

## **WILL YOU PRAISE HIM?**

Imagine, for a moment, a smallest detail of creation missing. What if you and every other breathing thing had been born or hatched **without a mouth**? What about the hustle and bustle all around that we're so accustomed to? In a few days, our whole earth would become **silent and still!** There is so much, in our hurry, we have taken for granted! "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord" (Psa. 150:6). ND

### ***Enduring Faith – A Voice from the Past***

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #8654 Edited excerpts of message by Bro Leslie Busbee Monark, MO 1999-07-29

If you're going to live for God, you're going to have trials of faith – the delay, the withholding, the pressing! Not by sight, not by conditions – how things look, but **by faith in God** these received the promises (Heb. 11:11). **Obedience is the spark of faith!** ". . . **the just shall live by his faith**" (Hab. 2:4). Let's have steadfastness, confidence, and credence (credit). **Give God credit!** Lord, I don't have it yet, but I believe it's coming.

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Earnest, fervent, committed & total consecration  
to our God is just fundamental.

*Evening Light Songs # 481 "Is Your All on the Altar?"*

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"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest"(Mat. 9:38).

"Oh, hear the earnest pleadings Which come from every land,  
'Lord send us Gospel workers, To lend a helping hand.'"

*Evening Light Songs # 310 verse 2*

"Plead with them earnestly, Plead with them gently;  
He will forgive if they only believe."

*Evening Light Songs #325 verse 2*

"Perishing souls at stake we see, Yet the Savior has died for all;  
Go and invite them earnestly, Some will surely obey the call."

*Evening Light Songs #327 verse 2*

## **Faith in God**

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Marty Clevenger [www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #8732 2023-03-05 WV

Get your mind off the circumstances and have faith in God! Have faith in God and not in the size of the mountain. Faith comes by living close to God. **Faith comes by living close to God, and God answering your prayer.** David built up to that – in battles he was to face. "Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**" (Eph. 3:20). Have faith in God and not in the circumstances. **Trust in God.**

# Occupy till I Come

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Ed Wilson at Prague/Shawnee, OK 12/28/2022

**Life is not all inspiration!** We have to learn to live for Him when it feels good and when it doesn't. It is easy for us to lose our grip. It was so even for Jesus! Think of that broken prayer He prayed the third time in the garden that night. Everything around Him let Him down! "Couldn't you watch with me one hour?" His disciples were all lying there asleep. You know, life is not concerned with your inspiration. The cares of life can weigh us down. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He was the King of the world, and He had that cry! Life can knock your props out!

You don't have to be perfect to be saved, you have to be forgiven!

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## FAITH

By Nelda Sorrell

Faith in God brings tremendous power into our lives! Believing every word God has spoken, **obeying every commandment He has given, opens to us every promise He has made.** By faith we know that when we give our life completely to Him, He actually comes, with His Holy Spirit, and lives in our heart! (1 Corinthians 3:16). He gives us His power to live a holy life.

How do we obtain such faith? Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. When we hear or read the good news of the gospel, we must accept it as truth and act on it. As the multitude listened to Peter on the day of Pentecost, they believed and asked, "What shall we do?" About 3,000 people who heard the word that day believed it, repented of their sins, and were saved! We are saved by faith.

This faith then begins to increase and produce greater faith. **Step by step we learn to trust God in every circumstance He brings into our lives.** From experience, David could say, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee" (Psa. 55:22). **Each problem He works out gives us confidence that He knows our need and is able to solve every problem.** Peter proved this. He tells us to cast all our care on God because He cares for us and will meet every need. Paul instructs us not to worry or be anxious about anything, but instead, we are to bring our requests to God in prayer. David, Peter, and Paul were men of great faith. They proved the power and faithfulness of God.

Faith must be fed in order to be strengthened. **Daily studying the Bible and filling our minds with God's precious promises will reveal what great provision He has for us.** Reading the stories of God's many miraculous deliverances in the lives of those who had strong faith will excite us to trust God with all our problems. The fullness of our faith depends upon how much we are willing to trust God fully and allow Him to work in our lives. Unlike the devil, God will not force Himself on us. We must open our hearts to Him with a sincere desire to do His will and trust Him completely.

