

Opportunity = Potential

Ordinary – Extra-ordinary

When we submit to God, so much becomes available to us. Each scripture, each promise, opens whole dimensions. God is longing, waiting, watching, drawing us, and yearning to open our understanding – that we might see things as He does. A simple instruction to pray fervently ~ *availeth much!* “Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, *obtained promises*, stopped the mouths of lions” (Heb. 11:33). “And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, *He heareth us*” (I John 5:14). “And with *great power* gave the apostles witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and *great grace* was upon them all” (Acts 4:33). “For whatsoever is born of God *overcometh* the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith*” (I John 5:4).

“Heirs of God, and *joint-heirs with Christ*; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:17-18).

“That Christ may *dwell in your hearts* by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And *to know the love of Christ . . .*” (Eph. 3:17-19).

God dwells in eternity – and for us, *eternal life begins when we are made alive in Him*: seeing our need, repenting and turning from our sin, “Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new” (II Cor 5:17). “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). “As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should *give eternal life* to as many as thou hast given Him” (John 17:2). “That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, *but have eternal life*” (John 3:15). **Our God is an awesome God!!** N D

Guilt Driven or Spirit Led

by Sis. Lana Johnson

Are we guilt driven by Satan or led by the Lord?

We can know by which we are led.

Jesus leads gently, but Satan drives hard

Pushing accusations into our head.

Satan tells us if we don't listen

We've backslidden and will be lost.

Just take the hammer of God's Word

And nail Satan's lies to the cross!

Jesus, quietly, will draw near

And encourage us to follow His Way.

Satan tries violently to make us doubt

Then accuses us of going astray.

Jesus is the Good Shepard

Who leads His flock with love.

Let us prayerfully listen and follow Him

Beside still waters, to our Home above.

“Bringing into captivity every thought.” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

“They compassed me about like bees,” the Psalmist says. Every second we get a sting from some fiery shaft, some imagination, some memory, some foreboding, some fear, some care, and God lets us get them in order that they may be destroyed and we so armed against them that they can never hurt us any more. The only way to be armed against them is to refuse them and the source from which they come.

There is a world of truth here that most Christians have entirely over-looked. They give their spirit and heart to the Lord and they keep their head to themselves. Our intellect must be sanctified by being slain and replaced by *the mind of Christ*.

The only remedy for bad thoughts is to stop thinking all our own thoughts, to be spiritually decapitated, and to be delivered from the natural mind as well as the natural heart. God will, therefore, put us to school in the difficult task of stopping thinking. We will not only try to think right, but we will stop our thoughts and wait for Him to give us His mind.

This may seem to you like annihilation; but you will come to it if you are going to enter into the deepest, sweetest, strongest life, until *you shall be afraid to think at all until God first thinks in you.*

Have you given your thoughts to God? Have you learned the meaning of that cry of David, “I hate vain thoughts, but Thy law do I love”? (Psa. 119:113) Springs in the Valley --A.B. Simpson.

Like Joseph, “there may be many dear saints of God who doubt their saintship because their activities have been taken from them. Circumstances have closed in upon them; doors have been shut in their faces; funds for the prosecution of their work have ceased. It may be that, physically exhausted, they lie on their beds wondering why He can consent to so unreasonable a situation. Be assured of one thing: *Our lives are not to remain in obscurity and inactivity for all time. Our error lies in mentally fixing our future according to present conditions.* Let us arouse ourselves from this deadly coma. There is always the *afterward* of His gracious promising.”

Springs in the Valley -- Kenneth MacKenzie. (Editors note - Law of Sowing & Reaping: “But he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”[Gal. 6:8]. It will be **like kind**; it will be **multiplied**; it will be in **due season**.)

