

# 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 1:27*

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### *Meeting Times*

*Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 AM*

*Wednesday Evenings @ 7:00 PM*

### *Prison Ministry*

#### *Danville*

*Every Monday Night &*

*Sundays the 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Taylorville ~ Every Tuesday Night*

### *Cleaning Schedule*

*July 7<sup>th</sup>: Conference*

*- no cleaning crew*

*July 12<sup>th</sup>: Helping Hands*

*July 19<sup>th</sup>: Becky & Mederana*

*July 26<sup>th</sup>: Jim & Betty*

We gladly usher in another season of summer with our July edition of the K.J.V. bulletin! Inside you will find many articles and testimonies that we believe will bless and encourage you. There are times in our lives when we need the word of God to lift us up and strengthen us. It is definitely a huge encouragement to think about the love that God has for you and I. Inside these pages are words that touch on that perfect love of God. As people that have a desire to go onward and upward in the things of the Lord, it is important to hold onto our First Love in Jesus Christ. He most assuredly sees us in a different light than we often see ourselves, and in spending time with Him, in dwelling on everything that He has done for us, in our time of digesting His Word and communing with Him in prayer, let us lay hold of those precious promises that He wants us to receive, amen! If you have anything to submit to our magazine, please feel free to send it to:

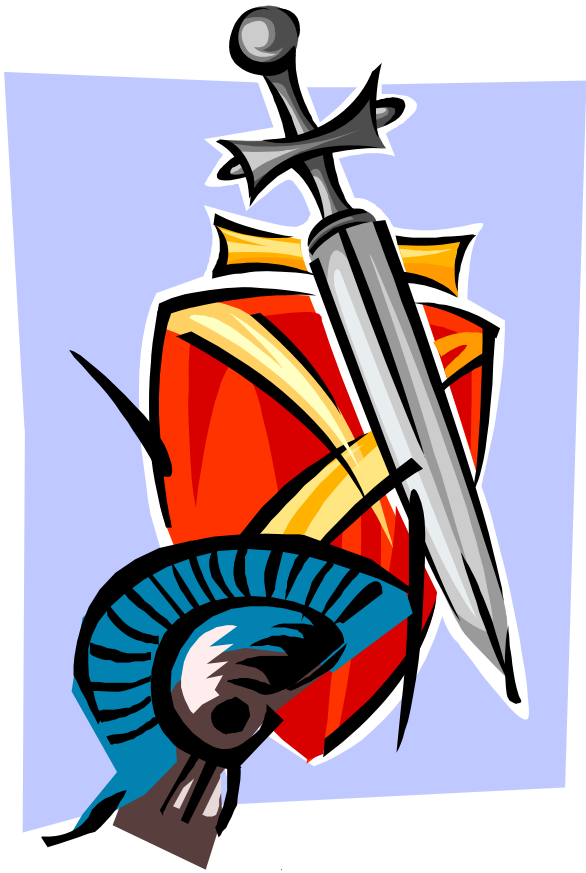
*News Bulletin PO Box 409  
Mahomet, IL 61853*

*or*

*KJVBulletin@truevine.net*

## *July 2008*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



# Battle against the devil

Cecil J. duCille

This message was given at the Czech Republic during the evening session on September 29, 2007

Thank you. Praise God. We have to thank God for this message. This morning, Satan has been fighting very much for this message. One computer went out completely and God Almighty has helped us to resurrect another one that we haven't used for over a year. We are thanking God, therefore, for every one of you who have survived until this time when we are coming to the close of the convention. We believe that God has something special for us tonight and we pray that we will hear the voice of God. It might well be God's will that you do not see me, but you can see Jesus. Let us therefore look at Jesus as we go into the Word of God tonight.

We want to touch on various subjects that came up in the convention and bring them down to one point that Jesus Christ wants to bring all of us. I am reminded of the picture of the sun and the stars that our Brother Kluson put on the board. I am reminded of the scriptures where God says that He will gather all together in the heavenlies and on earth into one *IN* Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Therefore, the meeting place is in Christ and as soon as we get into Christ we are very close to all those who are in Christ.

The light of the sun is a type of the glory of God and this is the thing that makes us one. In John 17:5 and 22, the Lord said, "I will give them the glory that we had from the beginning before the world was, that they may be one." Therefore, it is the glory of God or the *anointing* that makes us one. It doesn't matter how many words we say, but if the anointing isn't moving up and down through the hearts of the brethren, then we are not one.

We, therefore, ask at this moment that the living God would spread His anointing all over the whole gathering and all those who are hearing my voice at this time. This anointing is not a feeling, it is a presence. When Adam walked with God in the garden he could feel the presence of God and the day he sinned he lost that presence.

Now, I want to talk to you about the battle in which we are involved, the warfare in which we are now involved with Satan. I want to show you how there is a change in the warfare, a change that Satan has made in order to be able to attack us on a higher level. When the sons of God begin to rise above the level of earth, Satan cannot attack them very well. Therefore, in order to attack us he is now getting up higher where we are.

I want us to begin to read the Scripture in Ephesians 6:10, *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.* <sup>11</sup>*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* <sup>12</sup>*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* <sup>13</sup>*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* <sup>14</sup>*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;* <sup>15</sup>*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* <sup>16</sup>*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* <sup>17</sup>*And take the*

**helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

The Word of God is reminding us that no man can go into battle without armor and survive. Moreover, He tells us to remember that we are not fighting against human beings, but that we are in a wrestling match against princes and against their whole area of rulership.

When the equipment began to give us trouble, I began to pray before God. What came to me was that Satan is the prince of the power of the air. The word *air*, natural air that we breathe, is the natural thing, but the *airwaves* are more spiritual than the air. As you continue to study your Bible you realize that when the Lord said that we will rise up to meet Him in the air, He is speaking about a realm where Satan rules, which is higher, a higher level than the realm of earth.

So, then, it would appear from the Word that we will have to drive Satan out of the air, out of the higher level on which he wars against us, and capture that level to become overcomers. Somebody might think that I am not saying the things scripturally. Let us read the scriptures as we go on. Every point I bring I want to bring the scriptures to back up that point.

Let us look at Revelation 12:7. We are just going to prove this point from the Word of God here. ***7And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*** This is saying that there was no more place found in the air. The word *air* refers to a realm where Satan dwells. There was no more place found for him there. ***9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

He was cast out into the earth and his angels were cast out with him. It is very important for you to understand, brethren. ***10And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of***

***our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.***

Now, let us just take a little look at what we are hearing here, that there was war in heaven. Last night, and the day before yesterday, we established the fact that the heaven that is mentioned here is speaking about

the church realm, where we are. But God is saying that there is no place here for carnal Christians because the devil will be put back in his place. He will be cast out of the heavenlies and back into the earth realm so that the carnal man is going to get terribly hit by Satan. The scriptures tell us that it will be the earth realm, so that means that it is not just the sinners that are going to be hit, but carnal Christians who remain in the Outer Court will be shut outside of the wedding feast. The wedding feast represents a higher realm in Christ. As those stars begin to go into the light, they will be pulled into a oneness with the Son, who is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us look back at Revelation 12:1, ***And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:***

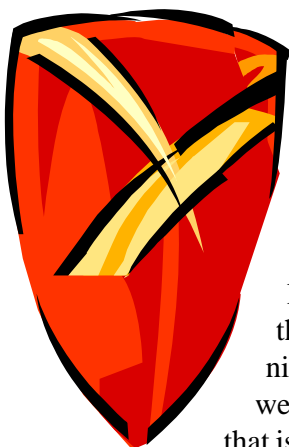
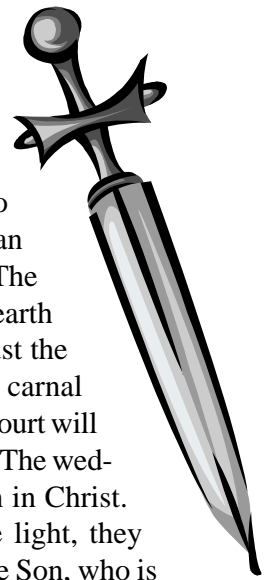
The Word of God tells us that there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, black or white, that there is no difference in Christ (Galatians 3:28). But then in this chapter it tells that there was a woman in heaven. Let me pause here again to get to another scripture which proves this before we go any further. Let us go to Ephesians 3:8-10. Paul is speaking. ***8Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;***

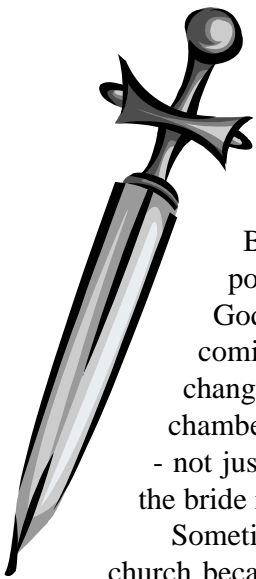
At this point I want to encourage some of you whom Satan has been telling that you are not good, that you are not as good as the other Christians and he slanders you. When Satan slanders the person of God to himself, he gets the child of God down by telling him lies. Paul is saying to you, "You can't be less than I was." It said he was a murderer, a killer that killed Christians. The worst kind of killer is the one who kills Christians. He said, "You can't be worse than I was and God cleansed me and gave me the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus."

***9And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.***

So, then, you can see that what we are showing you here is the church. The picture that you are looking at in Revelation 12 is a picture of the church as a woman and having the crown of the 12 stars, the 12 tribes of Israel. God has given you a place in Israel that is in His Son.

Revelation 12:2, ***And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*** Now, some





of us are pregnant but we don't know it. God says that at the end of time the church would be pregnant with another church. He said that He would call this church "the manchild." Every church in the Bible typology coming right on to this point has been described as a woman. God is trying to tell us that a change is coming and we must be prepared for this change. When the bride went into the bride chamber she came out as a different person - not just the bride anymore, but Christ and the bride in one.

Sometimes we look at the weakness of the church because we are right in the midst of it.

When we see the weakness of the church it becomes so big before our eyes that we cannot see the glory of God which is hidden in the womb of the church. The sufferings that we are going through at this time are the sufferings of the travail of the woman before she brings forth the child.

I am going to let you in on a little secret and I trust that you will no longer misunderstand this situation. God is Life. God is Life. Satan and death is death. Now, if you will understand this very much, I want to explain it to you. Life is absolutely contrary to and against the things that we call sin and death. Therefore, the Blood of Jesus Christ is the Life of God. Now, in order to deliver the world from the throes of death, the stranglehold of death, we have to apply Life.

If you do not have enough Life to address certain situations, you cannot overcome that situation. I'll tell you why. There are certain strongholds that Satan has on the world. The strongholds cannot be broken unless you have the proportionate power of Life to destroy them.

I used to wonder why it was that there were certain areas that always had accidents. When I was able to understand it, I realized that there were certain spirits that were bound to certain places and they would come and visit them, for that is how they would feed, by getting Life or blood. To discharge those spirits or drive them away as we saw down in verses 7 and 8, you have to have the proportionate energy or Life or virtue to discharge them.

When I heard of Brother Gruver going around and rebuking spirits from certain places and discharging them, I did not understand what kind of work he was doing. But then God began to show me that the woman with the issue of blood came and grabbed His coat and as she did that, virtue came out of Him. Life came out of Him to destroy the power of death that was in her (Mark 5:30). This is the reason why God said that you must love your life unto the death.

I had an experience with my sister-in-law where she was sick with polio and she was dying and her body was being contorted. I was praying and this angel came to me and began to lead me towards that hospital where she was in order to heal her. When we got to a crossroads he suddenly stopped, turned back to me and said, "Who is going to pay for this?" When he said this, I was shocked momentarily and I quickly said, "I will." At that moment I felt that I had given up my life. In the vision, we went to the hospital and when he pushed a shaft down into her, he told me, "Now, you push it." I pushed it, "In the name of Jesus Christ." She leapt clean out of the bed. No more polio.

I realized at that time that if I did not have the virtue or the energy of God to do that job, I would take her place. The demon would overcome me, also. You know, the Lord told me to fast seven days for her and it was in the midst of the fast that this happened. In other words, spiritually speaking, I did not have enough in my bank account in heaven and He had me fast and pray and build up some power that I would be able to do that job.

Therefore, we see that Paul, in teaching the Word of God, told the brethren that they needed to climb up higher in God. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against princes and palities of princes and spiritual wickedness in high places."

Remember the Word in Ephesians 5:16, ***Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*** Some of us forget that we are living in a spiritual realm and that it is getting MORE spiritual. If anything happens to us, the first thing we think about is rushing off to the doctor. I am not against doctors, but I can tell you, brethren, if it were doctors alone, I would have been dead long ago. Moreover, where we were in the missionary work, for a great part of our lives there weren't doctors that we could go to. **OUR BRETHREN HAVE GOT TO BEGIN TO LEARN TO STAND UPON GOD FOR THEIR SUBSISTENCE, FOR THEIR DELIVERANCE, FOR THEIR EVERYTHING.**

We go back to Revelation 12. Of course, I would like you to ask questions on this very point, because I know that I am not carrying out the whole thing. We don't have enough time for me to preach a three hour sermon on the spirits. Verse 3 says, ***And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.***

The last thing we went through was what the dragon was and it is in this chapter here that says the dragon is Satan. I want you to understand how the Word of God is written. It speaks of



the dragon and when He says “the dragon,” He is talking not only about Satan but He is also talking about Satan’s kingdom. Remember what we just read in Ephesians? It said “principalities” and “powers” and “rulers of the darkness of this world.” Please understand, brethren, that when the devil is going to fight you on a higher level, that he is not any more setting a stone for you to stubb your toe upon. When the devil is fighting you, he is not only fighting you on the level of the natural, he is fighting you also on the level of the psychological, the spiritual and everything that pertains to the mind.

When the devil approached Eve, Eve said that the devil deceived her. Did you ever realize that he actually hypnotized her, or put a spell over her to cause her to see something that was not real? Sometimes you hear something and you believe something from what you hear, but you were not hearing really what was said. You actually got a conclusion that was not said. Remember the admonition from God in Proverbs 4:23, *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* You have to understand it. In verse 24, it says, *Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.* It shows you that the enemy works in a realm where he even gets you to talk some things that are not convenient and to even talk things that you don’t absolutely believe but you find yourself talking them.

This demon, this devil, is working now through people, through different organizations, even some church organizations. He is working through them, he is working through government, he is working on your mind. Therefore, we have to commit our minds to God and not look at anything that is going to turn our hearts to think carnally.

Revelation 12:3, *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; (This is clearly telling you that Satan is in the church.) ...and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.* I do not know if you understand that God is talking about the devil in the church. I am going to prove it for you right now. In the latter part of that verse it says, *seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.* It said

that the dragon was in heaven, but look at chapter 13. Let us look at the first verse and we see another dragon and this dragon is out of the sea. *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

Look at the difference. The difference between those beasts is the one

with the seven crowns upon his heads was the first beast. The crowns or the power was upon heads. See that? The beast in Revelation 13 had *seven heads and ten horns, and upon his HORNS ten crowns.* What is the difference there? The heads mean the organizations. So, we see a dragon with seven heads and ten horns and the crowns which is the power was upon his heads. But now, if the heads represent the organizations, the horns represent the men who are running the organizations.

So, in chapter 13 we see the difference. Remember, that was a church beast, the one in heaven, and this is the world beast. It says it is having seven organizations, which are the heads, and ten men, and upon the MEN were the crowns. I want you to see that. In Revelation 13:2, *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

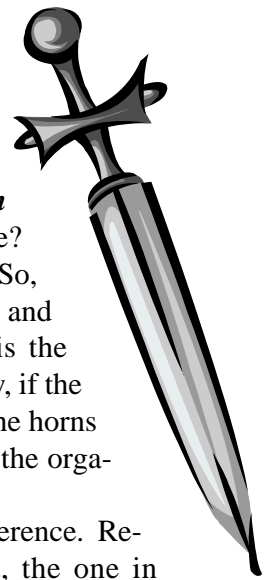
So, we see the beast is rising up in Europe. The European beast is going to have seven heads, or seven different nations, or organization of nations. He is going to have ten men, but the power will be in the hands of the men.

