

June 18,
2006

KEEPING IN TOUCH

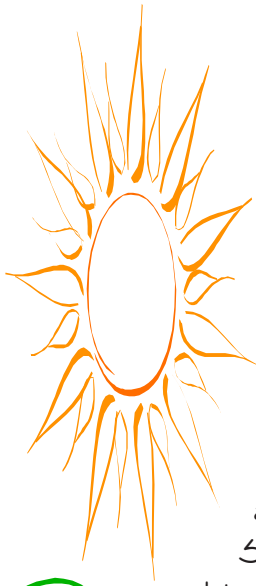
...whether I come and see you,
or else be absent,
I may hear of your affairs,
that ye stand fast
in one spirit,
with one mind
striving together for
the faith of the gospel...

Philippians 1:27b

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INFO CENTER

June 18, 2006



Dear Readers,

We welcome you to our June 2006 edition of the *Keeping In Touch*. We trust that the Lord has been blessing and teaching each and every one of you, as He has us. We have much for you to feast upon this month. We have a word from Brother George Herrig that exhorts us to give thanks unto the Lord in every circumstance, another by Brother Barak Asbill entitled, "A Perfect Man," and a third by Brother duCille, "Coming Into Jesus Christ." Fox's *Book of Martyrs* encourages each of us to endure every affliction with steadfastness and patience. There is a *Book Nook* by Sister Stacy Asbill on the book, "George Müller," and a report on the recent mission trip to the Ukraine by Brother Tim Culver. There are also some interesting articles in the *Signs of the Times*, and we have a birth announcement from the Davis's. In all, it is a well-rounded diet of good spiritual food. We hope you enjoy it all.

If you would like to contact the *Keeping In Touch*, or if you would like to submit anything for publication, please contact us at:

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Directions: Take Hwy 47 North from Mahomet.
We are the first right after Briar Cliff Subdivision.

All Are Welcome!

MEETING SCHEDULE

Weekly:
Sundays 10:00am
Wednesday nights 7:30pm

Prison Ministry Schedule
Sunday 9th, 23rd
Monday nights weekly

COMING INTO JESUS CHRIST



BY CECIL J. DUCILLE



SEPTEMBER 2005 CZECH REPUBLIC CONFERENCE

I began to learn, as a young man, how to really absorb the presence of God, and as we sang the song, “The Mountains Declare That He Is Lord,” I remembered a vision I had where I saw the trees praising God. It was like morning was breaking and the first manifestation of God that I saw were the limbs of the trees talking to each other and waving and praising God that the morning had broken. You could feel the energy in the song when we began to sing. The energy of God was coming down. It is during the time when we open our hearts to God in praise that He pours in healing, deliverance and blessing. That is why He said we must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25).

When you have a problem and the problem tells you that you must not come to church, that is the time that you should come, for the healing power of the Spirit of God is with us. The power of the Blood comes down like a cloud over the whole congregation, and as you reach up with your heart, you can see the pieces of cloud coming down to the individuals and blessing and delivering them.

Every problem in life is designed of the enemy to pull us away from God, but those who know the Lord will cry to God the more problems they have. David said, “My help cometh from the Lord” (Psalm 121:2). We have no other hope in this life, no other help in this life. Everything that we need lies in the essence of God, which is all around us. It is like I was thinking the other day about the amount of energy we have to use to drive around in cars. God began to tell me that the reason that we don’t have the understanding of how to pull the energy down that is around us to use for ourselves is because of our sinful nature. We are reaching to the heights of the technology that we have now. We are reaching to a point where we can’t get any

further without going into another dimension. God is changing the minds and the thinking of a people, and there will be new technology coming forth in this age which will make the old technology archaic.

We are at the verge of the sons of God coming forth in the Spirit, and God is calling a people unto Himself so that they might come back to where Adam was and pass Adam. Adam was just one man, but he took care of a garden that was about 500 miles long. He would speak to the animals. They would obey him. He would speak to the trees. They would obey him. He spoke to nature. Nature obeyed him. We are coming back to that stage. But even when we get there, we are still not at the fulfillment of what God wants us to be. God wants us to go beyond Adam and be like Christ. The new creation man is totally in charge of not only himself, but the universe. So, we are close at this time.

Turn your Bibles with me to Ephesians 1. We can interpret the Word of God, but we must never change it. Interpreting the Word is called “exegesis” or what God meant when God said what He said. Let us read from verse 9 so that we understand the context. Ephesians 1:9, ***Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.*** Now, this next verse is going to explain what that will is. ***10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*** Let me see if I can make the verse a little more clear. I’ll read it with another translation. Verse 10, “That in the 7th millennium, God might gather together into one all those who are in Christ, both those who are in the heavenly realms and those who are in the earthly realm, even into one

church.”

This morning, as we gather together, we can see a part of the church sitting down here. But the unseen parts of the church, who are also here, are more than the seen parts of the church. Now, if we understand why this is necessary, we will understand that there are many brethren who have died who never had the true gospel. Now, they will not learn the true gospel in Heaven. They have to learn the true gospel from us, for Jesus cannot be revealed in a spirit. He has to be revealed in physical human beings. Thus we see that Moses and Elias left the heavenly realm to come down to the earthly realm to ask Jesus Christ about His death, burial and resurrection (Luke 9:31). It is the revelation of Jesus Christ that will lift us into the heavenly realm so that we can be closer to them and our revelation to them will bring them, the heavenly realm, down so that we can be one.

Some people think that what I am saying is total nonsense. But remember, God says that the message that we have is foolishness to them that perish (I Corinthians 1:18). So, the spiritual realm is asking questions, and we are going to ask you to ask the questions that come to your heart, even as we fellowship together.

The ministry cannot arise in Christ too far above the church itself. The whole church must rise. Now, you ask the question then, “How is God going to bring all of us together in with Peter, Paul, James, and John? How are we going to come in together?” If you turn your Bibles with me to Brother John, we can see the will of God for us. John 17:15, I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. So, immediately we understand that those who are praying to be raptured out of here are not praying according to the will of God.

Now, we go down to verse

20, *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.*

So, we can see clearly then that we would be a part of those that Christ Jesus is praying for at this time. He is praying that our understanding might be opened to see heavenly things, rather than just looking down on the earth. The prayer is, verse 21, That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us...* Then that will bring a manifestation in the world. *...that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* So, if you have Christ in you, you have the Father in Christ in you. And if you are in Christ, then you are in Christ who is in the Father.

So, while you are going up, you are going down. The higher you rise in Christ, the deeper you go into God. So, the 3rd dimension of rising in Christ gives you the 4th dimension of going deeper into God. The revelation of Christ brings you into the revelation of the Father. But the question is, “How do we get into this?” We do this by throwing the responsibility back on God, because it is impossible through human effort for you to get there.

When I was a young Christian, I thought that by fasting and prayer I could force Heaven open. Fasting and prayer does nothing for Heaven. What it does is something for you. It kills the carnality in you. It gives you control over the temple, your body. It is absolutely necessary that you control your own body and your own mind. In other words, the whole world is tempting you to go after the things that they have. If you learn to control yourself, then nobody can tempt you to do something that you didn’t want to do. Then you are actually doing the will of God to control your own body. You do not eat because you have food. You have food because you eat. The food should not be able to tempt you to eat it. You should be hungry sometimes when you have food, because you decided in your mind not to eat. So it is also with those who are married. The marital process is not something that someone should use to exercise the appetite. The man who is married and the woman who is married have to apply more restraint in their lives than those who are not married. Yes, it is like having food and not eating it. So, God is training people first to be in control of themselves.

This brings us back to this question of, “How are we going to get into this place that God says we should be?” We are in the 7th dimension or the 7th millennium, which means that God must complete all of His works in the morning. Now, those of you who

don’t understand that, you put it down as a question to ask, so that we all go together into one understanding into the things of God. So the onus or the responsibility to be godly is not mine, but it is God’s.

It is on God to make me what He wants me to be.

What then is my responsibility before God? My responsibility is to make myself available to God. It is that, when God comes, I receive Him. It is to close the door to the devil and to open the door to God. Basically, I am the doorkeeper. The scripture said, “I stand at the door and knock, if any man, IF ANY MAN opens the door, I will come in” (Revelation 3:20). He is not a door crasher. He is not going to blow down your door. We get back to the

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY? IT IS TO CLOSE THE DOOR TO THE DEVIL AND TO OPEN THE DOOR TO GOD!

question of, "How do we get to this position of coming in with Peter, Paul, James, John and all of the apostles who are here this morning, the people who are looking on, trying to hear from us how we are overcoming in this life?"

Let me go off again on a tangent before I come back to the question. The point is that Peter, Paul, James, John and all those brothers did not have the kind of spiritual attack that we have. At this time, Satan is allowed to pull out all the stops. We have spirits of greater knowledge, men of greater knowledge; he has all of the things together that he needs (six-six-six) to bring forth his plan. There are some spirits that were never loosed; they could not be loosed. They are so bad, it would have been unfair for God to have loosed them at that time. **THEY ARE LOOSE NOW!** Your children are facing greater spiritual power and activity than Paul, Peter or any of those before ever faced. From this generation, therefore, must come forth the overcomers who will put the devil down underfoot. You see, it is very important that we overcome **AT THIS TIME**. God is gathering together this company who will move in with the heavenly company, even now at this time.

Then we come back to the question, "How are we going to get there?" Amen. Look with me at John 17:22, **And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.** When you talk about glory here, *doxa*, (Strong's Concordance Greek #1391) you are talking about light, energy, power, deliverance, - GOD! But He says, **I have given them**. That means that there is a power and a glory that is available to us that we have not yet tapped into. When we are able to tap into that glory, we shall overcome all things.

Yesterday we were talking about Brother Joseph, who was translated three times: out of death row, out of prison, out of country, and everywhere. Yes! He was translated several times, and brought to us in Jamaica from Ireland. Many others of God's people have been translated from one position to another position to save them out of some thing or the other. As a sinner, in a fight, holding down a man to kill him, I was translated from between the blow going down on the man and the blow hitting him. You can imagine, in just a fraction of a second, I was translated down to way out there.

"Thine is the Kingdom, thine is the power, thine is the glory for ever"(Matthew 6:13). The glory forever and ever IS HERE with us. Now He said that when we get this glory, then the glory will make us one (John 17:22).

Somebody might think, "Let's go out and form an association and form a church and get people to join and then we will be one. Let us all study the same doctrine and all walk in step, in unison, and that surely will make us one." It won't! That was the idea of Nimrod, who formed the first army. He was the first general; he was the first man to form an army, and they would move together.



You would say that those guys were really together. That is the carnal way of thinking. But the spiritual way of thinking is that the glory of God in you and the glory of God in me makes us one. We don't have to try to be one. God decided to explain it to us. He said in John 17:23, **I in them, and thou in me...** So, in them would be I and thou. **...that they may be made perfect in one.** That they may be made complete, and our completion is in one; our completion is in Him.

God didn't finish making us in the garden of Eden. There were three things that God couldn't give us. He couldn't give us the Holy Ghost. He couldn't give us Christ and He couldn't give us the Blood. Are you with me? We find these three things represented by the three stones that were missing from Heylel in Ezekiel 28, and the three stones that were added on in the perfect man in Revelation 21:20. These three stones were represented by a chrysoprasus: *chrysoprasos* (Greek #5556), a chrysolite: *chrysolithos* (Greek #5555) and an amethyst: *amethystos* (Greek #271). You notice that two of them start with "chrys." They have the same root. It means that Christ in them, Christ sends the Holy Ghost as our comforter. He was another comforter.

We then ask ourselves another question. This coming together that God is talking about, with the heavenly host - who are we going to be coming together with? Where will we have to be in order to join that company? Because He is not talking about a momentary rising, but He is speaking of a permanent position of rising. He that abideth.

Turn to Hebrews 12 and look at that. We won't be able to preach anything fully here; I'm just provoking you with the Word. In verse 22, He begins to name what we are to come to. Hebrews 12:22, **But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,** ²³**To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,** ²⁴**And**

to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. Praise God. Now, we can see these 8 parts of the church. For instance, when he says Sion in the 22nd verse, he is speaking not only of people who are here but who also are there. We are talking about people who have become overcomers in God, so that they are classified with all the overcomers, the mighty ones of God, from the foundation of the world until now. Then he speaks of the assembly of the firstborn, the church of the firstborn. Then he speaks of the spirits of just men made perfect.

It means that the men and women that have passed on before are still a part of the church. They have never left the church. As you progress in your spiritual growth, you will find that many of these that have gone on before are sometimes sent to help you. It is not an unusual thought, because some of the brothers that God sent to John to reveal to him the truth, he thought they were so bright that they were Jesus Himself. Yet, you will notice that it says that they were the spirits of just men made perfect. They were not the whole man. They were just the spirit. Amen.

Maybe I should stop here, and then you can question the Word. You know that while I speak to you, the Spirit of God is moving on you and through you and with you, and you are getting certain thoughts and certain questions that I never said. So, as we fellowship together, these will come forth, and your soul will be blessed and delivered.

Questions and Answers

Congregation: I am asking about the stones, the nine in Ezekiel and the twelve in Revelation.

Brother duCille: Well, in Ezekiel 28:13, we are told that all of the stones were given to Heylel, and we believe to Adam, also. In Revelation, they said again that all of the stones were given and they were speaking of the perfected man. The “all” in Ezekiel was nine and “all” in Revelation 21:19-20 was 12. Three stones were added. So, we went and compared them. The three that were left out were the amethyst, the chrysoprasus, and the chrysolite. I did say before, that one was Christ, one was the Holy Ghost, and one was the Blood.

Congregation: I am struggling with this thought of being one here - I’ll be one, and then I’ll be split into parts. And what about my mind, my conscience? Is it going to split and then the spirit ego and the soul ego? Is it going to be two or one?

Brother duCille: You are not one. You are split up right now. Your mind is thinking one thing, your body is doing another thing and your spirit wants you to do another thing and sometimes you are confused.

Congregation: That is true.

