

## A Happy Home and How to Make It

By H. M. Riggle  
Bible Readings for Bible students

### I. THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

Luke 15:11-23

### II. A MODEL HAPPY HOME IS ONE WHERE

#### 1. Jesus dwells.

Luke 10:38-42

John 11:1-5; 14:23

#### 2. True love exists between husband and wife.

Eph. 5:25

Titus 2:4, 5

#### 3. True love exist between parents and children.

Eph. 6:1-4

#### 4. All are submissive.

Eph. 5:21-24

1 Pet. 5:5

#### 5. All are kind.

Rom. 12:10, 11

#### 6. All are gentle.

James 3:17, 18

#### 7. All forbear each other's weakness.

Col. 3:12-14

#### 8. All dwell in unity.

Ps. 133:1

### III. THE BIBLE TEACHES

#### 1. That the happiness of home does not depend upon the abundance of things possessed.

Luke 12:15

Prov. 15:17

#### 2. Home is incomplete without children.

Ps. 127:3-5; 128:1-6

Prov. 17:6

#### 3. That the father and children should bless and praise mother.

Prov. 31:28, 31

#### 4. That the mother can rule her home.

a. With the law of kindness.

Prov. 31:26; 15:1

b. With the law of love.

## Love One Another

Unknown author

"Happy the home when God is there,  
And love fills every breast;  
When one their wish, and one their prayer.  
And one their heavenly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name  
Is sweet to every ear;  
Where children early lisp his fame,  
And parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard,  
And praise is wont to rise;  
Where parents love the sacred word,  
And live but for the skies.

Lord, let us in our homes agree  
This blessed home to gain;  
Unite our hearts in love to Thee,  
And love to all will reign."



# God's Hornets

By Harlan Sorrell

*"And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. And I will set thy bounds from the Red Sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee."* Exodus 23:28-33

This was God's command to ancient Israel concerning their inheritance in the land of Canaan and the manner in which they would possess it. This is a "type" of our inheritance today in the spiritual land of Canaan, or the sanctified life.

Let us take special notice of the manner in which God said He would drive out the Canaanites. He said He would "send hornets." (See also Deuteronomy 7:20.) Cruden's Concordance describes hornets as "the large species of wasp, whose sting is very severe." Imagine the natives of ancient Canaan, hiding in fear, perhaps, from the armies of Israel. Then God sends a swarm of hornets upon them. **I know of few things that will make people move like a sting!** Few people could remain quiet and hidden when under an attack of hornets. If anything would bring the enemy out of his hiding place, surely this would! Now these Canaanites **represent** those **things in us or about us**, after we have been sanctified, **that have to be driven out** in order that we may fully inherit this good land.

God works in the lives of His sanctified children relative to their inheriting the fullness of the spiritual land of Canaan just like this. He sends the hornets, those things that severely sting, into our lives. This brings all of those hidden enemies of our untempered self-life out of those places where they are lurking, of which we are totally unaware. The initial experience of sanctification and infilling of the Spirit is an instantaneous work. It cleanses our carnal nature and thoroughly purges our hearts. The Holy Spirit then comes in to abide and work in us.

But He does not instantaneously temper either the **natural or acquired traits** of our humanity. The tempering of our humanity is a progressive work; a continual and ongoing process as long as we remain "in the body." We sing the song which says, "More like Christ, my heart is praying, More like Christ from day to day, All His graces rich displaying, While I tread my pilgrim way." If we truly mean what we sing, then we are **inviting the Holy Spirit to do a tempering work upon our humanity**. Sometimes this will involve some painful experiences. We are told in the Scriptures that Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, was made perfect through sufferings and that, though He were a Son, **yet learned He obedience through the things that He suffered**. (See Hebrews 2:10; 5:8) Then Peter tells us in I Peter 4:1, "*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind...*" **We are called into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and self-denial**, that we also might be perfected.

One of the most important things for a newly sanctified soul to understand is this—even though it is now perfectly cleansed, so far as the heart and affections are concerned, **there are still a lot of things regarding the natural human traits, thought patterns, personality, temperament and just the human make-up in general**, which will need a lot of adjustment via the tempering work of the Holy Spirit. These things are not necessarily relative to sin, but can be very **deep-rooted into the self-life**, many times **even beyond** the point of **our own awareness**. These things are sometimes inherited or acquired through family backgrounds or personal experiences, etc. They are just a part of us as humans. **Yet, they need adjustments in order for us to be truly molded into Christ's image in all things**. The effects of the fall passed down to us from Adam are far more intricate than many people realize. They go far beyond our understanding and comprehension in many ways, and in many areas of our lives. Therefore, the plan of salvation through "*sanctification of the Spirit*" (II Thessalonians 2:13-14) includes, not only the purification of our hearts from a depraved nature, but also a healing process for our humanity. This process can only be performed by our **continual yielding to the Holy**



**Spirit's dealings with us** regarding ourselves making adjustments in those areas **He illuminates** where adjustments need to be made, destroying and doing away with those things in us, or about us, which need to be destroyed and done away with. **He comes to live within us**, gives us a perfect heart, and **then He goes to work to perfect those things concerning us**. (See Psalm 138:8; also **Evening Light Songs** number 195, verse 2 [Our God is love, oh, praise His name! I feel His love a burning flame; how sweet to know He sets me free, and perfects that concerning me!]) Sanctification is an experience of the heart and soul which fully opens the door to the Holy Spirit, giving Him full access and right of way to begin this lifetime process. But it is an experience that is contingent upon us keeping ourselves as fully yielded as we were the moment we received it.

God said that He would not drive out the Canaanites in "one year," but little by little He would "*drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.*"—Ex. 23:30. This reveals the progressive phase of the Holy Spirit's work in the sanctified life. We do not possess the fullness of all that sanctification provides the day we get sanctified. It then becomes ours for the taking, yes, but we must go forward in cooperation with our Guide, the Holy Spirit, in the great quest of "taking the land." This does not mean that we become more and more sanctified as we go along, but **it means our experience in God becomes deeper, broader, richer, and more fruitful**. We possess more of this good land that is ours in the Holy Spirit, whom God has given us, as **we learn to identify self, how to deny it and let the Spirit take control of those areas of our humanity where self reigned**.