It is important to learn to trust God while you are young. Get so well acquainted with Him that He is the first one you turn to when you are in trouble. Tell Him your problems, your desires, and your needs. Read His word to learn how to please Him and immediately obey everything He wants you to do. He will be your best friend and guide.

God wants to keep you from all the sin and traps the devil has set to ruin your life. He can keep your life pure and clean, even with sin and evil all around you. He will only ask you to do what is best for you. **When trouble comes, trust Him to work it out for your good.** God will test your faith; this is only to strengthen it. Learn to wait patiently and trust Him to answer at just the right time. -Nelda Sorrell

Taken from *The Compass* Vol. 65, Qrt. 4, Part 1

[The Compass \(Juniors\) 2015, 4th quarter \(churchofgodeveninglight.com\)](http://www.churchofgodtruth.com)

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# LIVING FAITH

## MAKES GOD REAL

By E. Faith Stewart

God's Word not only contains promises of healing, but it contains definite promises that actually cover every phase of life—the spiritual, the physical, and the temporal. God promises to keep by His grace; to guide by His spirit; to comfort and strengthen; yes, He promises to heal by His virtue. In few words He has promised to be to us always "...a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1. If we live where we are on believing grounds, He will be to us everything we have need of. Believing ground—"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, (then) ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. Brother, do you believe this? Is it a definite reality in your life? We read again in Acts 17:28, "For in him we live and move and have our being..." Praise God. I ask again—is this experience a blessed reality in your own life? If you must answer, "no," to these questions, then may I ask—what is Christ to you? **If He is not your present help in trouble, your deliverer, your healer, your guide—your all and in all—then what is He to you?** If you know nothing of that close intimate relation between you and the Lord Jesus, that just makes the promises a living reality, then what are you getting out of the Christian life?

May God so move on the heart of His great Church that once more in the "Evening of Time" we may see many mighty works being done, and many mighty signs following as was seen in the Morning Time of the Gospel Age. We all believe He worked in mighty power in the Church in the Morning Time. But what about these days? Why not now? God is unchanging; His Word is forever settled in Heaven. Creeds of men may change. Laws of men that govern any and everything that pertains to this world may, and do change—but the laws of God, including His commandments and plans that govern the spiritual life, as well as His promises, are unchanging. **Weary Christian, lift up your eyes unto the Lord from whence cometh your help, and draw nigh unto Him, seeking Divine help until you personally reach that place of restful confidence that will bring an end to your struggles.** Every promise He has made should be as a landmark for our faith.

What is your need? Healing of the body? If you are living for His own glory, then it is His will to heal you. Read III John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things, that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Read this over and over, and meditate on it. Open up your heart and drink it in. This statement was made for you. Reach up and make it your own. **Let your soul expand as you meditate on God's marvelous love, and your faith must enlarge until the first thing you know, you will be crying out from the depth of your soul, "Yes, Lord I do believe, I do believe!"** The only answer there ever will be to the question asked by our Lord Jesus — in Luke 18:8, "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" — must come from the ones who truly represent Him here in the faith. What will your answer to this question be? What will my answer be? There will only be "faith on earth" at that last great day if His true children maintain their individual faith alive and active to the end of their sojourn below. In so doing, they will then have enriched the world and the Church by faith in Him; and by their example, and at their departure for the heavenly home, will leave behind them seeds of Gospel truth that will be eternal. Before closing this chapter, let me ask the reader—what are you individually doing by your life and testimony and teaching to preserve to the end the true Bible standard of faith in God and in His Word? Let us develop by God's help to where we shall be living examples of the believers—true disciples of our Saviour—Jesus Christ. "Have faith in God," and preserve it.