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This paper is Edited by Nelson & Genece Doolittle and assisted by Carlos & Dakota Doolittle
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A Friend to the End

“But suppose you do think of forsaking Christ, where are you going to get another friend to take his place? You must have a friend of some sort; who is going to sit in Christ’s chair? Whose portrait is to be hung up in the old familiar place when the old Friend is discarded? To whom are you going to tell your griefs, and from whom will you expect to receive help in time of need? Who will be with you in sickness? Who will be with you **in the hour of death**? **Ah! there is no other who can ever fill the vacuum which the absence of Christ would make.** *Therefore, **never** forsake him.*

“Let this be your resolve by his grace, instead of forsaking him you will **cling to him** more closely than ever; you will **own him** when it brings you dishonor to do so; you will **trust him** when he wounds you, for “faithful are the wounds of a friend;” you will **serve him** when it is costly to do it, when it involves self-denial; resolved that by the help of his ever-blessed Spirit without whom you can do nothing, you will never in any sort of company conceal the fact that you are a Christian. Never under any possible circumstances wish to be otherwise than a **servant** of such a Master, a **friend** of such a Lord.

“Come now dear young friends who are getting cool towards Christ, and elder friends to whom religion is becoming monotonous, come to your Lord once more and ask him to bind you with cords, even with cords to the horns of the altar. You have had time to count the cost of all Egypt’s treasure; forego it and forswear it once for all. But the riches of Christ you can never count; so come and take him again to be your **All-in-all**” (C. H. Spurgeon). (6/27/21 Bible Lessons)

Angela Gellenbeck www.churchofgodtoday.com

Correction: In the most recent, #29 *FT&H* paper, I left out an entire page of the interesting article **Encountering God** by Sis. Lisa Kelly. *Please read the entire article online:*

www.churchofgodtruth.com (pages 10 -12)

Prayer Meeting Quotes!

“The presence of the storm is no indication that God is not there! Jesus will take care of me.”

“Crosses are not easy. There are things daily that are not pleasant. Live where we can see the joy that's on the other side of the cross. See more than your cross – reason for the cross. God has an experience for us that goes beyond the cross. **Know that He has a purpose.** Be ye therefore followers of God as *grumbling Christians?? As dear children!* Be a child who wants to follow! Trust God explicitly, with a smile, and happiness. **He cares for me – He has my best interest at heart!**”

“Having joy in our daily grind & daily duties. It’s a challenge – our daily grind can cut away at our joy. Realize . . . we don't have to go out in deep sin to need a Savior. We can't focus on what's behind us. But, it's good to pause and see what God has done for us. **Face the future resting in the Lord.**”

“Our souls can get disquieted sometimes. Bring your soul to calmness; to a place of peace; that assurance in knowing that 'He's got it all.' He's allowing for a reason and 'He's got it.' We don't have to figure it all out. You can feel like your ship is rolling with waves. Still, know 'He's got it.'”



Brother Trimble's ol' Barn

by Clifford Smith

It was late on this balmy California summer night. There were no stars in the sky, and it was very dark outside. As I turned off the main road and slowly made my way down the long tree-lined lane toward Bro. Trimble's old farmhouse, the wind played on the leaves of the magnificent Eucalyptus trees, sending out a wonderful fragrance. As I neared the house, the silence

was broken by the loud frantic barking of dogs. I

came to a stop, turned off my lights, and got out of the car. Soon the most humble, sweet-spirited, godly man of prayer I ever knew poked his grey head out the old screen door to see what the commotion was about! "Hi, Bro. Trimble, it's me. Just came to pray in the barn." He waved me on with encouragement, and I carefully made my way down the path toward the old rickety barn. I slowly opened the barn door and walked into total darkness, the aroma of hay and farm stuff heavy in the air. I knew where I was going. I "felt" my way along until I found the

little altar bench and dropped to my knees onto the packed hay floor, careful to make sure they fit snugly into the two deep indentations created by Bro. Trimble's hundreds of hours of prayer. Somehow I felt closer to God in that spot. It was there in tears I poured out my heart to God until I felt the touch of his love and sweet spirit sweeping away the burdens of my heart and filling me with the reassurance, comfort, and hope I was looking for! His presence was undeniable. There...in that old barn!