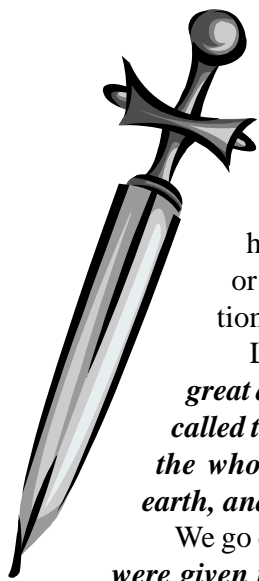
Now we go back to Revelation 12:3, *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

It said that this beast, this dragon in the church, was to spoil the church. Yes. It was to spoil the church, but God had created a church that would move to a higher realm. This is called the manchild church. Verse 5 tells us that the woman church will not be destroyed. In other words, the woman that was shut out from the wedding feast would not be destroyed, but she would go through great tribulation.

*<sup>5</sup>And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. <sup>6</sup>And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

This means that there is a final battle coming between the church, the sons of God, and Satan and all his kingdom. This is what you call the battle of Armageddon. In verse 7 God says that He is going to give us help. We are not going to fight him on this level at all. We are going to have angelic help. So, we see that the battle of Armageddon is going to be a spiritual battle fought on a level above where the woman church lives. We get here like reading





the back of the book, like reading the end of the matter. In verse 8 it says, ***And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven,*** in the church for him. Praise be to God, the church will have no more place for Satan to tempt or to disturb us and to give us tribulation.

Let us bless God for verse 9. ***And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

We go down to verse 14. ***And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.***

Praise God. I hope I have not tired you out tonight. But you know the Word; in Matthew 24:39 we are told that they “knew not.” They knew not until the flood came down upon them and you wonder why the people of God would not know that there was a flood coming. What I am saying is the people, the average church person, is not preparing for any world-wide calamity that God is talking about. The principalities and powers of darkness can only be taught the manifold wisdom of God by the church (Ephesians 3:10).

You must remember what the challenge is that is against us. The challenge is that Satan believes that he can destroy us. Satan disdains the sons of God and he feels that we are little nothings. But blessed be God! I hope to be a part of those who finish him off in a very short time. God has given us power over the power of the enemy and He said that nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19). Praise God! Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus.

Let us praise God for this great privilege that we have been given, this great fight that we are in, that we can suffer in order to gain spiritual power. The scriptures say that those who want to reign with Him must suffer with Him and He tells that in order for a woman to bring forth a child she must *travail*. The point is, brethren, that the power of God is the power of Life. When the power of Life comes into an area where there is death, then there must be suffering. I would pray to God and we would pray to God, “Oh God, bless me! Bless me!” What do you think you are asking for? **YOU ARE ASKING FOR THE POWER OF GOD, BUT YOU ARE ALSO ASKING FOR SOME SUFFERING FOR THE FLESH.** Brethren, God has continually watered down Himself in order to deal with us!

The powers of darkness are increasing their power. The scripture says that we overcame them. Now, if they in-

crease their power and it is ordained for us to overcome them, then we must also increase in power. The power of God will destroy earthen vessels. We cannot do the job unless we have the Life of the living God in its purest form in our beings. In Hebrews 11:40, we are told that the saints that have gone on before could not do a certain job and that they are waiting on us to do it. “They without us cannot be made perfect.” They are watching us and working with us in order to receive that, to see what we are doing to deliver them.

We are talking about power against power. This is what we call the battle of Armageddon. All those that are in Christ Jesus, both those that are in the heavens and those that are in earth, in Him, are being gathered with the saints who are gone on before. The Scriptures describe it as “Michael and his angels.” Michael and his angels represent the Kingdom of God, including us, fighting against the kingdom of devils. The first victory that we have to do in overcoming is to get the devil out of our kingdom. Praise be to God. Hallelujah.

#### Questions & Answer Session:

**Questioner:** Brother duCille, you said that those who died in Christ are waiting for their deliverance?

**Brother duCille:** Yes!

**Questioner:** So does it mean that after death, even when the soul is without a body, it is possible to continue the work of salvation, that we can still be overcoming?

**Brother duCille:** Not the work of salvation, but the work of growth. They are not yet complete.

**Questioner:** Isn't salvation, in its entirety, the same as deliverance?

**Brother duCille:** Salvation and overcoming are two different things. After you are saved then you have to overcome different spiritual authorities. It is very clear in Hebrews 11:40.

Let me say something more on this question, because there are probably many people listening who don't understand what we are saying. There was not one man, whether it be Peter, Paul, James, or John, who was perfected before he died. Therefore, it means that there were some spirits that were not overcome by him or by them. God says that this generation will completely destroy the power of Satan from the church and bring victory to the saints who have passed on before. That is what verse 40 means.

We can see Hebrews 12:1 continuing the thought that they are with



us in our warfare. Hebrews 12:1, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

**Questioner:** Brother duCille, you were talking about the beast with seven heads and ten horns. Are these heads seven organizations? Or seven nations?

**Brother duCille:** Yes, in Revelation 12:1, that first part there represents the beast in the church and it represents organizations. There is absolutely no doubt that where it speaks about the woman and heaven, so it must be speaking of the church and the heads would represent the organizations.

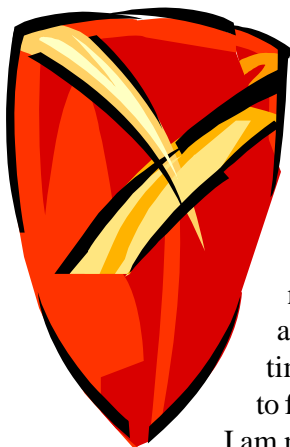
Now, in Chapter 13 you can see that it is speaking about the beast coming up from the sea, which is the nations. Therefore, it is not organizations that he is talking about now, he is talking about nations, or it could also be political individuals.

**Questioner:** Brother duCille, I remember that in Jamaica you were talking about the beast coming forth. There were, at that time, five countries and they became six countries. According to the picture that we have from that beast: the body is a leopard, the feet are the bear, the mouth of the lion and so on. These countries, at the moment, are called a group of five plus one. That is America, England, France, Russia, China plus Germany. Do you see any connection with that?

**Brother duCille:** Yes. I think that the sign for us is when the organizations come to seven heads and ten horns. That would be a sign for us that this is the time. But I believe, God says, "For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:7). So it is going to be a war in the next year that is going to mold them into the picture that you see in Revelation. Does that answer satisfactorily, brother?

**Questioner:** Yes.

**Questioner:** You said that we needed a level of power to be able to contend with the spirits that we are facing now. I am in school now and I know that earlier when I went to Hungary, the Lord revealed to me that I was not going to finish my school. Now it is like I don't even want to go to the school any more. It is not anything in me anymore. So I am looking, because I know that the time is short, how am I really going to face school and be prepared because I am not the one that is really taking care



of all my fees and these things, because I want to forfeit the school. I don't know if you would have any counsel for me.

**Brother duCille:** As a son of God, you need to obey God. God by His Spirit, is delivering us from a lot of things to have us in the right place for the time to come. To make sure that you are not deceived by any wrong thoughts, you should call the elders before you leave Prague and let the elders come and pray with you and God will give you the confirmation that it was He that was speaking to you. That is the advice that I give.

**Questioner:** Thank you.

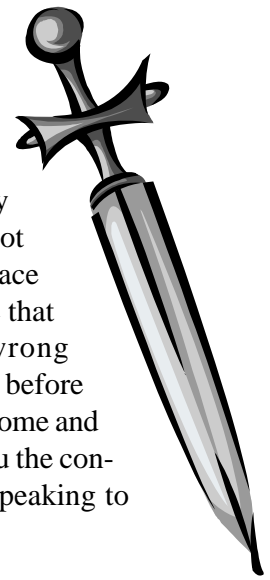
**Questioner:** Brother duCille, I would like to ask you concerning the type of ministry that Brother Gruver is doing, that he is delivering the certain places or areas from the local spirits and what spiritual insight you have received concerning this ministry.

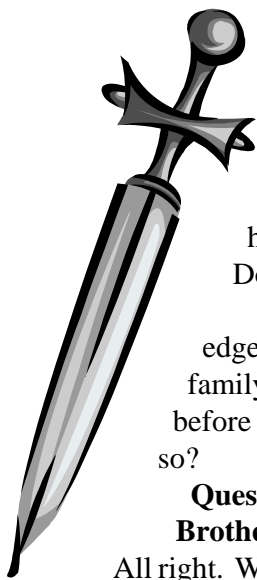
**Brother duCille:** That man is working in an area of the Spirit that most of the church is not even aware of. The scripture speaks of redeeming the time for the days are evil. We need to realize that we are paying for a lot of the evil that is around us, because we are disturbing them and destroying them, so we have to pay a certain amount spiritually to be able to do this kind of work.

**Questioner:** Brother duCille, I would like to ask you about the spiritual battles that you once talked about. You said that during the night in our dreams we can go through spiritual battles, especially about familiar spirits. Could you please explain a little bit about it?

**Brother duCille:** Well, spirits possess areas and they strongly guard certain areas. When God wants to deliver the people who are being held down in those areas, God will stir up one of His children to go in there. When they come against you and you start to suffer, you wonder, "What have I done?" Yes. What you have done is that you are in the army of the Lord and God is allowing you to suffer that you might rise up and strike the enemy. The spiritual battle, the ancestral, your whole family has been under certain ancestral devils for a long time, from time immemorial. At this time, every ancestral devil must be destroyed. So, God has to find somebody in your family to do it so that they might be judged and cast into the pit.

**Questioner:** Thank you, Brother duCille, but I am just going to ask another question. I have been going through these night battles for years now. For maybe eight years, since the first member of my family passed away and then some others. You know, I was just asking the





Lord for how long? I just thought for eight years and especially when I get up at midnight or early the morning I have such a headache and so much pain in the back of my neck. I would ask you, have you ever had something like that? Do you know something about it?

**Brother duCille:** I see from knowledge that you are not the first one in your family. You must have had some family before you who suffered like that. Isn't it so?

**Questioner:** No. No.

**Brother duCille:** You don't know of them. All right. What it is, is that you will have to overcome those spirits. Before you leave there, let the elders pray for you and cast those spirits out and prevent them from coming back to disturb you or hurt your body at night.

**Questioner:** Amen. But I just add as the last thing that these were four people, but I don't see these other three any more in my dreams. There is only one that I am from time to time seeing and dreaming.

**Brother duCille:** Let the elders put him into the abyss tonight.

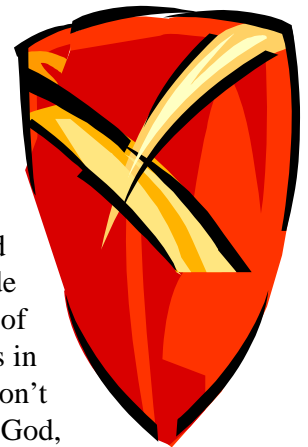
**Questioner:** Thank you.

**Questioner:** I have a question about one word that came at the convention. It was saying that we need to have the desires of the Lord. I know that I can receive the mind of the Lord to have it transformed by reading the Word of God. I know that I can work on my emotions by fasting. But what about desires, how do I get the desires of the Lord?

**Brother duCille:** You get the desires of the Lord because Jesus said that we will be like Him. You should have a burning desire to be like Jesus Christ in all your actions, in all your walk and in all you do.

**Questioner:** So, how do I get the desire to be like Him?

**Brother duCille:** Just read the Scriptures and believe it. Believe what it says, that we should be like Jesus. It is the will of God that He should walk in us, inside of us and talk in us, so that all of our talk and all of our operations in life would be in Him. If you don't have the desire, read the Word of God, because God has said that salvation cometh by hearing. 🙏



## Visitor's Corner

June 8

Cheryl, Peter, Andrew, Grace and Mercy Gassman  
Stephanie Story and fiance Mark Dumer  
David & Kristi Wickboldt and children  
Kajka Pacajova (Ada Culver's sister)

June 15

Erick, Stephen, and Jacob Gassman  
joined the rest of the family that was still here  
George and Susan Herrig  
Tom, Renee, Debbie, Luke and Sarah Sigwarth



# Giving Thanks

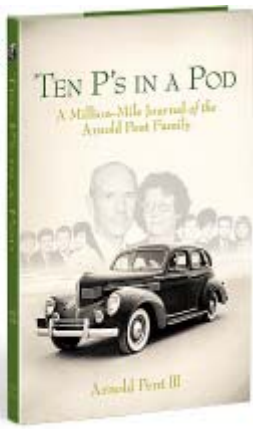
As you may recall, a couple months ago we sent out a letter regarding the financial need of K.I.T. and K.I.T. for Kids. We would like to testify that, since that time, we have received an influx of gifts from you that will cover the financial need that we have to publish and distribute our 2008 publications.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our complete appreciation to each and every one of you for your contributions. From our perspective, we are quite humbled to see the generosity of the people of God. The size of the gift does not matter as we are acutely aware that, no matter the amount, each and every gift is a sacrifice. For this we humbly say from the depths of our hearts, thank you.

Another thought that we would like to share is our total appreciation for the support of the Body. Without you, our endeavor to put forth the Kingdom message would be impossible. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul talks about the function of the Body and even though one may plant and another may water, it is God who gives the increase. We see that it is not about who does what, but it is about laboring together to bring forth that expression of God that brings Him all the glory! We are most thankful to be able to co-labor with you and are grateful for all your support. Your prayers are vital to us!

We would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness to meet our every need, both in the natural and in the spiritual. It is exciting to see the Lord bringing the Body of Christ together in this hour and we pray that all honor and glory would be unto Him! May the Lord truly bless each and every one of you,

The Keeping In Touch staff  
The K.I.T. for Kids staff



# Book Nook

by Kate Trotter  
on

## Ten P's in a Pod

written by Arnold Pent III




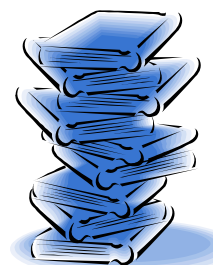
There is a specific desire that God has for us to know His Word, to abide in Him and for Christ to be in us, shining forth that hope of glory. As I began to read this book, I was delighted to find that the testimony of this family focused on just that. It isn't often that I can find a story about an entire family serving the Lord together as a unit. So often, I only see a small portion of the family with the vision and working to further it. I found this book through Vision Forum and I thoroughly appreciate their efforts to bring forth books that are worthy of my time.

The Pent family, numbering ten members, were a traveling family ministry. Mr. Pent was quite a visionary fellow and was highly motivated to preach the gospel anywhere that he would be received. He gathered his wife and children around him and bought a few cars to hold them all as he drove them across the entire country and into Canada, holding meetings everywhere they stopped. People thought of them as an amazing novelty, because not only were they an entire family traveling about on faith alone, but they also were homeschooling their children while they did it. During the 1940s and 50s, homeschooling was almost unheard of and this family had to be very creative when they began their journey into this unknown territory.

In opening the pages of this book, I was aware that this family was similar to the family in *Cheaper by the Dozen*, for which I had a slightly distasteful opinion. I watched the old movie that had been made about that family and the feeling I came away with was that the children did not respect or appreciate their father. That may have been largely due to Hollywood's artistic license, but just the same, I was hoping that the Pent family would impress me in an entirely different manner. I believe they did just that! The book was written by one of the children during his early twenties and he wrote based on his journals that he kept during his teenage years. There was such a great admiration and respect for his parents that showed through in everything he wrote. It was plain to see that the children, even imperfect children who had to deal with their own attitude problems, had embraced their father's vision and pursued it alongside him with their whole hearts. This is something that I would love to see working throughout the Body of Christ! It was refreshing to read this story and feel the beautiful attitude coming forth from its pages.