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The Loranger, LA congregation cuts, folds, tapes, labels, and stamps, which greatly aids in getting the papers ready to mail.*

# ***The BIBLE Stands Every Test***

**Words of Christ** tell us that “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mat. 24:35). The Bible stands every intellectual test of higher criticism. There have been over 26,000 archaeological digs in the lands of the Bible. Not one has ever disproved, but multiple thousands of them have ***verified that the Bible is true***. The Bible is provable through manuscript evidence. With today's computers and in our information age, we learn there have been found 66,000 manuscripts, scrolls, bits and pieces of the Bible, and we see that it remains 99.99% accurate.

The Bible is provable through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a provable fact. The Bible is provable through extensive prophetic content. Through authenticity, we understand that the Bible is believable.

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 Three Hebrews to the flames were thrown because they would not bow

But they all came forth with victory

**For there's a Higher Power!**

They cast old Daniel in the den the Lions to devour

But he came out like he went in

**For there's a Higher Power!**

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## ***OVER SUFFICIENT***

Let go of ALL to cling to God. God is sufficient – ***over*** sufficient!! His care of me is flawless!! (Pain and suffering are STILL perfect care – when from HIS hand!!!) No matter WHAT I'm going through, GOD IS CARING PERFECTLY FOR ME. It's not whether I have storm or sunshine that matters, but the FACT that no matter which, “HE CARETH FOR YOU”!!! Setting my faith in this unconditional fact, instead of eyeing the ever-changing “weather” of my life, I should gratefully, JOYfully embrace flames of suffering as the gifts from HEAVEN of HUMBLY, REFINING, KEEPING fire that they are. Without them, I'd become overtaken with self, pride, and the flesh. PRAISE GOD THEN for suffering. “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you . . .”(1 Peter 4:12).

I have staggered and wondered and questioned . . . Not any more, please Jesus! You've shown me the truth. IT IS OF YOU – for good. “NOTHING CAN TOUCH ME THAT DOESN'T PASS THROUGH HIS HAND!” Since it is so, everything hard that touches me is for good; therefore, I should PRAISE HIM for what He IS doing at that time!!! C. D. R.

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*The Holy Spirit within us helps us to reject the pull of our flesh. The Holy Spirit helps us to say, “NO” to ungodly desires.*

*“The God of my mercy shall prevent me:”* Ps.59:10a

It matters not how great the scheme if God draws it out; it matters not how insurmountable the difficulties appear if God undertakes the responsibility. *If we, His children, when we get into tangled corners, even by our own folly and sometimes wrong-doing, would only turn to God as a King and a Father and cast ourselves upon Him, He would work for us and lead us out of our troubles safely and in a manner worthy of a king.*

*This morning, Lord, I pray  
Safeguard us through the day,  
Especially at the corners of the way.*

*For unexpected things  
Swoop down on sudden wings  
And overthrow us with their buffetings.*

*And so, dear Lord, we pray,  
Control and guard this day  
Thy children at the corners of their way.*

*– Corners, by M. G. L.  
Springs in the Valley*

## *Prosperity* Part 2

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com) #7882 Bro. Dan Adams Edited excerpts

To be **scarcity minded** is a way to look at present and future circumstances, feeling you'll barely make it – barely keeping the wolf at the door. God has a place in Him that we're not just barely making it. God wants us to have a level of confidence, a level of courage, and reserve. *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”* (3 John 2). Have enough means to meet our obligations and learn to live within our means. It's all important to be diligent and not slothful, and to be on the offense instead of defense. The enemy wants us to run scared instead of facing him and pushing him back.

Do not allow your thoughts to wander into the “what if” category. Once you start down that path it just explodes on you. We're going to have to be able to **control what our mind is musing on**. We need to look satan in the eye and tell him to “get thee behind.” We need to be able to say to the devil “I ain't listening!”

Don't allow your mind to dwell on negative things. I know the potential of bad is really high in our world today. **Muse above**, and help next week be more prosperous than the week before. The Lord wants us to be more prosperous.