In verses 32-33 of Exodus 23, we find that the children of Israel were to "*make no covenant*" with the inhabitants of the land nor allow them to " *dwell in thy land.*" Why? "*Lest they make thee sin against me*" or "*be a snare unto thee.*" This is a very important thought. These inhabitants of the land represent traits, characteristics, etc., deeply rooted and perhaps hidden within the humanity of sanctified people. These are not sins, but are **things that can become a "snare"** and cause sin. These inhabitants of our land are **our enemies**. But how are we going to recognize them? God will send His hornets—those things that will sting "self." You can be sure that the hornets will bring self out of its hiding place! As we identify self in those areas of our humanity where it may be hiding, we can

pursue it, overcome it, and bring our humanity into the moderation of the Holy Spirit. We must make no covenant with self-interest. We must not allow it to dwell in our land. When God sends His hornets and **reveals** to us those **things deeply rooted** within our humanity that are related to the self-life, **then we must conquer them and drive them out**. There may be many yet hiding within our human make-ups, personalities, and temperaments that the hornets haven't brought out yet, but when they do, make no covenant with them, but destroy them. This is all a part of God's process of perfecting that which concerns us and enabling us to fully inherit the land which is rightfully ours—this Canaan of full salvation.

Did you ever wonder how someone whom you knew had an experience of sanctification, and was living victoriously for awhile, ended up backslidden or under some kind of false spirit? Well, in many cases, this was how it happened. God's hornets brought some enemy relative to that individual's self-life out of its hiding place. But, instead of pursuing it, overcoming it, and slaying it, the individual made a covenant with it, and permitted it to dwell in their land, that is, within his or her humanity. The result was, the soul was snared and ultimately fell back into sin.

We received the baptism of the Holy Spirit by giving Him permission to take **full control of all aspects of our lives**—by making a consecration of ourselves and all that pertains to us, both now and in the future. But, if at some future time we fail to fully cooperate and **allow Him the complete right-of-way** concerning us for any reason, we can grieve Him out of our hearts and make ourselves vulnerable to "other spirits." We can grieve Him in various ways. It can be through **unwillingness to submit** our ideas and opinions when He leads us into areas where those ideas and opinions conflict with those of some of our brethren. It can be through unwillingness to surrender our position for fear of humiliation and the effect on our image in the minds of our peers. It can be through the **attitudes we take** toward circumstances and people God allows to vex and try us along life's way. We could list many ways that sanctified people can **grieve the Holy Spirit** in various situations and circumstances they encounter along their lifelong journey to heaven. And, if they grieve Him to a certain point (that point is only known to God), He will withdraw and leave them, and **other spirits** will rush in to fill up the vacuum. And, many times, these spirits are not what most people would



recognize as unclean or evil spirits, but they are religious spirits—spirits of a higher order, **specially designed by Satan to counterfeit the Holy Spirit** Himself. These spirits move in then, and begin to act as Holy Spirit to the soul, leaving it blinded to its real **unperfected, untempered** and immoderate condition due to self not having been slain. The heart and soul are then defiled and no longer pure before the Lord, although they may yet be very

pious, and even consider themselves more holy than others.

Let us remember that the hornet stings God sends our way in life are needful and are sent to help us locate our **enemy**—"self." When God's hornets locate him, let us slay him, lest he become a snare unto us and cause us to sin.

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### Adam Clarke's comments on Exodus 23:28-33

Verse 28. I will send hornets before thee—hatstsirah. The root is not found in Hebrew, but it may be the same with the Arabic [A] saraa, to lay prostrate, to strike down; the hornet, probably so called from the destruction occasioned by the violence of its sting. The hornet, in natural history, belongs to the species crabro, of the genus vespa or wasp; it is a most voracious insect, and is exceedingly strong for its size, which is generally an inch in length, though I have seen some an inch and a half long, and so strong that, having caught one in a small pair of forceps, it repeatedly escaped by using violent contortions, so that at last I was obliged to abandon all hopes of securing it alive, which I wished to have done. How distressing and destructive a multitude of these might be, any person may conjecture; even the bees of one hive would be sufficient to sting a thousand men to madness, but how much worse must wasps and hornets be! No armor, no weapons, could avail against these. A few thousands of them would be **quite sufficient** to throw the best disciplined army into confusion and rout. From Joshua 24:12, we find that two kings of the Amorites were actually driven out of the land by these hornets, so that the Israelites were not obliged to use either sword or bow in the conquest.

Verse 31. I will set thy bounds from the Red Sea — On the south-east, even unto the sea of the Philistines — the Mediterranean, on the north-west; and from the desert — of Arabia, or the wilderness of Shur, on the west, to the river — the Euphrates, on the north-east. Or in general terms, from the Euphrates on the east, to the Mediterranean Sea on the west; and from Mount Libanus on the north, to the Red Sea and the Nile on the south. This promise was not completely fulfilled till the days of David and Solomon. The general disobedience of the people before this time prevented a more speedy accomplishment; and their **disobedience** afterwards caused them to lose the possession. So, though all the promises of God are YEA and AMEN, yet they are fulfilled but to a few, because men are **slow of heart** to

believe; and the blessings of providence and grace are taken away from several because of their unfaithfulness.

Verse 32. Thou shalt make no covenant with them— They were **incurable idolaters**, and the **cup of their iniquity was full**. And had the Israelites contracted any alliance with them, either sacred or civil, they would have **enticed** them into their idolatries, to which the Jews were at all times most unhappily prone; and as God intended that they should be the preservers of the true religion till the coming of the Messiah, hence he strictly forbade them to tolerate idolatry.

Verse 33. They shall not dwell in thy land— They must be **utterly expelled**. The land was the Lord's, and he had given it to the progenitors of this people, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The latter being obliged to leave it because of a famine, God is now conducting back his posterity, who alone had a Divine and natural right to it, and therefore their seeking to possess the inheritance of their fathers can be only criminal in the sight of those who are systematically opposed to the thing, because it is a part of Divine revelation. WHAT a pity that the Mosaic Law should be so little studied! What a number of just and equal laws, pious and humane institutions, useful and instructive ordinances, does it contain! Everywhere we see the purity and benevolence of **God always working to prevent crimes and make the people happy!** But what else can be expected from that God who is love, whose tender mercies are over all his works, and who hateth nothing that he has made? Reader, thou art not straitened in him, be not straitened in thy own bowels. Learn from him to be just, humane, kind, and merciful. Love thy enemy, and do good to him that hates thee. Jesus is with thee; **hear and obey his voice**; provoke him not, and he will be an enemy to thine enemies, and an adversary to thine adversaries. Believe, love, obey; and the road to the kingdom of God is plain before thee. Thou shalt inherit the good land, and be established in it for ever and ever.



# Deeper Devotion

By C. E. Orr  
from "The Path of Life"

Deeper devotion to God is the craving of every Christian heart. In true devotion to God there is a craving, a longing, an intense desire to do something for Him. It is more; it is a craving, a yearning, a desire to do all that is done purposely and lovingly for God's sake. The devoted soul gives its very best to God. **The devout man is not thinking about himself**, of doing something for himself, of living for himself, but he is thinking of God and doing all he does out of love to Him. He is **satisfied only when giving his best**.

*And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. **She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.**—Mark 14:3-9*

Jesus said of the woman, "She hath done what she could." Jesus here set up the measure of true devotion. **Devotion goes to the limit**—it does all that it can. This woman had but one alabaster box. She broke all that she had. She did all that she could. She did not have two boxes, breaking one and keeping one for herself. **She broke all she had for Christ.** This is devout conduct.

