

THE NEW CREATION

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“Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.” – 1 Thess. 5:21.

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The Kingdom of GOD



I went to have blood taken at the hospital the other day. While I was getting setup for the process, a woman in the waiting room was talking loudly. She said, 'I have had cancer three times and a full bone marrow transplant. I am now having blood drawn to see if I have any other problems. 'I said to the nurse, 'WOW, poor thing!' The nurse shook her head. I said, 'You probably hear stories like that often.' She replied, 'and worse.'

When I hear stories like these or see accounts like this in the news, I think how wonderful it is that my eyes and ears have been opened by my Heavenly Father to see His wonderful plan for the world of mankind. How wonderful is the gift of His Dear Son? Are you looking forward to Christ and His Bride bringing the world of mankind before the Heavenly Father and then GOD becoming ruler over all with His Son sitting on His Right and the Bride sitting on the Son's right? (1 Corinthians 15).

Have you been blessed to know the Good News, the Gospel for the ages? Are you sharing this Good News? Are you looking forward to the Kingdom of GOD and His Son and hoping that it will be soon? Are you using your talents and resources to help those of like precious faith and sharing your knowledge with others?

Jesus did this. The apostles did this. Paul did this. And the footstep followers of the Messiah are admonished to do this. (Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:44-49, John 20:21)

It is true that many people do not want to hear the Good News. Many people do not want to live by GOD's love and GOD's commandments. Many of those who try to be examples of Jesus are told they do not love by these people. Much of public discourse is uncivil and filled with violence. Expressing your view or your opinion can lead to you being called very ugly words with much vileness behind those words.

Our world is incredibly complex. There is a lot of violence. There is lots of turmoil. There is lots of pollution. There are many health problems. These problems are occurring in every country. The 'solutions' create more problems than they solve. The wisdom of humanity is failing the children. Hope seems to be fading. The people

need a vision. Solomon pointed out that if there is no vision, the people suffer. (Proverbs 29:18)

It appears that now the people need Good News more than ever. What better news to give them than that the Messiah lives and will soon return. Many of the prophecies that the prophets of the Old Testament gave are coming true today. Many of the prophecies that Jesus Christ gave are coming true today.

Being a shining light to a world in darkness is greatly needed. Are you being Biblical or are you being politically correct? Are you standing up for GOD's love or are you giving into what the world calls love? Are you reading the scriptures to determine how you should live?

In Matthew 6 and Luke 12 Jesus lays out how people should live. If all the people in the world lived like this, the Earth would be a much better place to live. People were meant to live as Jesus describes in these two accounts. The Good News is that in the Kingdom of GOD people will live like this, in harmony with the Creator.

J. Sochacki

Matthew 6: 25- 34

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.”

The Father of Lies

Today, in our world lying has become a subject of great controversy. There are also many different types of lying: misinformation, 'fake news', white lies, malicious lies and many more.

Let's examine the beginning of lies. Jesus did this for us in John 8:44-45. Speaking to a Jewish crowd, He said, 'You belong to your father, the devil. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the TRUTH, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.'

Here Jesus is referring to what happened in the Garden of Eden when the devil spoke to Eve through the serpent and said, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of the tree of knowledge your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' (Genesis 3:4-5)

Here the devil was calling God a liar. This technique is still used today. Liars accuse others of lying to turn attention from themselves. This leads to confusion and doubt.

The devil's first lie has lived on to this day. Many believe and profess that we do not die. However, the scriptures teach that the soul that sins will die.

The devil's first lie caused the rebellion in Eden that caused the death of our parents and the curse of sin and death to come on all of the descendants of Adam and Eve. That is why Jesus said the devil was a murderer from the beginning. (John 8:44)

How harmful are lies?

The first lie caused the rebellion in Eden, which led to the death of our parents and the curse of death on all their offspring. This is why Jesus said, 'The devil was a murderer from the beginning.' (John 8:44)

What do we know about the father of lies?

Isaiah 14:2 says he was a morning star we call Lucifer, who wanted to make himself 'like the Most High' (Isaiah 14:14) In Ezekiel 28:14-15 we read:

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until wickedness was found in you.

As far as we know, Lucifer's rebellion was the first of all time. That may be why God permitted him to live on as man's guardian cherub rather than destroy him. Also, apparently, there were other angels that were dissatisfied with GOD's rule. Of course, GOD knew of it and gave them the opportunity to join Lucifer.

Here on Earth, the human family has been learning the lessons of sin and evil. Hopefully, these lessons will serve them well when they return from their graves during Christ's Kingdom.

How is a lie a rebellion?

Most people will say they feel uneasy when they lie. It is like a prick to their conscience. This indicates that it is against our nature to lie. This fact is why lie detector machines are used. There are some who are able to fool the machine, but not many.

GOD hates lies and it is impossible for Him to lie (Hebrews 6:18). He has created us with an affinity to be truthful. Two of the USA's greatest presidents, George Washington and 'Honest Abe' Lincoln are venerated for their truthfulness.

Today, lying has become a norm in our society. This is one of the signs of the end times. We may be sure that this trend will not stop as long as the father of lies and his demons are allowed to roam.

We, as Christians, have been warned to hate lies and lying. In Leviticus 9:10-15 we read:

Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God. Do NOT steal. **Do NOT lie. Do NOT deceive one another. Do NOT swear falsely by my name** and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord. **Do NOT defraud or rob your neighbor.** Do NOT hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight. Do NOT curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord. Do NOT pervert justice; do NOT show

partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. **Do NOT go about spreading slander among your people.** Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord.

In Colossians 3:9, we are commanded not to lie to each other since as new creatures we want to be in harmony with GOD and footstep followers of His Dear Son.

GOD hates lies.

In Proverbs 6:16 – 19 we read:

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a **lying** tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, **a false witness who pours out lies** and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

What will happen to liars?

The answer is found in the last book of the Bible:

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. (Revelations 21:8)

May we be always on guard to remember the words of Romans 3:4: 'Let God be true, and every human being a liar. So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.'

