

# finding **TRUTH & Hope**

ISSUE # 39

The **Purpose of Life** is not merely to have a good time, to gratify the senses, to eat, drink and be merry. Its high and holy purpose is the **building of character**. Good character is the basis of real happiness. The process of character building is not always easy, but it is always profitable. Each of us has capacity to develop a great character, a noble and beautiful life which cannot be unhappy. In such a soul there is a depth into which trouble never can reach. No matter how trials and troubles may press in upon the life, there is a calm and undisturbed peace at the very center of life. There is a joy that springs up on the darkest days. There is a light that shines in the deepest night. Life must have its discipline and its difficulties to make it of value, to give it character.

The Christian life of many people is unsatisfying. Instead of being joyous with the elements of heaven, it is burdensome. . . If, when we come to God, we still cling to the things of the past and try to graft Christianity upon our old lives, we shall not have the fruits of righteousness. There must be a break with the past. There must be a **newness of life**.

**We should fill our lives with the better things, the pleasant things of righteousness, truth, nobility and service**, that make life rich for ourselves and profitable to others. We need the freshness and beauty of true spirituality. We need activities—interesting and profitable things.

Let us make our lives a great adventure. It is our privilege now and then with heart and mind to make an excursion to heaven, there to sit and meditate beside the river of God.

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

**Happiness** is the normal state of all life.

Our tears are meant to be only the cleansing rain which refreshes and beautifies life. There is an echo of far-off music in all the sounds of nature. Rejoicing is everywhere. Happiness is God's will for all His creation. "Sing, O ye heavens...shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein..." Isaiah 44:23.

In nature, birds sing even though they know they are surrounded by enemies. Constant dangers do not silence their songs.

Again and again we are exhorted to rejoice, to be glad and to give expression to our joy. The poet has said, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Joy is more powerful than sorrow. Peace is more lasting than trouble. Sorrow is but transitory. Life has balm for all our woes, light for all our darkness. Morning breaks after the darkest night. There is sunshine after the fiercest storm. There is warmth and beauty after the

cruel winter. In the normal life, happiness is the rule; unhappiness the exception.

One thing should ever be present in our thoughts of life. Our happiness does not depend upon our environment, our station, our circumstances, or any external thing. The songs come from within. They bubble up out of the heart.

It is what we are within that counts. It is our outlook on life, our purposes, our ideals, our hopes, our faith.

The God who made the birds that sing so sweetly desires the same melody of song in the heart of the highest of His creation. Believing this, we face life with the elements that create melody active in our hearts to teach us the Secret of the Singing Heart.

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



# WHAT EVER IS RIGHT HE WILL PAY

*Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes,  
nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.* (Mat.  
10:10)

Why stand ye here idle all day?  
Go ye! into the vineyard, right away.  
The grapes spoil on the vine, ere they can be tread into wine;  
For the laborers are so few and there's so much to do.  
Now, whatever is right, He will pay

Go ye! out on a mountain today,  
Bring back that poor sheep gone astray.  
It's out there in the cold, away from the fold;  
But the shepherds are so few and there's so much to do,  
Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Oh, lift up your eyes to behold,  
The ripe grain, all turned to gold  
With heads bending down, it falls to the ground,  
But the reapers are so few, and there's so much to do,  
Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Oh! the harvest truly is plenteous,  
But the laborers are so few.  
Why stand ye idle all day? If ye can't work, you can pray;  
Oh! The laborers are so few and there's so much to do,  
Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

Oh! Pray ye the Lord of the harvest  
To send laborers into the field.  
For reapers are so much needed, to gather in the yield,  
Oh! The laborers are so few and there's so much to do,  
Now, whatever is right, He will pay.

So why stand ye idle all day?  
When there remains so much to be done.  
Haste ye! gather the grain before the setting of the sun;  
Oh! The laborers are so few, and there's so much to do,  
Now, whatever is right, He will pay. —

Byron (Barney) Wittenborn

## Will I Find Faith?

Edited excerpts of message by Sis. Karen LaCroix 2008 Loranger, LA

This is no time to lead a mediocre walk with God! It would be easy to be lukewarm. We need to allow God to take us from faith to faith. Let's dig, beg, prepare, watch, pray, and get a hold to all that we can.

