

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE **END of the WORLD**, BUT

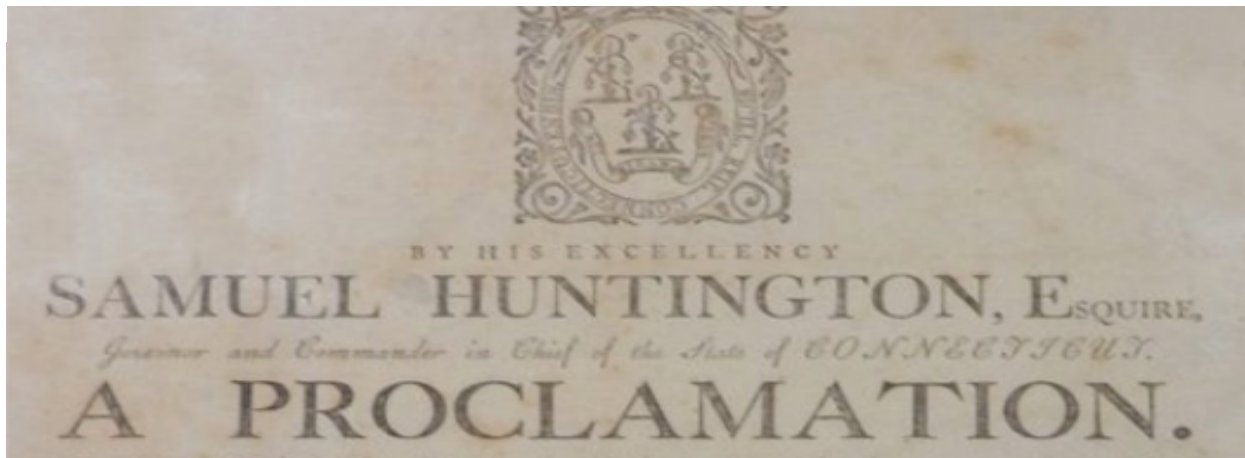
ARE YOU *READY*?

So many today, just like 2,000 years ago, are expecting Christ to set up a literal kingdom on this earth. Just because we have been taught so all our lives – doesn't change the words of Christ when He told them plainly: **“My kingdom is not of this world”** (John 18:36). **“For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you”** (Luke 17:21).

The Son of God died upon the cross to **“save his people from their sins”** (Matt. 1:21). **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”** (2 Cor. 5:10). **“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be”** (Rev. 22:12). **We must stand before a Holy God and give account of our deeds done in the flesh, good and bad. How it must grieve our God to see the allowance for evildoing in the minds and lives across the globe! “But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?”** (Mal. 3:2). (The prophet wrote this of Jesus' first coming. How surely it applies to His second coming, too!)

Now is life and opportunity. **“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed”** (Rom. 13:11). Jesus said, **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”** (John 5:39).

Like Pilgrim in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, let us flee the wrath to come, come to the cross, and journey to the *Celestial City*. **“Save yourselves from this untoward generation”** (Acts 2:40). **“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 2:38). There is a lie taught, that truth is only what we think it to be. **God wants to forgive you, clean you up, make you new within, and put a new heart within you.** Let's turn off the noises of our entertainment, lay down our phones, get on our knees, and cry out to God in repentance. **“Behold, now is the day of salvation”** (2 Cor. 6:2).



. . . the 28th day of March, 1789

Considering the indispensable *duty* of a people, *to acknowledge the overruling hand of divine providence*, and their *constant dependence upon the supreme being*, for all the favor and blessings they may enjoy, or hope to receive; and that notwithstanding the many mercies and signal instances of divine favor conferred upon the inhabitants of this land, yet the prevalence of vice and wickedness give us just reason to *fear* the divine displeasure and chastisement for our many offenses, unless prevented by speedy repentance and reformation.

I have therefore thought fit by and with the advice of council, to appoint, and do, hereby appoint WEDNESDAY the Twenty-Second Day of April next, to be observed as a **Day of FASTING, HUMILIATION, and PRAYER**, throughout this state; earnestly exhorting ministers and people of all denominations to assemble for divine worship; that we may with becoming humility, and united hearts, confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and by repentance and reformation obtain pardon and forgiveness of all our offenses, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our only savior. Also, **to offer up fervent supplications to almighty God the father of mercies**, that he may bless the United States of America, give wisdom and integrity to our national council, direct their proceedings at this important crisis, in such manner as shall best promote the union, prosperity and happiness of the nation: – That it may graciously please him to smile upon and bless the people of this state, **inspire our civil rulers with wisdom and integrity becoming their station**: bless his sacred ambassadors, and cause pure and undefiled religion to flourish, grant us health and plenty; prosper us in all our lawful employments, and crown the year with his goodness; succeed the means of education, extend the peaceful influence of the redeemer’s kingdom, and dispose all nations to live as brethren in peace and amity, and fill the world with the knowledge and glory of God.