## **What is Truth?**

Today's culture is opting for entertainment rather than Biblical enlightenment. It's not that men are so ignorant of God. The culture is driving in, day in and day out, what they want you to believe. We are living in a culture that demands that we affirm the lie. Our children are being called on all sides to question reality. **Truth is reality unconcealed.** Truth can be known. The truth floats. Our culture has a constant pressure to keep truth submerged.

Maria Hamilton

# "Sir, we would see Jesus."

- John 12:20-26 (KJV) <sup>20</sup> *And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: <sup>21</sup> The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. <sup>22</sup> Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. <sup>25</sup> He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. <sup>26</sup> If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*
- This little incident would seem of small importance to be included in the Bible, but in reality it is not, for it contains the promise that made salvation possible for you and me. The desire of a few Greeks to see Him was probably only a reflection of the popular enthusiasm. The addressing of the request to Philip is perhaps explained by the fact that he was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and had probably come into contact with these Greeks in the neighbouring Decapolis, on the other side of the lake. Philip's consultation of his fellow-townsmen, Andrew, who is associated with him in other places, probably implies hesitation in granting so unprecedented a request. They did not know what Jesus might say to it. And what He did say was very unlike anything that they could have anticipated.
- The trivial request was as a narrow window through which Jesus' yearning spirit saw a great expanse—nothing less than the coming to Him of myriads of Gentiles, the "much fruit" of which He immediately speaks, the "other sheep" whom He "must bring." The thought must have been ever present to Him, or it would never have leaped to utterance on such an occasion. The little window shows us, too, what was habitually in His mind and heart. He, as it were, hears the striking of the hour of His glorification; in which expression the ideas of His being glorified by drawing men to the knowledge of His love, and of the Cross being not the lowest depth of His humiliation, but the highest peak of His glory—as it is always represented in this Gospel—seemed to be fused together.
- The seed must die if a harvest is to spring from it. That is the law for all moral and spiritual reformations. Every cause must have its martyrs. No man can be fruit-bearing unless he sacrifices himself. We shall not "quicken" our fellows unless we "die," either literally or by the not less real martyrdom of rigid self-crucifixion and suppression.

But that necessity is not only for Apostles or missionaries of great causes; it is the condition of all true, noble life, and prescribes the path not only for those who would live for others, but for all who would truly live their own lives. Self-renunciation guards the way to the "tree of life." That lesson is urgently needed by our sensuously luxurious and eagerly acquisitive generation. The world's cries today are two—"Get!" "Enjoy!" Christ's command is, "Renounce!" And in renouncing we shall realize both of these other aims, which they who pursue them only, never attain.

Christ's servant must be Christ's follower: indeed service is following. Jesus' cross has aspects in which it stands alone. But it has also an aspect in which it not only may, but must, be reproduced in every disciple. And he who takes the cross as for Jesus only, and not as the pattern of his own life, has need to ask himself whether his trust in it is genuine or worth anything. Of course they who follow a leader will arrive where the leader has gone, and though our feet are feeble and our progress slow, we have here His promise that we shall not be lost in the desert, but, sustained by Him, will reach His side, and at last be where He is. Have you talked to Him today?

## *Prayer Meeting Night* **Edited Excerpts**

Lord, we gather together here. The influence of the world is all around us, and we are not unaffected by it. The stakes are high. Be merciful to us, Lord. Be new to us every morning and be extended unto us. Be willing to allow your blood to cover all of us. You've asked us to let you be our God, to follow you, not to follow the gods of this world. Protect us from ourselves and the sins of the world.

The Lord's been trying to encourage me about weariness. The Bible mentions it a lot. It is something about being human. "Be not weary in well doing" (2 Thes. 3:13). "Be ye steadfast, unmovable" (1 Cor. 15:58). It is obvious those scriptures were addressing those that might be weary. We can be weary in spirit or in our body. Am I weary from doing well? Or am I weary from distractions that try to sap our energy and time? It is a challenge! We're going to have to try to fight against all these things coming against us. We do have to choose to shut out the noise that is distracting us. **Who will teach our children or our grandchildren if we let this generation fall silent?** Am I weary by distraction? How do our children fall silent? **By us not showing them the way.** Because we're weary or distracted and fall silent ourselves.