When we're hurt, our natural feelings can make us feel betrayed by God. We're going to have to have it settled and fixed! "He that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22). If we will hold fast to God, He will hold fast to us. Wait not till it gets really bad – the signs of the times – now is the time to get serious with God.

Lord, help us to comprehend with believing faith. Lord, help me to back away from my emotions. I give my desperation to God. Maybe the Lord points out things in my life – the stony places in my life that I'm closed off to. Maybe I'm not really willing to get in there and dig. It seems like an endless job. It's easier to just leave it like it is. I need openness of heart.

Wisdom can pass me right on by. Discernment – the Lord wants me to cry out for it. We need to value what He has for us. It's so easy to spend up treasure that's just handed to us. Seek and search for wisdom as hidden treasure. Get down, dig and work and search for it. He has stored it up for us. God is the one who guards the path of justice, judgment, equity, and every good path. Lord, search everything foundational in my life!

**Please Note new address: Finding Truth & Hope 23174 Highway 40 - Loranger, LA 70446**

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## Finding Truth & Hope

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The Loranger congregation cuts, folds, tabs, and labels,  
which greatly aids in getting the papers ready to mail.

## *A Spiritual Church – Gifts*


Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Larry Abbott Loranger, LA 11-30-08

God in His heart designed His Church holy and clean. It is a spiritual thing. God designed every member to be filled with His Holy Spirit! He's given us a plan (Ephesians 4:1-16). We don't want to lack on being spiritual people. Let's not be a little careless or lax. We've got to put everything we can into this. God has something in mind for everyone of us to do. If we are born of the Spirit, we should have the unity of co-operation. It's up to you and me to keep unity. A clear vision is needed. The devil is fighting unity. God is not the author of confusion.


All are gifted by the Holy Spirit. It is given to all members, not just ministers (Romans 12:1-9). Meet God's conditions and requirements. God wants to use you and make you a blessing to someone. The Holy Ghost has the right to use any sanctified soul any way He wants to. Get behind and support whatever place God chooses. When the disciples were in the will of God, nothing could stand before them. People that are bound are delivered at our altars. God chooses to use human instrumentality to do His will. Paul told Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. Jesus sent out the seventy, two by two. **We need to have a burden today for the lost. Everybody can be busy.**

*Get spiritual  
yourself.  
Get alone  
with God  
more.*

Everyone has things to do for the Lord. Folks, we all are responsible. It takes the unity of the whole to exercise the gifts that are mentioned in the Bible. If the Lord gives gifts to someone, it's for the entire body to be lifted up. But there must be a confidence in the one who has the gift. It is for the faith of the entire body to be increased. Let us trust God for soul, body, mind, and spirit. Every gift that is given isn't used all the time – but whenever He needs you to be used. The Holy Spirit gives courage, boldness, zeal, and discernment to recognize a foreign spirit.

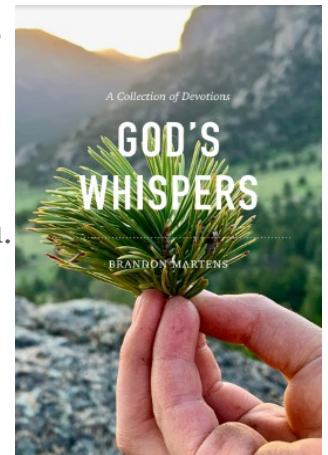
The Holy Spirit can't give a gift to someone who doesn't have the Holy Spirit. We need to pray for gifts. We say we're God's people. We shoulder some responsibility! Let's turn God's searchlight inward. My faith is going to have to be equal to what I'm asking for. Let's be the people God is wanting us to be. Get spiritual yourself. Get alone with God more. A spiritual church begins with each of us. We need to be filled with the love of God. “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” (Matthew 24:12). Let's invest everything. Let's put our all into it. 

**Parents**, as you read the word of God to your children each day, also have them read aloud to you. Ask them two or three things they've picked up from what they've read. If you've never had this habit, today would be a good day to start! Their Biblical world view is formed so very early. Their minds and hearts quickly absorb all that is presented everywhere around them.