Those truly devoted to God are not only doing something for God, they are doing their best for Him. **Devotion is not emotion**, it is **not having glowing thoughts about God**, or talking eloquently about Him, but it is doing something for Him. It is a fixed habit of the mind. It permeates the whole life and shapes every action. It consists in a readiness to do all it can, not heeding the cost. The

disciples rebuked the woman for the waste. Devotion knows no waste when done for Jesus. All that is done for self appears as waste, but that which is done for Christ is expended in the best manner and to the best purpose possible.

The devoted soul loves and sees the object of its **love** in everything. This is the **measure** of our devotion. If you do not have thoughts of God in all you see and enjoy, you need to be more devoted to Him. **In all blessings and afflictions** you will see the **hand of God**. You will find a joy in suffering and sacrificing for His sake.

Those who are devoted to God are much given to prayer. To be alone with God is their highest enjoyment. They abhor all formality. They seek greater depth of heart in prayer. Oh, God give thy people greater **depth of heart in prayer**.

Taken from Faith and Victory, December 2010

## Give of Your Best to the Master

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give of the strength of your youth;  
Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor  
Into the battle for truth.  
Jesus has set the example;  
Dauntless was He, young and brave;  
Give Him your loyal devotion,  
**Give Him the best that you have.**

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give Him first place in your **heart**;  
Give Him first place in your **service**,  
**Consecrate** every part.  
Give and to you shall be given;  
God His beloved Son gave;  
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,  
Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master;  
Naught else is worthy His love;  
He gave Himself for your ransom,  
He gave up His glory above:  
Laid down His life without murmur,  
You from sin's ruin to save;  
Give Him your heart's adoration,  
**Give Him the best that you have.**



# What Does God Want Me to Do Today?

By James McMurrin

I was recently asked, "What does a normal Christian do with his life?" Although it may sound trivial on the surface, it is truly an important question. The person in question was puzzled and discouraged.

So many people think that when God controls and directs their lives they are going to embark on some big project. They read and listen to stories of great Christians who did all sorts of things and spent their lives touching thousands or millions. Then they hear about all of the wonderful services that Christians do, all of the things done to promote Christ. They look at their own lives and feel lost. Somehow, God never seems to have told them His great plan for their lives.

Let's look at a parable in which Jesus explains how God deals with those who serve Him.

*For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.—Matthew 25:14-17*

Here we have three servants who were given money by their Master to take of. Note that there is not a word mentioned as to any instructions he left them. They came in; he divided up his goods, and gave it to them. "Here, these are yours to take care of now," he probably said and then left. He didn't tell them what to do with it, but they knew that it was his assets they had been given, and they also knew that someday they would have to give an account for them. The first two servants proceeded with their own idea of what to do with their master's goods. They went and traded them. That means they took them to the marketplace—they went out into the world beyond their master's property, and they dealt with the goods he had given them. They used those goods in order to increase them, dealing

with people who almost certainly did not know or even care who their master was. Their goal then, was to take what they had been given and to make it better. They weren't given instructions on how, but they knew where to go to do it, and they succeeded.

*But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.—Matthew 25:18* The other servant was given the same sort of responsibility. He, too, knew that he would give an account. As he later said, "I was afraid." He was afraid to lose what he had been given. He was afraid it would be hurt. He was afraid that he wouldn't be able to handle it anywhere outside the safe confines of his personal property. So he hid it. It may not be gaining anything, but at least he still had it.

We, too, are in this same position. It isn't just money God has given us, but our abilities, the place we live, the people we are around, and all of the many opportunities of our situation which only He knows in full. We have choices. We know that God has placed us here. We know that we are to serve Him. We know that one day we will give an accounting; so in the meantime, what do we do?

The first two servants went out into the world and there they traded. Trading was something everyone did. It is the flow of goods, services and money which lets any society provide for the people in it. Everyone trades. We trade both literally, and with our own money, and figuratively, in the sense that we trade ideas, habits, mannerisms, values, attitudes and many other things which are traded not with money, but with the way we live our lives. These are the goods the Lord has entrusted to us, and our goal then becomes to engage in trade, to live our lives so that the things He gives us are increased. Remember that trading is a day to day activity. I'm sure the servants in this parable did not go out and in one day, or in one trade, double their money. It took time, effort, research, and doing it consistently to yield [positive] results.



The danger, as outlined by the last servant, is to take what God has given us, and to be so fearful of losing it that we hide it. It is easy to laugh, or to shake your head and wonder about that servant's stupidity. But he represents the normal, natural fear in all of us. To an extent, it is actually good, we have been given an important responsibility and we should treat it seriously. It is not something to hide or to worry about losing. Someone who continually worries about whether or not they are losing out is not someone who is growing in God, or in what God gave them. What you dwell on is what you will get. If you dwell on failure (the stormy seas of life), you will fail. If you dwell on your goal (God) you will proceed towards it.

There is another section to this parable which brings out another thought: *"After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*—Matthew 25:19-23

Note the phrase that their master used to praise them, *"thou hast been faithful over a few things."* Although what we have may seem overwhelming to us, it is good to remember that God's perspective is different from ours. It doesn't seem that big to Him, but also, we need to remember what little He has given us is what He expects us to use.

This, then, is the key that lets us truly begin a life for God. We know what to do to increase the things He has given us. We know where to do it, that is, do it in all of our lives, and wherever we find ourselves. We also know that it is not something that is done in one big project, one big

deal, or in one huge task. It is done small, on a daily basis, and with the final goal continually in mind, that is, to glorify and honor God in all that we do.

It has been said, "Life is no big mystery. It's lots of little ones!" That can well apply here. If you feel overwhelmed wondering, what does God want me to do with my life?" don't look for some undertaking that you're missing out on. Look at the little things in front of you. Remember the master's servants were given a few things, not many. They were not entrusted with many until after they had proven themselves faithful with the few. Their master didn't expect them to immediately take over his entire estate. He split up parts of it as he saw fit.

So, instead of asking, what does God want to do with my life?" ask, what does God want me to do today?" What thing or things have you been putting off? What time do you need to spend in some place that you hadn't been considering? Who would benefit from a thoughtful word or a helping hand in some way, perhaps trivial, task? Ask God, seek His will, and not just for the "big mystery" of life, but for all of the little ones. Once you learn to find and take care of the little ones, you will find you are more open and ready to receive the big ones.

If the "big thing" never comes along, I suggest you look back upon that life of little things. You will find that they did amount to a far bigger and more important thing than any huge task you could have undertaken yourself.

Faith & Victory

The most blessed thing in the world is to do the will of God. To abandon yourself to God is an act of highest intelligence and wisdom.

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# If I Die and Go to Hell, Who Cares?