God gives encouragement for every season – no matter what we face. God will be faithful to you because that is His very nature. Embrace the season that you're in. We're all going to have different seasons. Children grow up. Whatever your season, they're all different. In your head you know that God is there and is always faithful. In day to day, we get tired, and life gets a little scary. He is with you always. Great is His faithfulness.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart" (Prov. 3:5). At times I try to use my mind to reason out things. "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it" (Is. 30:21). **"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"** (Is. 26:3).

I had severe pain that fluctuated from time to time. Fear goes along with these things. I was anointed and prayed for, and real encouragement came to my heart, real peace. I was so much better it was amazing. I improved fairly good all through the day. I was able to move about so much better.

A lot of times, we take the worse part of our life, compare it with all those other things in others' lives and get our perspective all messed up. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord" (Ps.37:23). Who are the steps of a good man ordered by? The Lord. **Sometimes the Lord orders steps for us that are not easy.** Sometimes, we get our eyes on the wind and the waves and say, "I shouldn't have gotten out of the boat. I should have just hunkered!" I want to encourage us that we're living in a time that there are crosses to bear – heavier crosses to bear. They might have fallen, but they weren't utterly cast down. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus. **We don't have to take it a week at a time,** just a day at a time. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8). (Continued)

(Prayer Meeting Night *Edited Excerpts continued*)

He'll say, "Well done that you didn't lose faith. Well done that you trusted me. Well done that you kept the faith." One of these days we're going to hear a knock, and **we're going to be so glad we are saved and ready to go.** Keep the faith. Keep pushing. Be strong.

I think of our relationship with Jesus being more like a betrothal. You know, the church is not an organization. It is an organism – a body of believers. We're part of something even bigger, a much greater body of saints gone before us, part of the same body. When all of that body is gathered together in judgment, for us, it's going to be our wedding day, to be with the Lord forever!

We can rest comforted that God has our best interest.

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## ***THE GOLDEN CITY***

[What the Bible Teaches \(churchofgodeveninglight.com\)](http://churchofgodeveninglight.com)

This new heaven and new earth brought to view after the passing of the present earth, will be the place of our future and eternal abode. "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Heb. 13:14). Yea, "God hath prepared for us a city" (Heb. 11:16). And when this heavenly world was opened before the apostle in Apocalyptic vision, he saw therein the eternal dwelling place of God's saints symbolized after the pattern of a "great city, the new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21). **The actual things of the paradise of God are of such an exalted and transcendent character that it is not possible for man to utter them in the ordinary language of earth** (II Cor. 12:4); therefore they must of necessity be represented symbolically, the symbols chosen being, of course, in their nature vastly inferior to the things thus foreshadowed.

What city is this laid out before us in splendor and magnificence? It is "the holy city, new Jerusalem." It is a city of "pure gold." Even its streets are of purest gold. It is surrounded by a "wall great and high," and twelve gates, each a solid pearl, give entrance. This wall is of jasper, built on foundations garnished with all manner of precious stones—jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprasus, jacinth, and amethyst. The glory of God itself illuminates this city continually. Here is "a pure river of water of life clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb," and on each side of this beautiful stream stands the tree of life, rich in luscious fruits, and no cherubim with flaming swords are there to guard it. Oh! this is paradise restored. "There shall be no more curse." "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14).

F. G. Smith

**The Gospel is true regardless of the prestige of the person denying it.**

Alex McFarlin



## OUR HOME ETERNAL

This will be our eternal home. “There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest” (Job 3:17). There in the city of light we shall “...shine as the brightness of the firmament...” yea, “...they that turn many to righteousness...” shall shine “...as the stars forever and ever” (Dan. 12:3).

“Oh, what joy will it be when his face I behold,  
Living gems at his feet to lay down!  
It will sweeten my bliss in the city of gold,  
Should there be any stars in my crown.”