It was a *special* place of prayer, because that's where Bro. Trimble prayed—often. As a teenager

endeavoring to live for the Lord during those challenging high school years, he taught me—all of us—the value of prayer! He taught us to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17) and that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16). What a wonderful heritage this sweet man of prayer left us.

Bro. Trimble's old barn did not begin to compare in beauty to the grandly-constructed cathedrals men have built, but where God meets and pours out His Spirit on the penitent, seeking heart is a place of incomparable worth.

I learned early on after I got saved how important it is to pray *every day!* Dear young friend, make it your practice to pray *every morning* before you start your day and *every evening* when you end your day. Sometimes it's tough to roll out of that bed early to begin the day in prayer. And after a long hard day, it's tempting to head straight to bed without taking time to pray. But it is so vital to make daily prayer the most important part of your life!



"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."
Psalm 55:17

I know how great the challenges are, the temptations you face, the often nagging questions that seem not to have satisfactory answers, the uncertainties of what the future holds, the

decisions that have to be made, the disappointments you experience, and, yes, sometimes the hurts that come along the way...and the failures (yes, those, too). The good news is Jesus will be a special friend who will commune with you, comfort you, cheer your heart, pick you up when you fall, wipe away the tears, bear your burdens, and brighten your uncertain future. He really cares for you, loves you, and wants the very best in life for *you*.

Find that special place of prayer and meet with Him often!

A Modern-Day Miracle in the Soviet Union

**As Related by Andre Sivvy*

When the Soviet government was trying to wipe out the church from the face of the Soviet Union, many brothers had been thrown into prison because they were leaders of churches or some other Christian groups. While they were in the prison camps, they suffered from malnutrition just as the rest of the prisoners. They became very thin...as we say, "skin and bones."

Because of this, many inmates got weaker and weaker, and some of them weren't able to report to work.

Sometimes after hard work days, some prisoners weren't able to walk into their barracks. They had to get down on hands and knees and literally crawl onto the three-step porch to get into the building. So, in a meeting, the Christian brothers started

talking about what they should do to survive. They felt that they were losing their strength day by day, and they needed to do something about this in order to return alive to their churches and families. They had to survive this camp. We need to mention that imprisonment was, at that time, 10 to 15 years. Everyone was tired from this life and everyone was ready to give up and die. That would be easier than to continue struggling through life this



way and working this way. There was no way to get extra food. So one of the brothers said, "Let us fast and cry out to God so He would find a way for us to survive!" All of the brothers agreed. I am not sure how they fasted....every day? three days in a row? or some other way? But in a short while, the inmates and prison guards began noticing that these men started to gain weight. If you compared them to the rest of the prisoners, they started getting some "cheeks." Their skin looked better, smoother! The prison guards suspected they had been getting extra food from somewhere. But after checkups and questioning, they found these

Christian brothers were actually getting less food than the rest of the prisoners!

It happened just as in the old days with Daniel and his friends. They looked better than the other men who ate from the king's

table! (recall the Old Testament story). And of course these brothers did survive the camp, and they got back home alive by God's provision.

"And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27.

***Editors' note: Brother Andre Sivvy and his family came to the United States from Uzbekistan in 1999 as religious refugees. They have been attending the Church of God in Jefferson, Oregon for over six years.**

(This article first appeared in July/August 2014 issue of the *Faith and Victory*.)

I would like to re-present for our readers the following narrative taken from July 1994 Faith and Victory, telling how one of the Lord's servants **received living/dying grace** to **live out his life before the Lord**. I'm sure we can all benefit by **considering** testimonies of the **many faithful ones** who have mentored us and gone before us! Bro. Norman had a life long affliction that would have been disabling for many.