Arhie Souder

This is a vital question I want every reader to ask yourself with carefulness. In Psalm 142:4, David seemed to be asking himself this question, and said no man cared for his soul. It seems he felt that way, but let us see if he was not mistaken about it. Now, first let us notice this question: "**If I die and go to hell, who cares?**" We know that "*it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*" —Heb. 9:27 So, this being a **sure appointment** that we **shall all meet God**, the question is this: If I die and go to hell, who cares?

Almost every day we read about people, who seem to think that no man cares for them, thus they commit suicide, taking their own lives, commit crimes, etc., seemingly thinking that no one cares for them and their soul. Let us see what the Word of God says about it.

First, let us go back to the beginning when God made the first man and woman. We find that God made man out of the dust and breathed the breath of life into him and **he became a living soul, which will never die** [cease to exist]. The body will go back to dust, but the spirit (soul) will return to God, who gave it, and will live on and on in eternity in either heaven or hell.

## 1. God Cares:

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*—John 3:16

Dear reader, did you ever stop to think this text over? God so loves you that He gave His only Son for you that you might not go to hell. Keep in mind the important question—If I die and go to hell, who cares?—as we let the Bible answer it for you.

## 2. Jesus Cares:

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" And in Matthew 18:11 He said, "*For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*"

Dear reader, the Son of God came down from heaven to save you from being lost and going to hell, and He gave His life's blood in the cruelest manner, the death on the cross, for you and me and every living soul. Have you ever given this serious thought, as you should?

## 3. Heaven Cares:

*I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety*

*and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*—Luke 15:7 Heaven cares for your soul. Think of all the loved one and the faithful who have gone to heaven back through the ages. When just one sinner repents they rejoice over it. Heaven is interested in your soul. Sinner friend, have your thought on this before now?

## 4. The Angels Care:

Yes, the angels care and are concerned about you! *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*—Luke 15:10 Remember, how the angels of God came down and announces to the shepherds the birth of our Savior? They care if you die and go to hell. Surely, your soul is more valuable than you might have thought, isn't it?

## 5. The Holy Spirit cares:

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.* In Revelation 22:17, we are told that the Spirit says, "Come." Yes, the Spirit of God cares for you, and, oh, how faithful the Spirit is to strive with mankind. No doubt you can recall many times when the Spirit pleaded with you. Perhaps, at some revival meeting or in the wee hours of the night, you were awakened and the Spirit pleaded with you to give your heart to God, and you turned Him away. Dear reader, take heed how you deal with the Holy Spirit and be thankful that He comes back from time to time. Maybe He will be talking to you while you read this tract. If so, do not turn Him away, for He may never come again. God said, "*My spirit shall not always strive with man.*"—Gen. 6:3 Yes, the Spirit cares for your soul.

## 6. The Bride (the church, the body of Christ) cares:

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.* The Bride cares. Revelation 21:9 and Hebrews 12:22 explain who the bride is. It is the church of God, which includes all [truly] saved people. So we can say that all the saved people in the world care. If you are lost and without Christ, you probably have never stopped to think how much the Christian people care.

The first thing that a new convert does, and the first thought is—How can I get some poor lost soul to seek the Lord and get free pardon of their sins and escape the awful place of torment? Just think of the millions of Christians who have gone before. Over 55 million Christians gave their lives and were put to death in the most horrible manner during the dark ages just to bring



the light and knowledge of salvation down to us today, and they all had a care for your soul.

Dear sinner friend, maybe you have loved ones who have prayed earnestly for you for years, maybe they have gone to heaven; but their prayers are still living on and the **Lord has been good** to you to **spare your life** because of **someone's prayers that you might not be lost.**

Many people give money that they need for the purpose of getting the gospel to lost souls. Some give their very lives in going to heathen lands far from home, and great efforts are put forth in many ways because people love your soul and do not want you to be lost. Surely, after all this, you ought to be the one most concerned, for it is your soul we are talking about. How about it friend, have you ever given this matter the thought that it deserves? If not, why not? Start right here and begin to consider this as the most important subject of all your life.

### 7. People in Hell care:

Friend, you may have thought that there is no hell. Some people are teaching this today, but let us see what the Bible says about it. Jesus said, *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*—Mat. 24:35 According to the teaching of the Bible, **Jesus, during His ministry, taught much more about hell than He did about heaven.** Just as sure as you are here there is a hell, hell is real and heaven is real. You will go to one of those two places. It is up to you to choose your destiny.

Let us read in Luke 16, beginning with verse 19. Jesus said, "**There was**—this is not a parable! *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.* (verses 19-24)

This is a picture of hell and the rich man had all he desired in this life. Poor Lazarus did not have much, but now he is in heaven. Friend, that rich man is still in hell crying for water, but sad as it is, he will never get out of that place forever and ever. Think of it. Just think of it.

Let us go on with this picture in verse 25. *But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

*And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.* (verses 25, 26) The rich man could remember all things that he did, all the people he knew, and the luxury he enjoyed, and all the times the Lord gave him to repent, **he could remember it all**, but it was **too late**. What an awful picture this is. Now the most important part of this picture is in verses 27 through 31.

*Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.* [Jesus rose from the dead, do you believe Him?]

Have you ever stopped to think that the people who are in hell do not want you there? See how this rich man was pleading for his five brethren who were still here in this world, and didn't want them to come to such a place. You may have friends and relatives who are lost. They may be pleading with Abraham for you not to come there. Millions are plunging into the lake of fire every year, month, week, day and hour. Listen to the inner voice, begin at once to humble yourself and escape that awful place.

Now let's review the question, If I die and go to hell, who cares? **God cares**—Jn. 3:16; **Jesus cares**—Mat. 18:11; **people in heaven care**—Lu. 15:7; **angels care**—Lu. 15:10; **the Holy Spirit cares**—Rev. 22:17; **all saved people care**—Rev. 22:17; **those in hell care**—Lu. 16:27, 28 Now, friend, the most important question of all is: DO YOU CARE?

No doubt, you say, I care, but sinner friend, how much do you care? If you care as you should you will not let the sun go down or rise again until you make your preparation to meet the Lord in peace. Jesus said, "*If you die in your sins, where I am you cannot come.*" (Jn. 8:21-24) We see people die at all ages, young and old, we have no promise of tomorrow, so you should humble your heart to God and repent of your sins, accept Christ as your Savior and He will speak peace to your soul. Then you will be the happiest in all your life and will be ready to meet Jesus in peace and will **escape the awful torments of hell.** Jesus said, "*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*"—Mat. 24:44

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# A Secret Of Effectual Service To God

By George Muller

The minds of many of God's people are no doubt occupied with plans for the future, and the various spheres of service in which, if our lives be spared, we shall be engaged. It may be that the welfare of our families, the prosperity of our business, or our work and service for the Lord, are considered the most important matters to be attended to. But according to my judgment, the most important point to be attended to is this: *above all things, see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord!*

Other things may press upon you, the Lord's work even, may have urgent claims upon your attention. But I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that *you should seek above all other things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself.* Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life. This has been my firm and settled conviction for the last thirty-five years. For the first four years after my conversion, I knew not its vast importance, but now after much experience, I especially commend this point to the notice of my brethren and sisters in Christ. The secret of all true effectual service is—joy in God and having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself.