The most important aspect of it all is found in the main focus of this family. Their desire was to promote the Word of God. They wanted everyone they met to be influenced and encouraged to spend more time reading their Bibles. A brief quote from the young man sums up their purpose in life quite nicely: "You and your children may be making good money, providing for the family, and enjoying a good social standing in the community. If you profess to be a Christian and you accomplish only this, you are like clouds without water and wind without rain when it comes to giving the world a witness of Christ - or even your neighbor. The Bible still says, 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own life?' A life that is not invested for the glory of Christ is profitless and a dismal failure. It is a life that loses its golden opportunity to spend recklessly the unlimited treasures of God's love, hope, and grace, 'In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'" (Colossians 2:3)."

Personally, I found this young man's perspective very exciting and encouraging. I did not even imagine that it could be possible to spend the amount of time in the Word that this family invested. I was provoked to work harder with my children to get them to put forth the effort to read more of the Bible, and I was put to shame when I compared the amount of time that I was spending with that which this family was able to do. It is my heart's desire to see my little family begin to soak up the life of God even more now that we have read this testimony. Even though you don't have to read the book to be pricked to spend more time reading your Bible, this story will definitely give you a real life picture of those who have truly given themselves to taking in the Word of God and will be a great blessing to read to your children. 



# The Unlimited Capacity of God

Barak Osbill  
April 13, 2008

God is so good to us. The Word says that the goodness of God leads men to repentance (Romans 2:4). I think that the greatest capacity we have is the capacity to repent. If there is anything that we ought to do in our life, I think that is what we ought to aim to do.

I have been meditating on some thoughts over the past couple weeks or so. I just marvel at the goodness of God and His ability to save to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:25). Even more special is that He has a particular interest in you and me on an individual basis. You know, He is interested in humanity as a whole, but there is a dynamic in Him that is a bottomless capacity of His time, His thought, and His love to interact with us on an individual basis. I appreciate that very, very much.

We were talking about the mercy of God in the prison this morning, and the fact that He pours out His mercy upon us - because every one of us is a failure. We are flawed. We are imperfect. Standing by ourselves we would never make it - except for the mercy of God. I suppose that maybe it is by revelation that we understand that. I mean, we can read it on the page, read it in the Bible, but, at least for me, it has been by revelation in conjunction with some sort of circumstance where I was at the complete and total mercy of the circumstance. Do you understand what I am saying? The only way out of the circumstance was to humble myself and walk the line. You know, I thank God, because in the midst of it, as I have received mercy, I have been given the capacity to give mercy. God desires that when we look at humanity we don't just see the outward manifestation of the wrong, but we begin to sense some word, some means by which to deliver something to them that gives them the liberty to be free from that which is keeping them from the Father.

One of the things that I believe is very pertinent right now is that we are living in the

dispensation of the Body. Not that we are *going to be*, but that we **are** in the dispensation of the Body. I think what made that very apparent to me was when we recently went to Phoenix, Arizona, to attend a funeral and God gave me a word for the circumstance. Because of the dynamics of the individuals involved and because of where they are and where they are not, I didn't have the opportunity to deliver the word, but what it brought home to me was that God is placing the components there so that when the whole of the Body comes together, the ebb and the flow will be unimpeded, unhindered. It is a marvelous thing, but there is a catch to it. I suppose the catch is that we must really have exercised the inner man to hearing and knowing what the voice of God is saying, because whether we live or die is going to hang solely on obedience to the Holy Ghost.

You know, I don't really watch the news or keep a daily tab on what is going on in the world, but my personal feeling is that we are on the brink of our way of life being completely turned upside-down. What we have had and what we have known is going to be drained out and emptied in a moment of time. One of the things that is going to be vital to us is to have one another. It is going to be a source of salvation for us so that in the midst of the tribulation, the bond of the love of God is forged. You know what I mean? The Scripture says, ***but the greatest of these is charity***, the love of God (I Corinthians 13:13).

Let's go over to Romans 5, starting in verse 1. ***Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup>And patience, experience; and experience, hope: <sup>5</sup>And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. <sup>6</sup>For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

You know, there is an underlying principle here. It says, ***“God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners...”*** so God did something for us while we were still in a state of ignorance and had no awareness of God and God's purpose. We became the recipient of an action that was extended to us freely. Correct? Now, how many of you can testify of the nature of being a taker? Constantly there, right? “Oh, good deal, it's free! I don't have to pay anything.”

Turn your Bible now over to 1 John 4:7. ***Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.***

By the way, the word is *agape*, so it is love that can only come from God.

***<sup>8</sup>He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so***

*loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

What I see in my mind when I read this passage is that God has set the example of what love is. Do you understand? God didn't just say, "I love you," and then left it at that. He said, "I love you," and demonstrated that love by sending us Jesus Christ, Who, in turn, gave His life so that we could have access to God altogether. Right? So, He set an example and He not only set an example, but He set a precedent. So, if God so loved us, He is saying that we ought also to love one another.

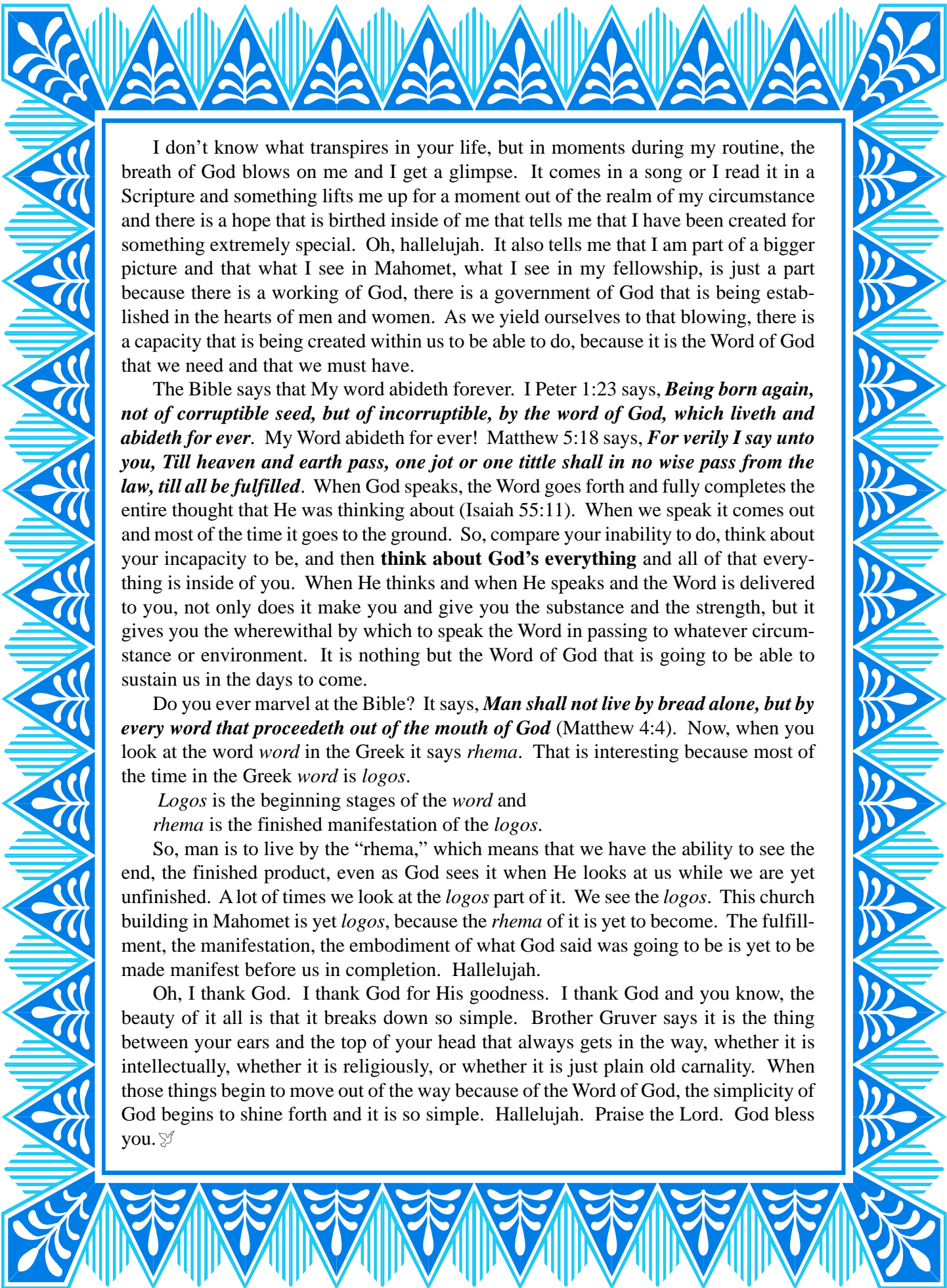
It is not enough for us to say, "Brother, I love you." That love must also be demonstrated in action. Now, it is not that you and I go out and do some kind of work for one another, but it is a love that is directed by the Holy Ghost, because some need in your life can only be specifically fulfilled by the means which God has given me to fulfill.

The whole operation of God is moving from the external to the internal. The Scripture says that for a time and a season we are under tutors and governors (Galatians 4:2). Brother Emeka was talking about the external law in his home that said "you must go to church." To some extent we have that propensity. We come to church perhaps because that is what we are supposed to do. Maybe for some of us it is because we have to. I'm sure some of my kids would opt out if they had the choice. (I am speaking from experience.) When I was a child I thought as a child, I behaved as a child (I Corinthians 13:11). But, you see, God is now in the time where external governing is no longer sufficient, but that which is to govern you and me must come from inside and He gave us the initial deposit for that governing to happen. It says that you have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost which is the earnest of your inheritance (Ephesians 1:14).

If you want to read a good pick-me-up Scripture, read Isaiah 55, for He says, a people that hath not been my people is going to be my people (verse 5). It goes down and says, *for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord* (verse 8). You know, if there is ever a time, now is the time when that scripture is going to be most applicable.

Here again we were talking in the prison about the necessity of having the Holy Ghost, but more importantly, the necessity of *obeying* the Holy Ghost. Obeying the Holy Ghost is going to be our safety. You know, we all have a daily routine. We have a weekly routine. We have a monthly routine. In doing the routine we create habit. Sometimes you could almost close your eyes and go about your routine without mistake. Hallelujah. Because of that trait in humanity, sometimes the Holy Ghost comes to you and whispers something in your ear that is outside of your routine. Sometimes there is something that God sees that He needs us to be in a certain place at a certain time in order for Him to accomplish what He is saying. Sometimes it is for our own safety, or perhaps it is that what you have needs to be interjected into somebody else's life. Hallelujah.

There is something there, a quality of life, a capacity to be that is greater than where I am now that will supersede and transcend everything that we have known to be called God in church, an existence and a living that is technologically so far advanced above the fastest computer that there is.



I don't know what transpires in your life, but in moments during my routine, the breath of God blows on me and I get a glimpse. It comes in a song or I read it in a Scripture and something lifts me up for a moment out of the realm of my circumstance and there is a hope that is birthed inside of me that tells me that I have been created for something extremely special. Oh, hallelujah. It also tells me that I am part of a bigger picture and that what I see in Mahomet, what I see in my fellowship, is just a part because there is a working of God, there is a government of God that is being established in the hearts of men and women. As we yield ourselves to that blowing, there is a capacity that is being created within us to be able to do, because it is the Word of God that we need and that we must have.

The Bible says that My word abideth forever. I Peter 1:23 says, ***Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*** My Word abideth for ever! Matthew 5:18 says, ***For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*** When God speaks, the Word goes forth and fully completes the entire thought that He was thinking about (Isaiah 55:11). When we speak it comes out and most of the time it goes to the ground. So, compare your inability to do, think about your incapacity to be, and then **think about God's everything** and all of that everything is inside of you. When He thinks and when He speaks and the Word is delivered to you, not only does it make you and give you the substance and the strength, but it gives you the wherewithal by which to speak the Word in passing to whatever circumstance or environment. It is nothing but the Word of God that is going to be able to sustain us in the days to come.

Do you ever marvel at the Bible? It says, ***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*** (Matthew 4:4). Now, when you look at the word *word* in the Greek it says *rhema*. That is interesting because most of the time in the Greek *word* is *logos*.

*Logos* is the beginning stages of the *word* and *rhema* is the finished manifestation of the *logos*.

So, man is to live by the "rhema," which means that we have the ability to see the end, the finished product, even as God sees it when He looks at us while we are yet unfinished. A lot of times we look at the *logos* part of it. We see the *logos*. This church building in Mahomet is yet *logos*, because the *rhema* of it is yet to become. The fulfillment, the manifestation, the embodiment of what God said was going to be is yet to be made manifest before us in completion. Hallelujah.

Oh, I thank God. I thank God for His goodness. I thank God and you know, the beauty of it all is that it breaks down so simple. Brother Gruver says it is the thing between your ears and the top of your head that always gets in the way, whether it is intellectually, whether it is religiously, or whether it is just plain old carnality. When those things begin to move out of the way because of the Word of God, the simplicity of God begins to shine forth and it is so simple. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. God bless you. 🙏

# Spotlight

By  
**Melissa Trotter**

## on

# Vit & Jana Kebrdle

I have the pleasure of writing this time about a couple from Prague, Czech Republic. They had been here in Mahomet for almost a month at the time I interviewed them and it sounded like they were very glad that they had come! Their names are Vit and Jana Kebrdle. Brother Vit is quiet and soft-spoken with a smile that lights up his whole face. Sister Jana has a gentle smile to accompany her reserved manner. In Prague, they are the ones who record the meetings and distribute tapes. I enjoyed getting to know them better as we sat around our living room and talked. It inspires me to hear other's testimonies and to see that God is very real and is in the business of bringing people to Him.

The first question I asked them is how it happened that they came to be here. Vit responded by saying that they had been thinking of coming for awhile but it was at the beginning of this year that they decided to come. They wanted to work at First Fruit's farm. He also spoke of wanting to visit the different people from here that they had met at conferences in Prague. He also mentioned their desire to experience a different spiritual environment.

I wondered if the Lord had been speaking to them about anything since they had been here and Vit responded that when he first began working at the farm, He was expecting God to speak to him and during those work days, he said, "I realized the Lord was talking about cleansing and purifying, to put it simply." Shortly after this, the message from Brother Campbell came and it was a similar topic. Then there was the gathering of the solemn assembly here in Mahomet and it had the same theme. Vit said that God was saying He wants us to get rid of the things that are wrong, that are making us further from the Lord, that are a burden to us. It was a challenge to us to change and modify our walk with God and come closer to Him.

I really wanted to know Vit and Jana's individual tes-

timonies of salvation so Vit started by telling that he lived without the Lord for a long time - he had lived without Him longer than with Him. He had been looking for truth for a long time. He said, "Looking back, I can see how God was dealing with me and leading me my whole life." He first heard about the Lord at work through Sister Milena, an older sister in the fellowship in Prague. She was a Christian and Vit said, "I would talk to her about God and had spiritual conversations with her. A few years went by like this." The turning point came when he borrowed the movie, "Jesus," from Kamil. He shared, "At the end of the movie there is a sinner's prayer and an admonishment to pray to God and I realized that this was truth and I wanted to change my life. So I prayed and received the Lord as my Saviour." Milena talked to him about the fellowship in Czech and finally he came to a conference in Prague in the year 2000 and was baptized. Praise the Lord!

I asked him, "Do you feel that there has been a dramatic change in your life since you came to know Jesus?" He replied, "When I look back B.C." (he smiled as he said this - it means Before Christ), "it is for sure that my life has changed dramatically! I would be living somewhere else not for God. It is not like I had big problems in my life before, like alcohol or drugs, but if I had missed God, I would be in a much different place, even though I didn't do those bad things."

Next came Jana's turn. She was born again when she was 14 years old. It happened like this. She had just started the first week of high school and a friend of hers invited her to a gathering. The friend said, "Just come with me." When she went, the people were all sitting in a circle and as she listened to the talk she realized, "Oh, they are Christians!" Jana said, "I had imagined Christians were like old ladies, like in a Catholic Church, always saying what

you can or cannot do. But these were normal people!” She started to go to the gatherings because she said, “I want it, too.” Jana told me her character is such that God needs to kick her sometimes. I figured she meant she was hard-headed - not such an uncommon malady! Anyway, she was watching a Christian channel on TV one day. A minister was speaking and at the end, they prayed a sinner’s prayer and Jana said, “I did, too!” She related, “The next day I went to school, and before it started, I met with the other Christians. One of them came to me and I said, ‘Guess what’s new!’ He said, ‘You received Christ as your Saviour.’ I said, ‘How can you tell?’ And he replied, ‘I can tell by your eyes.’” Amen!