Recall Jesus' words to Pilate in John 18:37, 'The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

May we follow our Lord's example and always be ready to bear witness to the TRUTH!

D. Anas

A Testimony

It is not a matter of "if"; it's a matter of "when" we will go through deep waters, trials and loss. As believers, we must remind ourselves that God "will be with us".

Today it has been one year since my beloved wife of 48 years died in a car accident....I thank God that He has been with me every step of the way.....It is in those times that He wants to remind each of us....He is The Lord our God.

No matter what we face in life, we can be encouraged to know that God is always there. He will not let us "drown", or be consumed by the trials of life. In fact, God wants to use those trials as a platform for us to reveal His goodness, grace and victory, so that others can be encouraged by what God is doing in our lives.

God can take our greatest misery and use it to become our greatest ministry to others who may be facing the same challenges we are facing. I thank you God for the comfort and assurance that no matter what I face you will always be right there at my side.

Today, no matter what trial or problem you face or situation that comes up against you --- remember as I am, God's presence in our lives and know that He will be with you. Let God take those hurts, challenges, and trials and help you use them to be an encouragement to someone else who may be facing similar hardships.

“God use my life as a witness to others so that I may glorify you in the good times as well as in the bad.” I know that would have been my Judi's prayer for me and for all of you also.”

B. Wineroth

Notes from a Sister (of a Talk)

Contributed by A. Jones

Brethren, we are children of God and we should be concerned about the future, because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there. So, we should make preparation as we have the time and ability.

God is not a respecter of persons and he says to those who are called, "give me your heart." ". . . you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father'. For you have one Father, and he is in heaven." (Matt. 23:8, 9)

The human family was instituted to convey to our minds a picture of the relationship between God and His church (family) and between the individual members of that church (family). In families, there are privileges and responsibilities that exist between the members of the family that rest on the shoulders of each family member.

Our Father's relationship to us as His children and our relationship to Him as our Father is one of love, to our neighbor, to our enemy, and being good to those that hate us. Don't just make a good show on the surface, but actually love those who mistreat you.

The apostle Paul appreciated the depth and intensity of God's love for His children when he wrote, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:38).

How free of anxiety and care should we be. "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be

given to you as well.” (Matt 6:31-33). These words arise out of Jesus’ own experience and confidence in God. Jesus taught us to say “Our Father” and we should not forget that He is our Father and that we are His children.

There are times when we should make God a personal “My Father.” He has a special interest in each member of the family. No two of us live in the same circle of circumstances. Some are weak and some are strong. He sees my individual efforts and circumstances. His care and interest is to be appropriated by each of us as His own.

There is a contrast between the house of servants and the house of sons. The servants, Israel, responded on command and were given a pattern for their lives. They were not acquainted with the plans and purposes of God. Moses was given directions for the building of the tabernacle and everything was defined for them but they did not yet understand. So too with the prophets. They recorded (for us) events and visions they did not fully understand.

The sons are not commanded, but willingly conform to God’s will. They seek to learn His will, and the sons know what is to come. However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.” (I Cor. 2:9,10).

In I Peter 1:10-12 we have these words: *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

Jesus had one purpose, one obligation, and that was to glorify His Father. The Father must be glorified in everything we do and say and think. Does your life and conduct bring honor to the Father's name?

Consider Jesus enduring the cross of shame. The joy set before our Lord was not inspired by His reward, but by the knowledge that by His sacrifice mankind may be given forgiveness and eternal life. To God be the glory indeed.

L. Petran

Family

John 8:35: A slave is not a permanent member of the **family**, but a son is part of the **family** forever.

Galatians 6:10: Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the **family** of faith.

Ephesians 1:5: God decided in advance to adopt us into His own **family** by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.

Ephesians 2:19: So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's **family**.

1 Timothy 3:4: He must manage his own **family** well, having children who respect and obey him.

Hebrews 11:7: It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his **family** from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith, Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

1 Peter 2:17: Respect everyone, and love the **family** of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

Is Tolerance a Good Thing?

Tolerance is a very popular word these days. It fits into the present day philosophy of *political correctness*. If you are not tolerant then you are a bigot, or so the world says. Is this world view a threat to the Christian and to Society at large? If you honestly evaluate the conditions in the world today, you will note that tolerance has been pushed to its extreme -- to the detriment of moral and ethical standards.

It should be understood that all tolerance is not bad. There is a kind of tolerance that must be exercised in order to have some semblance of peace and order. This is traditionally termed *negative tolerance*. It recognizes the need to respect other people's freedom to believe, and have a life style different from ours, without necessarily agreeing with it. It takes the view that others have a right to disagree with you. There is a saying that fits this point well: *We will agree to disagree*.

There has been a great cultural shift going on today. It is a power struggle in which many intellectuals are endeavoring to impose their philosophy on all people. This is called -- *positive tolerance*. It says that every individual's beliefs, values, lifestyle, and truth-claims are equal. *Negative tolerance* allows others the liberty of holding different beliefs. *Positive tolerance demands* that everyone *allow equal value* to all beliefs, thus while denying there is absolute truth they contradict their own belief with an *absolute* statement!

There is a time to be tolerant and a time not to be. Where there is no true moral, ethical, or biblical principle involved, tolerance must be exercised. Elijah was not tolerant when he slew the priests of Baal (see 1 Kings 18:40). Jehu was not tolerant when he ordered the eunuchs to throw Jezebel from a window where horses trampled her underfoot (2 Kings 9:33). Jesus was not tolerant when he drove the money changers from the temple (Matthew 21:12). In the case of Elijah and Jehu, those slain had polluted Israel with their abominable idolatry. In the case of Jesus, the money changers had corrupted the Temple court with greedy transactions to the point of fleecing those who needed to buy an animal to sacrifice to GOD. Jesus rebuked them saying that they had desecrated his Father's house which should have been a place of prayer and made it a den of thieves (Matthew 21:13). Elijah, Jehu, and Jesus all acted in accordance with God's law and decrees.