But in what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? How shall we obtain such an all-sufficient, soul-satisfying portion in Him as shall enable us to let go the things of this world as vain and worthless in comparison? I answer, this happiness is to be obtained *through the study of the Holy Scriptures.* God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ.

*In the Scriptures, by the power of the Holy Spirit. He makes Himself known unto our souls.* Remember, it is not a God of our own thoughts or our own imaginations that we need to be acquainted with, but the God of the Bible, our Father who has given the blessed Jesus to die for us. Him should we seek intimately to know according to the revelation He has made of Himself in His own most precious Word.

The way in which we study this Word is a matter of deepest importance. The very earliest portion of the day we can command should be devoted to meditation on the Scriptures. *Our souls should feed upon the Word.* We should read it—not for others, but for ourselves. All the promises, the encouragements, the warnings, the exhortations, the rebukes, *should be taken home to our hearts.*

Especially let us remember not to neglect any portion of the Bible. It should be read regularly through. To read favorite portions of the Scriptures

to the exclusion of other parts is a habit to be avoided. But to read the Bible thus is not enough. We must seek to become intimately and experimentally acquainted with Him whom the Scriptures reveal, acquainted with the blessed Jesus who has given Himself to die in our stead. Oh, what an abiding, soul-satisfying portion do we possess in Him!

## Act on the Light We receive

Another point needs especially to be noticed: it is that we seek habitually to carry out what we know. We must seek to act up to the light that we have received and then more will assuredly be given. If we fail to do this, our light will be turned into darkness.

It is of the deepest importance that we walk with a sincere, honest, upright heart before the Lord. If evil is practiced or harbored and connived at, the channel of communication between our souls and God (for the time being) will be cut off. It is all-important to remember this. Infirmities and weaknesses will cleave to us as long as we remain in the body, but this is different thing from willingly allowing evil. I must be able with a true, honest, upright heart to look my Heavenly Father in the face and to say, "Here I am, blessed Lord; do with me as Thou wilt."

Then let us remember that we are God's stewards. Our time, our wealth, our talents, our all are His and His alone. Let us seek to remember this, and to carry it out, and then what happy Christians shall we be! It is a divine principle: *To him that hath shall more be given.*" (See Matt. 13:12; Mark 4:25; Luke 8:18, 19:26). As assuredly as we seek to make good use of that which is confided to us, more will be imparted. We shall be used of the Lord, and shall become increasingly happy in His own most blessed service. We have only one life—*one brief life.* Let us seek with renewed purpose of heart to consecrate that one life wholly to the Lord—day by day to live for God and to serve Him with our body, soul, and spirit which are His.

As we advance in years, let us not decline in spiritual power, but let us see to it that an increase of spiritual vigor and energy be found in us, that our last days may be our best days. Our holy faith does not consist in *talking.* *Reality, reality, reality* is what we want! Let us have heart work. Let us be genuine. Worldly persons should be constrained to say of us, "If ever there was a Christian upon earth, he (or she) was one."



**God Revealed in the Scriptures**

Reverting to the Scriptures, in them through the teaching of the Holy Spirit we become acquainted with the character of God. Our eyes are divinely opened to see what a loving Being God is! And this good, gracious, loving heavenly Father is ours, our portion for time and for eternity. And our Lord Jesus who gave Himself for us is that blessed One to whose image and likeness we shall be conformed. To serve Him should be our greatest joy and **privilege** as long as we remain on earth.

When trial and affliction come, when God deals with us as though He were not the lovely, kind and gracious Being presented to us in His Word, shall we murmur and despond or despair? Ah, no! **Beloved in Christ, let us trust our heavenly Father.** Let us like little children hang entirely on Him, reposing in the sweet assurance of His unchangeable, eternal love. Let us remember how He acted toward His saints of old, what His dealings were with them. Let us remember what is recorded concerning their history, for now as He has ever done, God will most surely act according to His Word. This intimate, experimental acquaintance with Him will make us truly happy. Nothing else will. If we are not happy Christians (I speak deliberately, I speak advisedly) there is something wrong. The fault is ours and ours alone.

In God our Father and the blessed Jesus, our souls have a rich, divine, imperishable, eternal treasure. Let us enter into practical possession of these true riches. Let the remaining days of our earthly pilgrimage be spent in an ever-increasing, devoted, earnest consecration of our souls to God.

**THINK IT NOT STRANGE**

Be patient, let the fire consume,  
Give God's interior burning room,  
Make no resistance, let it blaze,  
And self, in root and branch, erase.

Thy life of self hath long annoyed;  
Thy hopes assailed, thy joys destroyed;  
It poisons every inward sense;  
And fire alone can drive it hence.

The fiery trial gives distress;  
But never fear its anguish less;  
The pain thou feelest is a sign  
Of flames from heaven, of fire divine.

Oh let it burn till pride and lust,  
And envy, creeping in the dust,  
And wrong and crime, of every name,  
Shall perish in the heavenly flame.

(Taken from Faith & Victory March 1923) ---Upham

**More From Muller.....**

1. The beginning of anxiety is the end of **faith**, and the beginning of true **faith** is the end of all anxiety.

2. **Faith** is developed—or increased—by clinging to the Word of God, looking for its fulfillment in the time of need, expecting the answer to prayers, and to do this in spite of all contrary appearances.

3. I wish to direct the Church of God at large to the fact that God is what He was in the days of the prophets and apostles, ever able and willing to answer the prayers of His children, when they ask for things according to His mind (1 John 5:14); if they ask on the ground of the merits and worthiness of the Lord Jesus, that is, in His name (John 14:14; if they believe that God is able and willing to answer their prayer (Mark 11:24); if they do not live in sin (Psalm 66:18); and if they go on in believing prayer until the answer is given, for God has not fixed a time when our prayer shall be answered (Hebrews 10:35-36).