Vit and Jana also wanted to tell me how the Lord brought them together in marriage and I thought, “This is great! I love to hear how God does marriages His way!” Jana began this testimony by telling us, “In the spring of 2003, I was telling God that I would wait for the only and true one. I prayed that God would speak to me before the man came and talked to me. God said to me, ‘It could be the time now.’ So then I thought it meant that it would still take awhile.” Then the Czech conference in the summer of 2003 came and during that conference, God was delivering a lot of people. There was an altar call near the beginning of the conference and an invitation for whoever wanted prayer to come up.

Jana said, “I came up and Brother Burt prayed against the spirit of fear. Nothing dramatic happened - I just went up, was prayed for and went back to my chair. But the second day I could see the change. I think God has a sense of humor. I had said beforehand that I was not going to deal with relationships this conference. But everywhere I went, I was meeting Vit. He was just there all the time. I told God, ‘I don’t want it!’ Then they prayed for me.”

The same day as the prayer, in the afternoon, the message was very serious and afterwards Jana said she wanted to find a place to be alone so she could talk to God and pray. She couldn’t find a place, so decided to go into the woods for a walk. On the way back, she says, “I met Vit. It was so like him. He just came and looked at me and

gave me a handful of raspberries that he had picked and then walked away.” At this point, Vit interjected by saying, “I’ll explain about the raspberries later!” Jana stayed with Ivona for a week in Prague after the conference - she was living in Moravia at the time. She felt very alone there, but was praying about and having to deal with whether she was supposed to move to Prague or not and during that time, God spoke that it was His will to move. Then she began to pray, “Lord, now what do I do with that guy, Vit?” God replied, “He is the true and only one.” Jana said, “I was fighting for awhile but I finally said, ‘I receive it,’ and God gave me great peace. So then I waited for Vit to come to me. There were a few days that we were working together at the farm in Tursko, but nothing was happening. I said, ‘OK, God, I’ll just wait.’ Then Vit came and said, ‘Can we meet together?’ We talked about what the Lord had been speaking to us and it was the same. Since then, we have been together!”

I said next, “Now, about those raspberries...?” Vit smiled as he replied, “I will add the missing pieces to the puzzle to make the whole picture!” He went on, “The day we met in the woods, I was also looking for a place to be alone with God. I thought, ‘I am going to go to the top of a hill I have gone to in the past.’ When I was almost to the top, God spoke to me to go back. I didn’t want to go back; I had it in my mind to go to the top. So I was asking, ‘What do you mean, God?’ He told me, ‘Go back and you will meet your wife.’ He also told me her name. Part of my will still wanted to go up that hill but I received the word from the Lord. I thought, ‘If God has appointed this meeting, I shouldn’t meet her empty-handed.’ So on the way back, I picked some raspberries. I met her as we were both coming back and so I gave her the raspberries. I prayed and said to God, ‘If it is God’s will, I will wait until after the conference to talk to her about it.’ So finally we met

in Tursko.”

God’s timing is always exactly right, isn’t it? He is such a magnificent, awesome God! I thanked Vit and Jana for meeting with me and they went on their way while I headed for the computer to put in what I had heard. ☘



**Jana & Vit**

# New Babies to Rejoice Over!



Stanley and Stephanie Kaiser (Terry Smith's daughter and son-in-law) welcomed Cameron Elise on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008, at 12:39p.m. She weighed 7lbs. 14oz. and was 20½ inches long. Everyone is doing wonderfully. Thank You, Jesus!

Adachukwu Michelle Osaji was born to Emeka and Ona on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 1:03p.m. She was 21 inches long and weighed 8lbs. 11oz. To God be the glory! Mother and daughter are in great shape.



David and Kristi Wickboldt had a girl!! Abigail Kristina was born June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 7:56a.m. She is 20 inches long and a whopping 9lbs. 12oz. Mommy and baby are both doing well.





By  
Melissa  
Trotter

# In the Midst of Adversity



It was four o'clock in the morning of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The light of the night light gently showed the way as I walked from my daughters' bedroom into the kitchen. All of a sudden, the Lord dropped the answer into my heart to a question I had had before Him for two weeks. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I had heard the voice of my Father in Heaven. I knew that what I had heard was a sufficient answer. The phrase was, "His ways past finding out."

Two weeks prior to this, the children and I had come home after a busy Friday. It had been a very ordinary day until Anna, my oldest, being nine years old, began to complain of pain in her shoulder. We thought she had just strained something, though when we questioned her, she had not really done anything strenuous. The pain continued the following days, moving to the other shoulder, her arms and face. I asked the Lord, "What is this? What is going on with her?" I knew there was something going on that was abnormal and we needed to find out what it was. Our family doctor did x-rays of the area and then wanted to wait several days to see what happened. He didn't know what it was and then recommended doing one test that we didn't feel comfortable with. After that, I called Anna's hematologist/oncologist. Anna had had Leukemia in the past and we had a very good relationship with her doctor. Anna was having fevers now, too, and I had a strong feeling that we needed to have blood tests done and I knew that he would do it. The thought never crossed my mind that Anna may have cancer again. I thought it would

be some weird virus in her muscles or something else odd that she was susceptible to. In the early morning before her appointment with the oncologist was when God spoke to me so clearly, "His ways past finding out."

I just about forgot about this word in the hustle and bustle of getting ready to go to the doctor. They did her lab work and the doctor came back with the report that he could see Leukemia in her blood. I was in total disbelief. I just could not believe it. I questioned him about it. His reply was that there was no doubt - it was there. I stared out the window of his office - the view is etched in my memory - as he explained to me what they wanted to do for treatment. On the outside I probably looked like I handled it well, but on the inside I was torn up. There were so many questions in my heart and a huge, dead weight in the pit of my stomach. I was very familiar with the treatment; I knew what was coming for Anna and I dreaded it. As I talked on the phone to Charles and Dad and Mom, the Lord reminded me, "His ways past finding out." It was enough. I was comforted that

God knew exactly what He was doing and had told me before I even knew all the physical details. Anna was admitted to the hospital that same day and it was very necessary, as she had gotten much sicker and was in much more pain just in several hours. Even in the timing of that appointment, God's timing was perfect.

Romans 11:33-36 says, *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!* <sup>34</sup>*For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?* <sup>35</sup>*Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?* <sup>36</sup>*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory*

*for ever. Amen.* This entire passage was the direct word of the Lord to me. He was saying that Anna was not mine but His and who was I to say it was not right or wasn't supposed to happen? I cannot describe the battle in my mind, where everything within me was screaming, "This can't be happening, Anna was supposed to be healed; how could God do this to her, to us?" And since there is no where in this world to find comfort, I turned to the Lord and He was always there. He said there is a depth of riches in this situation. He said His ways are past finding out. He said who has ever understood His ways or told Him what to do? He reminded me that I had given Anna to Him and that much would be returned to me. He said that everything, everything, was of HIM! To Him be glory forever and ever. What more could I say? Especially when He made me remember the promise He gave me when Anna was three years old and the Leukemia had come the first time, ***This sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God*** (John 11:4). Two days before Anna's relapse was discovered, Dad was going to read the Bible to Anna in our living room and she desired to read the story of Lazarus, where that verse is found. She believes God!

The days immediately following the relapse were very hard. The concentration of Leukemia cells in the bone marrow caused Anna pain and made her unable to move very well. The doctors did give her enough pain medication so she was comfortable, but it was so hard to see her so immobile and feeling poorly. Four days after being admitted to the hospital, she had a central line surgically put in and an individualized chemotherapy plan was started. The goal was that the cancer would be in remission at the end of 28 days. A few days after chemo was started, the pain decreased and Anna felt well enough to walk in the halls and get a bath in a tub. After spending many days in the hospital, there came a day where Anna was feeling so well, we asked permission of the nurses to go outside for awhile. The weather was beautiful that day and Anna and I had a great time walking outside for about half an hour. Remembering that time and how absolutely wonderful it was to get outside makes me so thankful to the Lord for all the simple things that we take for granted.

We were in the hospital about two weeks, then came home and went in every day to the clinic for about seven hours for treatment. After being home for 10 days, bad nausea and uncontrollable pain in her tummy forced us to return to being inpatient. These days in and out of the hospital were stressful. Charles was working during the day, but slept with her overnight and the other children were being cared for mostly by my parents and then by my

sister, Karen, who took them to her home in Michigan. I was about 6 ½ months pregnant at the time, so that made it more difficult, too. I am unable to express in words how totally hard those four weeks were. Just thinking over again

about the whole thing brings back the feelings of despair, of being so out of control of everything, of being so overwhelmed and unable to do what fell on my shoulders to do. It was tough to spend hours with Anna, to see her hurting, to try to cheer her up and be happy for her when we felt like crying. BUT, in the midst of it all, the Lord was faithful. Even though I knew what treatment had been like before, this was a whole new experience. Each day was like stepping off the end of a plank that was extended out over a canyon. I had no idea what would happen. I was stepping off the

plank into something unknown, something I sensed was big and deep. All I could stand on was faith in God. And as I stepped, the Lord would hold me up, He would extend the plank so that each step was on firm ground. I never fell into the cavern because God was there! He will never leave me nor forsake me. He will never leave you, nor forsake you.

God spoke to me about butterflies during that time. Anna was given several different cards and pictures that had butterflies on them. I am sure that the givers did not get together and plan that they all would send her butterflies! It was God! Butterflies are beautiful, they are transformed, and they are not slow caterpillars anymore. The caterpillar rolls up in the chrysalis and seems to die, but in the exact right time, life comes forth - a very beautiful butterfly that can fly up in the sky, above the earth. It was a symbol of what God was doing for Anna - I believed God was planning, in His time, to bring beautiful life out of the thing that looked like death. The exciting part was that the Lord said it would not be just Anna's victory, but as the Body of Christ rose up, it would be everyone's victory! I was strengthened every time I looked up at the wall of the hospital room and saw those big, beautifully colored butterflies taped on the wall, saw them stuck on the window, printed on the gift bag on the table and even flying in one of the videos Anna watched.

Anna and I had a situation where she was given some anti-nausea medicine. This particular medicine made her very agitated off and on for about four hours. She was able to explain to me how she felt, an awful feeling - I can only imagine, and I prayed for her. We rebuked the devil and Anna did, too. She and I asked for Jesus' help and the Blood of Jesus to be over her. Then calm would come. But in a little while, Anna would look at me and I would see the fear in her eyes again and she would tell me it was



coming again and I would pray and intercede for her. We had power over the power of that drug! We read all of John 14, but especially verse 27, ***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*** Finally, the effects of the medication wore off and Anna was normal again! I was elated that there was power in the Blood and that the Lord moved on our behalf, but I was spiritually, emotionally and physically drained. BUT, I went home that night and I woke up strengthened by the Lord for the next day. He is good to us!

All the while, God's main thrust to me was to put Anna on the altar. I thought I had submitted Anna's life to Him years ago, but He showed me that I really was not laying everything down before Him. Did I really trust that He was in control? I found out through one situation how NOT in control I was. I wanted to stop this certain medication that I saw no reason she should have so that we could go home. I was so anxious to go home, as was Anna. The days went by and we still could not go home because of this medicine. I talked to the doctor and he said she absolutely must have this medicine. I was so depressed, but the Lord so sweetly reminded me that if I would lay down my desires and my will, He would give me peace. After much struggle that day, I could finally say, "OK, I surrender my life and Anna's life and all our circumstances to You, Lord. Do what You want." It was still just as difficult to be in the hospital, but I was not rebelling against it any longer and because of that, it was easier. There was a Sunday morning at fellowship where we sang, "Come unto me, you all who are heavy laden, and I will, says the Lord, I will surely give you rest." I was learning to relinquish my desire to control and give it to Him. Where else could I find rest, but in Jesus Christ? The hospital surely couldn't, nor could the nurses, not even the doctor. Think about it, dear readers, and submit your way unto Him, because He is well able to take care of all your troubles.

At the beginning of our time at the hospital, we started a page online where we would post updates about us. What I wrote on October 4<sup>th</sup> shows my heart at that time and I will quote it here. "We do not know when she will come home again. Those of you who have seen *Facing The Giants* know about the team and how Coach Taylor said, 'When we win, we praise Him and when we lose, we will praise Him.' I am learning to just completely put me and my daughter into God's hands. When things seem good, we praise Him, BUT also, when things don't go as we want, we must praise Him. Dad was sharing with me today about the verse in James 1:8 that says, A

***double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.*** If I only praise the Lord when good happens and get upset or bitter because I perceive that something bad has happened, then I am double-minded. It says in the previous verse, ***For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*** I am encouraged to keep praising Him, no matter what, and laying down on the altar all the things that pop up that make me want to scream and say, 'I can't handle this anymore!' I tell you, it is really hard. My normal life is gone, my other children have been gone and I have been looking at small, four-walled hospital rooms for about a month. Then the hardest part of all is watching my child get sicker and have so many ups and downs. I fall back on my original promise that God gave me, 'His ways past finding out.' I trust you all are learning some lessons through this, too, and coming closer and closer to the Lord through the things we don't understand, especially why a child has to suffer so much and for so long."

After Anna went inpatient at the local hospital again, I was much more peaceful with being there. Looking back, I believe God just ministered peace to me considering how tired I was of being at the hospital. You know, the Holy Spirit really does come in like a dove, in a still, small voice, in a way that you and I don't even realize at the moment. It is in looking back and reviewing again what happened that I see the hand of God upon every circumstance. I was able, by the grace of God, to lay Anna on the altar. Her hospital bed was that altar and when God chose to, He would move her. I thought about Abraham quite a bit during our time at the hospital. At this point, it was like when the Lord had him sacrifice Isaac. I had to put Anna completely on the altar and I knew that He would raise her up in His time (Hebrews 11:17-19). I could look back and think that the doctor should have done a better job that could have prevented Anna's situation from getting worse, but the Lord was in control. He could have told any of us by His Holy Spirit that things were not as they should be, but He didn't. He is sovereign and I wouldn't have traded His way for any other way.

So, Anna was in with severe nausea and tummy pain on a Wednesday. Thursday and Friday she had enough pain medication that she seemed OK, she just couldn't eat or drink. Saturday she felt worse and she was given an anti-nausea drug that made her very dizzy and very sleepy. That night, after Charles came, I was extremely reluctant to leave her - I sensed something was wrong and yet I couldn't put my finger on anything specific. I told the night nurse, "Please watch her close tonight. Something isn't right." It was so hard to leave her. I repeat, it was extremely difficult to leave her that night but I went home and went to bed. I kept having pictures or visions in my

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mind of her laying in intensive care with all the tubes and wires all over and everything. In the midst of this, the Lord gave me the sweetest peace and I just KNEW she was in God's hands - no one could take better care of her than He could. He would never leave her nor forsake her, even when I was forced to not be with her. I fell into a sound sleep but the Lord woke me up in the middle of the night, just praying for her.

The Lord had been preparing me for what happened next. About 8:00 on Sunday morning, Charles called me, waking me up with the news that Anna had been taken to ICU about 4am with an elevated heart rate and falling blood pressure. She was stabilized and was being flown by helicopter up to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago where she had been treated in the past. Even though it was hard to hear, I was not shocked or surprised and I was thankful for the full night of sleep I had gotten, for my sake and for our unborn baby. Charles came home soon, we gathered up things we would need for a lengthy stay and leaving Caroline, Jonathan and Asher, not knowing when we would see them again, drove up to Chicago.

When we got to Children's Hospital, Anna was pretty drugged up, but she was able to squeeze my hand, shake her head yes and no and smile as much as she could with tape all over her face holding on breathing tubes and stuff. She had a peace that passes understanding. I talked to her about Jesus being with her and she nodded her head repeatedly while I talked to her.