As mentioned earlier there is room for the exercise of tolerance *where no principle is involved*. When Jesus' disciples told him that they forbade a man, who was not one of them, to stop driving out demons in Jesus' name, Jesus told them *not* to stop him. His reason was that anyone who did miracles in his name was not against him but for him (Mark 9:38-40). The Apostle Paul admonished the church in Rome to accept those weak in faith and not make a judgment on them in regard to disputable matters. They were told not to look down or condemn those whose faith would not allow him to eat certain foods, though the Scriptures place no restriction on these things (Rom.14:1-3). Listen to the wisdom of Paul in 1 Cor. 10:23-29: "Everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible but not everything is constructive. No one should seek his own good, but the good of others. Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience for, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.' If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. But if anyone says to you, 'This has been offered in sacrifice,' then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake -- the other man's conscience, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?" Tolerance in matters and places where no principle is present can bring harmony and leaves room for individual growth and diversity. In Rom.14:19 Paul says, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

Our tolerance must be based upon the guiding principles that we find in God's Word. The world's new tolerance means that no one has the right to a private conviction. True justice cannot coexist with this new tolerance that is being forced upon everyone. Christians *must* pursue truth and righteousness and we must stand up for it in the face of the world's opposition. Let us try our beliefs by the Word of God and thus reach solid convictions that will stand fiery tests.

While being tolerant where we can, we must share our convictions with those around us. It has been reported that 75% of today's youth have no solid convictions. They operate on *mere feelings* alone. Feelings come and go like the wind. Let us help them, as we have opportunity, not to rely on wavering feelings but upon sound moral convictions by sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ with all who have a hearing ear. Doing this will impact that person and the rest is left to that individual and GOD. "*Ye are the salt of the earth!*"

E. Weeks

A Call to Repentance

Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation: (Revelations 3:14-22)

“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

One of the primary messages, from the day of John the Baptist until now, is the call to *repent, confess your sins, and be saved*. The call to this Church was for them to *repent again* for they had strayed far from the Lord. They had lost all their zeal and now lived in complacency brought about by luxurious living. Jesus, whose eyes are described as “*a flame of fire*” looked down on the Laodicean Church, insipid, bursting with false spiritual pride, a mere outer shell with no inward convictions. Those “*eyes of fire*” were able to read their hearts and judge their works. He described this church as “*wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*” (Rev. 3:17). It stands in history as a church who preached Christ half-heartedly, more concerned with their own prosperity and numbers than with the calling of those with hearing ears to *repentance*. They were so far gone that Jesus warned them unless they changed, they were about to be cast off. The need for repentance was the last thing which that Church regarded as applicable to them. Just how did she view herself? Revelation 3:17a tells us, “*You say, ‘I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing.’*” In her spiritual blindness she saw herself as wholesome, fulfilled, and perfect with not a need in the world. She stood there in her pride rather than in her true spiritual poverty, shame and nakedness. How very sad!

And now for some very personal questions: Do we apply to ourselves this same message that was written to the Christians in Laodicea? Is it possible that we might also be lukewarm in our zeal for the Lord? It is so easy to justify ourselves. This Church had deceived herself. Is it possible that we are also suffering unawares from self-deception?

Some say they have no need; they have everything in abundance, not only materially but spiritually as well. They have been given *“all the truth”* that was to be revealed. They truly believe that they alone have *“THE Truth,”* and that there is nothing to be gained by studying the Bible alone. Because of this assumption, they have erected invisible walls around themselves and their followers, becoming themselves imprisoned within and thus impeding the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives who Jesus said would be the Church’s guide in understanding the Word of God.

1 John 2:27 tells us, *“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”* There is no longer the liberty that the Spirit of God engenders among the followers of Jesus in some groups of Christians. 2 Corinthians 3:17 states, *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*

Let us consider our true spiritual condition and if it be wanting, let us quickly heed the Lord’s counsel: *“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see”.*
(Revelation 3:18) G. Boccaccio

Malachi 1:11

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place, incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, says the LORD of Hosts.

God's Promise to You!

Tragic experiences often come into the lives of our brethren, such that they may question whether God is working for their good or not. Such situations are not expected, and nothing that anyone could rejoice in. Facing difficult news, and setting aside long cherished plans and hopes, even temporarily, is a challenge of large proportion to one's faith. These are also a great sorrow to us, both at the event, and at the challenge to the faith of the ones under trial. But God's word provides encouragement for these.

We read in scripture that such tragedies and more might be asked of us by God, but that he will provide for our good in all that he asks of us. Most Christians are acquainted with **Romans 8:28**, "*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" This scripture cannot be taken lightly. It is always true, and always applicable to all who love God and are called according to his purposes. ALL things indeed work together for our good! ALL things benefit us when we are in God's care and in His providences! NOTHING that happens to us can work against us! Whether it is directly from God, or from the world, or from Satan, God will see to it that it is always for our benefit. You can firmly believe this! This is God's promise to YOU!

We read further on this in **Romans 8:38-39** "*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" The love of God in Christ is God's perfect will for us which will bring us to sanctification, the perfection that he desires for us. And we read here that nothing in time, space, entity, or event can separate us from this purpose of God for our lives. You can firmly believe this! This is God's promise to YOU!

As stated, no one can rejoice in facing traumatic experiences. Yet we read in **James 1:2**, "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.*" The word here rendered "trials" could also be temptations, difficulties, testings; all those things that come upon us in life; all the "providences" of God in our lives, whether from God, the world, or Satan. This verse does not say to count the trial itself as joy. It speaks rather of counting it joy to be *in* the trial, and the *opportunity* that the trial provides. But even so, how is this possible?

It is possible and even true as explained in the following verses; **James 1:3, 4**, “*knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*” So we see that the trial itself, which can be abhorrent to us, still has a lesson that lies within it which God wants us to learn. As these verses testify, this trial will develop our faith through the lesson we learn. And our faith will produce patience in us. And if we patiently endure all that God directs and permits in our lives, we will come to “perfection”; that state of sanctification in which we will be complete, lacking nothing! You can firmly believe this! This is God’s promise to YOU!