Oh, bliss of heaven! Joy unspeakable! when we shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God; or when we shall gather with the ransomed around the great white throne, and there pour out our anthems of praise and thanksgiving unceasingly. O my soul, press onward! There is nothing in this time-world to hold thy affections. “Pleasures forevermore” beckon thee onward to that land of excellent delights where comes no setting sun! **My brethren, take courage!** Thrones and dominions, glittering scepters and crowns of dazzling splendor, are the symbols of our glory in the life that is to be. **Heed not earth’s sorrows.** No sickness, no pain, no sorrow, and no death shall mar our happiness in the eternal paradise; for God Himself shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. With time behind us, eternity before us, the angels and the redeemed of all ages around us— THIS WILL BE HEAVEN, OUR ETERNAL HOME.

F. G. Smith

## God Is Unchanging

The God who created the heavens and the earth does not change. Because He is perfect in every respect, He is “immutable.” He does not change for the better or for the worse. He is essentially “unchanging” in His being. Malachi 3:6 says: “For I am the Lord, I change not.”

God’s word does not change. It is settled. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Ps 119:89). His Word can be trusted because it is rooted in the unchanging nature of God Himself. Though Heaven and earth shall pass away, His Word endures forever. “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away” (Luke 21:33).

God’s enduring Word became flesh (John 1:14) in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). The preexistent, eternal Son of God took the form of man while retaining all of the attributes of His deity, including His immutability.

The Father does not change. His Word does not change. The Son does not change. Therefore, we can trust the promise of the gospel that has been accomplished in Jesus Christ. His promise is sure! **“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”** (Rom. 10:9).

Answers in Genesis

# “Who can understand his errors?

## Cleanse thou me from secret *faults*” Ps. 19:12.

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Issac Chandler

If you are living a clean, overcoming life, you are eligible to take part in God's work. Nothing will develop the spiritual life better than exercise. Nothing will deteriorate you faster than inactivity. Don't count anything too high to do, or too low to do – make yourself available. **God wants all of us to work for Him.**

Live without a grudge or bitterness towards each other at all times, and that's easier said than done. Sometimes the hurt masters. Oftentimes we are on the receiving end of others' weaknesses, and the only way out of that is to have forgiveness in our hearts. Maybe you have confidence in their motive to do right, but don't have confidence in their judgment. When you doubt a person's ability and knowledge, that doesn't break fellowship.

It's not common for a person to fall “from the attic to the basement”– from the mountaintop of victory. Something has been eating away within them for many years. “Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret”... thoughts. Face it before God. “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me.” Secret thoughts left to hang to me will bring me down eventually. **“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength , and my redeemer”**(Ps. 19:12-14).

A fault means a short coming – not sin. You can be stiff and rebel, and after you rebel, it can become sin! One can neglect their secret fault, waste their time blaming other people and running other people down. In an unguarded moment, a person can make a mistake. **A presumptuous sin means a person being proud enough to knowingly go over God's word – one who defiantly, deliberately does wrong. That's dangerous! Be deeply concerned about your faults. Overcome everything about yourself.** If you have a weakness over a long space of time, the enemy can bring you down. The Lord knows your constitution and your below-the-surface human nature. If He loved the world enough to send His Son, **do you think it grieves Him that light comes to you, and you go on like nothing happened?** Your own conscience makes you doubt, if you are unwilling to quit your wrong.

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). To a great extent, you believe what you want to believe. To a great extent, you accept what you want to accept. When you want out of your wrong doing, you can believe Him then.

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# He's Still God!

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Marty Clevenger 4-1-23 Neosho, MO

God is always right. God does not err. He loves us all.

God does not have to fit into your box, and He does not have to perform within the understanding that you have. We often lose our peace in the situations of life. You know, things can be a big deal, when it's not a big deal . . . commotion in my spirit. We don't see very well. It's troubling to us.

The beginning of a thing involves a lot of speculation . . . a lot of doubt. How many times do we say in the middle of a thing, "It looks horrific"? **Do you want the experience of the Lord? You've got to follow where He takes you.** Now, there's the conflict—trusting in the Lord that He will bring it to pass. It's better to be patient than . . . "I'll make it work out that way" . . . "I'm going to do it my way." But, when you wait, it comes out His way.