Anna's diagnosis was Typhlitis, an inflamed, thickened large intestine. It usually only happens to people who are in the induction phase of treatment for Leukemia, which Anna was. It caused her tummy to swell up hugely. I cannot begin to describe her physical condition, the pain, the difficulty of breathing, the effects of medication, the tests they had to do and the so many tubes and wires coming out of her body. She had at least one, sometimes two nurses taking care of her full time. Suffice it to say that it was horrible enough and got so much worse that in four days they were forced to give her paralyzing medication, high doses of narcotic pain and sedation medicine and have all her breathing done by machine. Obviously, she could not respond to us at all at this point. Anna was in a desperately serious situation. This happened on October 12<sup>th</sup>, Charles and my 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It had been five weeks since the diagnosis of relapse and was exactly six weeks until my due date. This was an extremely difficult time,

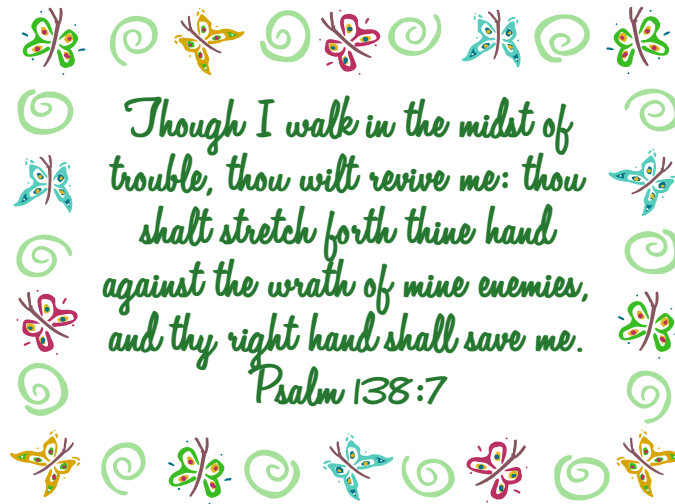
so much so that I prefer not to relive any of the memories. I often felt like I couldn't take it anymore and I spent some times hardly able to stop crying, but I chose to believe in a hope that was greater than what my natural eyes were seeing. *Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen* (Hebrews 11:1).

One evening I read Psalm 46 over and over and over

and over. Underlined are the most pertinent parts. It says, *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; <sup>3</sup>Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. <sup>4</sup>There is*

*shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.* God is in the midst of Anna, Anna shall not be moved: God shall help Anna, and that right early. *<sup>6</sup>The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. <sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth; he maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. <sup>10</sup>Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.* I cannot put into words the confidence that I had that Anna would get well. This Psalm and the promises in it are what I leaned upon during those days. People have asked me, "How could you go through it?" My answer is that I had no choice, I had to. But I had the choice of how I would respond to the circumstances and I thank the Lord for the ultimate grace and mercy He gave me to keep my eyes focused on Him. I am not anything special or super spiritual, I just turned to Him in my place of desperate need and He was there ALL the time.

There were two very positive things that happened during those first seven days of no improvement in Anna's condition. One was that they looked at her bone marrow and found that the leukemia was in complete remission! The second was that the infection in her intestine did not cause any holes in the intestinal wall, which would have



made it much, much more serious.

On the seventh day in ICU, October 15<sup>th</sup>, we finally began to see teeny, tiny baby steps of improvement. The swelling of her tummy went down a tiny bit, the paralyzing medicine was stopped, once in a while she would respond to us with a hand movement and once, a barely perceptible nod of her head when I asked her if she could hear me. We were so encouraged that day, to say the least! "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!"

The following weeks were ones of very, very slow improvement until finally on October 28<sup>th</sup>, we left ICU and on November 26<sup>th</sup>, we were able to leave the hospital and go stay at my Aunt's house near Children's. Three days later, the 29<sup>th</sup>, Anna celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a day of peace and rest.

But that is not the end of the story. I want to share some of the miracles and the joys of that recovery time. There was also sadness. Quite simply, it was hard. A lot of the time, I felt like this verse, II Corinthians 4:8-10, *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.* As I write, my mind is just flooded with all the things that went on - the memories of her hospital room, the seven or so room mates that we had over the course of time, the nurses and nurses' aides, the videos Anna watched (including conventions), the people we met, the food, Kohl's House (the place I was staying). I have very fond memories of both my parents and Charles' parents being with us for weeks - they were awesome! And then, of course, Anna. Anna smiling, Anna frowning, Anna squeezing my hand, Anna wiggling her toes, Anna riding in her bed down the hall for a test, Anna in her blue hat, Anna complaining about the boots she had to wear, Anna playing thumb wars in the middle of the night with her favorite nurse, Anna in her own pajamas, Anna sitting up in bed all by herself, Anna doing her breathing exercises with the respiratory therapist, Anna on her Daddy's lap for the first time in ages, Anna taking her first sips of water in six weeks, Anna standing by her bed, Anna listening to one of us read the Bible to her, Anna taking her medicine, Anna getting a foot rub from Grandma Wickboldt, Anna watching Grandma Trotter knit washcloths, Anna hugging and kissing me good night, Anna telling the nurse exactly how to change the dressing on her arm, Anna shooting water from

a syringe right at Uncle David, Anna in the playroom, Anna drawing a turkey, Anna walking, Anna taking wheelchair rides in the hall, Anna laughing, Anna waving goodbye to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor!

During that first week in ICU, they had tried taking the breathing tube out but about 36 hours later had to put it back in and heavily sedate her because her tummy was swelled so big she couldn't breathe on her own. While it was out, they gave her a different pain medication than she had ever been on because it did not suppress breathing as much. This medication made her throw her arms around, get talkative and easily upset - very unlike her. She had a hard night, talking all sorts of stuff, but I prayed with her in the morning, asking her if she had talked to Jesus lately. She said that no, she hadn't, but that she needed to. She repeated a few lines after me and then just began to pray by herself for a long time. She prayed that she would be obedient, to have peace and to cover her with the Blood of Jesus. Then she prayed for several other people and she praised the Lord and thanked Him. Then she began to say, "Wherever I am, I'll praise Him, whenever I can, I'll praise Him, for His love surrounds me like a sea." She said the last line over and over. The she went into, "Bless the Lord, oh my soul" for awhile and then, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." I was so blessed and I was crying and praying right along with her the whole time. She had a good tight hold of my hand all the time, too. I know the medicine was making her talk a lot, but that kind of talking was such a blessing because it really showed what was in her heart, even if she really was not totally aware of what she was saying. Praise God for His lovingkindness, that even under the influence of drugs, He is supreme!

There was a time after she had been in ICU for about a week that they wanted to do a lung biopsy because her Hematology/Oncology doctor was very concerned about a haziness they could see on the CT scan. They wanted to see if it was a fungus. A fungus would be a very serious thing to have. Well, there was A LOT of talk about this lung biopsy between the different doctors taking care of Anna - the surgery team, the ICU team and the HEM/ONC team. They didn't agree on the timing of it or whether it should be done at all. Finally, we heard it was scheduled for the next day, but then they decided she was too weak to do it. We had been praying, of course, and we talked about it with our parents. I felt I really needed to talk to Anna's doctor that wanted this done because I had a number of questions to ask. We talked on the phone and I believe that the Lord



put things in my heart to ask and to question. The doctor explained her reasons to me - she was very set on doing this lung biopsy - and then I brought up some things that she hadn't thought of. She is a very pleasant person to talk to, very open and willing to give you the time, as parents, to be involved with your child's care. She was willing to admit that she didn't know everything! So, as I talked what God put in my mind to ask, she admitted that maybe it wasn't such a needed thing after all. She said they would do another CT scan and see again what Anna's lungs looked like. The results came back and her lungs were perfectly clear - no haziness at all! Amen! I believe God did a miracle in the space of time between tests and healed that haziness, whatever it was!

Anna had these nasty looking, blistering, oozing bruises all over her right forearm from where they had an arterial line and IVs. It looked very bad. They did a skin biopsy to check for infection and there was NONE! The skin doctor said it just needed time to heal. Praise God!

There was also one point where her bilirubin was elevated so that she looked like a jaundiced baby. The bilirubin level was not serious in a nine year old but it indicated that something was not perfectly right in her liver function. They did some tests and finally determined that she needed a certain medicine. Right about then, the bilirubin level began to steadily go down and over the course of several days, was normal. Thank you, Jesus!

Karen brought the other three children down from Michigan to see us in Chicago for a few days around the end of October. They really wanted to see Anna but Anna was in isolation and the rules are that no one under 16 is allowed in. But that day, we had one of the really nice nurses and she convinced the charge nurse to let them in - a little miracle! So we dressed the kids in the gowns and gloves and masks and they came in to see her. When she saw them, Anna got the biggest smile possible with a breathing tube down her throat. She was able to squeeze their hands and they were so glad to see her. Spending time with the other children, even for only a few days, was therapeutic for me, also. It seemed like they had been away from me forever! I am very thankful for Karen and Brian and the love and care they gave our children for two and a half months.

While Anna was still in ICU, we had a discussion with her doctor about future treatment for Anna when she got well enough. We had several options of what we could do next, but it was too overwhelming to think about it much,



*Asher, Anna, Jonathan, Caroline  
in ICU October 2007*

since none of it would have been able to be started for many weeks. The big concern was that the Leukemia would not return while Anna was still very sick and there was nothing they could do to prevent it. For some reason, I was not worried at all. It could have caused much fear but I didn't even have to battle any fear or worry because there was none there. I believe that was a miracle that the Lord did for me! To this

day, she has no sign of any Leukemia in her body! Praise the Lord!

Many of you are familiar with the prayer calls on Saturday morning. When we were in Chicago, I was on just about every one of them and they were a lifeline for me. We were not going to any meetings, so listening to the prayer was wonderful, especially when they prayed for us every time. Can you imagine how it would feel to be individually prayed for every meeting you went to? Well, that is how I felt and in the time of need, it was so encouraging and uplifting and faith building. I received new courage and new strength. One time someone was talking about Paul and how he writes in the Bible in so much strength, how he says we are more than conquerors and things like that, yet sometimes he despaired of life (I Corinthians 1:8). He felt crushed and pressured. I felt like I was in that same situation and couldn't go on anymore. Yet, the admonishment was given on the prayer call: as sons of God, we never give up. Sons of God always come out victorious! I didn't want to go by my feelings but on what the Word of God said.

Now, you will remember that I was pregnant! We did not think we would be able to go home before the baby was due at the end of November. Well, we were right about that! We weren't able to go home before the baby was due! But God's thoughts were higher than my thoughts and His ways higher than my ways. Let me share with you His marvelous provision for us. Before Anna got sick, we had been seeing a midwife near our home and planning to have a home birth. I didn't want to deliver in the hospital, so we made plans with Home First, a team of medical doctors in Chicago who deliver babies at home, to attend our birth at my Aunt's house. Now, I was very big with the baby and I would constantly get comments from people about that fact. Most people thought I would deliver early. I was very aware that the baby was there and that I could go into labor any day. My heart was totally with Anna while she was in the hospital and I could hardly even think about the baby coming, yet eventually I was forced to. The

whole situation was so contrary to my hopes and desires for having a new baby. I was crushed and torn between being with Anna or going away to have our baby boy. Anna needed me - it was hard for her even when I was gone for several hours in the daytime. It got very distressing to me, especially as the days dragged on and on. Anna was improving very slowly and my due date was coming fast.

I cried out to the Lord about this one day and He dropped the thought in my heart, "Do you believe God? Do you have the faith to believe that He can keep the baby well and healthy even weeks past the due date until Anna is out of the hospital?" I didn't think I could because I knew the baby was big already and I just couldn't grasp the fact that God could do that. Besides, I very much did not want to be overdue. But I felt a quickening that God was saying, "I will do this for you anyway." Not long after, one of the brethren called me in the morning before I went over to the hospital and shared with me that the Lord had given them a song for me. It was "Give Thanks," particularly the line that says, "And now, let the weak say I am strong and let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us." They went on to say that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. The Lord told them that I had been torn between two things, but that God would strengthen Anna and that I would have a good delivery and a healthy child and that God would take care of both. They said there had been much pressure but that the Lord would bless. My faith was revived! I was so excited that God actually spoke so directly to me, especially at a time when I was feeling very alone.

Then came the day that Anna was able to leave Children's! Charles and I, Anna and my dad and mom were all staying at my Aunt's house, and I was still pregnant! I thought, "Now the baby can come." Four more days passed by, still no baby and I had another prenatal appointment. Because I was a week overdue, I had to have those stress tests to make sure the baby was OK. Of course, the baby was fine and I had to come back in three more days for more tests. Charles and I were rather frustrated with that, and we talked about it after my appointment before driving back to my Aunt's house. We began to joke about just running away and escaping to Mahomet and as we threw the idea around, we thought, "Why not? Why not just leave? Like tomorrow. What is really keeping us here, anyway?" Anna's doctor at home could take care of her. She was recovering amaz-

ingly fast now. We thought if we could get the OK from Anna's Chicago doctor, my midwife at home and the blessing of our parents, we would make a run for it! Brian and Karen were bringing the children from Michigan that evening for a visit and we thought, "Why make it a visit? We can just go home and keep them!" We missed the other children soooooo much. As soon as we got back from the doctor, I called my midwife. When I asked if she would still deliver our baby, she did not hesitate. She said, "Yes, I will." I called Anna's doctor and was totally amazed when she answered the page in less than a minute. In the past, it had been difficult to get to talk to her. I told her our plan and after discussing logistics, she said, "You have my blessing." I was excited! Two down, one to go, in less than an hour! I talked to my parents and they said it was a good idea and they actually had already talked of the possibility of going home sometime soon! I was really excited now! It was incredible to see God move in our situation. It is not like us at all to make a big decision in a few hours time, but that is what happened - God did it! We stayed up late that night packing all our stuff. I was still pregnant in the morning! So, early, Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> we came home. We drove in a bad ice storm the last 20 miles or so, but it was worth it. It was absolutely wonderful to be home! It was awesome to fellowship with the brethren the next morning. After a few days adjusting and settling in, I told the Lord, "Now I'm ready for this baby to come." And just to show how sovereign He is, He had us wait on Him a little longer and according to His will, Timothy Abraham was born at home on December 12<sup>th</sup>, weighing 10 pounds, 5 ounces. Glory be to the Lord!



We have named our babies names that had to do with things that were happening in our lives at the time they were born and Timothy was no exception. He has the middle name of Abraham because of these verses in Hebrews 11. ***8By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*** I felt as if I was in a strange country, not knowing where we were going or what would happen next but knew that it was the path I was to go down to bring me closer to my inheritance - being a son of God.

*<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, <sup>18</sup>Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: <sup>19</sup>Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.* I put Anna on the altar, knowing that God had said He would raise her up.

Last about Abraham are the verses that say that Abraham believed God (Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6, James 2:23). That is what I was learning - to believe God in spite of what my eyes saw and what the world was telling me.

The next six weeks after Timothy was born can be summed up in one word: adjustments! Adjusting to a new baby and recovering from childbirth, adjusting to homeschooling, adjusting to being home alone in the daytime with my children again, adjusting to taking care of Anna and her many needs, etc. It was not easy, but I thank the Lord every day for each blessed day He gave and continues to give us together. After having spent two months with my children away from me, every minute is valuable and I am grateful even for the bad attitudes and things the children have because I get to deal with them - not someone else! Each day is so precious - even our day after day same old routine is so precious! Even all our adjustments were overshadowed by the joy of being at home and together! Praise the Lord!

Anna began physical therapy in December and also, Dad has been doing the exercises with Anna at home and she has progressed by leaps and bounds. In fact, she is leaping and bounding! She runs and dances and climbs up and down the basement stairs - what a huge change! She has taken swimming lessons this summer and is excelling in them. Anna was getting IV nutrition plus another IV medication right after getting home but that was stopped soon after Timothy was born because she was eating and drinking very well. Her hair is growing back wonderfully, also!