And all servile labor is forbidden on said day.

Given at Norwich, the 28th day of March, in the thirteenth year of the independence of the United States of America,

Annoque Domini **1789**

Connecticut Governor *SAMUEL HUNTINGTON*

www.churchofgodtruth.com

Email: fruthh@gmail.com

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Finding Truth & Hope
P. O. Box 801
Covington, LA 70434

*Edited by Nelson & Genece Doolittle, Assisted by Carlos Doolittle & Dakota Doolittle.
The Loranger, LA congregation cuts, folds, tapes, labels, and stamps, which greatly aids in getting the papers ready to mail.*

Carnal Mind vs. Spiritual Mind

www.churchofgodpreaching.com #8840 Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Bob Wilson Enid, OK 2023-04-16

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7). The devil can put thoughts into our mind just like God can. It's an exercise, casting down thoughts and bringing them into obedience to Jesus Christ. Earthly things can derail our Spiritual mind. Through the day, serving the Lord, our spiritual mind can be praying, “Lord, plan, map out my day.” **If we're not careful, we can be serving ourselves. There's something very critical here! All lawful things can become unlawful if we give them too much of us - if we're not yielding and consecrating to God. Even though we're sanctified, it still takes work just to be sure the connection is clear.** The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit. My heart's desire must be for more of God, or I'm going to be earthly minded. Lord, not my will, but thine be done. When we're too consumed with the earthly, if we allow ourselves to get under an earthly rush, an earthly push, we'll fail.

Like Martha, we can be so encumbered. Jesus was right there. The fullness of the Godhead was right in her house, and she missed it! We do too!

I find myself weak in faith. **I've just got to stay connected - at high alert!** The disciples asleep were not on high alert! It all went right over their heads. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee” (Is. 26:3). When I'm in tune with Him, there's no giant too big, no mountain too tall. But if I'm not in tune, I get in trouble. Ephesians 6:14-17 speaks of having on the armor of God. “But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). Lord, help us to pray until we pray! I know even in prayer, the devil is trying to fight - bringing to mind things we need to do, etc. “Lord, let me hear you today.” Samuel said, “Speak, LORD, thy servant heareth” (1 Sam. 3:9). I want to follow and learn His path. The Spirit can open up and bring scripture and songs to us. He can bring strength to us. It takes time and effort on our part - where I can hear what He wants to say to me. When your feet are shod, and you've got something from the Lord, you can say, “Thank you for helping me be prepared.” It offers so many more benefits.

According to a Barna research, people are praying less and less. **We need to seek God's face every morning in absolute desperation!** All heaven is shouting **“Do you realize Who you're talking to?”** You have God's attention. Prayer is powerful. Stand in the gap. God judges men in their sin. Death is not a hypothetical thing for us! Don't underestimate the role of desperate prayer. Plead some more! May all of us become less and see God greater and His name lifted up. Have an insatiable desire for more of God. Make Moses-type intercessions. **We have the privilege of interceding.** In His ever unfolding plan, you and I get to pray. **Prayer changes things.**

We Must Do GOD'S WORK AT MIDNIGHT

By Richard Wurmbrand

“But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’”

—Matthew 25:6



The earth turns on its axis. Midnight is the moment when a part of the earth is the farthest away from the sun. Spiritual midnight is the period of the greatest departure of men from God. We are approaching this midnight.

The children of God do not receive midnight with the same feelings as the world. At midnight, the firstborn of the Egyptians died, but the chosen people got their freedom.

The Lord has said, “Night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4). But as often as a thing is declared impossible in the Bible, this does not refer to the faithful. About them, Jesus declared, “All things are possible for one who believes” (Mark 9:23).

God's people can work near midnight. It was at midnight that Samson took the gates of the city of Gaza (Judges 16:3). At midnight, Ruth received from Boaz the promise, “I will do for you all that you ask” (Ruth 3:8-11). At midnight, Paul and Silas won for the Lord the jailer of Philippi (Acts 16:25).