By training your children to read every single day, you are literally bringing healing and wholesomeness into their lives. Selected 

***There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God*** - C.B. McAfee.

Elijah was running for his life. The angel of the Lord found him and sent him on a 40 day and 40 night journey to Mount Horeb. It was there that Elijah heard the still, small voice of God. In that voice, Elijah heard direction and found the courage he needed. The Elijah that made that return trip was no longer running in fear, but walking in determination, for he had found his refuge near to the heart of God (1 Kings 19). Psalms 46:1 says: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Imagine walking through life with no respite, no opportunity to rest when we become weary. There are times when we just have to put our feet up for a minute and get recharged, renewed. We seem to be able to recognize the needs of our physical bodies fairly easily, but what about our souls? God did not design our spirit to be able to carry burden after burden, day after day. In fact, the scriptures tell us something quite different. Psalms 55:22 says: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee..." In Matthew 11:28, Jesus himself tells us: "Come unto me...and I will give you rest." The Psalmist says of the Lord "...he giveth his beloved sleep." -Psalms 127:2. Oh weary soul, the Lord waits for you, just as He did for Elijah. Today, look for that place of rest, near to His heart. Listen for His still, small voice inviting you to come and find relief. Take advantage of the opportunity to experience the refreshing presence of the Lord. Hear Him say, "...my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." -Matthew 11:30. *Alone with God, the world forbidden, alone with God, oh blest retreat! Alone with God and in Him hidden, to hold with Him communion sweet!* J. Oatman, Jr.



CHALLENGE: As you fulfill the duties of your day, take advantage of the moments you have to commune quietly with God. Don't allow the devil to steal them from you. Let your mind focus on the Lord and share with Him the burdens you are carrying, "...and ye shall find rest unto your souls"- Matthew 11:29.

by Brandon Martens also found at: haydenchurchofgod.com

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***Turning Resolutely to Christ***

Edited excerpts of message at Loranger, LA by Bro. Brandon Martens 2-11-2024

I am determined that following after Christ is what I need my life to be. He is alive and will walk with you (Hebrews 12). When He doesn't provide for you, He will fill in those places for you, and He will walk with you. The scriptures are full of witnesses. A witness is someone who saw it happen. The Lord is faithful! Think about the lives that have been lived before you—people who were discontented with their lives of sin—people who found the Lord. You're not the only one who wants to live for Jesus! It's not because of who you are, but who you're walking toward.

Lay aside the sins, weights, or whatever puts you in the devil's hand. We're laying them aside not to give the devil an inch. Don't give him that space. Lay that thing aside. Run with patience, one step at a time. The Lord told me to be of cheerful endurance. The more truth we know, the more truth we should be able to proclaim in our lives. Something within us gives us hope. There's something waiting beyond this.

"So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading . . . for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:8,10). He is not okay with it being something not done with joy!

He's writing your story day by day. ***It's either going to be God pulling your strings, or the devil. I want God to be the author.***



# Convictions

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Rod Smith Loranger, LA 2-18-2024

Conviction is having passion. Conviction is powerful. “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). It's not always easy to do what Jesus wants us to do. Life is hard. Life is real for everyone. The wind comes to everyone. Darkness comes. Living life for Jesus is a sacrifice. But don't forget there's a heavier cross if you don't have Jesus. You're not abnormal just because the storms of life did come. Luke 6:48 speaks of “a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock.” When the storm passed, his house was still standing.

Every single day, lives end in ruin – people who gave themselves to live out the things that they *felt*. Eventually, that hour glass of time runs out. If your house is not built on Jesus Christ, the ruin of your house will be great. Is your life built on strong convictions? If so, where did your convictions come from? Why do you do that? It goes way beyond just a practice, just something you're curious about. Don't follow after things that are just appealing. Too quickly we get drawn in. If we don't take time to dig deep, there will be choices that we've made that weren't founded on the rock.

**God is in the business of restoring, rebuilding, and healing.** He can give you a house that can stand in the judgment. The question today is: “What kind of house are you living in?”

