - 25 Oct 2026	Roatan	Honduras	International Meeting	Politilly
24 Oct 2026 - 25 Oct 2026	Victorville	CA	Revival	Baldy Mesa Chapel
30 Dec 2026 - 03 Jan 2027	Guthrie	OK	Assembly	Guthrie Campground
28 May 2027 - 06 Jun 2027	Guthrie	OK	Campmeeting	

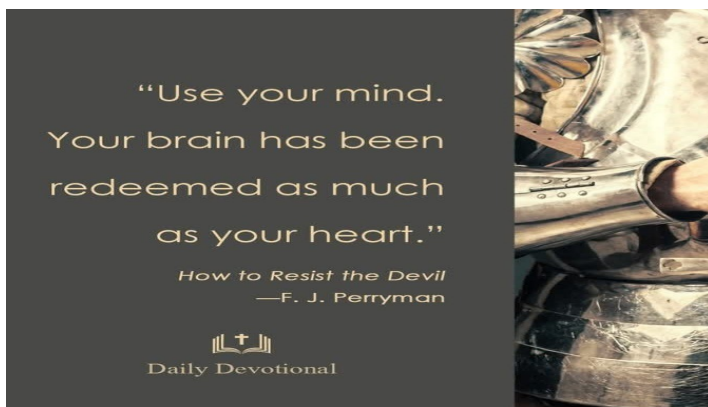
Before travel, visit churchofgodmeetings.com

HOFFMAN FALL meeting October 23-25, 2026 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. Sun. 10 a.m. Sun. School

Sunday 11 a.m. Church Service Dinner will be served (No 2 p.m. Service) [Sun. Bro. Henry Grimes] All are invited.



23174 Highway 40 Loranger, LA 70446



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 24)

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Use Your Mind Page 1

RESISTING SEDUCING SPIRITS . . Page 4

"Treasures of a Godly Home" .. Page 7-13

BOLEY, OK MEETING and SINGSPIRATION

September 24-27, 2026

A four day meeting is planned for Thursday through Sunday morning.
The meeting is open for burdened saint ministers to come.

210 N Oak St., Boley, Oklahoma 74829.

Thursday, Sept. 24, 11:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Evening Service
Friday, Sept. 25, 11:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. SINGSPIRATION
Saturday, Sept. 26, 11:00 a.m. Service
1:30 p.m. Outreach Picnic
7:00 p.m. Evening Service
Sunday, Sept. 27, 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Service

Dinner Following (There will be NO 2:00 Service.)

Sis. Doris Clay: (405) 609-7597

Bro. Larry Brown: (405) 229-9764

NOTE: A WORK DAY is planned for 9 a.m. August 29th. Lunch will be provided.