At midnight, God's people have achieved great works. Therefore the psalmist says, “At midnight I rise to praise you” (Psalm 119:62).

We are not afraid of the darkness in the world. We work. The bridegroom comes soon. We cannot meet him empty-handed.

We met with a member of the underground church from the Soviet Union who told us about secret meetings with an attendance of about 100 to 200 people. A traitor had informed Communist police of a secret baptism. The pastor was already in the river when police arrived. Seeing the Communist, the pastor ordered those awaiting baptism to quickly get into the water. Then the pastor told the police, “We will come out only after they are baptized.” The newly baptized Christians were arrested, and the pastor was sentenced to five years in prison.

Communists broke the ribs of a general who placed his faith in Jesus Christ. He now goes from village to village witnessing for Christ. Arrests are useless because jailed Christians convert their fellow prisoners and baptize them in jail.

The miraculous story of the Acts of the Apostles continues.

We don't care that midnight is approaching. Only ordinary men can't work during a spiritual night, but “All things are possible for one who believes.” He can work even when he personally passes through the dark night of the soul, even when he is on his death bed.

It is near midnight. Darkness confuses. We have to meet the bridegroom. We still have time to work.

Richard Wurmbrand (1909-2001) was imprisoned in Communist Romania for his faith in Christ. Following his imprisonment, he and his wife, Sabina (1913-2000), sought ways to serve persecuted Christians and in 1967 started a global ministry known today as The Voice of the Martyrs.

Do not say – “Yet four months”

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. James Bell www.churchofgodpreaching.com #8859 2023-04-30

The five virgins had in their minds “We have yet four months.” Half-heartedness! We'll get oil later. People fail to take the torch for God. In the 70's, 80's, and 90's, we haven't seen a lot of new ministers. There are a lot of lacks in the kingdom of God. Large gaps! Many failed to take up the torch and go on. Many failed to see the white fields. Without passion, and not having desire in our hearts, things don't work out very well.

He sends us out to work. Having oil saved the five wise. If we don't have any of the Holy Spirit, we'll do things half-heartedly. **God help us to get our minds renewed.** If it weren't for David's bear and David's lion, he wouldn't have become king! If he'd run away from them, he wouldn't have become king. For Samson, after a few days, honey bees swarmed inside that lion. The sweet things of life come with struggle, after we defeat them.

No one wants to get their hands dirty. Are you where His glory can be? It's hidden! “Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes” (Mat.11:25). Five, three, or one talent, the Lord will use every one of us. “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord” (Ps. 27:14). He wants us to do that. **You have the heart, the want to? He'll do the work.** Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. **We're going to have to go for the oil.** “When saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?” (Mat 25:37). “As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (vs 40). **When the desire is there, there will be the help from God.** “O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle” (Ps. 140:7).

If He speaks in so many ways to us, does it really matter who He uses? A Donkey? There came a lion. David took opportunity to slay that lion. God was going to work through him and get the job done.

“As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed” (Pro. 26:14). The slothful talks, but never moves very far. People say, “I can't do it.” **Can't you give it a try?** This week, if someone comes to your mind and you say, “I need to call him.” There once was a story of a man who was holding a gun to his own head, and he got a phone call that turned him from his purpose! The Lord knows temptations, trials, difficult places, and all kinds of challenges. Watch for those opportunities of everyday life! Look for those little things that come your way. **Remember, the oil comes from the asking, seeking, and knocking.**

The Lord will help us find those rare opportunities, and He'll bless your life!

WORLDWIDE CONCLUSIONS

Edited excerpts www.churchofgodpreaching.com #3383 Bro. James Bell 2015-07-01 Loranger, LA

God is taking samples of every part of the world. Angels are constantly monitoring from all over the world. God is looking. He hears the cries and groanings. He sees all over the world – **the decay, the ruin, utter waste.** He sees things getting ripe. The end of all things is nigh at hand. There are some conclusions God has made. They [angels] are visiting the beaches, the White House, and every nook and cranny of the world. They are watching our communities. He's taking a sample of the big picture now. **Are there still people out there that are close to Me, or are they full of self and pride?** Angels have no boundaries; they're out on a mission. God has dispatched them to get final samples of what's going on. **Folks, I want to be in that number, who, when God reveals something to them, instantly obey.** They were dispatched to Sodom, and they came back with a conclusion: **“Father, it's true”** (Gen. 19).