We're so used to just moving on to the next thing that satisfies – we pass by where it says to dig deep. God taps on your shoulder saying, “You need to think about making an adjustment.” If you want to receive light and truth, you have to manage your spiritual diet! Put your heart where truth and light exists. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you and bring light. Find out what the Word of God says. Children, as you get older, pretty soon, it's up to you. You're going to make your own decisions. I ask you to pause and dig deep.

Just because you have a conviction doesn't mean you're going to be right. God doesn't want you to go through life not sure. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). This is serious! Sometimes we have convictions where we are in error. **Be careful when you choose to walk away from the tried and true way. Make sure you get convictions that are founded upon the Word of God.**

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*“A certain nobleman . . . called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them , Occupy till I come”* (Luke 19:12-13).

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Rod Smith Loranger, LA 3-3-2024

We are all likened unto His servants. God has given different capacities, advantages, and talents. He has given you an individual life, different than anybody else has. Don't let something else fill the space that He's given you to fill. Fill your place. Don't put it off to the side. God has given you your life. Nobody else can fill your place. He wants you to value it. He doesn't want you to neglect it. The place that You have put me, the spouse that I have, the school, the place of work – help me, Lord, to occupy that place! If we'll be faithful – think about the wonderful plan God has made. It is not my recipe; it is God's .

Spiritual poverty does not have to show up in your life. We can be faithful. **God has given us a garden, a sphere of influence that nobody else can fill.** Other people have gardens, too, and space that overlaps my garden. If I'm faithful, I begin to affect others' lives.

A lot of unexpected things happen in life when you're faithful. He blesses in so many unexpected ways. **If we give up, if we throw up our hands, then something else comes in and fills that space and affects through all the generations that follow.** See then, that you occupy, carefully, as wise, redeeming the time. How do you do that? Occupy one day at a time.



# Prayer Meeting Night *Excerpts*

Turn God's promises into a prayer.

Remember, it's a promise! Expect Him to guide us and lead us. The Lord is not slack concerning His promises. We may have a hard time grasping "My God shall supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19). God said, "I wasn't eking out, but filled to the brim." I've been reminded that these are promises, and that He's going to keep His word. "Goodness and mercy shall follow me" . . . pursue and come after me. Live with expectation! "Hopeth all things" (1 Cor. 13: 7). He has my good in mind!

How the spiritual realm works . . . The Old Testament sometimes seems excessively violent, but bring it over into the spiritual realm – when we face the devil – we've got to be excessively violent. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12).

Special forces in the military have very challenging training to go through. They have missions no one ever knows about. We, like Joseph, have an awful lot of times that we don't know how it is going to fit the bigger picture. There are those among us filling very special roles, skill sets, long-sufferings, and consecrations that most of us are not called to.

The thought came to me while traveling and using apps for maps. Other routes might seem easier. The app may reroute, but the destination always reads Heaven. If I knowingly do something that's outside of God's plan, then the destination will not be Heaven, but Hell.

How do I know the place God wants me? The Lord reminded me – all I have to do is follow day by day, step by step, and I will be in the place He would want me to be.

We have a good Shepherd. We don't have to lack for anything (John 10:11). He giveth His life for the sheep. You can't get a better Shepherd than that! We are the apple of His eye. We are cherished, looked after, and noticed.

"It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). As I get older, there are things I know with more certainty. Also, I feel like I know less than I ever did. The more I learn, the more I learn how little I know!

"Day unto day uttereth speech" (Psalms 19:2). We don't always understand what God is doing – but He has a purpose. "You're still God. I can still trust you." He's always there. He's wanting to see how we handle the hardships.

Our God is a strong and mighty fortress. Sing with joy now; our God is for us! No love is greater. Who can stand against us if our God is for us?

We can get spiritual good out of whatever comes. Be careful. Anything that is man made can fail.



## If You Have Salvation

“So whether in or out of a sect, if you have salvation, you are a member of the Church of God.”