And if any has any doubts about these truths, just look at **James 1:5**, “*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*” This verse tells us that if we cannot understand these things, if we do not have God’s wisdom to see and appreciate this, we can go to God and ask him to explain it to us; to put it in words and ways that make it clear to us, so that we can see that He indeed is on our side, bringing only good to us, and we need not fear. (Romans 8:31). And God will give us the understanding we need of the trial, and he will give us the wisdom we need to overcome in the trial, and to grow our faith. You can firmly believe this! This is God’s promise to YOU!

But we must ask in complete faith. For we read in the following verses, **James 1:6-8** “*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*” The entire basis of our relationship with God is faith! We can make no advances with him, and gain no reward from him without faith. **Hebrew 11:6** “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*” And this faith, as you know well from James must be lived, otherwise it is dead and is not truly faith (James 2:17, 26). This same faith must be faithfully and obediently lived in us our entire life as we read in **1 John 5:4** “*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.” And in **Revelations 2:10**, “*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*” And in **Revelations 17:14**, “*those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*”*

This all-important faith is what is developed in us in the trials that we read about in James 1:2-5. And it is in the lessons that we find and grow this faith, and we will through patience in pursuing and living this faith be brought to perfection, the sanctification that is God's will, his agape love for us! We rejoice in this, not in the trial itself. Each advance in faith is to be a joy for it brings us closer to God. In this way we can rejoice as we enter the trial. You can firmly believe this! This is God's promise to YOU!

If anyone has any doubts that they can handle a trial of this size, don't be discouraged at all! For we already have God's assurance that we are far stronger than we now believe. Look at **1 Corinthians 10:13** "*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*" The Greek word here rendered "temptations" is exactly the same word rendered "trials" in James 1:2. So look what this says of our spiritual condition and strength, and maturity! It says we ARE able to bear this trial, for God has permitted us to be in it! Otherwise, he would have given us an escape out of it. In this He has certified our competence to take the trial and learn the lessons in it, and in this too we can rejoice! So therefore, take courage, be strong, continue to trust in God, and we will overcome! You can firmly believe this! This is God's promise to YOU!

This does not mean the trial will be easy. But Christ who walks with us through this trial will see to it that our burden in it is light. It does not mean that the outcome will be exactly as we would have it be, but that the God who provided this providence will have an outcome that is even more blessed for us.

Proverbs 3:5, 6: "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*" This is the crux of the matter. We must trust that God's ways for us are better than our ways for ourselves. We must trust that His understanding is better than our understanding. We must trust Him in ALL our ways, and not just in the ways that we can't plan for ourselves. We must trust Him when He changes our perfect plans, and upsets our lives, giving us a whole new direction to travel.

Trusting God, is after all, having faith in HIM! This is the faith that is the basis of our whole relationship with Him. This is the faith which will overcome the world and put us on the throne with Christ. It is believing

(having faith; trusting) that God's will for us is the very best for us, that leads us to faithfully trust Him wherever He leads. And with each step we have to obey; we have to live the faith we claim, so that it grows in us and becomes His perfect will for us!

When all is said and done, the simple thing God asks of us is to "Trust and Obey". Trusting is getting faith. Obeying is living faith. And if we can keep these two simple processes alive and constant in our lives, we WILL overcome in this life, and we WILL receive the perfection and the reward that God has in mind for us, in EVERY trial we face! You can firmly believe this! This is God's promise to YOU!

May God richly bless, strengthen, comfort, and lift you up to higher planes, as you seek through each trial to find the lessons He would have you learn, and also the rejoicing that will come with the lessons. And when each trial is over, may He bless you in greater ways than even you can now imagine.

J. Knapp

Isaiah 60: Future Glory for Jerusalem

Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you. Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you.

All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home.

Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands. Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense and will come worshiping the Lord. The flocks of Kedar will be given to you, and the rams of Nebaioth will be brought for my altars. I will accept their offerings, and **I will make my Temple glorious.** (1-7)

Our High Calling

Philippians 3:14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

How fitting is the term, “*the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,*” as pertains to the calling or special favor of this present Age of Grace, the invitation to the footstep followers of Christ to joint-heirship with Him. Not to angels was such a call given, nor to holy men of old whose faithfulness was indeed highly meritorious, did such great favor come--a call to glory, honor, and immortality. How high a calling it is!

Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be sharers with Him in all the Father had designed to give the Son: of power, glory, majesty, and in the uplift of Adam and his race! Partakers with Him of the divine nature--a favor higher than this God could not give to anyone! Who could aspire to such favor without the clearest assurance from God’s Word that so high a calling was indeed placed within the reach of redeemed men and women now? No man may take such honor on himself (Heb. 5:4). Well may such favored ones say, “*Thou hast called us to a station we could never by merit win.*”

And who are they to whom this great favor is shown? Hearken to the rating given them in the Word: “You see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: *that no flesh should glory in His presence*” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

Consider, then, that strata from which these called ones of God are taken, and the high standard set before them, requiring of them attainment of a high degree of sanctification, even “cleansing from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord”--calling them to a growth in love akin to the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ. It is indeed a call to a very exalted dignity and station. Consistently, therefore, the transformation of character required must be very high. Nevertheless, a completed and glorified Church will yet be a witness to the practical possibility of every high ideal set before those who would win the prize of this high calling of God in Christ Jesus. If God is able to work in us to will according to this, His good

pleasure, and He does so work in receptive minds, shall we not believe Him able to work in us to do that will, high though it be? If this be not so, how meaningless and impractical are the confident statements of Paul in his prayer for the Ephesian brethren, assuring them that beyond all those large blessings asked for in that prayer, that God “*is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the **power** that worketh in us*” (Eph. 3:20).