God wants us to be aware of what's going on. There's something in the air. Something is going on. Have I got a few people left who are going to watch their steps? If you know His will, **do** it!

STAND YOUR GROUND

Facebook: Billings Church of God 7-31-22 Bro. Michael Smith (Excerpts)

The enemy is assaulting God's people this morning. Time is running out. We need to stand our ground. The enemy is trying to steal our relationship with God. If the Lord has given you a victory, just know you're going to come to an obstacle! (A Red Sea) The devil is going to tell you, "You cannot make it." The devil is a liar! There is victory for us to overcome by the power of God. So stand your ground.

We are not able to fight the armies of Egypt in our own power. There have been many who have lost their spiritual power because they retreated in fear. When you're fighting the devil, stand your ground. **When you look and say I can't fight all these forces against me, stand your ground.** Take on the whole armor of God. Get equipped. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (2 Cor. 10:4). Don't cave. Don't give in.

Remember the three Hebrew children who stood in humility. They didn't bow down! I'm not talking about standing your ground in your opinions and stubbornness. Do it in love. Do it in humility.

There is a cause. Stand your ground in humility. It means you go through the fiery furnace. The Lord will go with you, too!

The Lord is looking for some young men, fathers and husbands to stand when others are falling. As we stand, we leave a blessing to the family and to the church. Some of this comes as the song says "I've made up my mind." A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. If your mind is not made up, you cannot stand. Sanctify yourselves! Get rid of sin in your life. Many times there's a place of disobedience in another part of your life. "Hold fast" (Rev. 3:3). Stand faithful, so when the Lord comes back He will find us standing our ground. The Lord will fight for you. He's coming back soon. -----

"Daddy, Would You Play With Me A Little Bit?"

By Dave Drury

"Tomorrow night he'll play with me,"
that's what the young girl said,
As she slowly climbed the lonely stairs
and put herself to bed.

"I know my daddy loves me,"
she kept saying in her head.
"He's such a very busy man
and he must work instead."

But somehow way down deep inside
she knew that it was true,
That tomorrow may not ever come
for next day's busy too.

But still she keeps on dreaming
that soon the day will come
When daddy will have time for her
and then they'll have some fun.

Still weeks pass by and turn to months
and months turn into years.
The little girl is waiting still
although it is with tears.

She's growing up, her life has changed
and she has teenage fears
"Oh, why won't daddy talk with me?"
but this is all she hears.

"I'll talk with you tomorrow night,
I'm awfully tired right now.
You know I really am concerned
but can't find time somehow."

And so she slowly climbs the stairs
her tender heart so crushed,
By all the years she's been put off,
by daddy always rushed.

Oh, Christian friend don't hesitate
to spend an hour or two,
With a child our Lord has sent your way.
It will help the both of you.

And when your days on earth shall end
you'll have no heartfelt sorrow
About the many times you said,
"I'll play, or talk to you tomorrow."

Ye Are My Witnesses

Edited excerpts of message by Sis. Maxine Busbee 2023-05-31 Guthrie, OK

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1). “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Rev. 1:7). “And they overcame . . . by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” (Rev. 12:11). This cloud of witnesses was made up of all the witnesses of the earth that are redeemed, “and they loved not their lives unto the death.” “These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 7:14).

We need the power of the Holy Spirit. Without it, we cannot stand. We need the boldness of the Spirit and not of ourselves. The common denominator of all martyrs . . . they were willing to lay down their lives. Ten of the apostles were martyrs. John the Baptist was a martyr. Stephen and Paul were martyrs. They were lights in the world, but darkness covered the eyes of the people. History has recorded millions who were martyrs. “They loved not their lives unto the death.” They were not willing to recant. They were burned at the stake, cast into the arena; they would not bow. But for just one word they could have escaped . . . “I give up.” The martyrs' blood became so effective, it became seed. There were a lot of people who turned to Christ.

We may be in a time of Him preparing His people for the Judgment. Do you anticipate the end of time? It's not a thing to dread if we're ready.

God has a tested and a tried people. Moses told the children of Israel to stand still and wait on the salvation of the Lord. We need to learn that too. We're just strangers and pilgrims. **We're just passing through. This world is not my home. My citizenship is in another country. I anticipate seeing my new country.** “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise” (Heb. 11:39). “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor. 2:9). **It will be worth everything you and I go through here - everything!**

The benchmarks of a martyr's mind was that **“they loved not their lives unto the death.”** They had to deny their flesh, desires, and ambitions. **Are we going to deny ourselves?**

“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” (Heb. 11:6).