Sister duCille: The spirit wars against the soul.

Brother duCille: Yes, the scripture says the spirit wars against the soul, the flesh against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh (Galatians 5:17).

Brother Burt Asbill: I think some of the confusion that we are having with the understanding is that when men that are Christian, that have had the infilling of the baptism of the Holy Ghost that baptism makes their spirit perfect. It is totally and completely taken over by the Spirit of God. But, they have not yet manifested that perfectness in their soul.

The objective of God is perfection in all three realms: the spirit, the soul, as well as the body. Death does not make you and I perfect. Death cuts short the process of perfection, because God doesn’t want the perfection just in the aspect of the spiritual realm. He wants that perfection manifested in the natural realm. So in the process of a Christian dying prior to being perfected, the operation of perfection is interrupted. So the person who dies, though he is perfected in the spirit, he yet has a soul that has not reached to the level of his spirit. Because he has lost his natural position of relationship, his body, he cannot experientially advance in his soul. God solves this problem by bringing forth perfection in the church that is yet in the realm of the world.

As they, the heavenly host, watch us, under the auspice of the Holy Ghost, which they also have in the aspect of their spirit, they begin to understand the process of perfection. As they see that demonstration, their understanding is different in the aspect that it brings a development of maturity to them. That maturity brings perfection to their soul.

Congregation: I have two questions. The first is that you said that the spirit of man is made perfect by the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We know that there are quite a few Christians that didn’t accept the Holy Ghost baptism. How is this process concerning them?

Brother duCille: I have given much thought to the subject. I came to the conclusion that I think the Lord showed me, that in death it is tantamount to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The word *tantamount* –means that it is equal to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In other words, when a man, a Christian, dies, the Holy Ghost takes charge of his soul. When you are baptized in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost takes charge, or at least tries to take charge of the soul. And you are not complete in that action, but the time that you get complete is when the body falls off. So, everybody comes to that point when he dies, he either dies spiritually to the flesh, or dies naturally. The flesh dies, anyhow.

Congregation: So you are saying that the baptism of the Holy Ghost will kind of happen in the time of death?

Brother duCille: Yes.

Congregation: It happens to us when we die to our self.

Congregation: We came across this question when the fellowship studied *The Pattern* book. The question is, what is the latest moment that one can be saved? Is it during the death? After the death? Before the death? Where is it that he has to meet the Lord?

Brother duCille: He must meet the Lord in this life. If he dies without meeting the Lord, he is a goner. It comes to the point of deciding, "When does a person die?" Somebody's body can stop functioning, his brain can be dead and yet, as far as God is concerned, God is dealing with him. That brings us to the point where we have to realize that God has to kill some people's bodies to save their souls.

A thought comes to me which might not be relevant. The man who brought in the rapture doctrine was Irving, and then Irving gave it to Darby. When he was living, he couldn't receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He wanted the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He taught it. His church had it, but he couldn't receive it, and when he was dying, he started talking in tongues.

Sister duCille: For every individual, the spirit goes back to God Who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7). So what is lost is the soul.

Congregation: Does it mean that the spirit is always good?

Brother duCille: Yes is the answer. The spirit is not yours.

Congregation: In the Bible it is sometimes written that he was of a bad spirit or he had a bad spirit. How is that?

Brother duCille: The word *spirit* sometimes is used in scripture for *soul*, and it confuses a lot of the theologians.

Sister duCille: The Word says, "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8).

Brother duCille: There is another scripture, Proverbs 20:27, that says the spirit of man is the lamp of God working in the soul.

Brother Asbill: God had to insure the position of man's ability to be saved, so He gave him an endowment. The Bible calls that endowment "spirit." The Bible says that man is without excuse (Romans 1:20). It can say that on the basis of the endowment that God gave man to be able to recognize or to know the need that he has for God; that endowment is like a liaison that is always speaking to the individual about his need for God. You could call it "God consciousness." It is programmed into the nature of man, but it is not of man at all. It is God. You could say it is something that is on loan to man from God. When man dies without taking advantage of that information and that prompting, then that program, or that entity that God gave is withdrawn. That is why the Bible says that we are with-

out excuse, because God did everything that He possibly could do to get us to choose Him. But that thing is God and it is not something in the makeup of the individual until he accepts God and receives God into his life, into his soul.

Brother duCille: That is back to the point where we have to think of the man who is totally lost while he is alive. That is the unpardonable sin. You cross a line. That is, you reject your own spirit and the Spirit of God, and you take another spirit and put it in that place. Like Hitler had another spirit guiding him.

Congregation: Would that be the same as the situation with Saul in the Bible, when it said God sent an evil spirit?

Brother duCille: The reason I would not say yes, was because Saul was on the other side of Christ. Do you see? He still had a chance of going to heaven after death.

Congregation: Are you saying that the spirit that we have now is not different from the spirit that Adam had? Your human spirit?

Brother duCille: The human spirit is not different; it is the same human spirit.

Congregation: In the 3½ years of our ministering as the Manchild - what about those who are in heaven? What will be their participation?

Brother duCille: Coming from us to them! Heaven is very much aware of everything that is going on here this morning. As a matter of fact, some of the questions that you are asking are coming from the saints who are getting you to ask the questions.

Brother Asbill: That will take you back to Ephesians 1:10, ***That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:***

Brother duCille: Yes! Quite! What I was thinking is that we are not giving you the scriptures as we are making the answers. But in your groups, you should get together and discuss these things freely and get into the Word. ☺





The Higher Law



by Nathaniel Chattic

In my recent meditation on the process of submitting the mind to the will of God, a thought came to me through reading a passage from Romans 7. I was listening to a brother go through a study he was doing in I Corinthians 15 during the Wednesday night service, and in the midst of going through some verses (beginning with 42), there was a particular statement he made that stood out to me. An individual is capable of using the life/energy, strength, or vitality, which God so graciously gives to us, for a different objective other than God's objective and not realize it. Instead of building upon the foundation that God delivers to us through our initiation into Kingdom life, i.e. being born again, one can take that experience and inadvertently establish a micro-kingdom of his or her humanity. It was a good study that the brother discussed with us that night and it further prompted the thought I had regarding keeping my mind subjected under God.

In Romans 7, Paul cites the two laws that are working to produce a certain character in man - the law of sin and the law of the Spirit. Now, we have heard the word regarding the two destinies, no middle ground, no purgatory, but two specific destinies. Paul is referencing those two destinies here, but there is an interesting thought that I did not altogether consider in reading through the chapter. Let us begin at verse 1, *Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?* When we were born, there was a certain law that we fell under, albeit no fault of our own, but nevertheless our humanity was subjected to the law of sin.

Essentially, what we are contending with are two statements, "God said," and "Hath God said?" the former is less conducive to the flesh than the latter. One statement is much more open to interpretation than the other, one much more of an open-ended statement versus the other. This is the area of trouble that we all too often get into, the issue of what God tells us to do or not to do as being open for interpretation. I do not think it is wrong to seek confirmation, or ask God specifically what He is saying to you,

but to take His word and put your own variant or "spin" on it (personal interpretation) is a serious set of circumstances. That is the problem that Eve ran into; she **considered** what Satan had to say, because he presented the Word of God in a very abstract manner, "Hath God said?" We can all too often tempt ourselves and fall into those temptations through considering what the enemy of our soul is trying to bait us with. We have heard this message before that Satan will do everything he possibly can in order to undermine the absoluteness of God, His authority and His Word.

So, whether we are aware of it or not, we are constantly in a position to make life and death decisions everyday, whatever the situation or circumstance is. And not all of the circumstances have to be grandiose in nature. If a mother asks her child to do a particular thing, "Clean up your room," there is an expectation that is immediately set out on the table. She is expecting her child to perform the task that she gave out to do. Her child has a decision to make, to do what he/she was instructed to do, or maybe put it off until later in the day, or not do it at all. So what happens when the child does not do what the mother said altogether? Well, we know that the Scripture says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord." So, not only is the chore left incomplete, but the seed of disobedience is also being sown into the child's character. What happens if the child puts off cleaning until later on in the day? Well, again, you have a similar circumstance. Although the child may clean up the room and complete the task, the time in which it took to clean it may have conflicted with other chores or activities the mother had planned for that day, and so forth. It is much more profitable to be obedient to the correct voice and respond in a correct manner.

That was a minor example, but it is something that we all have to deal with. Which of the two voices, which of the two statements are we more inclined to hear and obey? Paul presents another thought here that really jumped out at me. Verse 7, *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt*

not covet. ⁸*But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.* ⁹*For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.* ¹⁰*And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.* Christ said that He came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill the law. There are certain commandments or principles in the natural that were intended to govern man, to serve as a check and balance system for man to abide by. Paul is conveying to us that what the natural law cannot do for man because of the law of sin superceding it, the law of Christ (the Spirit) is capable of superceding the law of sin. We are familiar with the Ten Commandments, right? God gave them unto Moses as a pattern of conduct for man to abide by. However, for every mandate that is God-given in origin, we see a pattern that is designed by the enemy to be the total antithesis of that plan. “Hath God said, ‘Thou shalt not steal?’” “Hath God said, ‘Thou shalt not kill?’”

...the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. That which God purposed for good, the enemy desires to undermine and turn around for his benefit. It is the work of deception, of lies. Verse 11, *For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.* This is the objective of Satan, to entice, ensnare, and destroy you and I. And through his subtle inquiry, “Hath God said?” he has managed to continue to rob and run amok in our souls by portraying the Word of God as an optional word, or whatever is most convenient for us to abide under. ¹³*Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.* ¹⁴*For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.* This is the crux of the matter that Paul is stating. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities, and there are two voices that are vying for our attention. It is our decision as to which one we will hearken to.

¹⁵*For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.* ¹⁶*If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.* ¹⁷*Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.* ¹⁸*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.* ¹⁹*For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.* ²⁰*Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.* ²¹*I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.* Paul is presenting here what the natural law cannot do alone because of the nature of man. No matter how hard a person can try to be good, or do the right thing on their own

terms, the flesh will remain more prevalent on the natural level. Paul is admonishing us to tap into the spiritual plane, to seek a better remedy, an eternal remedy, outside of our way of handling or dealing with certain things. There is a more excellent way. What is the remedy?

Verse 4, *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.* Once salvation enters the equation, then a new perspective is given unto us that receive it, a heavenly perspective, and at the very least, it causes us to recognize the position that we are in concerning the decisions that we make. This is why it is so critical to hone our focus upon God, to keep our minds stayed upon Him at all times. Romans 8:2, *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* ³*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:* ⁴*That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* ⁵*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.* ⁶*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* ⁷*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* The key to overcoming the law of sin and death that is warring within us is to tap into the higher law, the law of the Spirit. Keep your mind, your focus, stayed upon Christ. We have the tools necessary, through the Scriptures, the Blood, and the Holy Spirit, to be in a constant position of subjection to the mind of Christ. The enemy would want to tell us otherwise, that we should quit and throw in the towel because of our fleshly condition, but we know that we do not have to stay in that condition. There is a way of escape, through the power of the law of life, but we have to desire to overcome as well.

There is so much that God wants to do for us that we, of ourselves, cannot do. A person much wiser than me once told me that it seems sometimes that God desires for us to overcome more than we do! We have the tools necessary in order to climb higher into that place that we need to be. It is what we are doing with those tools, how we are handling the Word of God, that will determine our destiny. Let us continue to actively participate in the things of God, to not take or diminish the gifts or talents that are God-given, to resist the enemy of our souls, and not allow him to cause us to second-guess the Almighty anymore. God bless you. ✨





How Long Do We Have?

About the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution, in 1787, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior:

"A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship."

"The average age of the world's great-

est civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith;
2. From spiritual faith to great courage;
3. From courage to liberty;
4. From liberty to abundance;
5. From abundance to complacency;
6. From complacency to apathy;
7. From apathy to dependence;
8. From dependence back into bondage."

Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the 2000 Presidential election:

Population of counties won by: Gore: 127 million; Bush: 143 million

Square miles of land won by: Gore: 580,000; Bush: 2,427,000

States won by: Gore: 19; Bush: 29

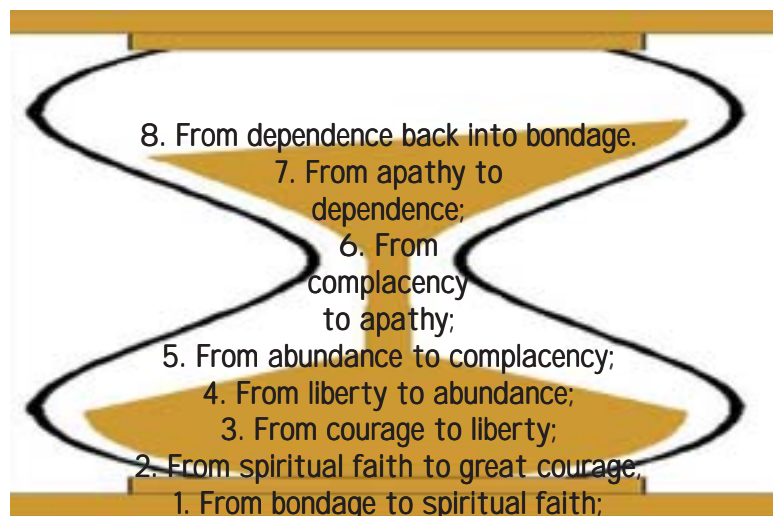
Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by Gore: 13.2; Bush: 2.1

Professor Olson adds: "In aggregate, the map of the territory Bush won was mostly the land owned by the tax-paying citizens. Gore's territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in government-owned tenements living off government welfare..."

Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the "complacency and apathy" phase of Professor Tyler's definition of democracy, with some 40 percent of the nation's population already having reached the "governmental dependency" phase.

Pass this along to help everyone realize that apathy is the greatest danger to our freedom.

Time is Running Out



Time

Imagine there is a bank which credits your account each morning with \$86,400, carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day.

What would you do?

Draw out every cent, of course!

Well, everyone has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits.