We had another meeting with the doctors in Chicago in January 2008 concerning treatment for Anna. There were basically 3 options - one involved going to Chicago and taking some of Jonathan's cells (he had been her donor for her bone marrow transplant in 2003) and infusing them in Anna in the hopes that they would boost her im-

mune system and they would fight the Leukemia. This option had an extremely slight chance of a cure. The big risk was the cells attacking important parts of her body. The second option was doing some maintenance chemo for an indefinite length of time and the third option was to do nothing but the Gleevec. Charles and I prayed much and sought the advice of the elders and the Lord has given us much peace about staying here at home with Anna and not going back to Chicago. She is taking Gleevec, a medicine that targets the type of leukemia she had and won't let it reproduce - at least that is what it is supposed to do! See, as you all may have guessed, there is no cure for that type of leukemia, BUT, GOD made her and He has the cure.



*I felt that our faith was having to rise up! Faith that she was safe in the hands of the Lord and that her healing would come from Him and no*



*one else.*

When we were trying to make the decision back in January about Anna's treatment, God gave us the story of David when he had three choices for a punishment after he numbered the people (I Chronicles 21). David said that he would rather fall into the hands of the Lord rather than man, because with Him is mercy and so David chose the disease. Then the disease came and in the midst of it, the Lord repented of what He was doing and told the angel of death to stop. First, God is in control of disease. Second, God had mercy and stopped it. Amen! He is going to do the same for Anna. We strongly felt that we should not go to Chicago and let the doctors transfer Jonathan's cells to Anna. She is in the hands of the Lord.

We were also given a verse from Romans 12 that speaks of the proportion of your faith. For me personally, I felt that our faith was having to rise up! Faith that she was safe in the hands of the Lord and that her healing would come from Him and no one else.

The last thing that spoke to us was a video that a sister here in Mahomet had seen. She shared it on a Sunday morning and I was in awe of how super-directly it spoke to me. We later watched it online. It was of a baby water buffalo that was attacked by lions. It had been with its parents and was unable to run fast enough to get away. The force of the attack landed the baby buffalo and the lion in a pond. The other lions came up and were holding the buffalo down in the water and attempting to drag it ashore. Then a crocodile came up out of the water and grabbed the back leg of

*continued on page 39...*

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

FEMI ADEDOYIN

MAHOMET, IL

APRIL 6, 2008

God, we pray for the joy of the Lord to be in the midst of all the stress that is going on in our lives. *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength* (Nehemiah 8:10). God, we want to bind the enemy that wants to rob us of our joy that is in Christ Jesus. We claim that joy back this morning in the mighty name of Jesus. Fill us with Your Spirit. Anoint us afresh, Lord God. Bless these children. The desire of our heart is to see each one of them, name by name, face by face, become sons of God along with their parents, in the mighty name of Jesus. We thank You for bringing back those who were sick last week, who could not be here. We thank You for touching our sisters that have been struck by the enemy. We thank You for the words of prophecy that have come this morning, *for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy* (Revelation 19:10b). God, we just thank You for encouraging us that we may continue on in the faith. We bless You. We give You all the honor and all the glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

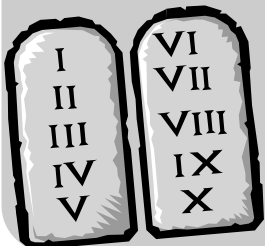
Well, it is a blessing to be before you this morning. When I first joined this fellowship, I was full of joy and many would ask me how I could be so joyful with the kind of job that I had. I questioned the same thing myself. How can I be so joyful? I know it is the Spirit of God. These last two or three weeks have very much been a struggle for me to remain in that joy. But I tell you, this morning something was broken. I just sensed that presence and joy of God coming back to me this morning. I was sharing with a sister this morning that I just felt overwhelmingly joyful. Yet I have a lot of bills to pay, so I cannot understand why I am so joyful. It has to be God, because this joy is not dependent on what I have or don't

have, but solely on the presence of God. I am very, very glad to have that joy back, because when I have it, nothing can stop me, and there are no circumstances that are too hard to be sad.

We thank God for the message that came last week. I was pondering on that message all week tied to the word *evangelism*. It is a great thing to have the opportunity to travel and minister life. It is also great for us to remember that many people are dying right here. Right here! It wouldn't be right for us to be thinking and waiting for when we would be able to travel when our neighbor is in need of Jesus. I say that because one of the men that used to work for me left for about two years and he recently came back. We have been working together for three days this last week before he left again. I asked this young man, "What ever happened to Abdul?"

Abdul is a Nigerian. He is not what we would call "well-educated." He couldn't speak English. But he was a very pious Muslim, praying five times a day. He was very pious. If he missed one of those five times to pray he was very troubled. I couldn't get him to come to work except he prayed first. He was an extremely pious Muslim. I would pick him up in my car and play Christian music. Sometimes he would say, "Femi, can you shut it off?" I would turn it down and say, "This music ministers to me. I would hope it would minister to you." Anyway, I believe God sent him to us and I spoke to him about Jesus. I said, "I feel comfortable to be a Christian."

I went to a Muslim College. They never taught me the Koran, but Muslims founded the school. I told him, "Muhammad is a dead prophet. He has no history. Even you guys agree that he is dead, dead, dead. So why are you still worshipping a dead person? Jesus is alive, so it wouldn't make sense to continue to worship someone who is dead." But he said he was an Imam, like a Rabbi, and he could convert me, but I could not convert him.



A few months later, he quit working for me and he ended up in Chicago. I found this out three days ago when I asked this young man, "Whatever happened to Abdul?" He told me that after he quit he went to Chicago. Then he had a heart problem and was taken to a hospital. Since he didn't have any insurance because he didn't have a good job, they wouldn't treat him. They sent him back to Immigration and from there back to Nigeria, where he died.

So I am saying that to say this: we cannot underestimate or ignore the people that we come across every day who are not taking the message of God very seriously. It is very important. We just don't know why they come to us and how long they are going to be around. I am not afraid of death, but to die without Jesus, I am very afraid of that. So, this young man is gone, dead. I challenge us today that, as we leave this place, we continue to be a minister of the message of God and Jesus Christ. Don't be bashful about it. Let others know why you are so joyful.

Let others know why you are so peaceful. Let others know why you are so conscious of how you conduct yourself and God will enrich us with many blessings. Hallelujah.

I met a scholar from the University of Illinois. I witnessed to him and he said, "Femi, leave me alone with all this religious talk, Christianity, Muslim, whatever. I don't want to hear it. You guys have caused so much death in the world. Every time someone becomes a Christian, that person just seems to get into people's lives and work a lot of destruction in this world." I said, "Brother, I don't believe that. Go back into history, and if you look at history you will find out that it was worse before Christianity came. Before Abraham was called out, human beings were killing each other like it didn't matter, according to history. People were eating their own children, eating each other's children, offering their children for sacrifices. It was terrible. It was awful."

I would not want to be around if the Holy Spirit was taken out. Jeremiah 17:9, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* Before God called Abraham out, there was extreme wickedness in the world and people took more lives than ever. I hope that I convinced the scholar that that was wrong. That is why God gave us the Ten Commandments and that is what I want to talk about this morning. I'm not going to be able to share on all ten of the Com-

mandments, but I am going to touch on the first one and we will go from there.

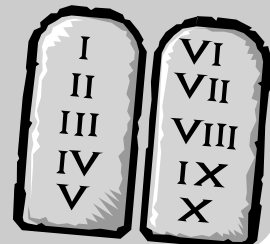
As I look at the Ten Commandments that God gave us in Exodus 20, some things jump out at me. I was a literature student once. I read some of the books of Shakespeare. He wrote a lot of books. In one of the books I remember a quotation that said, "*Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage, And then is heard no more*" (from *Macbeth, Act 5, scene 5, 24-26*, by William Shakespeare). Shakespeare did not know what he was talking about. He believed that the life that human beings have is just like the life that animals have, that you have the opportunity now and to seize the opportunity. In a sense, that is right, but he gives you the impression that there is no more life after this, which is very wrong. Jesus came and said that there is eternal life. Paul said, *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable* (I Corinthians 15:19).

There is a life other than this one, and we are created to live eternally and it depends where we are going to live it. But life goes on and we are just passing through here as sojourners and strangers. *For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding* (I Chronicles 29:15).

I wish I had known that when I was reading Shakespeare. I used to cram it and memorize it like it was very, very important. From that experience I conclude that life is about relationship. We see in the Ten Commandments that life is having a relationship with God, a relationship with man and a relationship with things. There are personal relationships and there are impersonal relationships. You have impersonal relationships with your pets, with your cars. You can give your pets the name of a man, but it will not make it a personal relationship, for the pet will still be a pet. That is an impersonal relationship.

God wants us to have a personal relationship with Him. What does that mean? That means that He does not want to be treated like we would treat our cars. He doesn't want us to treat Him as how you drive your car. You turn this way and the car turns, you turn that way and it turns. Sometimes that is how we treat God. We treat

I AM NOT  
AFRAID OF  
DEATH, BUT TO  
DIE WITHOUT  
JESUS, I AM  
VERY AFRAID  
OF THAT.



God as we would treat another object.

God wants to be treated as a Divine Being.

He wants a personal relationship. He wants us to have a dialogue with Him. He wants to tell us something and He wants us to respond to those things. He wants to ask us to do something and He wants us to respond to it.

Sometimes we treat each other like we are so impersonal. My sister was telling me about the way her husband talks to her. I said, "Well, I need to talk to him, because you are a human being, not a pet." Sometimes that is how we treat our friends. We treat them as if they don't matter or as if they don't have any feelings. We treat God the same way. We are so impersonal with our relationship with God and God wants a personal relationship. That is what I have to tell myself, that I need to stop treating God like I am treating a pet, like I can just do whatever I want when God says, "Don't do it," and I say, "I am going to do it anyway." It's like coming to God with a list of all my requests and telling Him, "Here it is, sign it." Instead, I should go to God with an empty piece of paper and say, "God, fill it in." Then I would be in agreement with Him.

God wants a personal relationship with us, so He came with the law, but before I get there I want to look at Proverbs. Something about the law, whenever we hear the word *law* or refer to the Torah, we always think about the do's and don'ts. As I went through this study I found out that the word *law* actually means "instructions." They are instructions. Brother duCille was ministering one time about cars. I was amazed because I had the same thought. He was ministering that our cars have noses, have eyes, have feet like human beings and I was thinking the same thing. I also think that for a car, you have to put gas in it for it to run and the man without the law of God is a man without gas. It is like trying to drive your car without gas.

God says, "I created you. Now, if you want to enjoy these things which I created, this human being which I created, this is how to really enjoy it." First of all,

God is holy. Secondly, love feeds us. It is like putting fish into an aquarium or into the sea. If they are not in that environment they are dead. Without the love of God we are in the same predicament. God says, "I want you to enjoy life. I

want you to

be protected." He said you should not steal. "I don't want you to steal what belongs to Paul because I created Paul to enjoy that thing. I don't want anybody to steal the things that you have because I want you to enjoy the things that I gave you, so don't steal."

Can you imagine if no one stole, lied, or committed sin? Can you imagine a world like that? There wouldn't be any drive-by shootings. There would be heaven on earth. Taking the commandments out of the courtroom, out of the churches, and out of our homes, to me, is not wise. You know that the Bible says that *hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins* (Proverbs 10:12). He who loves has fulfilled the law.

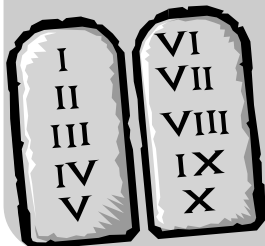
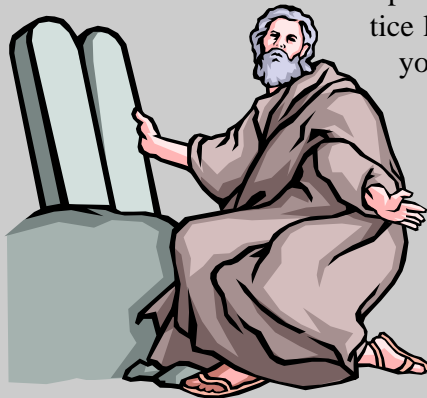
Some might say, "Well, I do love. So, I will be free of the law." What that passage really means, if you look at, "Thou shalt not steal," "Thou shalt not commit adultery," if you have the love of God, you will not do those things. If you love somebody there is no way you are going to steal that person's property. You won't be cheating your time at work if you have love. That is what

that passage is saying, that you need to practice love. It is not just me saying, "I love you" and then I give you something. But

it is in the place where you don't want any harm to come to that individual, or to that company of people. That is what that passage is saying.

Proverbs 1:8, *My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.* We all want to be sons of God. If you look at this word *law*, he is speaking of instruction. When we hear the

word *law*, we think about the do's and don'ts. Because of our nature we don't like law. We don't like it even if it is your job to create laws. The other day I asked my helper to roll up the hose and put it back in the back. He said, "Femi, why?" I said, "Forget about why, young man. That is the rule around here." Because of the nature of Adam we don't like laws or rules. Yet God said that this is how you can have a very profitable life. "Follow My law and see how sweet life can be." Life can be very joyful if you have a good relationship with men and God. Life can be a pleasure. When those relationships are not right, we have all kinds of trouble. All kinds of trouble! I am learning to have good relationships because I want to be joyful at all times. I am telling you, I love to be joyful. If you have a sound relationship with God and men, you have no problem. Life becomes a pleasure.



You

may run across people who have formed in their hearts to commit suicide, or they want to kill somebody. And you will find that most of the time something went wrong with their relationship(s). I sat down with people that are murderers and I asked some of them, "Why did you do that? Why did you kill your friend?" They said, "Femi, you just don't understand. The guy wanted to stab me. I ducked and I took the knife from him and I made sure that I killed him." That is a bad relationship. For most of them, that is what happened. That is why I am extremely careful, and learning to be more careful in order to maintain a good relationship with God and with my fellow man. Hallelujah.

Proverbs 3:1, *My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: <sup>2</sup> For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.* For the last three weeks, I tried to remember all of the Ten Commandments. I failed badly, so I asked a number of Christians if they could tell me all of the Ten Commandments. Brother Peter got nine out of ten right, which was the best of all the people that I asked. Most people knew three, four, or five of them. They were like, "Tell me the rest." I said, "We are in trouble, because God says, *My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments*, but the sons of God cannot even remember what the law is."

I'm sure it is written on our hearts and I am going to get to that. But right now I am going to tell you that it is important for us to know that laws are supposed to make us live effectively in life. It is very important for us to know it. It is our instruction. I asked my wife how many of the commandments she knew and she got about seven of them. We joke about these things, because now we know what we have to work at. It is unbelievable. Some people will get it but not in the order that God gave it. They just pick a commandment here and there.

Proverbs 6:20, *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:* It really struck me that we want to be sons of God and we have all this instruction in the Bible. Proverbs 8:36, *But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.* In other words, if you don't keep the laws of God, you will really wish that you had at the end of the day. God help us.

God is love and God is holy. I believe that God

wants

us to be like Him, also. What God is, He wants us to be, also. He also gives us the laws because He knows that this will fully fit us. This is where we are. This is what is going to make us enjoy those things that God created, if we can follow His laws. It is like learning to drive a car. As you get the manual and you get all the instruction, you enjoy that car to its best performance because you are learning to drive it. The same works with the laws of God. Hallelujah.

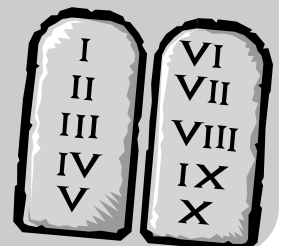
Some people say that love supersedes the law. I do not think so. I think love and law are allies. Law and love, they are friends. I say that because love needs law as its eyes. Someone says, "Femi, let's go rob a bank." I would have to say, "Wait a minute. What does the law say about that? You know I love you. I don't want us to do that because the law says it is wrong." So, love needs law as its eyes. If a woman says she wanted me to

come and sleep with her, I would have to say, "Let me see what the law says about that. 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' I cannot show you love because that is wrong. It is adultery." So, love needs law as its eyes and law needs love as its drive. The Pharisees had the law but because there was no love, it was not profitable. So, law needs love as its drive. Hallelujah. I hope that you pass the test in knowing the Ten Commandments. You can test your-

self. I don't want to embarrass anybody. Just check yourself and see if you remember these commandments. If you don't it won't be too hard to just go back and see what God says about His laws. It is very, very important.