Choose life. Not this life, but eternal life.

“He that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Mat. 10:22). “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3). “I've enlisted in the service till I die” (Evening Light Song # 148). “Ten thousand foes arise / And hosts of sin are pressing hard/ To draw thee from the skies”(ELS # 302).

The martyrs had to choose to love Christ more than themselves. “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment” (Mar. 12:30). “I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held” (Rev. 6:9). -----

A Praise Report

By Valerie & Tristen Eck

Y'all, we just want to share the miracle that God has done for us! We are amazed and can't keep it to ourselves. I will try to write appropriately for a mixed audience and still be clear about what was happening.

In April of 2022, I noticed a strange difference in my upper left side. It didn't hurt, but there was a definite noticeable difference. I took pictures to document it, and then dismissed it. It stayed that way all year. In January of this year, I began to notice pain in that area. The pain developed into significant pain that was constant in that side. In April, I found more lumps. Some were painful, and some were not. Subconsciously, I thought that if I ignored it and didn't say anything, they might go away...so I kept it to myself, besides Trisdan. By July, the lumps were very large, and that side was swollen and impacted. I started having a difficult time combing my hair or raising my arm above my head. I didn't want to hug anyone on that side, it was so painful. I knew that it was time to address the situation. We decided that I would go in and see what was going on. A sweet friend recommended me to a great female doctor not far from us.

In the past year, I have prayed earnestly that the Lord would show Himself strong to my children and manifest Himself to them. I prayed that He would give our family situations that would show His power and love to my children and develop a personal relationship with them at an early age.

Also, this year has been a year of concentrated, deeper commitment to Christ for Trisdan and me. We have felt His presence so near.

The morning of my appointment, I was feeling nervous. The devil likes to paint dark pictures. I was wondering what our future would look like and how things can change so fast. I opened my Bible and began to read. I was praying and asking the Lord about the situation. Immediately, the Lord spoke to me and said, "You asked me to show myself strong to your children and draw them close to me, and that's what I'm doing. Trust me; I've got this." From that moment on, I did not have any fear. The Lord filled me with a calmness that I cannot describe. I felt totally protected and safe in His arms, no matter what the outcome was going to be. Y'all, there's not a price on that kind of peace! Only God can do it! My favorite verse came to me, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

A few hours later, Trisdan and I went in to my appointment, and the doctor examined me closely. She was very concerned as she told us that I had three masses in that side. One was very large, from the front left side almost to my arm pit. It was about the size of an egg. Two other masses were concerning to her, as well. She told me to get in immediately for a mammogram and ultrasound, and possible biopsy. Most of my lymph nodes were swollen and painful, as well as other very concerning symptoms.

As we left the hospital, I did not have any fear. The Lord's presence was so near! I just felt like He was doing something special for our family and that I had a front row seat to sit back and watch. They scheduled me for a mammogram and ultrasound on the following Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning, the Lord impressed me with the verse in Deuteronomy 33:27. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them." I was not afraid. It was almost as if we were going in to find out the weather for the next day. When I walked into the hospital, the lumps were hard and painful. The only thing I was nervous about was how painful the mammogram was going to be. I expected to go to bed the rest of the day when we got home. Yes, it was a painful procedure. But when I walked out of the machine, the pain was gone. I sat down, wondering why on earth I felt so good.

A few minutes later, the doctor came in. He looked at us with a smile and said, "I just looked at your images. Everything looks absolutely perfect; you don't have any masses in there." (!!!!!) Trisdan gaped at him and said, "What?!" The doctor said, "Let's do an ultrasound real quick and see if I missed anything." He began the ultrasound, and told me to show him where the largest mass was. I tried to find where it always had been for so many months... but it was GONE. I couldn't find any of the lumps that had been there. Trisdan and I stared at each other, speechless. The doctor was looking at the screen. He said, "There's nothing to be concerned about; everything looks exactly as it should be. *You don't have a single problem. You're free to go home.*"

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When we walked out of the hospital, we were in total shock. At first Trisdan thought that doctor was crazy. He was sure that he had missed those three masses. But I knew there was a difference, and when we got home, I examined it more closely. What was so hard and swollen and painful, was completely gone. I have no pain. Everything is as it should be. Y'all, God healed me. We will never know what it was exactly, but the Lord did. In His mercy He allowed us to face this fear and feel His power and strength. Nothing is too hard for Him. We praise His name!