Invest it so as to get from it the utmost of everything you do and in everything you say! The clock is running. Make the most of today...

Time

To realize the value of ONE YEAR...

Ask a student who has studied and done all he can do only to fail his final exam.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH...

Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK...

Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY...

Ask a daily wage laborer who has ten kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR...

Ask a bride or bridegroom the hour prior to their wedding.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE...

Ask a person who has missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND...

Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND...

Ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

To realize the value of ETERNITY...

Ask the Lord.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special... special enough to have your time... and... time waits for no one.

The Mighty River Flowing

By Brother George Herrig

April 30th, 2006

Mahomet, Illinois

Well, it is good to be here this morning. It is very good to see each and every one of you. God bless you today, the servants of God, each one of you. You are my brethren, and we are brothers and sisters. By the Blood of Jesus Christ, He saved us, redeemed us, and delivered us out of the pit of hell. Can we all say, "Amen," to that? We have the living reality, because we know what was happening in our lives before Christ came and made Himself real to us. When He made Himself real to us, we were irrevocably, forever changed. Hallelujah!

I thank God this morning for being changed. I thank God that He rescued me from the pit of hell, from the place where Satan had his hold upon me, and there was no way that I could ever get out of his hold. The Bible says that no man comes to the Father except that first He draws him (John 6:44). God begins to speak, God begins to hover upon an individual, and in the person comes an awareness that he is in need of something much higher than whatever he could ever receive in religion. Because if you were born in religion, no matter what religious system it was, it was not made by Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ never made a religious system. He made LIFE. He said, "I am the way and the truth and the life, and no man comes unto the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). So, God, in His love and His mercy, reached down into humanity and plucked you and me up, touched us with the breath of life, gave us His Blood, and forgave us ALL of our sins.

Isn't it good to rehearse our beginning? God also wants to rehearse what He is doing in our lives. I believe that we are to be a thankful people. We are to be thankful for ALL things. The Bible says, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:18). We are to be thankful for all things, and I think that we can all be thankful for the good things that come our way. Amen? God provides for us. He says that He will take care of all of our needs (Philippians

4:19). I am trusting that everybody had a bed to sleep in last night. I am trusting that there was food on your table this week, maybe some more than others, but God knoweth.

Do we give thanks always for things that don't always seem so good? Maybe there are difficulties in the situations and circumstances that are working within our lives. We may see them only from our own perspective and usually, if the difficulties or the circumstances or the situations are very trying, very contrary to what we like or prefer, it is not always easy to be so thankful for that.

You know, sometimes people come against us. Sometimes brethren can even give us a hard time. Everybody is quiet about that! Have you ever given somebody else a hard time? Oh! I know I have. Sometimes you don't mean it, but you find out in the end that God speaks to your heart, of how human you yet are, and how much more divine you need to be. But, we are to be thankful for all situations. God is in control of our lives, and I have found out that God could wipe away every circumstance and situation before me that I don't like, right now - right this very minute. But God is more sovereign than I am. He is holier than I am, much holier than I am. He is much more aware of, not only my beginning, but also my end. He knows what is needed in my life to bring me to that place that I need to be in that I might be conformed to the image of His Son - because that is what I asked God to be. I asked God to be like Him.

The day that I received salvation, all that came to me was the thought that I wanted Jesus Christ. I wanted His Kingdom. I wanted something that was much greater than what I had before I knew Him. I tried everything in my life to find peace and joy and self-content, and found that there is nothing in this world with which I could purchase it. Nothing that I could do could warrant that thing that is given without money, without price. HIS PRESENCE! HIS

LOVE! HIS FORGIVENESS! Hallelujah!

So, the working of God in our lives is to change us. The circumstances of our lives are to conform us into the image of His Son. Now, I believe in the promises of God, and I want the promises of God. Oh, how I want the promises of God! I would love to have them all today. How about you? But, you know, our loving Father knows that if He gave us everything that we wanted today, it would not suffice us for what will happen down the road. He knows that He is working within our hearts and our minds to change us. Hallelujah! We need to be changed, brethren. I need to be changed. I stand up here before you and I need to be changed. The one thing that I can stand up here and be thankful for is that God is working on my behalf. God loves me, and God is long-suffering towards me.

In fact, His long-suffering amazes me. How He endures - I look at things sometimes and I seem so carnal. God, how You must love me so much after all of these years. You are still patiently waiting and working in my life to change me. THAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD. THAT IS THE MERCY OF GOD. The Bible says, "His mercies are new every morning, and great is His faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). Hallelujah!

So, I am very thankful for His mercies. I am very glad for His patience, and His long-suffering, because He is working something inside of you and me, brethren. I believe that He is working in me and that He is working in you, because we want to be in His Presence, we want to be found in the perfect will of God.

I don't believe that you would be here this morning if you did not want His will. If you do want God and His will, then He is working far beyond what you have asked or could think in regard to what He is doing in your life! (I Corinthians 2:9). Hallelujah!

Sometimes the circumstance meant to change us comes in the form of sickness. Sometimes it comes in the form of physical maladies, or financial pressure. Sometimes we are tried and tried in the area of the emotions. How else are we going to find out that God is truly God except by going through the fire and go-

ing through the change? Hallelujah! Can anybody say, "Amen"? Praise be to God!

I want to talk to you a little bit this morning about something that the Lord brought to me in the past few weeks, and I want to go to Ezekiel 47. I shared a little bit of this with the brethren up in Dubuque last week. I trust that God will speak this morning, even as I know that He is speaking to me. Let us start in verse 1, *Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.* What house are we talking about, brethren? It is the house of God. Brother Ezekiel wrote this while he was in a vision. He saw himself standing before the door of this house, facing eastward, in the direction of God.

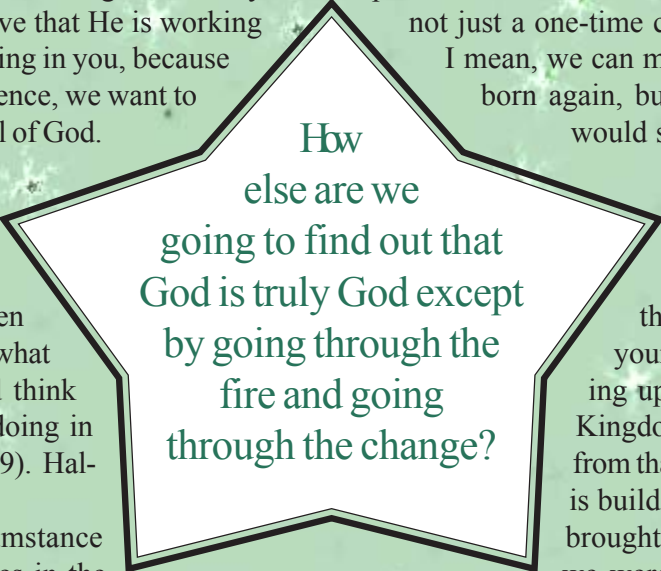
It says in Ezekiel 47:2, *Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. ³And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.* I believe we see ourselves, brethren, in that same place. You know, when we receive salvation, it is not just a one-time circumstance or situation.

I mean, we can mark the day that we were born again, but it is not like what you would say is a birthday, that you

celebrate something that happened on that particular day, and that day alone was the reason for the celebration. The day of your salvation was the opening up of the entrance into the Kingdom of God, and everything from that point of your experience is building upon that place. God brought us into that place where we were standing in ankle deep

waters. We began to experience the depths and the knowledge of the awareness of God's presence, and His goodness and His mercy towards us.

As I'm saying this, many thoughts might be coming to your mind of how God first called you, what



How else are we going to find out that God is truly God except by going through the fire and going through the change?

God did in your life, how He moved in such a way that you knew it was nobody else but the living God that touched your soul. It was only His touch that could move you to say that if they threw you in prison at that moment, you could say, "I know that my redeemer liveth," because no man brought this unto me (Job 19:25). So, the born-again experience that you and I had, brought such a life and vitality to us that it began to move us in a totally different direction than that in which we had been going. We were once dead in sin and trespasses - bound by it, hating it, wanting to be out of that muck and mire - but there was no way that we could come out of it.

I grew up in a religious environment. Everything of that environment spoke of a Heaven and a hell. If you would do this, and if you would do this, and if you would do that, and do all of these things - somehow, somehow, somehow, in the by and by, you might get to Heaven. I walked in all of those thoughts and tried... you know, I wasn't doing a very good job, but at least I tried. However, I found that there was something greater working in my life. It was the law of sin and death, bringing me into destruction (Romans 7:23). I finally realized it. I came to that point, and that is where God came to me. I came to the point where I realized that I was going to hell. There was nothing I could do about it. I was going to hell. All this religious system around me (I had tried it all) was not working, because something greater inside of me was just pulling me down. It was the wages of sin and death. Yet God was working something in my heart, and I was not realizing that He was wooing me, drawing me. He was even working through my children that I said, "God, I want something more for them than I have for myself. My ticket to hell is bought. No escape. But God, I don't want to see them there." At that point, God sent a messenger and brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to me, not only for the promise of my children, but for myself - and I couldn't even believe for myself!

Life came to me out of darkness and brought resurrection life to me. I am telling you, brethren, the joy of this ankle deep environment or arena that

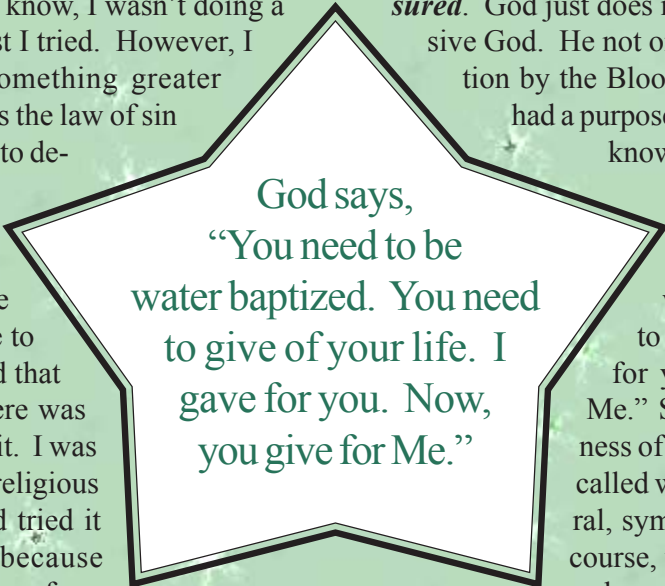
God brought me to seemed like it was sufficient to take me through all time. Here I was, born again, set free from my sins, knowing that the God of all the Heavens loved me, gave His Blood for me, washed me, and now His presence was there. I knew that there was a living reality of God. So I was just enjoying it and getting into the Word. We just began to read the Word, yet it was still ankle deep. Now, God had something much more in store for me than what I realized. I could have just stayed in that place if I knew that that was all there was. But, you know, it is sort of like you come to a certain area of experience, and that experience should bring you to another experience, and that second experience should bring you to a third experience. This is the way that it is in the Word of God. This is the way that God calls us because He brings us into one arena so that He might bring us into a greater arena.

So, it says here in Ezekiel 47:4, **Again he measured.** God just does not stop. He is a progressive God. He not only brought us into salvation by the Blood of Jesus Christ, but He had a purpose and a plan, that we might

know Him through a covenant with Him to go all the way with Him. He says, "You need to be water baptized. You need to give of your life. I gave for you. Now, you give for Me." So, God gives us an awareness of a covenant that He makes called water baptism. It is a natural, symbolic act that we do. Of course, you know that the church realm out there institutes it into a

religious practice. A lot of people do it religiously and never get the fulfillment of the reality of the purpose for which God calls us to water baptism.

He takes us to water baptism so that we are willing to say, "God, You gave of Yourself for me. I want to give of myself to You. I want to covenant, as You have covenanted that You will never leave me nor forsake me. I now covenant with You to go all the way with You." God seals that covenant when we take that outward step. As we go into that water as that old man, full of sin and destruction, we are saying, "God, You said in this covenant that if I die, I will rise in resurrection life. So Father, I physically speak to the world this day, that I am going



God says,
"You need to be
water baptized. You need
to give of your life. I
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you give for Me."

under these waters and I am going to rise up, no more that old man, but the new man in Christ Jesus, covered over with the glory of God.” Hallelujah!

The very presence of God brings us into another arena, because once He sees that a servant of God is willing, not only to receive Him as his Savior, but to make Him Lord, then He wants to take him into that place of being a total servant for God. He sees that He can work more with that individual. So, we get water baptized and we come into an arena with that symbolic, natural act of water baptism, and that baptism also is a spiritual, symbolic act where God, Jesus Christ Himself, now comes and gives us something more than what we had before. We have His Blood. He washed us. He delivered us from the power of hell, but now He wants to give of His own personality and identity. He wants to come inside of us. Hallelujah!

It goes on, Ezekiel 47:4, *Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.* How many of you have had the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Raise your hands this morning, please. Probably almost everyone here has. God comes and He seals you with the Holy Spirit of promise that the job that He has started, He is going to finish in you (Ephesians 1:13, Philippians 1:6). So, He gives us of His Spirit. His Holy Spirit comes into where? Our spirit, so that He dwells there.

You know, we are a 3-part being: body, soul and spirit. Our spirit is a place of no defilement. It is pure. It was given by God. God gives a spirit to every man in order for him to subsist, in order for him to live (Ecclesiastes 12:7). So when God comes with His Holy Ghost to live inside of us, He has to come in a place that is holy, yet undefiled, so He comes into our spirit. He comes not only to reside in our spirit, but for the purpose of coming into our soul so that we become changed. The soul is comprised of what? Our mind, our will, our emotions and our desires. God, by the Holy Ghost, says in His Word, “I have come to give the Holy Ghost to,” what? “To lead and guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

Brethren, where do we need to be guided the most but in our souls? In our thinking? In our emotions? In our desires? In our wills? That we would fulfill the will of God. How many of us have said, “God, not my will but Thine be done”? We are inviting God to come in. We are inviting God to rule over us, to reign over every facet of our being, so

that we might be changed. Hallelujah!