What is Paul showing in such great petitions as we find in this prayer, closing it with this final burst of largeness, if he is not showing that the highest of aims, of thinking, of hoped-for attainments, should characterize every sincere heart among God’s people? Surely we should gather from this prayer an inspiration toward greater and greater things in our Christian life, a drawing of our hearts upward and onward toward the ultimate goal, even that of being “*filled with all the fulness of God.*” Can we say as in the presence of God, “*I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness,*” unless so high an attainment has *really* gripped our spirit, and given an assured reality to our faith? Out of the heart are the issues of life, therefore *if the Spirit of God has filled the heart with such desires as these, then that heart will assuredly be occupied with high principles, high aspirations, and Christ-like love.* The thoughts will be *centered* in these things. Then as such an one thinketh in his heart, such he will become in character. Such will love deeply, live in the heavenlies, be heavenly-minded, find a special delight in the great and rich spiritual verities of the Christian life.

In that gem of literature, 1 Corinthians 13, how fundamental and supremely important Paul makes the quality of love. Faith is assuredly important, hope also, but of faith, hope, and love, he says, *the greatest of these is love.* Is he not thinking in much the same trend when he writes, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true... honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*” (Phil. 4:8). Well did the Apostle know that *the habit of thought determines the development of character,* and that when the mind is exercised in the cultivation of high and noble thoughts, the mind of Christ soon becomes manifest.

We must live in love if we would grow into the loveliness of Christ’s character. No one can make any progress in real spiritual knowledge unless he lives in the love of Christ. The great verities of the Christian life are never seen by those who miss this life of love, for there are great truths of divine revelation which no measure of mere intellectual knowledge can impart. It is not by mere mental acuteness

that true spirituality is determined, but by the manifest evidence of a rich possession of the Holy Spirit, which can be as remarkably manifest in the unlearned in earthly wisdom, as in the more able-minded students of the Word. *Heart purity is the best evidence* of being spiritually minded and spiritually developed, for it is written, "*the pure in heart will see God.*" "The impure in heart," one has said, "see everything *but* God." Yes, *heart-likeness to God and devotion* to Him unquestionably determine the degree of spiritual understanding; for the reason that God has made it the imperative requirement antecedent to heart illumination. *Our conduct*, therefore, much more effectively than our preaching, *will bear testimony to the degree of spiritual light and life possessed.*

Let us note a few of the fundamental principles all must recognize and fervently desire to follow. "*By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples because ye have love one for another.*" "*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his.*" These are unchanging principles of divine judgment. "*If any man be in Christ he is a new creature,*" is also a principle of relationship to Christ as true in the case of the less alert intellectually as those more analytically endowed; for while various ramifications of Bible teaching may be but dimly comprehended by some, fundamentals may be grasped with clearness by the most illiterate of the truly spiritual children of God. What love is revealed in this, that the practical understanding and application of these are within the reach of the "*not many wise*" whom God in grace has called into this high fellowship with His Son; and how truly "*His Plan--His wisdom shows*" in making *love* the principal thing, and *the daily life* the best evidence of the Holy Spirit's operation.

Throughout the Age, our Lord and Head has seen fit to allow many of His faithful servants to be measurably confused doctrinally, yet He has never left Himself without the witness of His all-inclusive redeeming love, nor permitted true brotherly love to depart from the Church which is His Body, and *in which no schism can exist.* How truly, then, has it been said in bygone days by one who knew God's love, though not all His Plan as it may be seen today: "*The heart is the depository and source of all that affects life. There are seals covering the deeper truths of God that no light or fire of intellectual genius can dissolve -- hidden riches that no labor of learned research can find. But those seals melt like snow beneath the warm breathings of the heart; and the wine and honey of heaven drop into the bosom of the humble and contrite spirit.*"

Recognizing, then, that it is only in a rich possession of Christ's love that divine favor can be continued to the individual and that the life is conformed to the greatness of our high calling standards, this writer continues: *"We will need to widen the practical boundaries of our love till it touches the same expansive limits of God's love and purpose for all. He who mined the golden ore of His Father's love, and minted it into common coin and threw it in lavish handfuls among men, bids us perpetuate that beneficence in unstinted measure. He came to teach that God is near and tender, and that the things He loves to see us exercise are mercy and justice--humility and love--to have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.*

Thou Son of God! fill up the blurred sketch which our clumsy hands have drawn of a divine life, with the fulness of thy perfect picture. We feel the beauty which we have not realized; robe us in thine own unutterable height of beauty."

Our High calling! Higher than the utmost reaches of earth's greatness: more stupendous than the limitless amazing splendor of a star-studded heaven--the uttermost bounds of God's willingness and power to bestow favor upon the subjects of His deepest affection! To this we are called of God who is abundantly able to bring us there.

So great a favor requires a high degree of faith, a strong gripping trust in the immutable promises of God; a high-reaching hope anchoring us fast to the eternal realities beyond the veil, and *above all -- love, a divine love received through saving faith, filling the life with untiring devotion to God, and shedding its beams of loving kindness wherever it touches other lives.* "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind and with all thy strength, and...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

J. J. Blackburn

Hezekiah's Prayer

Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the Earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God." (1 Kings 19:25)

Question and Answer

Who are Abraham's Children?

Certainly, the Middle East is a focal point of world powers and the United Nations today. It is also a focus of many people all over the Earth.

Many of those living in the Middle East today are descendants of Abraham. However, many living all over the Earth today are descendants of Abraham. Many who are not descendants of Abraham know the promises made to Abraham by GOD, including the promise of a savior through whom all the nations of the Earth would be blessed.

There are many who claim they are following Abraham and/or the promised savior. However, there are many disagreements among these 'followers' on basic promises made to Abraham about the nation that would bless all the nations of the Earth and who the Messiah is.

Today, many Jews claim to be atheists, yet many of these claim that Israel becoming a nation again in 1948 is a miracle and Israel still being a nation in a chaotic Middle East is a miracle. There is no doubt that many nations in the Middle East want the nation of Israel to be destroyed.