When we got home, we shared the good news with our boys. They have been praying for Mama. Before we had even shared the whole story, Dustin was bouncing around the living room with shining eyes. He hollered, "Mama, that's just what I prayed for! I prayed that God would take it all away today!!! Jesus answered my prayer!!!"

Right then, I knew that God had answered my prayer, too. I had prayed that the Lord would show Himself strong and endear Himself to my children, and that is exactly what He did. My children will never forget this. Even though we will face more hard things in life, I am convinced that the Lord will hold us in His hand and give us that peace and comfort no matter what the outcome is.

We hope this might be an encouragement to others, who might have a similar experience, or facing a mountain that looks insurmountable. If we place our trust in Him, He will give us unspeakable peace and take away our fear. I believe He is able to work His will when we are fully consecrated to His plan.

Last night at church we had a celebration. My mother-in-law baked a cake, and I did too. We had homemade ice cream and we had a "Thank You Jesus" party. Please praise God with us!

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Let Me Tell You About My Healing By Christy Robertson

For quite some time, I've had a weakness associated with the vertebrae in my neck. Recently, that worsened. The unnatural and uncomfortable movement of the vertebrae whenever I moved my neck became a very prominent part of my everyday life. I felt it was getting to a serious stage...

Every year at the Monark Springs camp meeting, there is a day designated for fasting with a healing service. The day before, it came to my mind to be anointed and prayed for concerning my neck. *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up...* (James 5:14, 15).

So, I did that.

I didn't feel anything amazing at the time, but as I went about my life that day, I became aware of a difference. Since being prayed for, I've had no more trouble with my vertebrae!

Now, as I go about normal daily duties and movements, I'm very much aware of the absence of the usual "scrunching and shifting" and sensitivity and weakness! For example, a little over two days later, I was washing a small dish, and as I shook it before placing it on the drying towel, I missed the usual neck discomfort that I had become so used to with just such movements as that. When I turn my head to either side, or (especially) when I bend my neck and head down and then back up, I'm very *unpainfully* aware of what God has miraculously done! (Just for emphasis on the state of things before: I've had times before where I had fallen asleep in the vehicle with my head back in an exaggerated way, and I'd have to use my hand to lift my head and neck back up due to my neck weakness.) Over and over, I'm reminded of or discovering new situations where used to I felt the effect of my messed up vertebrae and now that's all cleared away!

PRAISE GOD! He is just the same today!!

Starting the day of my healing and growing gradually more noticeable (I'm writing this three days after being prayed for.) is a soreness in my neck. I asked a family member who took training as a massage therapist what someone with messed up vertebrae would expect to feel if that got all properly aligned. The response: "Probably sore; the muscles might've been pulled also." I had suspected ----->

just that, rather like whiplash after a car wreck or soreness after braces are tightened... I'm intrigued by God's choice of instantly divinely speaking perfect healing, but allowing me to feel the natural physical soreness of that healing!

The unusual feeling of strength in my neck almost gives the sensation of a foreign object in it like a "rod put in" in comparison to the old sensation of "loose pieces." Quite a wonderful new sensation to get used to!!

I can understand the lame and blind people Jesus healed who went leaping around and exclaiming as they "tried out" the newness of their healing! I am still in awe and delight and am humbled with tearfulness as I do my own "leaping and exclaiming."

I worship and PRAISE our wonderful, kind, amazing, faithful, caring, POWERFUL, personable Father God. He is able to instantly change situations/do the impossible, just by His choice and word.

He is just as able to save or mend a needy soul and life. In many ways, those are the most wonderful healings! I'm thankful He cares about it ALL.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness... ("2 Peter 1:3).

*Lord, I believe; please help my unbelief! **INCREASE MY FAITH** to receive all You have for me, as I **humble** myself at Your feet...*

—Christy Robertson

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"I CAN'T BELIEVE HUMANS BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION" ~Thoughts from a Bird to you.



The Structure of a Godly Home *(Marriage Part 4)*

Edited excerpts of message #8871 by **Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck** Guthrie, OK 2023-04-16

God created marriage. Everything He made was properly placed. It was properly made in its proper order. I don't think there was any mistake in what He made (Gen. 1:25-31).