So, God has given us the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost leads us, guides us, brings us into an arena where He joins us together with other people that are desiring God and are filled with the Holy Ghost. God plants you with like-minded people (Romans 15:5, Philippians 2:2). Can you say, “Amen,” to that? I believe that I am among like-minded people here this morning. I don’t believe that your plan and purpose is to leave here and go to the Baptist Sunday evening service and to join their church because you believe in eternal security, or that you believe “once saved, always saved,” and that you can just do whatever you want. No. I believe that we have been called to come into a greater depth, and that God keeps calling us, keeps calling us, keeps calling us. The progression gets greater, brethren, and so we come into the baptism of the Holy Ghost. My goodness, hallelujah! How can you share 25 or 26 years of God working in your life, bringing you, moving you and leading you? Each one of you has that testimony of how God has worked within your lives.

The degree of how much we are willing to do with God also determines how well we have learned our lessons, or that we were willing to go all the way with God. You know, we ask God. We say, “God, I want to go all the way with You,” but we really don’t know our own heart, or what we would do in circumstances or situations, do we? It’s not unlike Peter. Peter said, “I will never, Lord. There is no way I would ever deny you. No way. How can You say that, Lord? I love You. I have walked with You all of these years in Your ministry” (Matthew 26:35, Mark 14:31, Luke 22:33-34). Yet, when it came down to that moment, he found himself doing the very thing that Jesus said he would do. Now, Peter did not have the Holy Ghost, but I am telling you that there are things in us, and that is why God has to work within our lives to reveal ourselves to us.

You know, we deal with pride. Or maybe none of you deal with pride. Pride comes in all sorts of packages. Sometimes you can really see pride in someone who is boasting outwardly of how great that individual is. Sometimes pride can come as, “I just don’t want to do it. I don’t want to do it.” Why? “Maybe I’ll get embarrassed.” That is still based in pride. God takes us through the circumstances of life to show us where our heart is so that we might

just get down on our knees and say, "God, change this wicked, vile man that is me." Because deep down, we all think that we are somewhat a good person. It is all the others out there that seem to have more problems. But truthfully, God tells us that we are not to look out, but we are to look inward first. Look inward first, and then you can look outward. Then you can do something. Just as the Word says, you can clearly see that speck in your brother's eye because you removed the beam in your own eye. I found out, brethren, in order to go up with God you must go down. There must be humility. There must be a change within the nature and character that it is no longer man that lives but just the presence of God.

Do you know the other thing I found out? I found out that God has a plan and purpose for each one of us, far beyond what you and I realize today. It is so far different than we probably know and yet God is giving you and I the power and the ability to accomplish it. Because you see, when we come up to this next step, there is comfort in being in this present life, whatever it may be. Let's say, your own job and what you do, when you become proficient at what you do, you become very comfortable in it, you are very self-assured. You know the job. You could do it blindfolded almost, in certain aspects and certain situations. In some ways that is very good, and in some ways it is not so good, because then we want to always do it and we might find out that there is still a better way.

How many of you have ever become very assured of something in your life, and you think you know it is the best way, and someone comes along and just shares a little bit, "Hey, ever thought of doing it this way?" and you find yourself resistant to it? You might say, "Well, he doesn't have that much experience," or, "I know more about this than he does." But you know, it is really humbling if after those thoughts you finally yield to the suggestion, try it and find out that you weren't as smart as you thought you were. Oh, I found that out in the post office. Doing the same job day in, day out, being on the same route, walking the same streets, you have it timed, you could run it, you know the shortcuts, you know everything. Then someone comes to you and says, "Have you ever thought of just turning around and doing it this way?"

"No, I really believe that this is the right way." You know? The first wrong step is that you open

your mouth and you make a claim of what you already think.

And they say, "Why don't you just try it this other way?"

I have had that happen in my life at the post office. One time it was someone in authority and I knew that God was saying that I needed to submit to that. I found out that it was so much easier. It was a totally different approach. Someone looked at it from the outside looking in, rather than the inside looking out. So, you know, we are never too old to learn. We can never get to the point that we are too experienced that we cannot hear the voice of God in the way that He speaks.

Now, the devil comes and he has his nay-sayers, and you have to be spiritual to discern between what is the nay-sayer of God and which is the agent of God. Sometimes, if you are even a little smarter, you can hear God even through a nay-sayer, and learn the lesson, and bless that individual, even if they have come in the wrong spirit. Because, do you know what God wants? He not only wants to change us; He wants to move through us to change others. Hallelujah! He has called us to be life givers. I am telling you, brethren, when we can come into that revelation and understanding for what God has called you and me, we are coming into a deeper realm with Him.

When we can give up our own selves, our own identities, and begin to walk and to trust that the Spirit of God knows greater than what we do, we are coming into an arena that God has called us to. He says here, Ezekiel 47:5, ***Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over:*** Think of it, brethren, you and me, in our day to day walk, in our relationship with God. Isn't what we have in God a blessing? Isn't it a blessing that the Spirit of God is in our household? Thank God everyday, for you who have a godly wife, or a godly husband, that you have peace in your home because of the Blood of Jesus, and you can pray with your spouse. Do you know that there are people that cannot pray with their spouse? They wish that they could pray with them, that they could reach out to them, but that husband or that wife is not in the same dimension. They are not in the Kingdom of God. They are in the kingdom of Satan. They are in this world. Think of the torment that they have to go through.

Do you have difficulties in your marriage? Oh,

I'm sure that every one of us could say that we have differences, or that there are things that we are working through. But that is the whole plan and purpose of God to make us one. A marriage cannot be two. It has to be one. It is the joining together of two individuals. When we come into God, then the formula and purpose of God is for us to learn the love of Christ and His church with our relationship between husband and wife. So, all of these things are working to bring us into that place where Christ is present, where Christ can speak to us. Hallelujah! How many of you can hear the Lord when there is an argument or a division in your home? Don't the emotions rise up? There are feelings rising up, and you are doing everything that you can to say, "What is the right way to bring us back to that place of peace?" God is also working mightily in the home and in the marriage relationship. Can everybody say, "Amen," to that? Hallelujah! Do you know the marvelous thing about that? It is to look for God to change you, for God to change ME - look for THAT change first. Then when you look for that change in your spouse, you are going to see something much greater and more magnificent. Do you know why? Because when you lay your own life down first, you are giving God the opportunity to work through you to move in the nature or character of Christ to lift that other one up - to speak life to them. It is a marvelous thing when we give ourselves to Jesus Christ, to His Spirit, so that He can flow through us.

Oh, brethren, I know, there is wisdom. We have all received natural wisdom in one way or another. But that in itself will not do the thing that God wants to do. We have to give ourselves totally over to the Spirit of God, because He wants to take us while we are young, when we said we were willing, but you know, truthfully, we still did our own thing. But when we grow older, God says that He is going to take us to a place where we don't want to go (John 21:18). He said that to Peter. But do you know what? It is the most marvelous place for us to be, because then when we become a bondservant, a slave

for Jesus Christ to do His total will, He takes us to places that we never dreamed or even fathomed that He would do in our lives. For what, to make us great? NO! But for us to see Him, and for us to be changed.

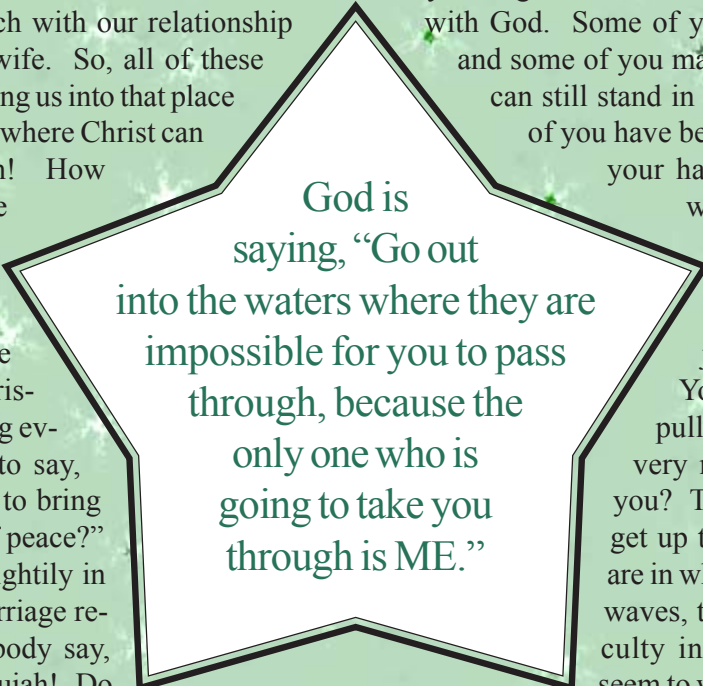
How many of you are still at that place? Some of you might be ankle deep in your relationship with God. Some of you might be knee deep and some of you may be loin deep, but you can still stand in the waters. How many of you have been in the ocean? Raise your hands. Okay, you know what it is like. You walk

in ankle deep, just near the water, and the water is coming just near your ankles. You can feel a little of that pull, but boy, you are still very much in control, aren't you? Then you get in and you get up to the knees, and if you are in where they have good size waves, there is a lot more difficulty in walking. The waves seem to want to pull you, yet you

still have the strength to resist them. When you get in up to your loins, it is becoming even more powerful, this flow, and it wants to take you. You still have the ability somewhat to plant your feet down and you are still on what you call solid ground, even though sand isn't so solid, but you are on it at least enough to resist the water.

When you get out over your head and those waves come, you are no longer in control. Those waves are taking you to a place where you don't want to go. But when you put it into the equation of God, God is in control and is bringing you out deeper and deeper and deeper, because He is wanting to take you to a place where you would never ever, even in your wildest dreams, figure out what God wanted to do with you. The natural is only a manifestation of what He is doing inside of you. Hallelujah!

We have a promise that we will rule and reign with Him, and even now a responsibility is being put into our hands for the safety of the nations and of the world. I believe that I must believe more in the power of my prayers now than I ever have before. I believe that I have not heretofore believed in



God is saying, "Go out into the waters where they are impossible for you to pass through, because the only one who is going to take you through is ME."

the strength of my prayer, as much as what God has said that He has entrusted to us. He says, "If two or three would agree as touching anything on earth, it shall be done in heaven," (Matthew 18:19). He also said, "If you stand praying, believe" (Mark 11:24-25). It says, "All things are possible to those who believe" (Mark 9:23). It says, "Pray for those in authority" (I Timothy 2:1-2).

We are in a battle where the forces of evil are working in the world to bring absolute destruction to this world and to the people of this world. We have a responsibility to stand and pray, and do you know, God is giving us something that goes beyond what I think you and I understand today? I really believe it, brethren. I believe that the power is in our hands. He has anointed us. He is leading us and I believe that if we obey what God is saying here in Ezekiel chapter 47, as we stand before the door - now look at what it says in 47:1, ***Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house.*** See, this is not something that happened to me twenty some years ago. God is bringing me to that door and He is showing me the measurement that He has done. He is saying, "George, go out into the waters where they are impossible for you to pass through, because the only one who is going to take you through is ME." Hallelujah! "ME," JESUS CHRIST, take me, George Herrig, through those waters to do the bidding that He wants to do through me. Not what I think is best through me. "Oh God, can I help You? Can I help You? I've got some good ideas, God!" NO! All of my own righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6, Philippians 3:8). On my best day, man is altogether vanity (Psalm 39:5). So I can't help God. All He wants is a willing vessel.

"You are LORD, God. I am just the dust of the earth. Whatever You would have, do in my life." You know, I said that to God. I think it was a month or two after we received Jesus Christ as our Savior, and I was working, a young man, 26 or 27 years old, in the postal service. I was ready, "God, whatever You want me to do! If You want me to be a garbage collector..." I was seeing them going past, and I said, "Well, God, if You want me to be that, I'll be that. I have just come to do Your will." I meant it! I thought God was going to call me forth, but He spent the next twenty years working on me in the post office. He put me in circumstances and situations that I did not want to be in, but I found that I

needed to be in them, because God wanted to work in my heart.

People that were against me: God didn't want me to be upset and tell everybody what they did to me. He wanted me to pray for them. God wanted me to believe Him that He was greater than the circumstances. In situations that came upon me, God was always working. You know, this is why I love the presence of God, and how much we should love Him. It is how He works with us on a day to day, moment by moment situation in our lives. THIS IS GOD!

He says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," Charles (Hebrews 13:5). He is with us every moment of the way. He was with you in the car accident. Hallelujah! He saved and redeemed you, Janell, Addie and the children. Could we have believed that God is God? He could have stopped that thing, but there was some reason that He allowed it. Was it God that did it? NO. I believe that it was the devil that came. But I tell you what! God wants to teach us in all things. He wants to teach us and to give us an understanding of why we go through what we go through, so that we would know what is in our own heart. Hallelujah! To take us to the place, brethren, where we begin to pass over, and we become as sons, growing and maturing as Jesus Christ did when He was brought to His three and a half years of ministry. He came into it when He was twelve years of age, and He went with His parents to Jerusalem. They were with the band of people and they left and they realized that Jesus was not with them after a day's journey. They went back looking, and after three days, they finally found Him standing among the teachers and the Pharisees of the temple, teaching and expounding the Word of God to them (Luke 2:42-49).

I believe that there is a day coming when God is going to fill our temples, and we will be a part of that firstfruits company, if we are found among the five wise virgins. But in the meantime, it says in the scripture that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature daily (Luke 2:52). So as He grew, there was something that He was about. As He said, "Did you not know that I am about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). We are about our Father's business each and every day. Now, how well we do, that is another thing, but the fact is that God has placed in our hands the responsibility to be watchers, to be the keepers of the city. He has given it into our hands, brethren,

whether we are residents of Dubuque, Iowa, whether you live in this area of Mahomet and Champaign, or whatever area you are in, God has called you to a place of responsibility - to stand in the gap, to pray and to move.