**These are some of the comments that followed the reading of the obituary
at Bro. Norman Allen's funeral, by Bro. Bob Huskey.**

Brother Norman had the greatest talent and ability given to any man, to any husband, to any father: the talent of being able to earn the deepest respect, love and admiration of his immediate family, who are his wife and children. When those who live closest to you love and admire you the most, let me tell you, you have **learned** the secret of true living. It is one thing to be rich and famous, a great politician, business man or movie star, and be liked and thought well of by the whole world; but it's quite another thing to be liked, loved and admired **your whole life through** by your closest family members, from your siblings and parents, to your own spouse and children. **This was the case in Brother Norman's life.**

Brother Norman, after his petition or request in his prayers to God, would always say: "Lord, if it is Your will, let it be so, **only**, if it is Your will." His desire was always to do **God's will first in his life**. He had a good understanding of what that will was, also, and that was to put his family first ahead of everything else, except God. His last advice to his children, and he told them this several times, was: "You children stick close together, put God out front, put Him first, and your families next. Take time with them, in the little things, the simple things, the everyday things; if you wait until tomorrow, tomorrow will **never** come."

Brother Norman knew how to live. His greatest joy and ambition in life was to see his family enjoy one another, not with complicated or expensive toys, vacations or trips, but in the simple things of life, the everyday things. I don't know how many times I heard about the picnics, the simple little trips into the country, to sit by a stream, in a park, or just a pretty spot by the road. It didn't have to be anything complicated or expensive, but Norman knew how to make it enjoyable, how to **make it fun**. It has been said that he could take "nothing" and "make it fun." Brother Norman's grandchildren were already starting to have some of the same memories his children had. Little Aaron Abbott would get excited about going to Grandpa's and would ask **excitedly**, "Are we going to have a picnic in the garage?" The hours just sitting in the little red garage, talking and enjoying one another, was a source of excitement for him, and something to look forward to. They went to pick up Brenda

Allen (his other little six-year-old grandchild) at school not long ago, and as she got into the car she asked if Grandpa was going to be with them that day and she was told no, that he was sick and unable to be there. She was **so** disappointed and let down. She said: "**It is always so much more fun when Pappa is here.**" I think that tops it off about Brother Norman.

Brother Norman could laugh at anything. He had a wonderful sense of humor. He could use humor to get to the heart of a matter. If you took yourself a little too seriously, put on a few "airs," got a little too "starchy" or stiff, Brother Norman knew how to get rid of all that for you. He kind of brought you down to reality, and helped you walk flat-footed on the ground again! It has been said he knew how to make life "unboring." Brother Norman could laugh at calamity, at sickness, and at himself. He did that to the end. He had a wonderful sense of humor and **he knew how to live**.

He loved life, nature, and every day that he could get outside and do something. From a child, he loved nature and the outdoors. He loved to be outside. As children, his sister and he would stand at the window in the house and listen to the birds sing a chorus and they would watch them and the squirrels and point them out to one another. His daughter said that every morning during his last illness, up until the last two days of his life, he would be the **first** to hear the birds, even before it was light. He would say: "Listen to the birds." He heard them as praising God and being in perfect harmony with God's will. He saw God in all of nature.

Brother Norman, by God's grace, knew a lot about being a **man, a true man**, one that was capable of giving **true love**. True love is manifest only in the giving of ourselves to others, in sacrificial giving, giving when it hurts, not giving only when it is convenient, only when it feels good, only when it's easy, but giving our time or energy when it's inconvenient and when it hurts. Norman hurt physically most of his life, but he didn't let that stop him from giving to those he loved and had a responsibility for. He gave of himself when it hurt, therefore, he manifested true love.

Norman never complained! He has been laid up in bed with as many as seven broken bones at one time and **he never complained!** He never

sought self-pity. He never would let his family know when he was suffering; he would just keep on going, and going, and going until he just couldn't go anymore, literally. It is hard to believe he is really gone. It's hard to believe that the legacy of Brother Norman Allen's life has been lived, but I want everyone here to know that this man was a brave soldier of the cross of Jesus Christ. He was a **true Christian**, a true example of what Christianity is all about. Brother Norman **did it right**. Let us all try, by God's grace, to do the same.