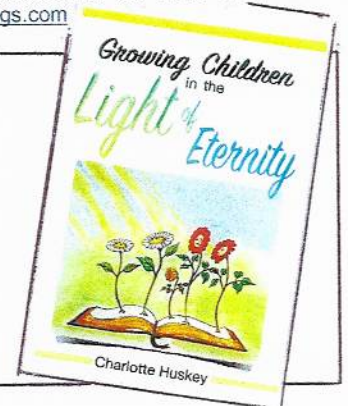
4. Traveling on through life, happy are we if we have Jesus with us, not longing to get rid of life but ready to serve Him longer or to be taken. But at last death comes, if the coming of the Lord Jesus does not prevent it. But the Lord Jesus will be with us in death. He was with us in health and strength, He is with us now when feeble and weak, even if the mental powers are gone. He has not left us. He has not forsaken us (Heb. 13:5), He passes with us through the valley of the shadow of death. "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Oh, the blessedness of such a position! Selected

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# Building Blocks of Faith

by C. W. Naylor

Faith is one of the most powerful elements in human life. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a picture gallery of the heroes of faith. It begins with a definition of faith. We always need a definition so that we may know what we are talking about. Paul's definition is an accurate one when properly understood. "*Now faith is the substance [ground or confidence, margin] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" The American Standard Version renders it thus, "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." In the margin it reads, "Now faith is the giving substance to things hoped for, a test of things not seen."

This is a practical rather than a definitive picture of faith. Faith is accepting a thing as true and acting upon that thing as truth with all confidence. As it relates to God, it is taking God at His word. It is believing His promises. It is personal acceptance of His promises, relying on those promises, and making them the basis of the life.

One phase of faith is confident trust; the other is confident action. We read of the "*full assurance of faith*."—Heb. 10:22 Such full assurance in the old time worthies resulted in great accomplishments. In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and elsewhere, we read of what was done through faith. We look upon those who accomplished such things as, in some way, superhuman. We are inclined to believe, as the doubters of this world believe, that the day of faith in religion has largely passed. In reality that is not true. There are mighty works of faith being accomplished today. Faith is just as effective today as in any former age. There are people now who have faith, and the might of that faith is manifested in mighty deeds and accomplishments.

Many wonderful things are accomplished by faith today, though the world goes on its way in ignorance of them. Most people think there is little faith today. They overlook the fact that when these worthies of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews were living, the people did not consider their faith as amounting to very much. They were probably entirely unaware of the great accomplishments of faith that were going on around them. In like manner, many people, in fact most people, are ignorant of the wonderful accomplishments of faith that are so prevalent today.

When we read of the accomplishments of faith in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, it is natural for us to say, "I am not like those; I cannot have faith such as they had." I am not so sure of that. They were only common folk with perhaps little more than average faith. It may be that we shall accomplish a little less than they accomplished, but faith in us will produce real results just the same.

The day in which they lived was no more favorable for faith than today. In fact, there was not so much faith then as today. Christian knowledge and Christian experience have laid a broader ground for faith, a surer foundation than they had in former ages. Faith is just as mighty today and will accomplish as much as in the ancient day. Perhaps we shall not duplicate the things they did. That may not be necessary or perhaps it would not serve any good purpose if we should do so. But faith is the gift of God, and He is willing to impart it to each of us.

We already have much natural faith. The faith we have is the basis of our lives. Without faith, the business world could not operate. Home life would not be possible. Religion could not exist. Government would be powerless. No great undertakings would ever be begun. Accomplishments, of whatsoever sort, are based on faith. No wonder we are urged in the Scriptures to "*have faith in God*."—Mark 11:22

Faith in God is believing Him. We can have no satisfactory relations with Him except through faith. We are saved by faith; we are kept by faith. We are justified by faith. We stand by faith. We rejoice by faith. Assurance of immortality is a matter of faith. Faith is the victory that overcometh the world. (1 Jn. 5:4)

The apostles had faith. Jesus said to them, "*Ye believe in God*." Faith brings certainty. Without faith there can be no certainty. It brought certainty to Paul. He said, "*I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*."—2 Tim. 1:12

God is worthy to be believed. He cannot lie, because His whole nature is truth and righteousness. He never changes. He never forgets His promises. He never turns away from those who trust Him. Therefore, have faith in God. We should hold the attitude toward the Word of God that was held by an old Saint who was nearing the



sunset of life. A minister quoted to her, “*Lo, I am with you alway,*” (Mat. 28:20) and said, “What a blessed promise this is.” “Ah,” said she, “that is not just a promise, it is a fact.”

God’s promises are facts. They are actual facts, or potential facts. They are either facts to us, or may become facts to us by trusting them. The greatest fact in the lives of God’s people is that they believe in God, and **they act upon that belief in a way that produces definite results in Christian living—holiness of heart and life,** and true happiness. In fact, there can be no other basis of true happiness, save faith. It is the foundation of all. To believe in God as the New Testament pictures Him, to accept Him as He is represented to be, and to submit to Him as such faith should lead us to do, is to be happy.

One needful thing is that we **believe in God** as He reveals Himself to be. We must do this **quite apart from any inner feelings we may have about Him or any fears we may have about Him.** He is what He reveals Himself to be. If we feel He may be other than what He represents Himself to be, it is because we do not definitely believe that representation of Himself is true. We read God’s promises, and often we cannot feel that they mean just what they say, or that God will make them true to us. We fear and tremble when facing various things in life, though God has promised to be with us and help us. **He has promised us victory through Jesus Christ all along the Christian way.** Yet how many times we shrink and tremble and walk in uncertainty.

Unbelief is the source of all this. Abraham believed God; therefore he did not stumble at God’s promise. He took God at His word, and then acted upon His word just as though there could be no such thing as questioning it. God’s Word is true. His promises were meant to be fulfilled. They are “yea and amen” to everyone who believeth. (2 Cor. 1:20) **God has no desire to avoid fulfilling that which He has promised to do.** He is under no compulsion. He promised because He **wanted** to do the things He promised to do.

He **will do** what He has promised. Do you believe it? It is true, whether or not you believe it. You will get the benefit of it only by believing it. You **can** believe it. You have the **power** to believe it. All fears that God will not do what He has promised are **foolish** fears. If you will believe, God will do the rest. If you will trust, there will be no failure. If you will go ahead in faith, doubting nothing, your way will be prepared before you. The victory will ever be yours. You will be able to stand in the evil day. Whatever comes cannot overwhelm you. **Your strength will be equal to your need.** “*Have faith in God.*”

The Psalmist declared that he would not fear though war was made upon him. **That was the language of faith.** Faith gave him courage. **It will give you courage.** There is no telling what God will do for those who trust Him. What will earthly governments do for their citizens? Here is an illustration: Great Britain sent ten thousand men on a long voyage by sea, then seven hundred miles over sun-scorched trails through the jungles of Africa to fight their way through an armed and brave enemy to rescue one man. That man had been arrested and imprisoned illegally and unjustly. His life was at stake. So Great Britain risked the lives of ten thousand men that he might be saved.

If an earthly government will do this to save one of its citizens, what will the government of heaven do to save one of its citizens who appeals to it? Jesus said twelve legions of angels were ready to assist Him and to defend Him, and we are told that “*the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*”—Ps. 34:7 “*Have faith in God.*”

The life of faith is the most satisfactory of all lives. In fact it is the only satisfactory life. Matthew Henry has said, “None live so easily, so pleasantly, as those who live by faith.”