There is a place that we must come into. I believe that we must come and empathize with the people that we are praying for. I have found that prayer is much greater when we put ourselves in the place of that individual rather than just saying a head knowledge type of prayer and going on. I find that there are different levels of prayer. When we have the burden of prayer and it is upon us and we begin to reach out, "God, in the name of Jesus, touch this individual! If this person is not saved, we will see this family be destroyed! Intervene, Lord!" Or, if there is something going on in a marriage relationship, the power of God through prayer will bring restoration. If you see someone out there and they are not saved, and you see them continuing under the power of Satan, you can pray for their salvation.

We were prayed into the Kingdom by several people and we didn't know it until after we were saved. God-fearing people were praying for us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). He was working through people and individuals that had received that very life, and they in turn wanted to reach out and bring life to more individuals. The thing that stops us at times is our humanity, because we are still in those waters where we are in control. Whatever area we are in, we are still in control. God wants us to step out in faith into Him, because when we do, the Spirit can take us, the Spirit can lead us. The Spirit will open up the doors of the whole heavens to us and will show us what we need to do. We don't have to be fearful of the responsibility that is being placed in our hands, because God gives us everything that we need. It says in Romans 8:24, **For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope:** Thank God! For if our hope was in this life, we would be like all men, most miserable (I Corinthians 15:9). Because if all we saw was what we thought was the end - it is

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not the reality of what it is in the Spirit. It says, ²⁵**But if we hope for that we see not,** which is Jesus Christ, Lord over all the earth, and He is coming to bring restoration to all things. It says here, ²⁵**But if we hope for that we see**

not, then do we with patience wait for it.

²⁶**Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:** Are we perfected yet, brethren? NO. I believe in perfection. I believe God wants me to be perfect, so I am submitting myself, and I believe that you are submitting yourself to be changed into His image. Not only His image but also His

likeness, so that we are holy and acceptable in the beloved. But we still see the frailties of our flesh. Except for the grace of God, I could go the same way as that individual. Except for by God's grace, I am walking in the strength of His Spirit. So, God, You need to work through me. It says in verse 26, **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought:** You know that the Bible says that we should pray for those that are in authority (I Timothy 2:1-2). Sometimes I start to pray for our president. What do you pray for the president? Do I pray for what I think He needs? Sometimes we just give ourselves to God and we just think about the man's plight, and the position that he is in, the weight upon his shoulders as a brother in the Lord. I believe that he is a brother in the Lord. There are some brethren that don't believe that he is a brother in the Lord. I am not here to persuade anybody one way or the other, but I know when I pray I have to pray for him as a brother because I believe that. Then I could wonder, "What would I feel like if I were in that position?" Then I say, "Oh, God, touch my brother today! Give him the wisdom that he needs today. Give him the strength that he needs today, God! For he goes out and he is among wicked men that are about him, the political system, people that would see him dead. Protect him. Cover him with the Blood of Jesus Christ." I find myself, as I identify with him, and my heart goes out to him, that my prayer gets changed, and it is the Spirit of God taking over my prayer - and when I am done praying I feel a release.

I feel something of a strength of a prayer that I would not heretofore have prayed if I had just prayed something halfway out of my own head.

How many of you have ever prayed halfway prayers? Well, not everybody raised your hand. Maybe I am the only carnal one here. That is all right. I have prayed a lot of carnal prayers, but one day I was just tired of carnal prayers and I asked God, and God showed me a greater way of totally emptying myself unto Him, getting my mind stayed upon Him. A way of aligning myself with that individual, not what I think that individual needs, not with my perception of where that person is. "God help me, I don't want to think that way. God, I want to see my brother, I want to see my sister, I want to see them delivered. So God, You lead me by Your Spirit. Let Your Spirit flow from me. Touch them in the name of Yeshua. Deliver them." Hallelujah.

You know, when the disciples sat under Jesus' teaching, do you remember the one part where they said, "Master, shall we rain fire down upon their heads?" And He said, "You don't know what spirit you are of" (Luke 9:51-56). He wanted to show them that their spirit was not in line with God's Spirit. It was a mixture of their own humanity, their own perception. The disciples made a lot of mistakes and it is written in the Bible for our learning.

You know, the children came by and the disciples wanted to push them away. "No, children, the Master is busy. He has no time for you." And Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me. For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Then He says, "Unless you enter the Kingdom of Heaven as a little child, ye shall in no wise enter in" (Matthew 19:13-14, Mark 10:13-14, Luke 18:15-17). Unless you come to the Kingdom as a child... God wants to change us, brethren. He wants to change me. He wants to change me, and I want Him to do it, because He is such a gracious and loving Heavenly Father.

Everyone has had a natural father, right? You wouldn't be here without a natural father. Some of you may not have had godly parents. Some of you had godly parents, but I am telling you that even the best godly father in this place cannot even compare to the love of the Heavenly Father for each one of us, because we are not in that position of God. This is how much God loves us. If this is how much God loves us, how much does He want His love to flow through us? I am still learning as a grandparent.

Let me ask this question. How many of you are grandparents? Raise your hands. Grandparents, are you still learning? We learn through our children, through the mistakes that we made with our children. But we even learn as grandparents. We are still learning. We are always learning. Isn't it marvelous? God is always teaching us. We are never too old to learn, unless you have the mindset that is... Well, I won't say the name. I know my heritage is that way: German. They have a little saying in Luxembourg, "We are who we are, and we will not change." That is sort of stubborn: I'd say so. "I will not learn." I am telling you what. God knows how to change individuals, and God knows how to change German people. God knows how to change any nationality, and I'm not just picking on Germans. God knows how to change each one of us. Do you know what the marvelous thing is? God knows how to change sinners. God is able to change the people who you think are so hard. He is able to do it in a moment's time. Don't be fooled by seeing 30 or 40 years of the same old thing in a person.

Do you think that God doesn't remember our tears or our prayers? There is a scripture that says, "All of our tears are put in a bottle" (Psalm 56:8). God remembers the crying of our hearts, the travailing for loved ones that don't know Him, and that He moves on their behalf. Sometimes we give Him the opportunity to see the faithfulness of God, sometimes we don't. Sometimes we are going to find out in the future about things that we prayed for that we never saw the answer to, but we will know when we come into that fullness. When we come into that place, we will see the things that we never understood a lot more clearly. This is the God that we serve. If this is the God that we serve, brethren, what does God expect of us? What does God expect of us? He wants us to go into those waters where we are no longer in control. He wants to be in control.

He is bidding each and every one of us here, too. It doesn't matter what your age is, doesn't matter what your background, whatever it may be, man, woman or child. God calls us all the same here in Ezekiel 47. We are at the door. He is revealing Himself. He is saying, "Come out! Don't stay in ankle deep water any more! Don't stay in that place anymore, because the measurements keep going out." God is going out and saying, "Come out with Me, My son. Come with Me to that place where I

have called you to be, and I will reveal Myself to you in a way that you have never known before.”

There are different levels in God, but I want to go the whole way that God has called me to go. Don't you? We have to hear the cry of the Spirit of God in this hour. It is not too late. Whatever we have done, whatever shortcomings we have, let us repent. Let us be washed by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Let us repent of our humanity. Let us repent for anything in it that has determined where we are at or where we have stood but are not willing to go that next step. Give yourself to God. Submit yourself under the mighty hand of God (I Peter 5:6), because He is moving His church, and He has a timetable, and He desires each and every one of us to be in that place. He doesn't want to have any of us found wanting or lacking.

I am telling you today, reject every lie of the enemy that comes to you in condemnation, or whatever it is that would withhold you from receiving everything that God wants to give you. The devil is a liar. Don't let any circumstance or situation stop you from thinking that you can't go over. God could take a paraplegic and take him into the waters beyond where they can go and though they have no physical ability, they can move mountains in the place where they are. What does that speak to you or me that have the ability of the physical functions more than others do? God withholds no good thing from His people, brethren (Psalm 84:11).

He has saved us with His Blood. He has filled us with His Spirit, so that His Spirit would now fill us in our soul so that He can move through us and we can be agents of life, vessels of honor! Hallelujah! I can think of no greater thing than for God to say, "Here is My vessel of honor." I can think of no more shameful thing to say, "Here is My vessel of dishonor. Oh yes, I used him. I used him, but he didn't obey Me. He wasn't a vessel of honor."

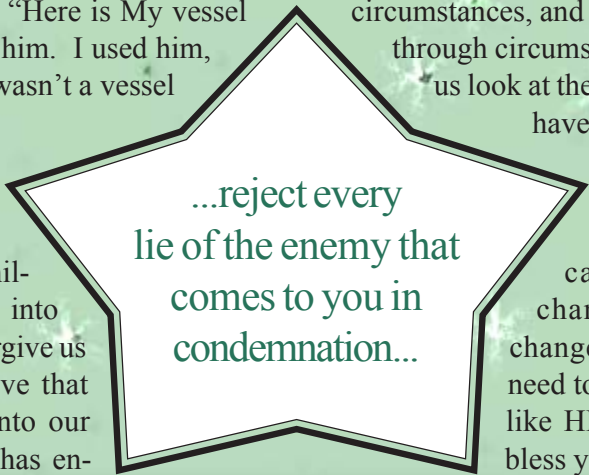
God is requiring obedience and faith. Remember, brethren, that it was because of unbelief that the children of Israel did not enter into the Promised Land. God, forgive us of our lack of faith. Believe that which God has entrusted into our hands. I believe that God has en-

trusted to us, into our hands, the Word of God. What are we going to do with it? How do we assimilate it? What is the outcome of it as we assimilate it? It should produce something in us, shouldn't it? If it is the Word of God, should it not produce the nature of God in us? If it is not fully doing it, there are some problems. I've got to get rid of the problems. I've got to get rid of the blockages. I want the Spirit of God to flow through me: through my mind, my emotions, my will and my desires. I want to be like HIM. "God, grant me the grace to have faith and believe and to trust You in those waters."

Now, remember Peter again. Do you remember when the apostles were out in the sea and the waves came? This is the particular time when Jesus wasn't in the boat, but they looked out and they saw Jesus out there, standing upon the waters in the midst of the storm. Peter said, "Lord, if Thou wilt, let me come out to You." Jesus said, "I will. Come!" (Matthew 14:22-33). He stepped out. He could do it! He stepped out! But, do you know what? He began to see the winds and the storm, and instead of keeping his eyes upon the Lord, he looked upon them and slowly he started to sink. The more he sank, the more he got fearful. He said, "Lord, help me!" Immediately the Lord was there, and the Lord chastised him because he did not keep his eyes on the Lord. He did not believe what God had said He would do.

If God beckons us to come, do you think He is going to let us drown? NO! But He will test us. He will allow the situations to test us to see if we really know what we are saying. "Lord, I'll come if You beckon me." I believe, brethren, if we keep our eyes on Him we will see the fulfillment of it in our lives. He is not going to let us down. We might go through circumstances, and I believe that we will still go through circumstances and situations, but let us look at them in a different way than we have before. Let us look at them

through the eyes of God, and let us allow God to teach us and change us, because we all need to be changed. We all need to be changed, and we know what we need to be changed into. It is to be like HIM. Praise the Lord! God bless you! ☺



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Straight From the Horse's Mouth

By Kate Trotter

I always appreciate when God speaks to me by using the activities of my day. This time we were enjoying a day at a farm in Nebraska when God chose to bring me another lesson. Isn't it interesting that God inserts Himself into our thoughts when and where we least expect it?

We had the distinct pleasure of spending the weekend on a farm not too long ago. My children handled participation in "chore time" with much gusto. When the "work" of the day, which was considered more like entertainment by my children, was completed, it was time for a little horseback riding. This was the long awaited and greatly anticipated moment! Each person had their turn on a horse and when it came to be mine, I sat back and enjoyed the ride. However, the lady of the farm met me when I dismounted and asked me in no joking manner, "Kate Trotter, was that horse trotting because you wanted her to?" Frankly, I had not wanted to trot because it is a most uncomfortable gait, but I had allowed the horse to do as she pleased. So I had to answer, rather sheepishly, that I had let her make the decisions. I had been nervous enough, though not afraid, just to get on the horse when I had ridden so very little in recent past. (I had to overcome my fear of horses in college when my dad had me take an equestrian course to relax! Little did he know...)

Once I had confessed my lack of control over the horse, the most gracious lady led me through an educational talk on the necessity of me being in control of the horse. She explained different ways to show the horse who was in charge and how to prove to the horse that I would not be dominated by her. The instructions were simple and quite straightforward. I could follow them if I put my mind to it.

Then the conversation took a turn when she mentioned two more significant things. The first was that my nature did not seem the type that would naturally take charge to boss the horse. The second was that this scenario parallels our lives as we come into contact with the devil. Will we allow the devil to dominate? He is always coming at another angle, trying to dominate us. It is our job to resist him, to push him back, tell him, "No," and subdue him under our feet. The wheels of my mind began turning at these thoughts and how they applied to my life. I now had to take another ride in order to succeed up on that horse's back. The second time around did not appear anything like the first. There was no trotting and we went where I chose to go, when I chose to go. There were many "opportunities" to remind her who was boss as she was a rather pushy, strong-willed horse. When I dismounted the second time, there was not a need for another instructional

session and I was much pleased for the lesson I was beginning to learn.

This lesson about who will be in control and the reference to my nature was a new thought in my mind and it was greatly reaffirmed to me as it was addressed in the preacher's message that evening! God did not want me to forget what I had begun to learn.

In general, I am a person that likes to follow directions, not give the directions - when it comes to dealing with other people. I don't see myself as a big "risk-taker." If I have to be involved with something like that, let it be someone else who is taking the risk and I will come along with them or behind them. I feel comfort, safety and security knowing that someone is "in charge," and that that "someone" is not ME! There is a different dynamic in my own home, knowing that I am the only one there and I need to be in authority for my children's sake. This has been a long road in learning to be in authority, taking hold of God's authority that He has given me over my children. I also know I am still travelling that road because even yesterday I dropped the reins with my children and it affected us greatly. (There is also the danger of over-controlling situations because of a lack of proper authority being used.)