The Church of God was built by Christ, while all sects were founded by man. “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church” (Matt.16:18). It was prophesied by Daniel as a kingdom set up by the “God of heaven” (Dan. 2: 44). It is “the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man” (Heb. 8: 2). All sects have been organized by man. The Church of God is built upon the principle of unity. Sectism is built on the principle of division. The Church of God is divine; the sects are human – no affinity between the two. Christ built one church; the sects number nearly one thousand or more; therefore, Christ is not their builder. “He is not the author of confusion.” The church Christ built, He calls “my Church,” then no sect belongs to Him for man built them. Christ said of His Church, “The gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16: 18). “It shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44). Therefore, the same Church Jesus built nineteen hundred years ago is still in existence. It stands today; the whole “family,” the host of heaven, and all the saved of earth are members of it (Eph. 3 :15). Paul calls it the Church of God [Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 10:32, 11:16, 11:22, 15:9, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:13, 1 Thessalonians 2:14, 2 Thessalonians 1:4, & 1 Tim. 3:5], “the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Thank God, we belong to it alone and no other, and it will stand while ages roll on and on in eternity. **So whether in or out of a sect, if you have salvation, you are a member of the Church of God.**

From article by George Harmon

*Faith & Victory* January 1932



### Day by Day

Day by day and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what he deems best—  
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Ev'ry day the Lord himself is near me,  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares he gladly bears and cheers me,  
He whose name is Counselor and Pow'r.  
The protection of his child and treasure  
Is a charge that on himself he laid:  
"As your days, your strength shall be in measure"—  
This the pledge to me he made.

Help me then in ev'ry tribulation  
So to trust your promises, O Lord,  
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation  
Offered me within your holy Word.  
Help me, Lord, when, toil and trouble meeting,  
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,  
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
Till I reach the promised land.

Carolina Sandell 1865

### He Giveth More Grace

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labours increase;  
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials, He multiplies peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that your need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father, both you and your load will upbear.*

*His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

Annie J. Flint

Watch your thoughts, they become words;  
watch your words, they become actions;  
watch your actions, they become habits;  
watch your habits, they become character;  
watch your character, for it becomes your  
destiny

Frank Outlaw

## Persuaded

Edited excerpts of message churchofgodpreaching.com #9550 by Bro. Henry Grimes 2024-03-03

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world* (1 John 2:16).

We can be taken in by some of these things. You begin to see the world as something to be valued, and you lose out with God. “Despisers of those that are good” (2 Timothy 3:3). This is spiritual peril. These are the times we are living in. This can cause us to move in the wrong direction. We are part of the world, but we're not OF the world. What's going on is having an effect on you. **We don't want the world to affect us. We want to affect the world!** What I'm doing, and what I'm saying has to be in agreement. There's “mob mentality,” part of a group, and you get carried away with that group. Be careful! Everyone's out for themselves, and you could get trampled.

I must be concerned about what is pulling me and trying to dissuade me from God. Beware of the influence of the majority. Caution! Be warned! “Try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). Lift up a standard against what is coming against me. Just because a lot of people are doing it doesn't make it right. The only way to make it to Heaven is by Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Are we going God's way? If it's in agreement with the way Jesus went, then you can go that way. That's why it's important to live an up-to-date experience. Are we justifying ourselves by what people are doing? We read about the “wide way” (Matthew 7:13), and the whole bunch of people going. They look good on the outside. Look at the life of the individual, their fruits, how they treat their wife, how they treat their husband, their children. . .



## Be Deliberate in Learning from your Failures

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Rod Smith Loranger, LA 2-4-2024

It's not one failure and you're out! “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Be deliberate in learning from your failures. Do Root Cause Failure Analysis and find contributing factors (busyness, temporal things, . . .). Jesus said, “The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Luke 16:8b). Take deliberate action to put yourself in a better place. “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us” (Hebrews 12:1). Recognize those things that are holding me back! Analyze. Lord help me to recognize what is at the root of my failure. We are more responsible after the failure than before the failure. **I should discover why it is that I fail** and be willing to do something about it. **It may be because I fail to walk in the light He has shown me. Maybe I don't want to change. I need to take responsibility for myself on a daily basis** and

*We are more responsible after the failure than before the failure.*

give myself to understand what righteousness looks like in different areas of life. Sometimes, we're weak in some of the foundational areas of living – prayer life and reading. Or **is there always noise that's turned up? We squeeze out the Holy Spirit of God, perhaps with non sinful things.** How did I fail?