It helps us to know that we are not on the same level as a turtle or a dog. Man became a living soul, and He gave us superior intelligence.

Folks, we are not of the earth. We are made by God to care for the earth. **We are here to have dominion over all. Man was the chief reason that He made it all.**

Male and female created He them. There's a beauty and a satisfaction with what God did that cannot be produced any other way. Everything else He made operates just like He made it.

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We have a choice to serve God. We are intrinsically made. (I'm glad the sky doesn't have a choice . . . that the sky might decide today it wants to be dirt.) If we will study to understand the mind of God, it will go so much better.

In Genesis 2:18, God made man an “help meet,” an aide, a helper. We will do, by far, the best if we will follow His order.

We're not cursed to work. It's a good part of life. Working makes you feel respect for your self, what you've accomplished or done. Folks, let's don't be weak men. Man (Adam) was to work in the garden. It was natural order. It was part of God's plan. **It was not part of the curse to work.** In 2 Thes. 3:10, it says if a man won't work, he shouldn't eat. **God never planned for people to be loafing around all the time,** but to build character. Men are commanded and exhorted to work and to eat their own bread (2 Thes. 3:12). **Get up and learn to work,** so we are a contributor and not a taker. When you have a nation like that, you have something powerful. It makes us producers, not beggars. The Master of the universe is the one who made the rules.

It is our duty to make sure our parents are taken care of. It makes society work right.

If we do not submit to God's headship, we'll make it really tough for someone to be under our leadership. This is very well set in the Bible. Folks, let's take God's structure; it will work best by far.

When a man and a woman respect each other and listen to each other – when that's right, children can see what it's supposed to look like. Did you know that a woman is not always weaker than a man? Men, listen to them. Work together. You see, we are one! Search for His way and be “heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Peter 3:7). One of the ways our prayers can be hindered is when the Lord is waiting on us to put aside the flesh and grow up in Him.

A loving husband and a respectful wife teach the next generation how to love and respect one another. I want to be that way. If your wife tells you that you are overbearing, you ought to listen to her.

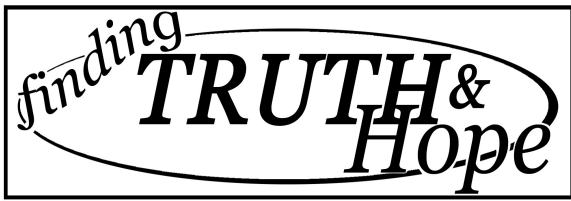
“He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve” (Luke 22:26). This is the Lord's idea of leadership. Jesus was Lord of Heaven and earth, yet He was here as a servant.

Men, our job is not only to work and bring the groceries in. It's far more than that. It's called servant leadership. Become a servant to the family. When you do this, the puzzle starts to come together. **If you act like a beast – don't say God made me the head.** Be the head servant of the whole family. “But I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:27). Men, do you want real love out of your wife? Do you want your wife to serve you well? Serve her well! This is not harsh stuff . . . this is beautiful stuff.

God made order and leadership, but He wants it to be servant leadership. How did the Lord give Himself for the church? He gave everything! He gave His life! “That it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27). God keeps His church; it is clean; it is kept.

Look at a wife after a few years. Is she blossoming? Or is she beaten down? Husbands, there needs to be a lot of grace for this to work right.

(Continued on back cover)



*“When you can be
humble one to another, it
takes the walls down.”*

(Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck)

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Be heirs together of the grace of life. Call upon the Lord together, and pray for yourself, “Lord help me.” Those giants of self are rank. You have to kill them. Folks, there's something wonderful about God answering our prayers again, and again, and again. “Be pitiful, be courteous” (1 Peter 3:8b). Inherit a blessing. We have to refrain our lips from some things. We have to listen when we don't feel like listening. We need to allow our wives to have their place, too. She has a sixth sense. The Spirit of the Lord said for her to guide the house. If it's true leadership, we'll be submitting to one another. Folks, I long to see our marriages prosper and for women to teach children and care for them. Nothing will do like a mother. If we can't have our play toys and she be home and be a mother, then let's let our play toys go. Unselfishly serve, and yet lead with strength.

The Lord wants a people that are not just feeding their own flesh. Learn to reach out and touch other people. When God asks us to reach out to others a little bit, it benefits us, too . . . and the whole picture. Folks, let's keep busy with what God gave us to do. Let's take responsibility. When critical moments come, you'd better have learned how to be humble and to open your arms.

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