God seems to be presenting me with some questions. Will I take the proper authority over my life and over the devil? Or, will I continue to let

circumstances dictate to me where I will go, what I will do, how I will react? I must identify which way is God's way and take the authority from Him and apply it to the situation. Who will be in control? If my life were a boat, God must be at the wheel and He must be the power that makes the boat move. If I don't reach for His authority over my life, the devil is going to slip in and push for his authority to be in the place of domination. Without my active searching for God's direction, my "boat" will be floating aimlessly, allowing the wind, waves and storms to be in control of my direction. This I do not want. At this time I see so many examples in my life where I am dealing with this scenario. Am I following Christ or am I floating along just waiting for something to happen or change? What will the outcome be if I am too "nervous" to take control and instead I allow the horse to make all the decisions?


How can I remedy this situation? *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ²My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth* (Psalm 121:1-2). I cannot say that I have all the answers to my dilemma, but I am beginning to see a small portion of it. I know I must seek the Lord for His power, strength and direction to lead my decisions. I must have a firm grasp on His desires for me, for there is where the authority to move comes from. I need to know when God is using another person to help guide me, for it is just too easy for me to give in to any pressure that is exerted upon me. I can not be intimidated by the devil.

Applying these thoughts in my life, both naturally and spiritually, will be an interesting process because it goes against my human nature. Too long I



have let the devil minister to my mind, emotions, will and desires. Now is the time to take the proper dominion over my land and let the Holy Spirit rule and

reign in my life.

As a part of the Body of Christ, I understand that Jesus Christ is the Head and we are the Body. Have we sought for His dominion? If our own heads are making the rules, our beloved Jesus cannot. If the devil is giving the directions, our Jesus certainly is not. Just as I must seek God concerning His authority in my personal life, so also must the Body seek Christ's headship over all of us. We each must do so on an individual basis in order to see it corporately. I am encouraged and strengthened by what God is saying to me about this situation. I pray that I would overcome and be a blessing to the Body! 

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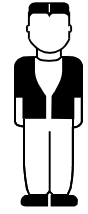
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We ask that every family that attends brings 5 dozen cookies to share. Thank You!



A Perfect Man



by Barak Asbill

March 1st, 2006

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

This evening I would like to speak to you out of II Timothy 2, starting in verse 3. *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* I really can't seem to get away from that passage. I began to seek to understand something about the way that things really are. Now, we are all familiar with the 3 dimensional box, right (see figure A)? You have the natural, the spiritual, and the fullness. When God looks at things, He is not just seeing one particular aspect, like you and I see it. For example, we look out at the natural, and we have to compute what we are looking at. It has to register and then we formulate our thoughts according to what we see, and so on and so forth. We are two-dimensional and sometimes three-dimensional in our thought process and our mode of operation. From God's perspective, He is taking into account all three at the same time. It is more than God's perspective; it is the way that He operates. It is the totality of His personage. While He is overseeing something made manifest in the natural, at the same time He is seeing the spiritual counterpart, or what is working in conjunction with the natural. While those two are moving in a certain direction, He is already seeing the end. He is seeing the accomplishment of that thing.

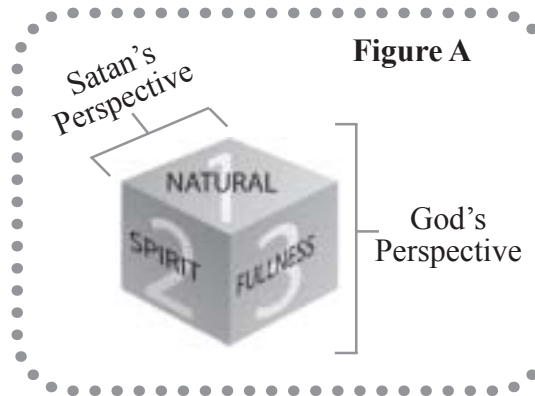
In a sense, we are going to have to retrain our way of thinking. We want to be interested in: "How is God seeing what I am involved in?" "This circumstance that I find myself in the middle of, what is God's perspective on it?" That would give us a "leg up" if we could do that much, because then we would be aligning ourselves with God's perspective, as we move in obedience to it. But on the contrary to God's perspective, we have Satan's perspective, and this really is

also his domain (figure A). It is interesting that in John 4:24 it says, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* So, they that worship Him must likewise be in spirit and truth in order to be compatible. God is Spirit, and in the spirit, we know that we were sold into carnality. We

are carnal but He has a vested interest to see us delivered from carnality and to come into a spiritual reality. Whereas, Satan is a spiritual being, but his vested interest is to see that we remain in carnality. It is so backwards because we know that carnality isn't compatible with a holy and a just God. So, if Satan can keep us in the natural or the first dimension... the

Word says that he is the "prince and the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). So, the natural is his workshop, his domain and the place to which he has been confined. It is the place where he has legal right to rule. While his kingdom is intact, there is a parallel kingdom, God's kingdom, that is sort of running parallel with Satan's kingdom.

While I was driving home from the prison, I was thinking about, "How do you draw that?" We are very much first dimensionally limited most of the time. I believe that the Lord began to give me an understanding with regard to how it works. The Bible says that there are three heavens (see figure B). One of the things about the Bible, and it is interesting to see, is that it says that the "earth abides forever" (Ecclesiastes 1:4). In other words, the idea of the earth being destroyed or vaporized or whatever the possible opinion is, is contrary to scripture. In reality, what is coming to an end is the *aion*, this age (Greek#165). When you look in the Word, in different passages Jesus referred to the end of the world, "Then cometh the end of the world," and the Greek word for *world* in those passages is *aion*, which simply means "the end of the age" or the end of



the timeframe which God allotted to man (Matthew 13:39,40,49; 24:3; 28:20).

It is really rather simple, that in the midst of the earth realm, God put a limit. He created a beginning and that beginning has an end with regard to His plan to fully redeem man and to complete man after His image and His likeness. It is within this timeframe that Satan's domain is ruling the earth. But while Satan is ruling the earth, the parallel existence of heaven is there all along. It is really just a matter of whether you and I are God-conscious pertaining to this realm and the subsequent realms (figure B).

Okay, it says in Ephesians 4:13, ***Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*** I don't think that it is inconsequential that it is talking about Christ's unity in the 13th verse. Thirteen symbolizes the number of rebellion, and there was something that God did at the Tower of Babel when He brought a confusion of the language. Reading that segment of the Bible, one could conclude that unity is something that human beings can achieve with or without God. There is something of a unity, because He said as much. He said that as they set their minds to do it, surely they were going to achieve it (Genesis 11:6). So, God brought a temporary injunction in the realms of humanity and caused separation by the fact that they could not communicate with one another. It was from that point that the world splintered off into the nationalities that we know today, and dividing the nationalities, you get families, and so on and so forth. Now, it is interesting that English is, to an extent, the common language today. Right? Many people learn and study to speak English, and communication is being restored after the similitude of the Tower of Babel.

That wasn't the end of the injunction that God brought. He brought an end to the injunction when He brought the Holy Ghost because He wanted unity after the similitude of His perspective, or the totality of His plan. The unity by the Holy Ghost overrides and supercedes ALL other unity. So, to NOT have the Holy

Ghost puts you at odds with God or OUT of unity with God. Now, it is more than just having the Holy Ghost. You see, one of the problems that the Church has today is that Christianity has been washed out and sold as an accessory as opposed to a necessity. "Are you born again?" "You need to be born again." As if being born again is an accessory to guarantee you some

sort of confidence that when you are all done doing your deeds and serving yourself in this life, "You've got your ticket." I'm sorry to say that was never, ever in the plan of God. His idea is to make all four of these known realms that we know about ONE. ***Till we all come in the unity of the faith...*** (Ephesians 4:13).

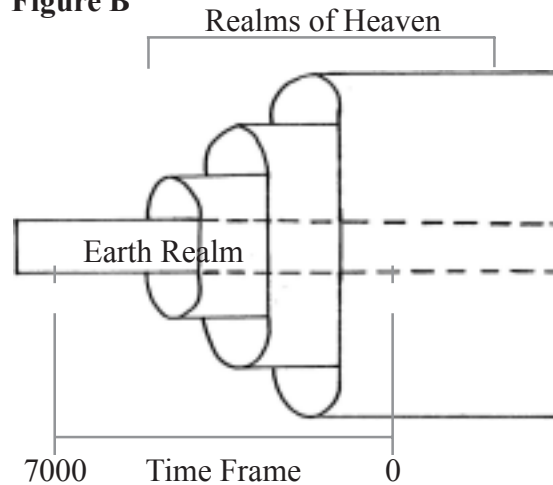
Now, while we remain in the first dimension, carnality, we have little value or little use for faith, even though it is so

much part of our every day operation. I mean, it takes faith to sit down in a chair. You don't think about it, but you believe that the chair is going to hold you. So it is like faith is the power, the bridge... The scripture says, ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*** (Hebrews 11:1). So while we are on earth we don't necessarily see heaven like we see earth, but there is something of a transaction that came from heaven into our hearts that tells us that this is real (figure B). On that basis, we are going to step out into that unknown realm. Where there seems to be no way, we find that our faith creates a way and we get that much closer to this reality (heaven) and have less use for this reality (earth).

It is like growing up. Paul said in I Corinthians 13:11, ***When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*** There comes a point in your life where the things that once enamored you or were precious and dear to you become inconsequential and of little value. Now, before that can happen, there has to be something of a greater value to you than that which you have.

Back in Ephesians 4:13, ***Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the***

Figure B



stature of the fulness of Christ. You see, Jesus said something a couple of times, once in John 14:3 and also in John 3. He made reference in John 14:3, *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* Turn over to John 3 and this kind of speaks more plainly. John 3:12, *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?* ¹³*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.* So, He made two statements that while He was on earth, he was also in heaven (see figure C). Remember now, this all has to do with pleasing Him who hath chosen you to be a good soldier (II Timothy 2:4).

Ephesians 4:13, *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*

Stature, in the natural... I think I'm called 6'1" tall, but there is a spiritual stature that God is looking for in you and me. The Word says of Jesus, *that he might be the firstborn among many brethren* (Romans 8:29). So you can see the comparison! Let's put it in perspective here. This is Jesus, by the way (see figure C). You know, He demonstrated for you and me, for our sakes, so that we know it can be done. Stature - *unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*

There are actually quite a few verses that would define how God would measure stature. The first one that comes to mind is in Matthew 25:21 and the same is said again in verse 23. *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

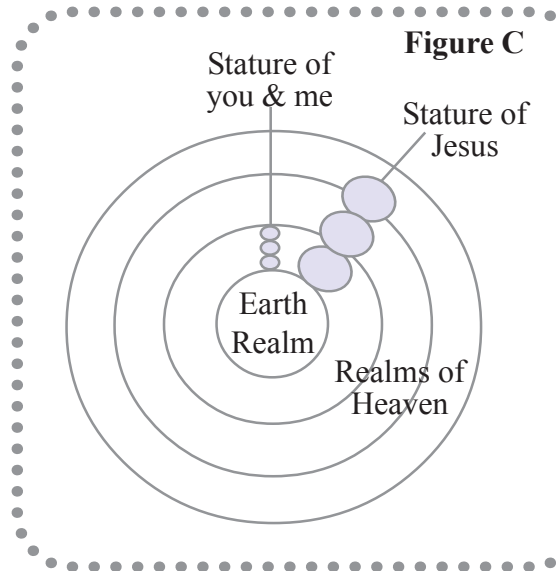
Let's just touch on a few of these. I think John 12:24 is a pretty good one. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.* ²⁵*He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.* Let's look at a couple more just to sub-

stantiate. Matthew 10:39. Actually all of chapter 10 is pretty good but I'll pick out a couple of highlights. Matthew 10:34, *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.* Starting again in verse 37, *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* ³⁸*And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.* ³⁹*He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.* ⁴⁰*He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.* This particular "finding and losing of life" is in there about six times, so you can get out your concordances when you get home and look up each one. We don't have time to get into all of them, but it really sets the criteria with regard to God's perspective on this life that we live here on the earth realm.

What really got me looking into this particular finding and losing of life is the Greek word that is used for "lose" or "to lose." In "He that findeth his life shall lose it," the Greek word is *apollumi* (ap-ol'-loo-mee) (Greek#622). In essence it means, "to fully destroy." If I am not mistaken, this "to fully destroy" applies to both tenses: the seeking for your life and losing it and the losing of your life to find it.

So, if you go back over into John... bear with me, I'm trying to connect the

dots here. We already read John 3:13, so starting in verse 14, *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:* ¹⁵*That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.* The word *perish* is the same word for lose your life and for seeking to save your life. So, if you put those two scriptures together, you can conclude that believing is synonymous with losing your life for His purpose, for His sake. But to seek to save your life is to perish or to not believe in God. To fully bring it out, let's go back to Ephesians 4. Ephesians 4:13, *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the*



fulness of Christ. I really believe that knowledge has everything to do with the realms of heaven, or God. You know, God and heaven are synonymous and Jesus was the living demonstration of the living bread, or what we call *rhema*. In John 6:35 it says, *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* ³⁶*But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.* ³⁷*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* ³⁸*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* ³⁹*And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.* ⁴⁰*And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

So, we have knowledge of the Son of God and I

believe that John chapter 6 is a good chapter that explains what that knowledge is. He demonstrated it! He was and is *Rhema* and that *Rhema* had a specific objective, in that it was to be distributed to the partakers, that the partakers might also be partakers of the sum total of the knowledge.

Hallelujah! So, if you will turn your Bible back over to Ephesians 1:10, *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.* You know, it is interesting that throughout the Bible, God has demonstrated Himself as a three part being, three dimensions of Himself. As you get into the New Testament, He begins to speak of a new dimension, or a "Fourth Dimension." "That He might gather together in one all things **IN Christ**, both which are **IN heaven**, and which are **ON earth**, even **IN HIM.**"

Praise the Lord! ☺

Christianity today has been washed out and sold as an accessory as opposed to a necessity.