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"Moments"

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Marty Clevenger Loranger, LA www.churchofgodpreaching.com #7776 2021-11-26

I've made very little splash in life. What we do in life -- the whole scheme of things, is a tale told, slowly happening over the years. But have you ever had a "moment"... the moment that meant what your life was going to be? "Choose ye this day" (Deu. 30:19/Joshua 24:15). *This is the moment that means everything!* God wants us to live for Him because we **want** to.

It's our **opportunity** -- our **choice**. Is God unjust to send people to hell? It would be unjust for God to make someone who dislikes heavenly things spend eternity surrounded by those things. If you choose to live away from Him here, why would He force you to be in His presence there?

We're not going to get away with anything. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:7-8).

One person, and timing, can change all kind of things. A moment can alter somebody's life. We alter the people around us with the influences that we have. It's not like a firecracker. It's a seed. At first it doesn't mean much, but there's increase!

"The Necessity of Thankfulness"

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Joseph Gellenbeck Loranger, LA www.churchofgodpreaching.com #7773 2021-11-25

God made every one of us with different strengths, weaknesses, and skillsets. Everything that happens to us is used by God for our ultimate welfare. Find things to be thankful for. Each one thinks his own a sad lot. We drain out the cup that is bitter, forgetting the one that is sweet. "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him"(Ecclesiastes 7:14). Know how to abound. **There are things more important than accumulation.** Know the difference between thanksgiving and covetousness. **You can be covetous of your own stuff!** It all belongs to God. Paul learned to be content in the state he was in. **The root of Satan worship is lifting up one's self!** What can I do to heap up to myself? We get so wrapped up in ourselves. "...became vain in their imaginations"(Rom. 1:21). Would not be thankful (2 Tim.3:2). Let's not forget the magnitude of what God did for us. **Being happy, contented, and fulfilled doesn't have to be as expensive as the world makes it out to be.**

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"(1 Cor. 5:18).

Your Legacy is what you leave *in* someone.

“Humble Due Diligence”

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Bob Wilson Loranger, LA www.churchofgodpreaching.com #7775 2021-11-26

God doesn't give us a blank check. Why should you die before the time? I think there are things we can do to shorten our days. “Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?”(Eccl.7:16). Hezekiah's track record may have been a hindrance in his falling. We need to be careful, the Lord can use all kinds of things to speak to us! Unsaved people can be the avenue God chooses and uses to speak to us. It doesn't say he took time to enquire of the Lord. Sometimes we want to be so right. We need to be watchful, prayerful, and not “over righteous.” **We should have a caution in our hearts.** Our failures can prove a blessing to us -- **a fault that humbleth is better than a virtue that exalteth.** God is wanting to fashion something in us - **sensitivity** that we don't get when everything is going right. **In brokenness the Lord works.** The Lord forms and fashions his people. You know, we can be so right and yet be so wrong. We think we're so right and *miss it*. The route to take is to be humble before the Lord.

“Consequence of Choice”

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Rodney Smith Loranger, LA www.churchofgodpreaching.com #7774 2021-11-14

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”(Isa. 5:20). But they have an influence on us too. This kind of thinking is folly. It doesn't follow the moral law of God. We live in a world where right is being presented as wrong and wrong . . . as right. **We have to teach our children what right is.**

Our lives are defined by decisions we make today. Decisions I make today affect how it is going to set me up for tomorrow. **We can make decisions, in the moment, that affect us the rest of our lives.** These forks in the road, Lord help me to make right decisions. “Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth . . . but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment”(Eccl. 11:9). Youth and strength is a wonderful thing. But there's a caviot to it – consequences. Be happy with the strength that you have – just **remember there are consequences.** “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”(Eccl. 12:13-14).