Children implicitly trust their parents. They believe they will be protected and cared for. They believe their needs will be supplied. They believe they have nothing to fear. They have the confidence expressed by the little boy who was threatened with injury by a larger boy. He said, as he looked the other squarely in the face, “No, you **won’t** hurt me. My daddy **won’t let you.**” If we have the same confident trust in God, we can say, “God will **not let you**” do the things that are threatened. God **will** protect us. God **will** help us.

This is not imagination. It is reality. We should **cultivate an attitude of faith toward God, an expectancy that He will take care of us.** This brings to us the confident assurance that we have nothing to fear. This in turn brings rest and peace. When we have learned to exercise such faith, we have learned the **Secret of the Singing Heart.**

C. B. Larson says, “We should train ourselves to meet everything in that attitude of mind that **expects** all things to work out right.” Why should we not have such an attitude? Why should we not expect such things? We have every reason to be confident of this result. Instead of questioning, fearing or trembling, lest we may fail, let us **exercise definite faith in God,** and day by day **build up ourselves** and erect a structure of Christian character and Christian life worthy of the God who helps us. Someone has said, “Do not wonder if you will fail, but think how you are going to succeed.” That is the



attitude with which we should face life. Success is the product of faith. We should expect to succeed as well as determine to succeed.

Faith produces the building blocks wherewith we build up life. These building blocks of faith are not like the child's blocks, with which it builds up a tottery structure which falls at a touch. No, faith furnishes concrete blocks to build an enduring structure. With them, we can build a life that the earthquakes of unfavorable circumstances cannot throw down.

Faith manifests itself in, or leads, to **obedience**. If we believe God is King and has the right to rule over us, and if we believe the Bible is His law, it will bring us into an **attitude of obedience**. It will be our joy to do His will. Such faith will end rebellion. There will be no questioning, but **sincere, wholehearted obedience**. It will not be the obedience of fear, but the obedience of love. Its language is, "*I delight to do thy will, O my God.*"—Ps. 40:8

Faith also manifests itself in **submission to God**. God's will becomes sweet to us, and this submission to Him becomes a great building force in our lives.

This faith also manifests itself in fidelity and loyalty to **principles of right**. It makes us willing to sacrifice and to serve, and makes service fruitful in joyfulness.

Faith results in honoring God by giving credit to His promises. If we shall "*set to our seal that God is true*"—John 3:33, then we can say like the prophet in II Kings 6:16, "*they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*" Faith has an inborn courage that can face anything. This courage is not the result of assumption. It is founded on solid facts.

It is not enough to believe in God. We must believe in ourselves as well. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Men who succeed have faith in themselves and faith in their fellows. Doubt either, and you are doomed."

Sometimes it is easier to believe in God than to believe in ourselves, but there are abundant reasons why we should have faith in ourselves. **If we know we are sincere, earnest, and trying to do God's will; if we know our purposes are right purposes and our actions are based on such purposes, we have an excellent foundation for faith** in ourselves. I do not mean faith in ourselves apart from God, but **faith that God and we are partners**, that God and we can accomplish what is necessary to accomplish. God does not want us to go through life like shrinking criminals. He wants us to walk out boldly on the highways of life, **unafraid that He will fail us** and unafraid that we shall fail. We need self-respect. We need to have confidence in ourselves, in the sincerity of our motives, in our just and right intentions.

Again, we should have faith in God's respect for us. It is not humility to call ourselves "worms of the dust." We are men and women. We are **sons of God**. We are somebody. We are worthy of God. Jesus said, "*They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*"—Rev. 3:4 To be sure, there is a standpoint from which we should consider ourselves unworthy and unprofitable. That is not an attitude of self-depreciation. It is only recognizing facts. Nevertheless, that is only part of the truth. **We have wonderful possibilities**. We are wonderful beings. God counts us worthy to stand in His presence before His throne. There is therefore no need that we should go through life in sackcloth and ashes bewailing what we are. We should recognize that God respects us and esteems us. He would not have sacrificed His Son for us had this not been true.

We should have faith in our Christian experience. I have seen many downcast, doubting people. When I asked them what is the matter, some said, "I don't feel right." When I asked, "Why don't you feel right?" some answered, "I don't know, but I don't feel right."

Reader, you may have the same experience. Perhaps *you* don't feel right. Well, what of it? **Your emotions are not the test of your spiritual state**. Some people feel bad physically when there is very little wrong with them, perhaps nothing of any consequence. Others may feel all right when they are in the grasp of a deadly disease. It is just so spiritually. **You cannot tell by your emotions what your relation with God is**. **Your emotions were never intended to be evidences of your spiritual standing**. We must **stand by faith, learn to exercise faith, and learn to live by faith**. Judge yourself righteously. Do not let your feelings master your faith. Make your faith master your feelings. As a general thing, when you believe right, you will feel right, but very often, faith is based on feelings instead of on realities. It does not matter so much how you **feel**. How are you? This is to be **settled by your faith, quite apart from your feelings, and when you settle it, leave your feelings out of the question as evidence**.

We should make a practice of building into our lives every day the building blocks of faith; not building blocks of doubts and fears, anxieties and worries. There are plenty of these building blocks of faith to be had. We shall have more to say upon this subject further on. In learning to build with these building blocks of faith, we learn the **Secret of the Singing Heart**, of certainty for the future and just as much certainty for the present.

from *The Secret of the Singing Heart*, by C. W. Naylor,  
reprinted in *Faith and Victory*, Dec. 2010



## Featuring:

Bible Lessons On Line

## Does God Exist

Chris Tiegreen

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

It seems so basic. Anyone who wants to seek God must believe He actually exists. But since most people, and probably all of those in the original readership of the letter to Hebrews, have believed God exists, the statement hardly seems necessary. Add that the statement is made to those who want to come to God, and it seems even stranger. Those who come to God wouldn't be coming if they didn't believe in His existence.

But the statement may be more insightful than we assume. For all our belief in God, many of us have lived as practical atheists—people for whom God is a rock-solid concept in our minds but has no practical relevance in our daily lives. Many think about God, pray to Him sometimes, and assume He expects good moral behavior, but His Spirit doesn't enter into their moment-by-moment decisions, they don't hear or even **listen for His voice**, and they don't **live in His strength** rather than their own. So though God exists, He doesn't exist in any way that's meaningful to them. And that doesn't lead to any kind of meaningful experience with Him.

The first foundational truth in experiencing God's Presence in a real way is to believe that He exists in practical terms—as an accessible, relatable personality. That's the first step, but it's so simple that we often forget it. God drifts to the back of our minds, and before we know it, He's an idea, a quiet piece of background music to our lives. We have to continually bring Him back to the forefront—the object of our worship and the Person we relate to constantly. When we do, we begin an adventure into His very real Presence.