The relationship that we have with God must grow. I have noticed five things that I do with my wife that help the relationship that we have grow. I have never had a fight with my wife for eleven years; we never argue. We don't make any noise in the house, or yell at each other. We haven't argued for eleven years. She is white and I am black and yet we get along very well. Praise God! It is not that we agree on everything, but it is just the fact that I have learned to say, "All right. You are right; I am wrong." And although I may be right, there has to be peace in our house. "You are right; I am wrong." Down the line, she will apologize and that is how we con-

CAN YOU IMAGINE IF NO ONE STOLE, LIED, OR COMMITTED SIN?



tinue to

have a very peaceful relationship.

I have noticed five things in that aspect of relationship. The first thing is acceptance. We must accept one another and God will accept us. I John 3:2, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* This is Brother Peter's passage. God has accepted us. That is clear, because we gave our life to Him, because the Spirit of God touches our hearts and we realize that we are bad. Yet He accepted us as we were.

The second thing I noticed is asking. When God accepted us He actually said, "Beloved, I beseech thee." Romans 12:1, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.* I believe that this is a statement that is intended to help us to develop a relationship with Him, to help it grow. "I have accepted you, now I want you to do this for me: *ye present your bodies a living sacrifice.* Why should He ask for that? We are going to touch on that.

The third thing that I believe is important in a growing relationship is the promises. God has given us promises in II Peter 1:3-4. He accepted us, He asked us to lay our life down, and then He promised us this if we do that. *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: <sup>4</sup>Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.* This is the promise of God: I have accepted you and I am asking you to do this and this is what the result of it is going to be. You have this divine nature. Then He committed Himself to please us. In III John 1:2, He promised to please us, to give us all that we need unto life and godliness to take care of our bodies and our spirit. *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

I think that the last thing that is necessary in a growing relationship is apologizing. You are not always right even when you are always right. Paul said in I Corinthians

6:7, *Now*

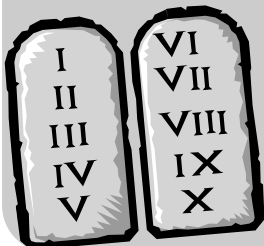
*therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?* He said he suffered wrong for being right. Apologizing means repenting, it means confessing, "I have sinned. Forgive me for I was wrong. Forgive me." These things are important in our growth in relationship with God.

Now let's go to these commandments in Exodus 20. This is very important. Here God introduced Himself, and it falls in line with what Sister Pavlina was prophesying this morning. You know, that really struck me. Verse 1, *And God spake all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* We had the word this morning saying, "I am the LORD thy God." That is a very important phrase, very, very important. "I am the LORD thy God." God would not just come to us and say, "Thou shalt not do this and thou shalt not do that." Why did He start with that? "I am the LORD thy God." You know, He introduced Himself first, before He gave all these commandments.

Isaiah 54:5, *For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.* God is a God of creation and a God of covenant. So He said, "I am the LORD thy God," that "I am the Lord Yahweh." The covenant name of God is what He always introduced Himself with. "I, the Lord God, made a covenant with you." It is the same covenant that

we make with our wives as husbands. You make this covenant with your wife as a husband and you say, "Till death do us part." We have this covenant and God is saying the same thing. "I am the LORD." When your wife does wrong you say, "Listen, wife, I am your husband." It is very powerful and that is what God is saying: "I am the LORD thy God, I am the One that created you. Don't ever think that you are self-sufficient. I am thy Maker. I am thy Husband. I made thee. I have made this covenant and this is how you can enjoy life."

This is very interesting to me that God is full of wisdom and He really loves us. The law is not something to hurt us, for it is because of His love that He gave the law. He didn't give His law because He was some autocrat or just some guy that wanted to boss you around. God is love and He thought, "I love My creation. This is how you can enjoy My creation to the maximum." Hal-



lelujah.

This is how you can really, really enjoy life.

Can you believe that each person on this earth follows the laws of God? WOW! It is unimaginable that each person on this planet follows the law, because God is full of love and He wants to make sure that we enjoy that love. He says, "Follow these rules. You will love each other. You will not believe the thing that I have put inside you. Just follow this." Jesus, help us. He said, "I am the God of creation and the God of covenant. There is no one like Me. The Lord thy God is one God." That means He is the only one. There is no other god. It is God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Muslims try to contradict that, that He said He is the one. But when you actually go into the root meaning of it, He is saying, "I am the only One. I am the only God. There is no other god. I am the One that created you, that made you, that has plans for your life." So He has the right to give us the laws. He is not an autocrat. He has the right to give us the laws. He made us and He is telling us, "This is how you can enjoy what I have made."

The car manufacturers make the cars, sell them to you and say, "Hey! This car will run 300 miles per hour or something like that. Just follow these rules." You say, "Is that right? I will follow it." God is doing the same thing for us and He is the God that redeems us. He said, ***I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage...*** Why is He going through all this? He is not bringing the law to hurt you. He is trying to tell you that He is the One, that He has a right to do this. "I am the One that set you free from sin. I am the only Deliverer that brought you back. I redeemed you. I brought you back from the enemy. I am the only One that has set you free from sin and bondage. This is why I am giving you this law." Hallelujah. He is a God of liberty. James 1:25 tells us that it is the law of liberty. ***But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*** He has the right to punish because He does not want you to serve other gods which are not God. They have no right to rule your life. Hallelujah.

***I am the LORD thy God...*** What is *thy God*? Thy God is what you love, seek, worship and serve. Thy God is what you love, seek, worship and serve. So any-

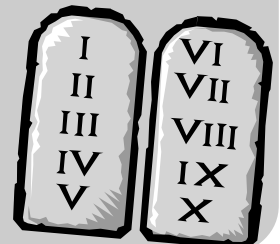
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else can become our god if we love, seek, worship and serve it. It becomes a god, a false god. What are these other gods? What are the other gods? Exodus 20:3, ***Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*** What are these other gods? I John 2:16, ***For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*** I believe that other gods can be pleasures, possessions, positions, or other religions. With the influence of Muhammad over Islam, there is no question it is another god. Buddha or whatever you call him is another god. Man can be another god. Self can be another god. Hallelujah. Exodus 20:2, ***I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*** ***Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*** Now, this is something that I am learning, that it is easy to have other gods. If I hear God saying

this to me, I have to obey that. I have to believe it. If someone comes and says something else, whether or not they believe that God has spoken to me is not my business. My business is to believe God has spoken to me and that is where I stand, because I do not want to serve other gods. There was a prophet in the Bible that God had spoken to clearly. Then another prophet came and told him something different and he followed that word and he suffered the consequence (I Kings 13:11-32).

How can I serve God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength? How can I do that? How can I love God with all that I have? I believe one thing is to do what He says. Do what He says. Speak to Him. God wants a personal relationship with us. He wants a dialogue with His people. Studying the Word of God is another way to love God with all your heart, with all your soul. I am amazed to see a Christian with an unmarked Bible. I've seen some Christians with Bibles that look like they just came out of the dry cleaners or something. Clean. **Clean.** I mean, the Bible is like a love letter from God. I'm telling you, without the Word of God, I am done. There is just something from it that brings joy to your soul. It makes life more joyful for me. I'm telling you, I can be working for about nine hours and I remember a word, a phrase in the Bible, I meditate on

YOU ARE NOT ALWAYS RIGHT EVEN WHEN YOU ARE ALWAYS RIGHT.



it and I get  
so much energy from heaven.

It is so important to stay in the Bible. This is the way to grow in God. The advantage of it is when you serve God with all your heart, hardships cannot control you. When you really love God it doesn't matter. I look at Brother Burt and all of the hardships around him. I see this man has aged doing it. But when you have the love of God the energy just comes. The love of God just makes you so vibrant and strong. Thou shalt love God with all thy heart, with all thy soul. It is for our own benefit. It is not only for God, it is for us so that we can be strong and energetic and full of love. Hallelujah. You receive happiness in doing certain things in the love of God. I may not have anyone to help me with my job, but when I am going in with my Bible I have all the help that I need. I will be so happy throughout eight or nine hours. I know it is God. There is so much happiness when you have that love of God. You see life much differently. I know the way I used to see life. I used to run from the police. Recently, a policeman stopped me for the first time in twelve years and he asked me if I could pray for him. I mean, that is different. That is more to my liking and I feel good about it and the policeman said, "Brother, just go, man. Get in your car and go." They can sense the power of God and they know that this is the wrong person, or I'm in the wrong place.

The power of God, the love for God, love for others - like Brother Burt brought the word one time that "if you love God, you love others." As the love of God grows, the love for others grows too. It is true. If the love for others is not growing, maybe you have not loved God like you should. It is very true that when you love God, and have that love for others, you can tolerate people. You begin to understand why they behave that way, and you know the power of the enemy. You begin to want to pray with your brother. The situation that we are going through right now, we need the love of God, because it covers everything. The love of God helps us to understand why we are where we are. Hallelujah. There is so much energy when we love God.

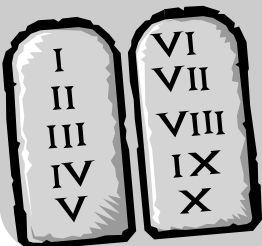
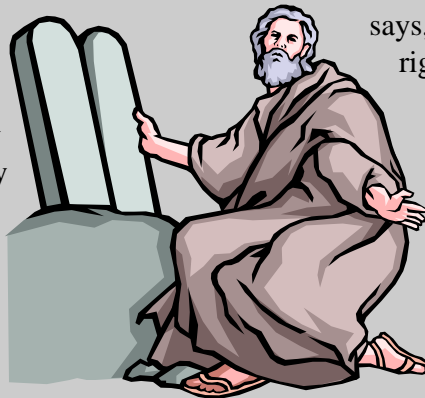
There is the young rich man who has everything working for him. Luke 18:18, *And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?* <sup>19</sup>And Jesus said

unto him,

*Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.* <sup>20</sup>*Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.* <sup>21</sup>*And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.* Wow! That is wonderful. I don't know how many Christians can boast of that today - that they have kept the commandments *from my youth up.* Mark 10:21 says, *Then Jesus beholding him loved him...* And He said this to him, *Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me* (Luke 18:22).

We can memorize the laws. We can have it printed everywhere. That is good. But we must keep them! More than that, we must follow the Spirit of God, because here is a man that kept the laws. The Spirit of God said, "Go sell all that you have." Yet he had a problem with that, because all he was thinking about were the laws. Jesus is introducing something here that is greater than the laws. II Corinthians says something more honorable here and that is when the Spirit of God says, "Go left," you go. If He tells you to "go right," you go. You can memorize the laws but it is not as important as knowing that the Spirit of God is leading you, the Spirit of God is convicting you.

The other day I washed and cleaned all the drain covers in the bathrooms. I cleaned all those drains really well and I was really tired. But the Spirit of God was saying that I couldn't leave that place until I got that done and I got it done. The boss said, "You know, I just did the same thing next door. I was thinking about getting you." I said, "Man, I got it before he got to me." That is how the Spirit is leading us. It is not the law that is leading us. So it was the Spirit of God telling this man to go *sell all that thou hast* and give to the poor and he failed. Hallelujah. There was something that this young man did not know even though he was a rich young man and he had everything working for him. This man was rich, he was young and he was a politician. He had all the influence. He was a ruler. He had all the influence, but he forgot that the Lord does not only condemn the hearts of the law, but also the thought of it, the desire of it. That is the purpose of God. The fantasy of even trying to commit that sin, God condemns that. He didn't realize that. Jesus knew that if you followed Him, you would be a better man. You are on the road but you are not there yet.



Sec-

ondly, he probably thought that to love his neighbor was to love his cousin, or the next door neighbor that was so nice to him. He may have said, "I love that guy next door. I love that guy there. He came to my church," and stuff like that, not knowing that "loving your neighbor" is like the Good Samaritan story. You know, loving those that are hard to love. Hallelujah. God's love does not depend on whom you like or just immediate family alone. I believe also that God has put something inside us that I call culpability. God has given you a measure of faith that you can love to this extent and sometimes you only love to a lesser measure and you think, "I am loving." I really believe that. I believe that God has given us culpability to love in a greater measure. A lot of times we don't make that measure and He wants us to make that measure.

Lastly, Jesus Himself is the embodiment of the law. A lot of the time we think that we are better than somebody else is when we think we are doing well, and we are really comparing ourselves with others. Try to compare yourself with Jesus. Then you'll find out, "Oh, I am not that good." Jesus is the embodiment of the law. So, if I think I am doing better, I check myself and compare myself with Jesus. I find that I am nowhere. Hallelujah. This is a very good study for me. It is making me feel like I am growing now.

II Corinthians 3:6, *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. <sup>7</sup>But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: <sup>8</sup>How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? <sup>9</sup>For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. <sup>10</sup>For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. <sup>11</sup>For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.* I thank God for this fellowship. I really do, because this is the first place that I learned the phrase, "What is God telling you?" That is Brother Burt's phrase. When I talk to him he says, "Is God telling you something?" I was brought up as a Christian, but not to the point that I would know that God was

telling

me something. "Just follow the laws." That is what I knew. But we get to a point where Jesus is saying something. We sang that song this morning that really blessed me. The Spirit of God is come. The Spirit of God has come to dwell in us and He is directing us. We are not having the laws where you follow the "thou shalt." You will know it, and the Spirit of God will just convict you.

Jesus said if you just think badly about your brother that you have already committed murder. The Spirit is more glorious. Just think about a woman wrongly and you have already committed adultery. That is taking it to another level and that is the intention of the law. They were not put in place to only be "thou shalt not do this" or "thou shalt not do that," but God wants to bring us to a place where we don't even fantasize about sinning, where we don't even think about it, that it doesn't cross our mind any more. God has to dwell in this body so that we don't even think of sin. We just naturally become, something supernatural becomes something natural.

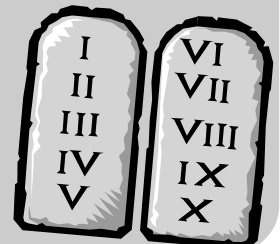
We are just like cars. This is where we are now. That is where Jesus is taking us. Don't feel so bad about not knowing all the Ten Commandments. The Spirit of God dwells inside you. He said He has written it on our hearts and the Spirit convicts you.

Psalms 40:8, *I delight to do thy will,*

*O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.* If

something is wrong, the Spirit of God will tell you that you were wrong. That is the power, "In the day of my power, my people shall be willing." The Spirit of God has come and now we are willing to obey God. God gave us the law, but the law is so spiritual and we are not. We could not keep the law. Even if you keep one, if you fail in another one, you have failed in everything. James 2:10, *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* So the One that comes is much more glorious. He gave us that power to fulfill those laws and much more. Just think wrongly about a woman and you have already committed lust. Think badly about your brother for no cause and you have already committed murder. That scares me. I cannot think wrong of my brother. I don't want to be a murderer. I don't care how bad my brother is, I have to correct myself and pray for my brother. God bless you. 🙏

THE BIBLE IS  
LIKE A LOVE  
LETTER  
FROM GOD.





# Amazing Love!

by Nathaniel Chatic

In recent weeks, I have heard a multitude of messages on the love of God. What I would like to share with you is more of an encouragement in the love that God has for His people, and His desire to fully express His love within our hearts, so much so that it would overflow outwardly to those around us! I'll begin with a scripture verse that I am certain many reading this will be familiar with. For those who are not familiar with this verse, I pray that it blesses you! John 3:16 says, ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*** The word "love" within this verse is *agape*, which is the highest, purest, untainted, overall GREATEST love imaginable. That *agape* love fully encompasses and expresses who God is. Simply put, God IS love. Not only does He desire to show forth His love to us in numerous ways, but He IS the embodiment or greatest representation of what true love actually is.