God wants to give us a good end. Joshua had thought about the end, the outcome. He had seen where people had not given consideration to their choices. “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”(Josh. 24:15b).

“Keep thyself pure”(1 Tim. 5:22). “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”(Col. 3:2). Give no “place to the devil”(Eph. 4:27). **Don't walk into spaces you know the Devil abides.** Erect some fences! If I don't draw a line, my affection will start to go out. Don't knock the fences down! **The fence was to protect us from sin.** I don't want to go through life living only for the moment.

Lots of times we think of consequences as negative. “The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it”(Pro. 10:22). The Lord helps us. The Lord gives us victories where otherwise we wouldn't have victory. Yes, there are going to be some sacrifices and denials, but most of the time it is a protection for yourself.

The Best things in life aren't things!

WHALES: Engineered to be Underwater!

We are told by evolutionists that the whale evolved from a cow-like creature that originally lived on land. Let's look at that claim. First, the whale can hear what direction a sound is coming from **under water**. Neither cows nor humans can do this. Nor is the whale's ear damaged by the pressures deep in the sea. The whale also has other, very complex differences from land-living mammals that allow him to cope with the great pressures in the **depths of the sea**.



If the whale evolved from some cow-like mammal, the entire head would have to be restructured. What we could call the whale's nose is on top of his head, in back of his brain. Land-living mammals, of course, keep their noses on the front of their faces, in front of their brains. Evolutionists would have us believe that in the evolution of the whale, his nose, or at least his nostril, migrated up his face through his brain, and finally ended up where it is today. That's major restructuring! These are just a few of the miracles we are supposed to believe that mindless evolution performed, even though it can't think or plan. And that's the operative word – believe. The evolutionist's faith in the evolution of the whale shows us that the origins controversy is not science versus the Bible. This debate is about a man-made and sometimes silly religion versus faith in God's revealed Truth! Paul A. Bartz Creation Moments

God's 5 Minutes

Anoint Thine Eyes

- The apostle John recorded, in the 3rd chapter of his book of Revelations, the following message from the Lord Jesus: *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.* Although this message was spoken to the church at Laodicea it has universal value.
- First please notice that this is counsel from the Lord Himself. Not only was He God in the flesh, but as One Who took upon Himself human form He knew by experience the most important things each of us need to make our lives fulfilled and to obtain the mercy of God at their mortal end.
- His counsel is that we buy of Him gold tried in the fire. Spiritual gold is the treasured stability and confidence that come from our **having prayed our way through the issues God permits to come into each of our lives**, and having been faithful until our prayers were answered and our victories obtained. Job found spiritual gold with his "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Joseph found it when he told Potiphar's wife, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God." Peter found it after his denial of the Lord when he repented with bitter tears. Spiritual gold among those who have succeeded into heaven itself is so plentiful the very streets above are paved with it.
- But what is the alternative to this gold? Why, it is the poor, unhappy course of feeling resentful and embittered by what life has brought. And how many today are caught in that very trap! All about us are sounds of complaining and frustration; many and many a person has a woeful tale to tell of misfortune and misery. **The Lord has an answer. He invites us to buy, with our faith, with our prayers, with our forsaking of wickedness and taking up a forgiven life of purity to purchase gold to meet those obvious needs.**
- We will never face a greater fire than that in which the gold He first purchased has been refined.
- The Lord also counsels you and me to buy of Him white raiment. Though many scoff at holiness today, it is simply a fact that every **sin is hurtful, and the less we can have to do with its deadly, destructive ways the better off we shall be.**

continued...