Certainly, Jewish history includes the Bible, is outlined in the Bible, and is being determined by the Bible. Current world events are verifying the prophecies and the promises.

How did this nation of Israel come into existence? The account starts with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, continues with the flood and the faith of Noah, the travel of Noah's descendant Terah to Haran, which is in modern day Syria with his two sons, Nahor and Abraham. Nahor stays in Haran after the death of Terah, but Abraham goes on to the land of Canaan.

In Genesis 12 we read: The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Even today we see those countries that are blessed and those countries that are cursed because of what the leaders of these countries say about Israel.)

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time, the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Later GOD said to Abram: "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go and walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD. (Genesis 13:14-18)

In Genesis 16, we read that Sarai's maid, Hagar, gives birth to Abram's first son Ishmael (GOD that hears). Then in Genesis 17 we read the account that foretells of the nation of Israel, the nation that will be the focal nation of all the nations on the Earth and will bless all the nations of the Earth. Abram's name is changed to Abraham (father of nations) and Sarai's name is changed to Sarah (princess). We are told Ishmael will become the father of twelve sons who will form many nations, but that Sarah's son will be the son of the promise and his name will be Isaac. We are told that kings will come from Isaac.

Genesis 21 is a record of the birth of the son promised to Sarah. Abraham's second son, Isaac, is born. In Genesis 21:12 we read, ' But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." God is telling Abraham that he has two sons, but that God will be dealing with the son of promise, which is Isaac.

Sarah dies and after her death Abraham sends his servant to Syria to where his brother and his brother's family live to find a wife for Isaac. The servant brings back Abraham's brother's granddaughter Rebekah

to be Isaac's wife. Rebekah leaves her family with complete faith in GOD that this is what she is supposed to do. Rebekah is Isaac's only wife and Rebekah and Isaac are faithful to each other unto death. This is a figure of the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Bride GOD is choosing for His Only Begotten Son.

After this, Abraham marries Keturah and has six sons with her. These sons are also descendants of Abraham. However, Abraham gives everything to Isaac and gives gifts to these sons and sends them east. This is similar of what Abraham did to Ishmael. The descendants of Keturah and Ishmael are given in Genesis. Abraham dies an old man and Isaac and Ishmael bury him.

Rebekah then gives birth to twin sons, Esau and Jacob. These are the only children she and Isaac will have. Esau is the birthright son, but he gives up that birthright to Jacob.

Shortly after this, Isaac moves because of a famine. Isaac deceives the king of this land. However, in this land Isaac is given a promise from GOD (Genesis 26:2 – 6): The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

And then (Genesis 26: 23-23): From there Isaac went up to Beersheba. That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

Later Rebekah and Jacob deceive Isaac into giving the birthright to Jacob, but they could have just discussed this with Isaac and he probably would have given the birthright to Jacob as he did. However, Isaac learns the lesson of deceiving.

Isaac and Rebekah send Jacob to Rebekah's family in Syria. On his journey, Jacob is given a revelation from GOD (Genesis 28:12-15): He

had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

In Syria Jacob falls in love with Laban's daughter Rachel. Rebekah's brother Laban promises Rachel as a wife to Jacob, but he deceives Jacob in to marrying Leah. Jacob learns the lesson of deceiving others.

Over time Jacob gives birth to eleven sons and one daughter in Syria. Then the Lord says to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." (Genesis 31:3). Jacob deceives Laban and escapes from Syria. Now Laban learns the lesson of deceiving others.

On his return to Isaac, Jacob hears that Esau is coming to meet him. Then Jacob prays, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. (Genesis 32:9-10)

On his journey to return to the land promised to his grandfather Abraham, Jacob receives two visions from GOD: Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." (Genesis 32: 26-28)

After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel. And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and

increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you.” Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him. Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel. (Genesis 35:9-15)

Rachel dies on the trip back to Isaac after giving birth to Jacob’s twelfth son, Benjamin. Also, on the trip back, Simeon and Levi deceive and Jacob is worried about the consequences of the deception. When Jacob makes it to the promised land, he and Esau bury their father Isaac.

Eventually, ten of Jacob’s sons sell their brother Joseph to descendants of Abraham’s son Ishmael. They then deceive their father. Eventually, these ten sons learn the lesson of deceiving.

Joseph tells his brothers (Genesis 45:4-11): “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. **So it was God who sent me here, not you!** And He is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately. You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.’”

Jacob and his twelve sons are reunited in Egypt. Here the promise made to Abraham of Isaac being the son of a nation that will be a light until the Gentiles begins through Isaac’s son, Jacob, whose name is now Israel. Israel grows into a large nation in Egypt as GOD Almighty promised.

From this point on, many Israelites are faithful to the GOD of Abraham and to the promises made to Abraham and the descendants of Abraham. They record the important events that happen to Israel and those that fulfill the prophecies made to Abraham.

In fact, in 1 Chronicles 1-9, some of these faithful give a record of all of the descendants of Abraham. This includes Ishmael and his sons, the sons and descendants of Keturah, Isaac and his two sons, and the descendants of Esau. A fuller lineage is given of the sons of Jacob in succeeding chapters. Here then is a partial fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham by GOD that his descendants would be too great to number.

Before this account and after this account the Bible is filled with violent encounters between Israel and the descendants of Abraham. The same is still true today.

The faithful continue the historical account of Israel up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. This Messiah, the only begotten Son of GOD is the fulfillment of all the prophecies given to Abraham and his descendants. Through Him all the nations of the Earth will be blessed.