It's a **BOY!** It's a **BOY!** It's a **BOY!**

It's a **B** Paul and Pavlina Davis are very happy to announce the much anticipated arrival of their son! **Christopher**

O David was born Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at 3:58pm. He was 8 lbs. 4 oz., and 21 inches long. He has dark wavy hair and chubby cheeks! Mommy is recovering well, and they are all very blessed at God's goodness toward them.

A

It's a BOY! **It's a BOY!** **It's a BOY!**



Ask

Seek



Knock

A Bible Study
by Mrs. Terry Smith



Matthew 7:7-8, *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

When I was listening to this scripture the other day, I was quickened by the Spirit to check and see what I was saying. Especially the knock, because I knew Jesus knocked on my heart, but I didn't know that I was to knock to God. I also didn't know what God meant to knock to God.

As soon as I got a chance, I began reading the verses again, and asking God to clarify to me what He means by "to him that knocketh it shall be opened," and what it was that would be opened.

Here is a quick run down on ask and seek – just so that we can get to **knock**. I hope you don't mind, and I hope you go search on your own to be sure that these things are true.

Ask - Hebrew #7592 sha'al: *ask, enquire, desire, require, borrow, salute, demand, lent, request, earnestly, beg.* Greek #154 aiteo: *of uncertain derivation; to ask (in genitive case):—ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require.*

This is the verse that came to mind, which is referring to "asking God," not man. Isaiah 45:11, *Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.*

Note in Isaiah that "ask" is parallel to "command." I found that interesting, as we have been given all the weapons. It seemed that ask is as a child, and with the maturity comes the knowing of what and how to command.

Seek - Greek #2212 zeteo: *seek, seek for, go about, desire.* Hebrew #1875 darash: *seek, enquire, require; search;* and Jeremiah 29:13 - baqash - Hebrew #1245 - *seek, require, desire, exact, request; seek out; inquisition; procureth.*

These two scriptures come to mind referring to seeking God, along with Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* Job 5:8, *I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause.* Jeremiah 29:13, *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

Now, in Jeremiah we are instructed to seek the Lord with all our heart, and in Matthew we are instructed to seek the Kingdom of God first. These both are talking about the same thing, because when you have something as a priority in your life/mind/soul/heart, it is above other lesser things. Whatever is first on your list of priorities is what you will be loving the most, spending the most time with, learning about the most, thinking about the most. If your first priority is the kingdom of God and its King, Jesus Christ our Lord, then you will be seeking first the Kingdom of God and obeying Matthew 6:33 and Jeremiah 29:13 and Job 5:8 and many other verses as well. *Seek* is an active verb which does not give up its search easily. **Seeking the Lord** is something we are told to do throughout the scriptures "continually; with all thy heart; to set your heart on; to gather together for; and it is considered evil **not** to seek the Lord." I Chronicles 28:28-29 will tell the blessing and the curse of not seeking the LORD or being lazy and waiting for HIM to do all the work - when He has given you the weapons to learn how to use for yourself:

I Chronicles 28:8-9, *Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.* ⁹ *And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and 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.*

Okay, now we are ready to see what to knock means. Knock, knocked, knocketh, is only one time in the Old Testament and that is in the verse of Song of Solomon 5:2. Knock (4), knocked (1), knocketh (4), is only in the Bible 9 times. Here are the Hebrew/Greek meanings of the words.

Knocketh (Hebrew #1849) daphaq: *to beat, drive severely; to knock, to beat violently; to overdrive; to press severely.*

Knock, knocketh, knocked (Greek #2925) Krouo: *to knock: at the door.*

First let's look at the scripture in Revelation that tells us that Jesus Christ will knock to us. Revelation 3:20, *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.* Now, let's look at the only scripture in the Old Testament that contained knock in any form and see what it is saying to us. Song of Solomon 5:2, *I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.* Now remember, in the Hebrew #1849 it meant *to beat; drive severely; beat violently; overdrive; press severely*, all of which are more than normal actions; they are all extreme actions.

The dictionary definition for *over* is (*prefix*) *too much, or excessively added to base word.* *Over: to a position above; above in position or rank; passing across or beyond.* Drive: *to force to go; to force into or from a state or act; to force to work - especially to excess; to hit hard; to make penetrate; to control the movement of; to push through; to advance violently; to try hard - as to reach a goal; to drive a blow; to operate or go in; ²to round up animals; ³a strong impulse or urge; a propelling mechanism of a machine; to force in by a blow; to cause to score [as an athlete].* Thesaurus for *over*: *aloft; overhead, up beyond; upper, higher, farther up; higher up in the clouds/*

stars/heavens; superior; having authority; done/over/finished/accomplished. Drive: *to urge on; impel; egg on; urge on; compel; coerce; induce; force; press; hurry; provoke; arouse; make; put up to; inspire; prompt; rouse; work on; act upon; encourage; push.* Anti: *stop; hinder; drag; walk; crawl; stay.* Doesn't the *anti* definition remind you of what we have learned that the adversary tries to do to us - to stop us or to slow us down, or to distract us????

Okay, one more word that the Hebrew word used that should be checked out also. Press: *to act on with steady force or weight; push against; squeeze; compress; to iron; to embrace closely; to force; to compel; to urge persistently; to entreat; to try to force; to emphasize; ²crushing; stamping; pressing; printing; (pressing the wrinkles out of our garments; having the Word written in our hearts; being sealed in our foreheads;) ³to force into service; (into the service of the LORD?).*

What do these all make me think of? What do all these definitions make you think of? Ask, seek, knock; we are told to do these in the scripture by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and we are told 3 times. There is something very necessary within the commands that are told us three times - isn't there? Doesn't three times mean that we better pay attention?

Ask is not very hard, as Matthew 7:11 says, *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?* (If we are commanded not to worry about what to eat, what to wear, etc., He must be speaking of spiritual gifts, not natural, as He is caring for our natural needs all the time.)

Seek is a bit different than our English interpretation of "look with your eyes and then wait for it to fall in your laps," or, "go check on the desk, and if it isn't there look in your cupboard." Isn't that what the Outer Court taught us? If that is the thinking in the Outer Court, that fact in itself should quicken us to know that it is not right. If it were what the Lord means, wouldn't they be in the Holy Place instead of the Outer Court? There must be some difference in the thinking and the application of the Word and its commands that separate the Outer Court Christian and the Holy Place Christian. If the Holy Place Christian is where we are striving to be, we should have been obeying the Holy Spirit and becoming cleansed of the blockages and the ancestral items that the newly saved Christian perhaps has not dealt with yet.

In studying these words, I have found that the whole

idea of just coasting along in our love of God and in our peace of God and waiting for Him to fulfill all of the scriptures in us at His perfect time. I find all of that **strain** of thinking to be rampant in the Babylonish Systems around us. They are not pressing in. They are just waiting for God to do it all in a moment or in a rapture when they should be seeking the Lord to get oil in their vessels for the dark hour when it will be needed.

By the way, *strain* means **to pass through a filter to remove some of its content**. That is exactly what erroneous doctrine does. Every bit of truth that comes into a vessel blocked with a false doctrine, that truth will have to pass through the blockage before it can be received by the vessel. Then the vessel will only receive part (if any) of that truth, because it has been filtered and strained through the erroneous doctrines that have been blocking the vessel. (You could say blinding and hardening instead of blocking.)

For example, when I was a Catholic years ago, I was taught that only Catholics go to heaven. I often wondered why the other people who seemed so nice and good would not be able to go to heaven, and the “nasty” Catholic boys would get to go to heaven? It was illogical and really didn’t seem to make much sense. But because I had a false doctrine of who goes to heaven and why, I could not see or understand anything that did not agree with this deception I grew up with... that is, until I was set free from that false doctrine by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Now we can understand the error of such a doctrine and we can now see it has no validity in the scripture. It also helps us love and want to pray for those who are locked in to a doctrine that is robbing them of a relationship with God. They don’t even realize that some erroneous doctrine is keeping them from the truth. Lord have mercy!

In searching these words I also have seen the needs and responsibilities of the sons of God stressed over and over, bringing confirmation and clarity to the urges and instruction of the ministration of the God to us through His five-fold ministry.

We have been/are being fed by the Master’s hand through the five-fold ministry. Did you know that? That is why the scripture instructs to receive the words of a prophet as “**from the Lord**” in the prophet and you will receive a prophet’s reward. Receive the word of the apostle as “**from the Lord**” in the apostle, and you will receive an apostle’s reward (Matthew 10:41). I am paraphrasing a bit by adding “**from the Lord**”, but isn’t that what the five-fold ministry brings us? The Word that the Lord God gives them to feed and

sustain the Body of Christ?

We are being fed by the Master’s hand. If you have not realized that, please go over the scriptures and see what we are advised concerning the words of God’s ministration. Be ye a hearer of the Word and a **doer** also. If we hear the Word and just have it intellectually, because that is the hard way that they are to find God, and think that our own way of reaching God is so much easier, we are deceiving ourselves and being hearers of the Word and not doers of the Word, thus we cannot receive the blessings of the apostle or the prophet, or the righteous man, as that would require us to also become a doer of the Word that you hear. That is like saying, “Oh, God, I am so glad that I am not a sinner like that one. I read my scripture every day. I say my prayers every day. I am so wonderful!” Isn’t that what he was saying? No humility, no meekness, no penitence, no love, no regard for others that are not just like he is...

Thank goodness we are all learning how **not** to be like the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Thank goodness God has been very clear in His words to us that we are called to SONSHIP. We are to be removing the remnants of Babylon (Sadducees-ism and Pharisee-ism) that is within the fiber of our beings.

I pray that the Lord would help us all to see what He is seeing, what He is thinking, what He is desiring, in every Word that we hear, or read, or give.

Back to **Knock**. What does God mean when He tells us to **knock**? How do I knock to God? *Knock* is not at all what I had previously thought. “**Knock**” on the door is not really having much effort, and it requires a little bit of action. But I was really blessed and excited when I found out that *knock* is **going into OVER DRIVE !!!!** What amazed me was that the **only** Hebrew verse that had any form of *knock* was the verse that gave me **overdrive** as a definition in my Strong’s concordance. I really had to ask God, “Didn’t anyone knock in the Old Testament?” Think about it. Most of the normal, not rich people in the Old Testament lived in tents, or booths, or something pretty portable. Anyway, there is no need to knock on a tent or a booth. Right? You all probably knew all of this before, didn’t you? Nevertheless, the fact that any form of the word *knock* was in the Old Testament was a real blessing because all the other definitions in the New Testament were “to knock on a door,” which didn’t begin to tell me the Hebrew explanation of *overdrive*.

Boy! I was so excited when the word was being defined as *overdrive*. I had to ask my husband to explain *overdrive* to me. All I knew was that overdrive is what gear you put your car in when you are having

trouble climbing up a hill. (Hmmm! Climbing up the mountain!) We are all trying to climb up the mountain. I'm praying for clarity on how to get my vessel into higher gear, and I'm sure you all are also.

We have all heard the explanation of "asking repeatedly" to be how we *knock* to God. We become the nagging woman at the door of the Judge. Not to disregard the fact that there are times when we need to ask until we see the deliverance break through. Please don't misunderstand me. With this verse, somehow, I didn't feel quite right about that explanation. We want to be sons of the Judge, not a nagging child. How about you? There's the answer! Children do nag their parents. We are to lay aside our childish things and become mature sons in Christ. There is quite a difference between nagging a father as a little child and discussing it with your father as a matured son, isn't there? (Again, the separating factor from children to maturity.)

How does a son *knock* to His Father? Well, that brings to mind the scripture of Isaiah 45:11, as discussed earlier. Note in Isaiah that *ask* is parallel to *command*. I found that interesting, as we have been given all the weapons. It seemed that *ask* is as a child, and with the maturity comes the knowing of what and how to command. The "teknon" child; and the "huios" son.

There is also another thought about all of this that I can't help but think of. I'm really outside of the box this time. Please join me...

God has given us all the authority and power that He had as Jesus Christ on this terra firma. We have to believe this. We have to walk in it. We have to have faith and hope and trust that it is true. We step out in faith with this power and authority and do as He leads us - knowing by faith and trust and believing in Him that it is accomplished. Right? We have been given the tools, the equipment, all the necessary ingredients, right? We exercise our faith, trust, hope, belief, and it is accomplished, right? (John 1:12). Whose power and authority? God's power and God's authority and God's glory!!!!

Perhaps this is knocking and it will be opened unto us is the same way? As I strive to have God first and

foremost in my mind, will, desires, emotions, heart, and being, and exercise everything the five-fold ministration of the Lord brings to me, audible or written, (discerning to feed on only Christ, not other items) perhaps this knocking is not a rapping type of knocking at all, but a pressure and a force from deep within our beings that is striving to move into "**OVER DRIVE.**"

Even though the scripture commands us to "knock" and it shall be opened, we are also told by Paul that an entrance into Christ shall be opened unto us. Is "in Christ" the entrance that will be opened to us? We are also told many ways in the "Living Word" of our Lord, that the place we need to be is abiding in HIM. Perhaps to *knock* is not at all rapping, but the **responsibility of each believer** who wants to become God's son (John 1:12, I John 3:2). Advance violently toward God. Drive a blow to reach the goal of the race we are running to win in Christ. Round up the animals (in our souls so to speak; to command deliverance from the ancestral and familial). Regain our earth (in our souls). **Press** into Christ (Hebrews 12:1). Iron out all the wrinkles the Holy Spirit shines His light on in our souls (Ephesians 5:27). Go that extra mile in your searching of the Scriptures, and look in your concordance and your dictionary to actually better understand what God means (John 5:39, Acts 17:11). Go that extra mile with your brother, neighbour, friend, spouse, or children, and love them (Matthew 5:41). Rejoice in your tribulation (John 16:33, Acts 14:22, Romans 5:3). Rejoice in your infirmities (II Corinthians 12:9). Apply the law of Life and liberty in Christ over the law of sin and death. Become that "Living Word" that we are reading and let our flesh become His Word.