- The Lord compares, in this passage, being without His robes of righteousness, as being naked. That means the very basest part of humanity, the most shameful betrayals, greed, selfishness, mean indifferent lustfulness, are likely to be on display in people who do not have a covering of the blood of Jesus from what Satan did to our forefathers in the garden of Eden.
- Physical nakedness in public is shameful. So is it shameful to be seen before those who love us most, by friends, neighbors, or our communities as careless, heartless, cold, cruel, greedy and selfish. No one wants to be shown to the world as cheating friends, lying to one's own family members, stealing from those who trust us, and yet being so uncovered before our fellows is nothing compared to being naked in lusts, vices and sins before the terrible, all-seeing eye of God Himself.
- **The Bible tells us that those secret sins committed in darkness are not hidden from God.** The whispers, the gossips, the slanderous, hurtful words spoken into the ear in closets shall be loudly shouted from the housetops; those hurtful words spoken behind someone's back will be **written in letters of fire in the very skies above.**

The devil works to blind souls to these stern truths. The last item our Lord advised us to buy from Him is eyesalve; we need Him to give us a vision of what it will mean to come to our mortal end with unforgiven sin in our lives. Have you talked to God today? 444

God's 5 Minutes – Around the World



Dots represent hits on the website. Pray for a world of needy humanity. "Go ye into all the world."

"THE DOOR SHALL BE SHUT"

The porters were crying: "Take your seats for Derby and the South!" The great terminus buzzed with life, and passengers hurrying to and fro hastened to get into the train. Goodbyes were said, last handshakes and farewell kisses given - the guard lifted his flag to wave the "All Clear" signal for the train to steam out of the station.

It was just at this moment that one of the passengers seated in the last carriage saw a man come running through the iron gates on to the platform. He was breathless, and red in the face from his efforts to reach the train before it left. He made one last effort, and sprang into the carriage just as the train gathered up speed, and with a shrill whistle, puffed its way out. The man sank exhausted into his seat in the corner of the carriage, a porter slammed the door, and the passenger, who had been an interested spectator of these happenings, said, with a smile: "And the door was shut!"

The newcomer glanced at the speaker, and then buried himself behind a newspaper. Not another word passed between them for the rest of the journey. But with every puff of the engine the words spoken

repeated themselves in the brain of Andrew Floyd. **"And the door was shut-and the door was shut-and the door was shut!"**

Vainly he tried to read his paper - it seemed to him that the words not only repeated themselves in his ears, but danced before his eyes. **"And the door was shut!"** Behind the sheltering shade of the paper he went back many years. He saw himself sitting by the side of his mother in a country chapel. A white-haired preacher was speaking from the text which contained those very words: **"And the door was shut."** The small boy listened intently. The preacher had a vivid way of telling a story, and he ended his sermon on the parable of the Ten Virgins by saying: "The Gospel train is fast filling; the last person will soon be in it; and then can you tell how you would feel, not to be just in time, but just **too late?** To be one who shall cry, 'Lord, Lord, open to us' when the only answer will be, 'I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'" Matt. 7:23.

Through the years, buried beneath the hurry and cares of this life these words had lain forgotten, but not lost, in the depths of the memory of that boy, now grown to be a man with a family of his own. Andrew Floyd looked out the window, but he did not see the beautiful green fields, the pretty country cottages, nor the grime-blackened towns through which the express puffed its way. Instead he saw a hill in faraway Palestine, and climbing that hill a band of men, followed by a motley crowd. The band of soldiers made the three prisoners with them to lie down on the three bare wooden crosses which they had carried to the summit of that hill, and then with relentless cruelty, they had nailed them to the wood. The crosses had been lifted by rough hands, put into holes already dug for them, and the earth piled up around. Who was the central Figure lifted up on that ugly Cross? Yes, he knew it was the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and as Andrew Floyd gazed upon the silent, suffering Form, the tears began to course unheeded down his cheeks. **His** sin had been hung on that Cross -- and how ungrateful he had been! All these years, and he had never taken refuge within the Door which had been opened for the safety of sinners -- for his safety that day when Christ, the Son of God, loved "unto the end."