J. Sochacki

Isaiah 49: 5 – 7

The one who formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, who commissioned me to bring Israel back to him. The Lord has honored me, and my God has given me strength. He says, "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

The Lord, the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel, says to the one who is despised and rejected by the nations, to the one who is the servant of rulers: "Kings will stand at attention when you pass by. Princes will also bow low because of the Lord, the faithful one, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

A Portrait of Jesus: Invited Interruptions



"While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, 'My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.' So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, 'If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.' But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, 'Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And the woman was made well from that hour." Matthew 9:18-22

Do you realize that most of Jesus' miracles were a result of interruptions? The Gospel is full of these divine appointments that came while he was preaching or on His way somewhere else. This scripture is just one example of that, scripture is filled with them...the man let down through the ceiling by his four friends, while Jesus was preaching, Jesus' visit to Zacheus' home, the list goes on and on. Jesus was always on his way to an appointment when someone would stop Him and provide Him with the opportunity to do something miraculous. He always welcomed the interruption.

So what's the lesson for us? Sometimes we are so busy that we don't allow for interruptions, much less view them as divine appointments sent to us from God. We need to be open to the blessing God may have in store for us in that interruption. That might be a new thought to you. Most of us have our days planned out and we become annoyed when we are interrupted. However, if we changed how we looked at these things and realized, as Jesus did, that when he was interrupted there was an opportunity to not only help others, but also to bring glory to God-well, that can be transforming.

I have made "Grace" my secretary. Grace often interrupts my day and when I allow for the interruption, I often find the opportunity to minister to people. Since Grace has become my secretary, I no longer have interruptions in my day, instead it is filled with divine appointments that I simply don't want to miss. Jesus had the same secretary and so can you, and what a blessing she is!

D. Mathewson

Children's Story Corner: What is a Christian?



Dear Ones,

My eight-year old grandson recently asked, "What is a Christian?" Maybe you have wondered about this yourself, or you might like to know how to explain it to a friend.

Before Jesus was born, an angel said Jesus would be the one sent by God to save God's people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21 and Luke 1:31, 32) When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptized. God sent His Holy Spirit to dedicate Jesus to be the Christ. God spoke from heaven and said, "...this is My son." (Matthew 3:17) Jesus is the one and only way we can become friends with God. So a Christian is a person who believes that Jesus is the son of God, that Jesus is the only way to get to be God's friend, and who lives the way Jesus lived.

Christians live in a cruel world just like everyone else. However, a Christian helps others when they can and is kind to others. Christians also support each other.

If you are a Christian yourself, then you know Christians are not perfect. By continuing to live like Jesus lived, Christians get closer to GOD over time.

Being a Christian is to be on Jesus' team. Christians fellowship with other Christians, study the Bible, and practice what they are learning daily. The players on Team Jesus ask questions by praying and by talking with other Christians. They read the Bible to find answers and examples of how to live like Jesus.

In daily life, Christians "play the game" by being kind, loving, and generous, living the way Jesus lived. A Christian wears modest clothing, but mostly you can recognize them by their good qualities. If someone says they are a Christian but does not try to live like Jesus did, you know they are not telling the truth.

Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my followers if you have love for one another. (John 13:35) So a Christian is a follower of Jesus who shows love to everyone. This is the kind of person a

Christian should want to be, and others want a person like this around them.

Thank you for asking this frank question. Please send your questions to the editor of this magazine.

Your Aunt Nancy

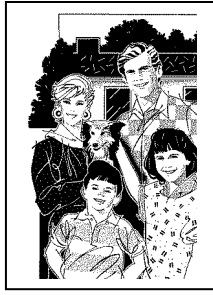
Isaiah 60: 8 - 22

The descendants of your tormentors will come and bow before you. Those who despised you will kiss your feet. They will call you the City of the Lord, and Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Though you were once despised and hated, with no one traveling through you,

I will make you beautiful forever, a joy to all generations. Powerful kings and mighty nations will satisfy your every need, as though you were a child nursing at the breast of a queen. You will know at last that I, the Lord, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel. I will exchange your bronze for gold, your iron for silver, your wood for bronze, and your stones for iron.

I will make peace your leader and righteousness your ruler. Violence will disappear from your land; the desolation and destruction of war will end. Salvation will surround you like city walls, and praise will be on the lips of all who enter there. **No longer will you need the sun to shine by day, nor the moon to give its light by night, for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.** Your sun will never set; your moon will not go down. For the Lord will be your everlasting light. **Your days of mourning will come to an end.** All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory. The smallest family will become a thousand people, and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation. **At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen.**

The Family Corner: Real Heroes are People Too



One of the most socially valuable aspects of the Bible is the full-color narratives of the Biblical heroes with their triumphs, courage, fears and flaws. Most cultures naturally rewrite their own history to expand the mythical greatness of their heroes and minimize their flaws, creating an idea that leaders somehow come out of the ether and then become flawless. Intertwined in the Judeo-Christian culture is an underlying acknowledgement that all people are flawed and that we all need to work on improving ourselves. Additionally, we also learn that our leaders are flawed people, and while authority should be respected, they should not be blindly followed.

We learn that the major difference between Saul and David is that David maintains a subservient attitude toward the LORD, while Saul becomes overly proud as the King. When Samuel confronts Saul about his sins, Saul initially pleads ignorance, then makes excuses, then blames others, then finally asks for forgiveness. 1 Samuel 15. When David sins, he immediately takes responsibility:

“I have sinned against the LORD.” (2 Samuel 12:13)

The LORD reads the hearts of Saul and David and acknowledges that David’s heart is coming from a place of humility while Saul’s is coming from a place of pride.

Our social influences are leaning toward building confidence among our children that whatever they do, believe or feel is okay, and not their fault. We need to teach our children the truth that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24)

We can do this by reading the stories of the Bible, but just as importantly we can tell our children the stories of when we were younger and how we made mistakes, learned from them and tried again. We also need to represent living examples of Christ to our children, admitting our mistakes, asking them and the LORD for forgiveness, and then working to improve. When we fail again, we must

repeat the process, sometimes seven times seventy times. When our children make mistakes, we can be upset, but we need to quickly forgive them, love them and help them get better.

This process of admission, forgiveness and improvement must accompany any preaching or instruction of rules and morality. If you listen to the stories of adults that rebelled against their parents or church, they often cite hypocrisies between words and actions. There's an idea that, "Christian's are holier than thou, are preachy, and look down on others." Showing our humanity, our struggles and quickly admitting our mistakes will fight against the appearance of hypocrisy.