I believe that the devil is very keen about knowing the power and sheer magnitude that is in God's love. In fact, he is so aware of it that he has worked and continues to work extremely hard to divide the church, the Body of Christ at large, in order to quench the power of God's Spirit and love moving within His Body and ministering life inwardly and outwardly to humanity. I remember Brother duCille made a statement concerning the power that a united church has the capability of moving in. He said that the glory of God is the key that will unite His Body together, and His glory will be what helps us to move as ONE man, amen. I believe that the glory, anointing, and power that lies within the love of God will be the catalyst to our success in becoming one through Christ.

The *agape* love of God is the best form of love that we

could ever know, give, or receive. Think about something that you really love. It could be in the form of something pleasant to the tastebuds, or a particular hobby or activity that you really enjoy doing. Think about the people in your life that you absolutely love. There are certain people, places, foods, and activities that we really love. Now, compound the love that you have for those people, places, or things by one trillion, and you won't even come close to touching the measure of love that God has for you. When you really love something or someone, you will go to great lengths to preserve and keep that which is near and dear to your heart. It is somewhat indescribable - the ferocity that one could exert to ensure that what they loved was protected, nurtured, and so forth. We have probably all heard by now the example of the mother hen looking after her chicks, and protecting them under her wings. She would go to great lengths to make sure her babies were properly looked after and protected because she loved them. She did not desire to see all that she had invested in them fall by the wayside.

The same is with the God we serve. He has so greatly invested in His creation, so much so that He took it upon Himself to give men an avenue to know Him on a more personal level. God wants to have a deeper relationship with us. He is the embodiment of love, what it means to love and be loved, and He so greatly wants us to experience His love and love Him in return. The question arises, "How can I, a natural man, return the love that God has for us on such a level that He gave His life for me?" God says, "I love you so much, that I died for you that you would totally accept Me, in order to BE like Me." Paul put it well. He said that he was continually working out his salvation. (Philippians 2:12) To me, that is indicative

of a process that does not stop at the point of accepting Christ into your heart. There needs to be more and more of Christ that is imparted into our hearts, as well as less and less of what comprises us, our nature and character, coming out. Christ must increase in our hearts, that we would decrease. And that is something that our Adamic nature and flesh do not take easily! To be like the Most High takes work, an effort that goes beyond anything that we could really ever do on a very base level. It takes having a love for God, a desire to seek after Him with all of your heart.

There is something of an intent or an expectation that God has through His love. He lets us know of that expectation through the first two commandments: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL of thy heart, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. First, God wants us to give unto Him the entirety of our hearts. When it comes to loving God, there is absolutely nothing that should stand between Him and your heart. I believe that when the Bible describes God as a “jealous” God, it is referring to the idea that God desires such an intimate relationship with us that there should be absolutely nothing else that we would want other than Him. One of His commandments lays out that idea as fact: “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.” God desires our full attention. The Bible also talks about having and retaining a spiritual perspective. Proverbs 29:18, *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.* One of the keys to success in God, and to success within His kingdom lies in having the spiritual stamina to keep our perspective and vision in alignment with His mind.

One of the wonderful things about this recent 90-day Bible reading challenge that many are just starting, or are well into, is the ability to digest the Word of God. Sometimes in order to increase our appetite for God and the things that pertain to Him, we have to adjust our eating regiment. Eating desserts all the time is definitely not too healthy for our bodies, nor is eating steak all of the time. There needs to be a balance, and it also applies to the spiritual side of things. Delving into the Bible, whether you have been reading it for many years or are just picking it up for the first time, is an absolute necessity. We cannot go forth hither and thither without a clear direction from the Lord, and it helps to read His “instruction manual” in order to receive a better understanding of who He is and what His expectations for His people are. At the same time, we cannot afford to eat and eat and eat so much of His Word without exercising it through action. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead. (James 2:20,26) What a shame it would be to have and retain so much knowledge about God without any action following up that head knowledge. This is but one aspect of what God is saying in terms of establishing a more intimate relation-

ship with Him. Just knowing about God will not cut it. As important as it is to know about Him, it is also crucial to come to a place of relationship with God where knowing about Him shifts to knowing Him. The Bible says that Abraham was referred to as “God’s friend.” (James 2:23) Can you imagine the depth of personal relationship that Abraham had with the Almighty God in order for Him to describe Abraham like that?!?

Another key in further developing that relationship with God is through time in prayer. Spend time in the “prayer closet” and talk to God. God is always talking, and He really wants to hold a conversation with us! The Bible tells us that the effectual, fervent prayers of a righteous man avail much. (James 5:16) There is so much of God’s power and life that comes through praying. And as with many other things, the more we pray, the more consistent we become in that arena, and it becomes much less work to us. Really, think of it as talking to someone that is really close to you. When you have that close friend(s), when you have someone or some people in your life that you can divulge anything that is on your heart to, it is an extremely nice feeling. God wants to take that position of all in all in our lives, someone that is there to talk with and share your entire heart to, without fear or trepidation. And just as He desires for us to freely commune with Him, He wants to do the same and minister His thoughts to our hearts, minds, and ultimately our souls. Going back to moving in the love of God, when we are in that place in His love, our desire should increase to want to talk to God about anything. We need to get into that place where we desire to commune and fellowship with God early and often, where it is so sweet to our palates that we cannot stand it when we miss out on such fellowship. In the natural, when we have a relationship with someone that we have a special affinity for, or love very much, we do all that we can to maximize our time with that person, and it is a joy and privilege to have fellowship with them, and we normally wouldn’t want it to end. It should be the same with God. We need to come into that place where that love for Him so greatly permeates our being that we cannot stand to be away from His presence or move out of His direction.

I want to take some time to look at some descriptions of the love that is from God. The entirety of the Bible is essentially God’s “love letter” to His people, but let us take a look into what many refer to as the “love chapter,” I Corinthians 13. Verse 1, *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.* <sup>2</sup>*And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.* <sup>3</sup>*And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not*

**charity, it profiteth me nothing.** These three verses outline the fact that the love of God is so vital to how man functions and moves in those spiritual things. It is more than just putting on religious airs, or having a spiritual veneer or cloak. God is interested in the heart, and His love burrows deep into the hearts of men and pinpoints any and everything that God desires to change in order to bring deliverance and establish men in a higher place than before. We can fool a lot of people into believing that we are in a place spiritually where we definitely are not, but God sees our hearts, and He has a specific remedy for each and every condition of man's heart. The relationship that God is after is far above that of "religious grandeur." God wants us to come into that position and place of being like Him, so we can fully understand and appreciate who God is and fully love Him in a genuine way, as opposed to just doing it because it's the right thing to do, to please others, or to exalt ourselves. God is after the hearts of men, amen.

**<sup>4</sup>Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.** The true love of God is so kind and tender in expression, patient and longsuffering in nature. Have you ever come across a person or a set of people that you felt were genuinely kind? Have you ever met someone that seemed to have the tenderest heart you ever came across? Or perhaps you met an individual that seemed to have an immeasurable reservoir of patience? God wants us to see and understand that these are not merely the natural characteristics of man. Far from it, these are character traits that belong to God, and they express themselves through His love. I mean, when you run across people that possess some or all of these traits, the impact that it has on your being is tremendous, and a lot of the time it's unbeknownst to the ones that are expressing those characteristics. That is the place that God wants for us to be and move in. He desires for us to come into a place where His character and nature expresses itself on a regular basis, and not only does His nature transform us, but moving in His traits becomes more and more natural to us.

God also wants us to know that His love is not position-oriented. When we obtain or move in the love of God, we should not be moving in the mindset of self-exaltation, or see ourselves as having it all and elevating ourselves above others. Jesus, although being the Son of the living God, had a heart and an attitude of a servant, specifically serving His Father. Even as a youth, Christ had the understanding that He was to be about His Father's business. (Luke 2:49) He said that all that He did and said were under His Father's direction. In order to truly succeed in God, we must have the same mentality of the servant. The Bible tells us to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift us up. Of our own accord or in our own capacity or strength, we cannot do it. We may try, and

think we have succeeded, but in reality the place that the Lord has prepared for us will far exceed any and all of our natural expectations. It is God who gives the increase. While serving Him, we do not have to trouble ourselves through trying on our own to get "spiritually promoted." God will take care of that in His proper timeframe.

**<sup>5</sup>Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; <sup>6</sup>Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth;** Again, God is relating to us just what the character and nature His love should and will produce in us. There is no wavering in the love of God; it does not wax cold, hot, then cold again. It is constant, consistent, and it will continue to add unto itself and grow the more that we open up to its flow within our hearts and continue to move within it. And the wonderful part about it is that God's love provokes us to love as He loves, not as we would traditionally move in what we perceive as love. God's love is far above and exceeds anything that we could ever comprehend in our natural mind about what love is, and as we open our minds and hearts to His love, it comes in and floods our beings so much that it has no choice but to come forth outwardly. As we are receiving His love, we should be moving in it and freely giving unto others. God is in the business of change, and His love is the catalyst for that change, and it starts from the inside out. I know that all of this is probably old-hat, but the more we open ourselves up to His love, our mindset will ultimately change, and we will begin to see as He sees, and move in accordance to the mind of Christ as opposed to our natural minds.

I remember a brother was talking about when he first became born again, and how much he moved in such a fervency, with such a great appetite to do the will of God, and how that hunger could not be quenched by anything the world could offer him. I think that when the verse talks about the love of God rejoicing in truth, it is in a sense referring to having that hunger and thirst for God and the things pertaining to Him and His kingdom. The Bible tells us that there are things that God brings back to our remembrance. The truth that resides in God's love is what brings certain words back to our remembrance. It is what pierces down to our very souls, cutting through our flesh in the process in order to get us back into a place where we can wake up in the spirit, or regain our spiritual hearing in order to hear His voice, and ultimately shake ourselves from the dross of our humanity and continue on in that path of righteousness God tailor-made for each of us. Sometimes facing that reality of the truths of God is stinging or vexing to our flesh. But it should not, or does not, diminish the love through the truths God presents to each of us. He wants us to be sensitive to where we are spiritually, and not settle for anything less than our full potential in Him.

*<sup>7</sup>Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.* When I see where I was without God, and the point to where there wasn't anything that I could ever try to do on my own to get back on my own two feet and climb up higher in God in my own strength, I cannot thank God enough. It was absolutely the love that IS God, it was that love that brought me out of many circumstances that the enemy of my soul purposed for my eternal demise. So, it is with that knowing of where we came from spiritually speaking, in knowing what those situations were that the devil purposed for our total annihilation, and seeing the hand of God moving in and plucking us out of that circumstance and placing us on solid ground, on a pathway leading to life eternal, that we need to move with a determination to not waver or draw back to what we were delivered out of in the first place. As the love of God continues to grow and expand within our hearts, it facilitates a response that extends far beyond our natural set of circumstances. God is greater than any situation that looks entirely bleak and unredeemable in our own estimation or assessment. He is in the business of doing what men say is impossible to do. As our relationship deepens with God, our confidence and trust in Him and His ability to work on our behalf, every step of the way in every situation we come into, should also strengthen to the point where any and all doubt does not even enter into our gray matter anymore. God's love is made to supercede every form of natural response, thinking, or functioning of men. As we continue to open our hearts to God's love, and continue to move in it, our restraint or resistance will continue to ebb away, and the love of God will become less confounding to us and more of a reality, amen. <sup>8a</sup>*Charity never faileth*; the love of God is perfect, and provides the perfect remedy for each and every situation. More than that, because His love is perfect, the more we open up to God and His love, the more opportunity we give to God to bring us into a state of perfection! God certainly does ALL things well.

I heard a song recently on the radio called "Amazing Love," and in thinking about the love of God, the chorus really struck me. It went, "Amazing love, how can it be, that You my King would die for me; Amazing love, I know its true, and it's my joy to honor You, in all I do, I honor You." God says that He so loved the world, that He loved us so much, that He sent a provision for us to not only receive of that love, but to come to a place where we would be perfected and totally capable of loving as God loves. Christ said that He came for men to have life abundantly, and that life, that spiritual life and vitality is in God's love, and the most blessed part of it is that we can have as much of it as we desire. Romans 8:26-32 describes to us the intent, the plan and purpose in the love of God and what God's thoughts are concerning His people. I especially

like verse 35 in this chapter, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* God is presenting us with a question: "Do you really love Me?" How we respond on a daily basis, with every circumstance that presents itself, every challenge that is laid before us, it is through our response to each of these situations that gives us a better understanding of where we are in the economy of God, as it were. God sees us in a totally different way than we do; it is much more than what we look at in the mirror. We have a tremendous destiny in the Lord, and a tremendous part to play a part in God's Body. We need to not get weary in well-doing, in seeking after God, through feeding on His word, through talking to Him on a consistent basis, by adding to our testimony little by little every day. Leave all pretenses at the door, and let us not pretend anymore. God wants to get to the very depth of our hearts. If we are struggling, we have an avenue to go to God and ask for help, and He is more than willing to accommodate us. The Bible says that His love covers the multitude of sins. (I Peter 4:8) That tells me that there is no sin too great that His love will not cover, and if we are serious about receiving His help and moving forward in Him, He will help us to do just that.

Real, genuine, authentic love takes work. God desires for a real relationship with His people. He is looking throughout the whole earth for hearts that are willing to follow after Him, that are open to receive Him completely. The love that God has for us is indescribable, uncontainable, and unfathomable. And He wants us to not only receive that love, but to fully move in it, without restraint. The more we open up to God, the more His love has room to flow within our hearts, to the point where it needs to find an outlet of release for others to receive and be blessed by. It is the love of God that will perfect us individually and collectively. Remember the two greatest commandments: Love the Lord your God with all of your mind, soul, heart, and strength, AND love your neighbor as yourself. The love of God not only is working His nature and character within us, but as it is working in us, it is perfecting us and working out to other members of the Body of Christ as well. It is through His love that will bring any and all division and schism that the devil wants to work within the church to a complete end. It is the love of God that is even now in the process of knitting together the hearts of men. It is the love of God that mends the broken hearts, and repairs those broken relationships. It is the love of God that possesses the glory that will unite His people as one, and will lead and direct us in moving as one entity under Him. I hope that you are encouraged in the vast and endless love that God has for you today. It is His desire for all to receive of His love, and for those that receive Him, to be perfected by His love. God bless you. ✨

*...continued from page 26 (In the Midst of Adversity)*

the baby! They played tug o' war for a minute, then the lions won and succeeded in dragging the baby up on the bank. At that point, the entire herd of buffalo came up. It seemed like the parents of the baby had gone and gotten the whole herd. The bulls began to fight off the lions and one even flipped a lion up in the air with his huge horns. Then the baby got up and walked into the midst of the herd! This little description does not do the video clip justice. But the herd is like the Body of Christ coming and rebuking the lions and by the strength of numbers, driving them off. It is not just little ol' me asking and believing God for Anna's healing; we have the Body of Christ behind us and fighting for her life. Her life is in the hands of the Lord but also in the hands of Christ on this earth - His Body. This baby buffalo also had three things coming against him - the lions, the water and the crocodile. But of course, his deliverance did not come from any of them. Same for us - we had three options of treatment and God was saying that her deliverance was not going to come from any of them. As of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, it will have been nine months since Anna was in remission. She is doing very, very well. We believe that she is in the hands of the Lord.

As I look back and go over my testimony, I can say without a shadow of a doubt, that I am thankful for every

bit of it. God has been reminding of the things that He was teaching me through this experience with Anna and having me apply them to other situations in my life. I am so thankful for God's love and how He leads us step by step. His ways are definitely past finding out! God is real and He is always there through every difficulty. His faithfulness is unimaginable!

*Phillippians 1:6, Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. ☺*



*Anna, Melissa, Caroline, Jonathan,  
Charles, Timothy, Asher*

## *Keeping In Touch Bulletin Living Word Omega Message*

PO Box 409  
Mahomet IL 61853  
2272 County Road 350 E

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

### *All Are Welcome!*

#### Meeting Schedule

Sunday Morning  
10:00am Fellowship

Wednesday Evening  
7:00pm Bible Study