When Jesus spoke, I think it was something more than just words. He worked with them. He showed miracles that could be nothing other than the work of God! A meager amount of loaves and fishes fed five thousand. What did they believe? This is the One!! Then, He was crucified. Jesus had a work through all of this. Yea, you'll have your disappointments and your tight places, and you need them. But patiently follow the Lord.

**We think of the big car and the comforts of life. He is not thinking that way! He's thinking of us getting to Heaven.** The reality is we need help getting there. Who wants to suffer? Nobody, but it's still better to be patient at the beginning of the thing.

Peter saw the One he'd put all his hopes in about to be crucified. It's horrific. It's gruesome . . . and it's beautiful! The Righteous dying for the guilty!? It was devastating. "Darkest night and brazen sky . . ." Lord, You've always done it right. He says that "all things" . . . good, bad, and difficult works right, because God changes it for you. God didn't *make* that happen, but He used it for His purpose. God doesn't have to be orthodox to us, but we need to be orthodox to Him. You can't blame them for going back to their nets. It looked awfully dark. Peter became a different person! "God's way is best, heart cease thy struggling . . ."

Paul, wait a minute. Those are Roman irons on your legs. No, they're not! These are the shackles of Jesus Christ! Lord, help me to have the spirit of patience, and not pride. Oh, just be a little patient! He knows exactly what He's doing! ". . . that I may win Christ . . ." Did Paul have this understanding on the road to Damascus? No, but he came to this place that Jesus Christ had become so valuable to him.

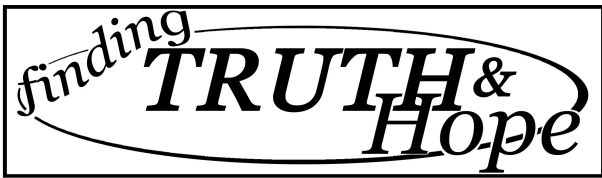
Jesus came for salvation. I want to know that salvation! I do too many things on my own. Those things are a hindrance to me. I want to know Christ! How are we going to have that relationship? It's going to be the Lord's doing, through things that challenge me. I need the Lord to help me.

Hezekiah had the greatest army on earth bearing down on him. Looks like, in all human wisdom, we ought to capitulate. But he spread out his little letter before the Lord. Our God is able to take care of us . . . to do something for us. (Like the three Hebrew boys, God will help us . . . but if not . . . !) Lord, if your people have been so stiff-necked that we need this . . . Heaven at any cost! Yes, we need this. The letter—they didn't even fight the battle. God dried up the circumstance! The darkest night and brazen sky . . . **He's still God. God's got something for you in those places in your life. He wants to deal with us. He is the God that works in our lives.** This is where we need faith in the beginning of the matter. You'll see it more clearly in the end of the thing.

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**Audio** book on YouTube: "Raising Children in the Light of Eternity" by Sis. Charlotte Huskey  
(Also free E-book: [www.churchofgodtruth.com/raising-children-book](http://www.churchofgodtruth.com/raising-children-book) )

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*Let's draw near to God.*

**Who else can help us?**

*He invites you to draw near! Take time for Him.*

The secret of praying is *praying* itself.

Your prayers have generational power!

*Resources:*

Tinyurl.com/3ap2pyz8 (The Shepherd's Fold) [by Harlan Sorrell]

Tinyurl.com/y49zr545 (The Place for Truth)[by Larry Whittenborn]

[www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com)

[www.africamission](http://www.africamission)

[www.churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://www.churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way)

[www.churchofgodtoday.com](http://www.churchofgodtoday.com) (Bible Lessons)

[www.churchofgodtruth.com](http://www.churchofgodtruth.com) (Finding Truth & Hope) Also featuring link to **God's 5 Minutes**

[www.churchofgodlibrary.com](http://www.churchofgodlibrary.com) (read “**One Family**” [collection of articles on parenting & marriage])

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