One of the hardest thing for our children will be to learn to separate their self-worth from the recent mistakes. They will often go through the same process as Saul; denial, excuses and finger pointing. It is only by deep faith in love from the LORD, like David had, that they'll be able to receive correction and criticism about an action or behavior. We can also give them this reassurance, "you know I'll love you always, and I want to help you get better, so I'm disciplining you." Each child will react to this differently, but they will all greatly benefit from knowing their parents are also flawed, love them unfailingly, and want them to succeed.

A. Allen

Isaiah 42: 1 – 10

Behold My servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom My soul delights; I have put My spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, until he has set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. Thus says God the Lord, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the Earth, and that which comes out of it; He that gives breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. I am the Lord: that is my name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Sing unto the Lord a new song and His praise from the end of the Earth, you that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

Prayer List

"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." (1 Samuel 12:23)



Let us be Prayer Warriors for our Brethren!

Anas, Julie - MI	Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – VA (d)
Allen, Peggy & Russell – VT	Iannaccone, Bob & Marie – IL
Anderson, Andy – WI	Iannaccone, Larry & Fam. – CA (d)
Andrada, Delores & Family – CA	Ibasfalean, George – FL
Bews, Sandra & Family TX (d)	Karavas, Anna - CA
Boswell, Arlene – IL	Knapp, Jamie – NH
Buxton, Jean & Family - UK	Knapp, Joseph & Pat – IL
Carpenter, Gloria – KY	Ketko, Marion – MI
Caudle, James – WA	Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME
Cline, Ruth – MO	Howes, Paul & Carla – UK
Cooper, Carmela – NJ	Mazzotta, Eva – FL (d)
Elizabeth & John Cram, NH	Miller, Alain – Canada
Custor, Judith – CT	Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA
Day, Ronald – PA	Newling, Roseanna – NH
Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA	Niewiowski, Elaine – NY
Dobbins, Esther - NH	Parker, Geraldine – CA
Donnarummo, Joan & Dan – OH	Penton, Jim – Canada
Duhaime, George & Martha – CT	Phillips, Stella – OK
Dunn, Kim - IL	Riggio, Fran – NH
Fantuzzo, Sharon - NY	Rowe, Bryan – UK
Feliciano, Carmen - NY	Schultz, Dan – MN
Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI	Tuscia, Priscilla – FL
Foster, Jean – IL	Trent, Frank & Thelma – FL
Gary, Inez – VA	Teunis, Doris – IL
Hauslein, Karen – MD	White, Ken & Joan - NY
Hawk, Debbie & Barbara – PA	Wisdom Hezekiah Ikpo - Nigeria
Hildebrandt, Lois - FL	Zychal, Ruth – NJ
Hogrebe, Joan - MO	(d) = death in the family

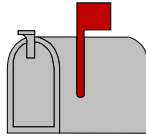
Entered into rest: Jim Mazzotta – FL; Margaret Olsen – VA..

Important: If you know anyone in the names listed above whom no longer need special prayers, please advise us so we may remove their names. Thank you.

Bible Correspondence

Course New Graduates & Notices

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their course and have been awarded a Certificate.



Basic Course

Republic Of Cameroon:

1. Bue Gerald Bue
2. Nyange Yvonne Mbango

Ransom Course

Republic Of Cameroon:

1. Ebuka Faustina Chioma

You are invited to view the following websites:

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)
<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fell. in NH)
<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk> (Bible Fellowship in UK)
<http://www.bbschurch.org> (Lombard, IL)
<https://sites.google.com/site/quietwatersdevotions/home>
<http://www.cartyorkshire.co.uk> (CART)
<http://www.campblessing.com> (Camp Blessing)
<http://www.homechristians.net> (Fraser Valley, B.C.)
<http://www.christianrespondent.com> (R. Frye)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.at> (Free Bible Students, Austria)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.org> (Mission Work Bible Students, Austria)
<http://www.kronline.at/bibelstudien> (Free Bible Students, Germany (English))
<http://www.softgrafic.com/bibbia> (Italian Bible Students)
<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News- Australia)

Letters from Our Fellowship

and Readers

From Our Mail Box

We thank you for your correspondence. Please send us your comments, questions and articles.

Each day is a gift to start again to become better, purer and kinder in all areas of thought, word, and deed. Beside these things put on love, it is the bond of completeness.

In Jesus Name may you and yours have peace every day.

"His" Servant

Dear Bro. James,

Greetings in Christ Jesus, We thank you for your prayers towards our conference glory to God for the manifold blessing during and after the convention.

Studies were given by brothers: Monye Pius, Owo Okon, Udo Bassey, Monday Peter, Bassey Udo, OkuGod Udom and Sunday Enang, to both youths and adults.

Business meeting: November convention at Ogbulu, Delta State and Ikot Umiang, Akwa Ibom State.

Youths progress: some of our youths that took apprenticeship course have completed and yet to have their workshops.

Second week of May 2018 was fixed for lunching to raise funds to help some of them to have the workshop first. We shall be raising funds at set times to help them.

We are thankful for your free will donation to help our youths.

Remain blessed.

Brother Sunday.

Conferences & Conventions

Note: If you would like to have your Convention, Conference, Camp, or Seminar published in The New Creation Magazine, send information or a program ***at least three months in advance of the issue month of the magazine.***

Send to: Jim Sochacki, 475 Green St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802; or email to: wyojimmy@yahoo.com

Christian Believers Conference 110th Annual

Tuesday, August 7 – Saturday, August 11, 2018

Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts

Theme: The Ransomed of the Lord, (Isaiah 35:10)

Donation

Many people around the world appreciate the New Creation magazine. For many it is their only source of Christian communication. Also, for many, they only have it through the generous contributions of others. If you feel moved to help them in continuing to get the New Creation, please consider making a donation to CDMI.