"And the door was shut." Yes, it might have been shut, and if it had been, he, Andrew Floyd, would have been shut out, for as yet he had never thanked that silent Sufferer for dying for his sins, nor taken Him as his own personal Saviour. But he would do so now! Not another moment should pass until he knew himself to be safely inside the Door! Andrew Floyd shut his eyes, and for the first time for many years, he prayed. With sorrow in his heart he poured out his repentance, and grief, and gave himself unreservedly to the Saviour.

So occupied was he that he did not notice the stopping of the train. It was only when he lowered his paper a short time later, that he saw the man who had awakened his soul had left the train. He was sorry -- he would have liked to tell him that he had brought a soul to Christ through his words! Still, it could not be helped: perhaps some day he would see him again.

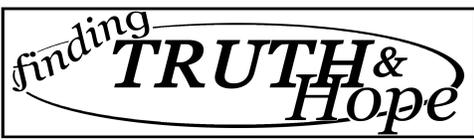
... Andrew Floyd never met his fellow passenger -- however, he did have the joy of knowing that his words had awakened Andrew's soul, and brought him to the Saviour. Two years later, away in the far East, where his work for the Lord had brought him, Andrew Floyd met a friend, who was also a friend of the man who had been sitting in the carriage when Andrew came hurrying into it on that memorable day. This friend was on his way back to England, and to him Andrew related the foregoing events which led to his conversion.

So struck was Captain McIntyre with the story that he used it in giving an address on reaching England. In his audience sat his other friend -- the man who had spoken the words! After the meeting, he spoke to Captain McIntyre, and learned from him what his simple words had done in bringing another to Christ. What joy filled his heart as he listened to the story as related to his friend by Andrew Floyd, now in the service of the Lord in that remote country!

Friend, may I repeat those same words to you? **"The door was shut." Today that Door stands open, but one day it will be shut.** On which side of it -- of Him -- will you be found? **Oh, the madness and danger of delaying your salvation to the last moment!** May you hear His voice, and enter in through the Door without delay!

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in" (Rev. 3:20). That is Christ, your Saviour, waiting patiently at the door of your heart. But listen again -- "I am the door," says the Saviour, "by **Me** if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). Will you not unlock the door of your heart, and confessing your sin and your need of salvation, invite the Saviour to come in? If you do, then at that very moment you will enter in through the other Door, which is Christ Himself, and will know the joy of sins forgiven, and of having received the Gift of Everlasting Life!

(T. Stubbs)



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May God be a present help to you.
He invites us to reach out to Him
with every concern and need.
“Casting all your care upon Him
for He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

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"THE DOOR SHALL BE SHUT"

A Wedding Prayer

O eternal God: We bring Thee our children, _____ and _____. They were Thine, but Thou in love didst lend them to us for a little season to care for, to love, and to cherish. It has been a labor of love that has seemed but a few days because of the affection we bear them. Fresh from Thy hand they were in the morning of their lives. Clean and upright, but yet two separate personalities. Tonight we give them back to Thee—no longer as two—but as one flesh. May nothing short of death dissolve the union here cemented. And to this end let the marvelous grace of God do its perfect work.

It is also our earnest prayer for them, not that God shall have a part in their lives, but that **He shall have the preeminent part**; not that they shall possess faith, but **that faith shall fully possess them both**; that in a materialistic world they shall not live for the earthly and temporal alone, but that they shall be enabled to lay hold of that which is spiritual and eternal.

Let their lives together be like the course of the sun—rising in strength, going forth in power, and shining more and more unto the perfect day. Let the end of their lives resemble the setting of the sun—going down in a sea of glory, only to shine on undimmed in the firmament of a better world than this. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

If you and your spouse have a relationship with Jesus Christ and will diligently seek His help, you'll find that He cares for you. **He created the institution of marriage, and He wants it to succeed!** Ask Him for wisdom, grace and healing of wounds that still exist. Then, forge ahead in His power, remembering that "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).
James Dobson/Family Talk