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Lord, I not only believe You exist, I believe You want  
to be an **integral** part of **every minute of my life**.  
Let me not forget like many do; give me reminders  
of Your Presence moment by moment.

Taken from *Experiencing God's Presence*, January 21

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Some say that the Bible only condemns those who “tarry long at the wine,” so it is all right to drink a little. But it also says, “look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.” One would not think of taking chances with an adder (poisonous snake) that they do with alcohol. If all had been total abstainers instead of temperate drinkers, there would never have been a drunkard.

It is a fact that a self-righteous person who does not drink nor have any habits which are harmful to the physical body will go to hell with the drunkard if he rejects **God's plan of salvation**; but when one observes God's laws for the body, they are in a much better condition to **accept His laws for the soul**. Faith & Victory



# Benefits of His Presence

Chris Tiegreen

*reprinted here by permission*

*Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.—Exodus 23:20*

God knows how to get people from point A to point B. We forget that sometimes. Even though we know He is technically “there,” we may feel like we’re traveling alone. And to be honest, we often wonder if we’re going to get where we need to go.

God goes with us. That’s a promise He gave Moses and that He gives to us. . . Knowing His Presence takes care of our inward turmoil. We get the benefits of His Presence whether we sense it or not, but our awareness that He is with us—guiding us, dealing with our obstacles, and governing our steps—makes a tremendous difference in how we handle the process. Those who aren’t certain of His Presence make it to their destination as nervous wrecks. Those who are certain make it there in peace.

Trust and follow God, and you will get to where you need to go. That’s a given. But if you don’t experience His being with you in each moment, the journey will be more painful than it needs to be. It’s possible to go through a difficult process in peace, knowing and trusting that God is taking each step with you. He offers reassurance along the way that you are on the right track and gives comfort when the track hurts. Know that He is with you today and every day, and He is clearing the way before you.

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Father, You have not abandoned me, and You never will. I know that and trust You to be with me in every step of my journey, even the painful ones. Please open my eyes to the ways You guide my path. Amen.

Taken from Experiencing God’s Presence, March 26

*Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. —Deuteronomy 31:6*

*And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.—Deuteronomy 31:8*

*There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.—Joshua 1:5*

“You’re going to conquer Self or Self will conquer you.”

“Self” Part 6, Message #2199 by Bro. Ostis Wilson at: [www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com)

“In giving we get, and it is in dying that we live.”

“Dying to Self,” message #6617 by Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck at: [www.churchofgodpreaching.com](http://www.churchofgodpreaching.com)

Search other challenging messages online in the category of “Self”

“Humility is what is lacking when victory eludes you...Everything that God permits to get through to us, He always sends right along in the package with it, grace enough to handle it, if we’ll just be humble in our hearts and submit to Him.”

From a message by Bro. Ostis Wilson



## Where Did the Elephant Get Its Trunk?



Inclusion of articles on this page is not intended to imply /express affiliation or endorsement.

### Creation Moments

Genesis 1:24

“And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.”

On a previous Creation Moments program, we told you about the elephant’s trunk with its 40,000 muscles. This is 70 times the number of muscles in your entire body! And that amazing trunk can bulldoze a tree or pick up a pin.

But why does an elephant have a trunk in the first place? For the answer to that question, we looked in a very old book called *Natural Theology*. It was written by William Paley in 1802. Yes, that’s the same William Paley who came up with the famous analogy of a person who finds a watch and deduces that the watch must have had a watchmaker.

According to Paley, “The short unbending neck of the elephant is compensated by the length and flexibility of his proboscis,” or trunk. “He could not have reached the ground without it.” In other words, the elephant needed such a trunk to reach food and water. But, then, a person could ask why does the elephant have such a short and unbending neck? Paley answers that he needed such a neck to support such a heavy head!

Obviously, the elephant was given its trunk by a very wise Creator. As Paley so well pointed out, if the elephant had waited millions of years for his trunk to grow, “how was the animal to subsist in the meantime... until the prolongation of its snout was completed?” It is a question that evolutionists today are still unable to answer.

## A World of Beauty ...and Ugliness


OUR WORLD is filled with beauty, but also ugliness. This includes wars, other acts of violence, and racism. Why is the world like this?

Well, this isn’t the world God made. The book of Genesis tells us God created a perfect world. This “very good” creation (Genesis 1:31) was free from death and suffering. It was a perfect paradise.

Adam rebelled against God, however, and his action brought death and suffering. All of creation today groans (Romans

8:22) because of mankind’s sin. Though remnants of the beautiful original creation are still visible, a consequence of Adam’s sin is the ugliness of things like violence and hatred directed at others.

*A consequence of Adam’s sin is ugliness, seen in creation today.*

That’s not the end of it, however. Jesus, the God-man, took our penalty of death on the cross so we could be saved. Those who trust Christ will one day live forever in a new heaven and new earth, where there will be no more death or suffering. 







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# What Does God Want Me to Do **Today**?

Serving God's true children everywhere – God's church

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## The Cross

We heard of a dear old brother, who for many years took his stand, opposing the worldliness and drift in his church and community. His family insisted that things had changed and all was so different now, that he should give in and go along with the trends. His wife wanted to wear pant suits and cut her hair like the popular religious professors around her. The children tried to talk him into installing a television set in the home. He was told that he and his wife should put on rings now in their old age to prove they were married. His girls wanted to wear short skirts, and his boys wanted to wear long hair. They all declared that they loved the Lord as much as he did and that the popular style was not so reproachful. He was troubled in his mind and wondered just what to do. It seemed there was no one who encouraged him to keep contending for the old paths.

One night he dreamed that he was carrying his cross. The cross was bunglesome, heavy, and

painful to his back. In his dream, his family sympathized with him and suggested that he saw off a little of the cross. So he cut off part of the heavy cross. It was lighter, but still somewhat of a burden; so again he listened to their persuasion and cut off some more of his cross. He then found that his cross was less painful and much easier to bear. It appeared less obnoxious to the family and friends. Traveling on in his dream, he came at last to a chasm, deep and wide. Jagged rocks jutted from its sides and murky waters dashed and roared below. He realized this to be the river of Death. To cross it safely meant a landing on the sunny banks of sweet deliverance. To fail meant to be carried down to eternal regions of dark damnation. His heart trembled as he contemplated the treacherous crossing. How could he make it? Then a voice seemed to say, "The cross. Use the cross that you carry." He placed one end of his cross on the jutting rocks at his feet, then let it fall in an effort to span the gulf. He started to walk across but, alas, his cross was so short that it slipped off the edge of the farther side plunging him into the dark waters, as he screamed in despair, "If only I had not shortened my cross!" Awakening from his dream, he fell on his knees and promised God that he would never compromise or let down, even if he must go all alone. Faith & Victory —Selected by Virginia Taylor

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