I would really be happy to hear what the Lord would share or correct concerning this word, as I am aware that I am stepping out of the box and the path was not there until I placed my foot upon it. I love you all. I am asking God to help me get into my personal "overdrive." I think the Body of Christ will be in this "gear" when it comes together completely.

Let the Good Shepherd urge us, as His sheep, up to higher ground. Let the Good Shepherd urge us all into HIS meaning of "**OVER DRIVE.**" 🙏

Ask ~ Seek ~ Knock

God's Handiwork in Ukraine



by
Tim Culver

One Week After the Trip

My mother's Persimmon Raisin Cookies are very good! I'm sitting here eating them right now with a much better understanding of how blessed I am. There are so many things that I've taken for granted, treating them as common. I've undervalued my calling and election in God, I've treated the older men and women of God around me with a much too commonplace attitude. Having been given a good job, having my own apartment, placed in a fellowship that is seeking the fullness of Christ, able to move and work with the body of Christ everyday, my response has been too common, too easy! It was in a homely, chilly, antique-looking apartment with no hot water and a view of identical-looking complexes on either side that God began to bring home to me the value of what I've been given. I began to repent of my arrogant, self-important attitude and approach to the things of God. It's

not about what I am going to get out of God, it's about what He is going to get out of me. And if He (God) is going to get any honor from my life and if my walk is going to be from faith to faith (Romans 1:16-17), it is going to have to be His way. Not Tim's way, with lip service for God, but obedience in the deep part of my heart, where those idols of self hide behind desires and are wrapped up in my emotions with a religious garment. So, I began to repent in the tiny apartment looking out upon the neighborhood boys playing in an old, rusted-out playground. I am having a much better understanding of the rarity of being raised in a God-fearing home with love and security.

Two Weeks After the Trip

Going to a post-Communist country gave me a good look into the foolishness of man. It opened my eyes to the complete inability of the mind of man to produce anything beautiful, lasting and pleasant outside of Christ. I saw apartment complexes 5 to 20 stories high lining each side of the road.

They were all the same, all carrying a morbid look of hopelessness. The faces of the people were one of two extremes. Either they were happily enjoying themselves with loved ones outside or very serious and downtrodden. And in looking back at my time there, and seeing the condition of the people and the country, I see my need for more repentance and change. I see the total foolishness of my own mind, the tendency that it has to try and produce something beautiful, lasting and pleasant outside of Christ. It can't happen, and it won't happen unless I totally surrender everything of

Tim. Yes, Tim is the problem; he tries to use his own mind to impose a governmental way of thinking for his life. I try to make my world and the things in my world submit to my perspective, using my logic. It won't work, it will never produce the beautiful, lasting, pleasant fruit of righteousness in my life, nor in the lives of those around me. It will only leave a void of my inactivity with the body of Christ, a bad taste in the mouth of everyone that I hold dear and all the while will be fooled by the devil that I have the right perspective with the solution. Wrong thought, wrong theology, wrong government!!! The Communist attitude is really a theology or doctrine that wants to dominate our lives. It is anti-Christ and self-deifying, putting the government of self-reliance in the place of God. That is the essence of what Communism does. It puts the state in the place of God, and that brings forth death! They decide the rights of the citizens, they list the expectations, they assign the jobs, they, at any time, reserve the right to change, alter or

make any arbitrary decision based on their opinion or gut feeling. This is Adamic, this is anti-Christ and I am repenting because it is also the same cancer that I find warring in my members. In Communist countries, people are killed without the government feeling a need for explanation or accountability. Oh, Jesus! How I often fall into this same trap! Save my soul and heal every wound that my Communist attitude has touched.

There was a sister in the fellowship there who had been a part of an underground fellowship during the time of the Communists. Because of her decision to be with the people of God and to share the love of Christ, by that demonstration she was banned from having a good job, banned from going on to higher education and her daily food rations were severely decreased. But this is Adamic and carnal and in all of our hearts. The root of all of this from the Communists is insecurity. They fear the power of God and any common ground that people might have in a church, because the power of Christ comes to make us overcomers, and become more confident in who we are in Christ, so that we may rise into the life-giving position that God desires for every man and woman to enter into. Christ is life, Christ is love, Christ is security, trust, affirmation, comfort and steadfastness, all of which I receive as my Communist walls of defense are brought down.

I thank the Spirit of the living God, the Body of Christ and the steadfast relationships that have not left me to sink in my humanity. The Spirit of God calls upon me to give of myself, die to my perspective, surrender my questions about the method God has chosen for my deliverance, rest in His promises, and allow the love of Christ to flow freely through me without reserva-

tion. I am trusting that He is at work, setting the table for all of the righteous fruit of the Spirit to come forth from my life, feeding and blessing everyone, so that one day I, too, can laugh as Sarah laughed, beholding the provision of God and the fulfillment of every promise! No matter what perspective of self or propaganda hell shouts in my ear, my words and attitude will only demonstrate the unconditional love of God.

General Trip Summary

It was a very blessed time for me in the Ukraine. It was a tremendous blessing to have the brethren from the Czech Republic there. Brother Martin and Sister Kristyna with little Kristina, Johanna, and Joshua were there, and also Brother George with Sister Eva and Lucy, Esther and Veronica. I never really had the opportunity to get to know them and it was so joyous to be with them and their families, being able to watch and listen. Our evenings were often spent sitting around a tiny table late into the night, after the meetings, where I was able to listen to the discussions about the meetings and just enjoy getting to know some new faces. The brethren in the Ukraine are doing well. They all seemed very healthy, alive and very happy to see us. I had heard about Brother Maxim and Sister Irene but getting to meet them was more of a blessing than I could have imagined. One day Maxim took off half a day from work as we meet together at their apartment where Irene had made a delicious meal, and that special time together I will never forget. Because of the warmth and love that they extended toward us, it will be unforgettable.

They have a farm there, also,

and I found myself back among a patch of potatoes, planting. There the people almost have to have a little garden or something to give them that extra amount of food for the winter. So, everywhere we looked, people were weeding, hoeing, tilling and planting. It was amazing how many places and how tiny a place they would choose to garden at. Often it was just a spot along the side of the road, or a little piece of ground outside of their massive apartment buildings. And yes, if you want to live in the Ukraine, you'll probably find yourself in an apartment. They seemed to be everywhere, and big! The town had a population of 350,000, all tightly fitted and squeezed into a town built by the Communists. The town of Revno was originally built upon a swamp, but it had been re-engineered to support the larger city that it is today.

Our meetings were very good, with an emphasis upon teaching the foundational principals of the Kingdom of God. The words that came forth were along the lines of the Body of Christ and how to get into Christ, the 3 1/2 years of great tribulation, and what our destination is. It was all very encouraging and faith building. The attendance at the meetings were always very high, with the whole building filled with people. So everyone who prayed for us while we were away know that God met us and brought the people to the dining table.

There is still much that God wants to do in the Ukraine, and we should be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit to pray for those who are there. It can be very isolating when you are far from other fellowships and interaction in Christ. But God has met them and He will continue to meet with them to bring them into the fullness of Christ. God bless you. ✨



Book Nook

written by Stacy Asbill on

George Müller

by Roger Steer

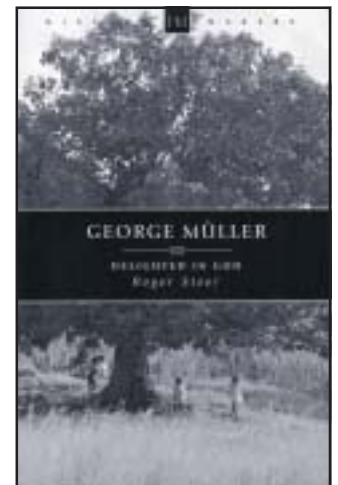
Have you ever heard about one of the saints of old, and then had the opportunity to read and discover for yourself the preciousness of their life? This has happened to me many times and it is always such a blessing. I have just recently had the privilege to read about George Mhller and have found out what a dear brother in the Lord that this man was. The book entitled, *George Mhller*, by Roger Steer was donated to our Mahomet fellowship library and when I saw it laying on our bulletin room counter, I immediately picked it up to find out who exactly he was and what he did. I discovered that this book wonderfully highlights the life of a man who gave all for the calling and election of Christ Jesus.

George Mhller was born and raised in Germany but the early part of his life was not spent serving the Lord. In fact, young George caused his parents, who were in a respectable social standing, no small concern. At the age of twenty, George Mhller had a salvation experience that set him on the path of finding God's will for his life. He moved to England several years later with the intent of learning English and working with the London Society of Promoting Christianity to the Jews. However, as time went on, Mhller began to receive invitations to preach and things began to change for him spiritually, too. This change he described as a "second conversion," and said, "...it came with me to an entire and full surrender of heart. I gave myself fully to the Lord. Honor, pleasure, money, my physical powers, my mental powers, all was laid down at the feet of Jesus, and I became a great lover of the Word of God. I found my all in God..." It was at this point that George Mhller believed that God had called him to preach the gospel. He was not content to wait until he received the commendation of the Society to begin his work and he was also not willing to be bound by their rules that would restrict his times of ministry to only the Jewish people. Mhller felt called to all who would desire the gospel of Christ.

As time went on, George Mhller married. Although he received a salary from the church he ministered in, both he and his wife agreed that they would release the church

from their financial obligation towards them and, from that point on, they would look to God for their every need. They would never discuss their needs with others but would go to God with their requests. This was a principle that they carried with them throughout their entire lives and it is phenomenal to read about how miraculously God moved on their behalf time and time again.

In the early 1830's, George Mhller began to feel the burden for that which he is probably most famously known and that is for the orphans of England. This was before the publication of *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens which told of the deplorable plight of orphaned children in England at that time. In the 1830s there were only a dozen orphanages in the whole of England. These orphanages were small and run on "subscriptions." Essentially a child had to receive financial backing and recommendation from a wealthy sponsor in order to be permitted into the orphanage. These restrictions resulted in multitudes of children being left homeless, destitute, and having to turn to thievery and prostitution in order to survive. The magnitude of this problem was felt heavily by George Mhller and he pursued with all of his heart to somehow remedy this situation. The book goes into detail in how God moved to provide and establish, ultimately, five orphanage homes in which they were able to take in two thousand children at a time. Many times God would miraculously move on behalf of George Mhller and the orphans in his care. In fact, one time there wasn't any food to feed the children for breakfast. Mr. Mhller had the children sit down at the table and they began to pray. Just then the milkman stopped by and said that his transportation had broken down and he had all this milk... could they perhaps use it so that it wouldn't spoil? The next

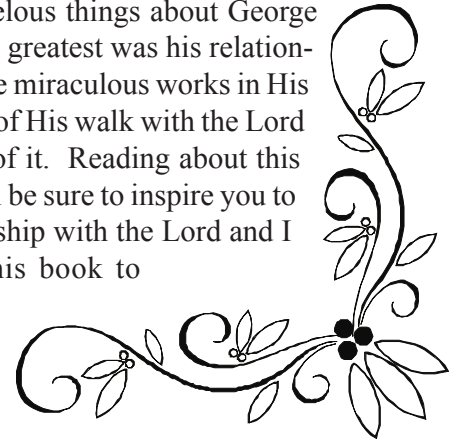
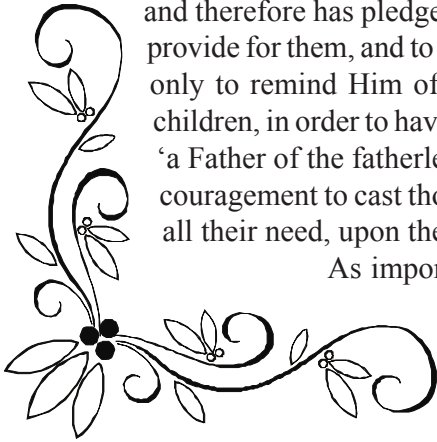


knock on the door was from the baker. He said that he had woken up at two in the morning with the impression that the orphanage needed bread and so he had been baking bread since then for their breakfast.

Of his faith in God to trust Him to provide for the orphans and their needs, George Mhller said, "By the help of God shall this be my argument before Him respecting the orphans in the hour of need. He is their Father, and therefore has pledged Himself, as it were, to provide for them, and to care for them; and I have only to remind Him of the need of these poor children, in order to have it supplied... The word 'a Father of the fatherless' contains enough encouragement to cast thousands of orphans, with all their need, upon the loving heart of God."

As important as it was to Mhller to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the orphans, there was

an equally important reason that he felt led to establish these orphanages: George Mhller wanted to demonstrate to the world that there is reality in the things of God. I would have to say that this thought probably sums up the whole of his life and that is the demonstrating of the reality of God and His spiritual principles over the naturalness of this life. You will read numerous accounts that will inspire you as to the faithfulness of God to His own. Of all the marvelous things about George Mhller and his life, the greatest was his relationship with the Lord. The miraculous works in His life were a by-product of His walk with the Lord and not the sum total of it. Reading about this brother in the Lord will be sure to inspire you to have a greater relationship with the Lord and I highly recommend this book to anyone who desires to be blessed! ❧



In Memory Of...

Jack Michael Schneider, Leander Peter Herrig & Mary Ludwina Herrig

Our condolences are extended to Brother George Herrig and Sister Carol Waddick, along with their entire family, on the passing of their father, Leander Peter Herrig on Sunday morning, June 4th, 2006. Their mother, Mary Ludwina Herrig passed away on Wednesday afternoon, June 13th, 2006 and joined her husband in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. They appreciate all the prayers and loving support of the brethren.



We praise and honor our Lord for taking Mr. Jack Michael Schneider home to be with Him on Sunday evening, May 28th, 2006. Brother Peter Schneider led his father to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and he was very blessed to see his peace as he entered the heavenly realms. Our prayers are with the entire Schneider family.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die... A time to weep, and a time to laugh... Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 4

...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Job 1:21