Realize the good news. It's correctable. It's forgivable. **Change course.** Take action, so we won't repeat past actions.

Sometimes, the Lord allows us to fail, folks, so we understand better who we are. “A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again” (Proverbs 24:16). Let's be willing to open up to Jesus Christ with our failure. Let's be encouraged that we serve a God who is mighty to save and mighty to keep. If we fail, it does not have to be a sin unto death. Continue to follow the Lord no matter what. “That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:15).





## ***Looking Through a Glass Darkly***

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Dan Adams churchofgodpreaching.com # 9673 2024-04-21

1 Corinthians 13:12 Right now I have partial understanding. I know in part. Darkly: Obscurely, blindly, with imperfect clearness of knowledge. They learn only what tradition has darkly conveyed to them.

There are things about life that's kind of beyond our scope of understanding right now. Do you remember how difficult it was to tie your shoe? We weren't born with that ability. How many of us stop and think through the technique?

It seems the Spirit of the Lord directed Phillip to go down to Gaza. This eunuch, a very intelligent man, had made an effort to come to this place he had heard about to worship. "Do you understand what you're reading?" "How can I?" He didn't say, "I'm figuring it out as I go." This guy was intent on getting understanding. Phillip from this same scripture "preached unto him Jesus." "I was an eye witness of this man – let me tell you. . ." The eunuch was in a position where he wanted to know. Phillip had a lot of details to give. The eunuch was a very intelligent man, and he was soaking it in. He was coming face to face with understanding. The eunuch was ready. He embraced it.

Knowledge of the gospel should empower us! Why didn't I know this? I should have known that years ago. Why? You don't know what you don't know! We go along in life "looking through a glass darkly." There is tremendous power in coming face to face with it for yourself.

The eunuch and Phillip were both blessed that day! We want understanding to empower us. You know what's going to happen to you when you get understanding? You're going to be blessed! "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Matthew 7:7). The main hindrance why people don't get understanding sometimes is that they don't ask for it. They just stumble along. "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Are you seeking for it? Or are you trying to ignore it? "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Matthew 5:6). Are you hungry for understanding or just blissfully ignorant and want to stay that way?

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15). It **doesn't** say, "Study to see if you can find a loophole."

Everything Sir Issac Newton discovered about nature inspired him to believe in God more. Are you studying to try to prove God exists? How are you studying? In 1 Chronicles 28:9, David was handing off the reign of the kingdom to his son, Solomon: "Serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

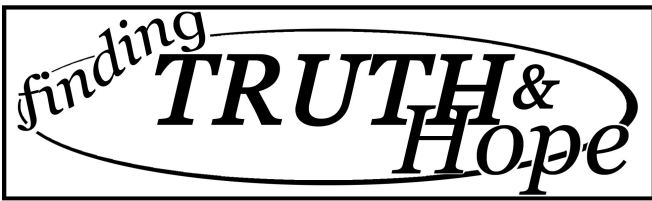
"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not" (2 Corinthians 8:12).



It's not what you believe intellectually. Devils believe. God sees how you believe by what you do.

Eric Metaxis

*The Line between good and evil  
runs right through the middle of  
every human heart.*



23174 Highway 40 Loranger, LA 70446

*Serving God's true children everywhere -  
God's church*

*Let's make time to draw near to God!*

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*Get Spiritual yourself* ..... page 3

*New Devotional book!* ..... page 4

*Convictions* ..... page 5

**Prayer Meeting Night Excerpts.** . . page 6

Two wonderfully illustrated Creation video books can be found by searching on YouTube: *J Patrice Doolittle*

One is about Birds (17 minutes long); the other is about Bees (16 minutes).

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

- August 21-25           Pacoima, CA Campmeeting
- August 30- Sept. 2    Myrtle, MO Campmeeting
- September 11-15     Wichita, KS Fall Meeting
- September 12-15     Springfield, OH Tent Meeting
- September 20-22     Boley, OK Fall meeting
- October 6-13           Roatan Honduras International Mtg.
- October 9-13           Balch Springs, TX Revival
- October 16-20         Billings, MO Revival
- December 26- Jan 1   Guthrie, OK Assembly Mtg.

Before planning travel, check the website for the most up-to-date information.