

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

January 29, 2006

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Info Center



NewsBulletin

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Dear Readers,

January 29, 2006

We are pleased to usher in the new year with another edition of the K.I.T! We know that it is God's desire to see His Body formed and active on this earth, and this issue continues to show the movement of Christ throughout His Body. We have a word brought by Brother Burt Asbill that should strengthen and motivate you in the Lord. Sister Terry Smith offers us her testimony of the Nebraska conference. Fellow staffers Sister Stacy Asbill, Sister Melissa Trotter, and Brother Wesley Schell have articles that should uplift and encourage you. Also, Brother Tim Culver gives us some insight on E.M. Bounds, and remember, if you have anything that you feel to share or any suggestions, please do not hesitate to write to us at our address, or contact us by email.

Many blessings,

The K.I.T. Staff

Prison Ministry

Sunday Mornings
12th & 26th

Monday Evenings
6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

February 2006

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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
Wednesday Evening
7:30pm Bible Study
Sunday Morning
10:00am Fellowship

Encapsulated in Christ

November 12th, 2005 Brother Burt Asbill
Dubuque, Iowa

There was a time when we opened a church in Modesto, the town that I come from, and the only place that we could find to meet was above a bar. So, while they honkey-tonked, we preached Jesus. I think we can probably do the same here; after a while everything got kind of quiet. I don't know if they went away or if we just got lifted up to where they didn't make a difference anymore. Praise the Lord.

It's good to be here this evening with you. I trust the Lord will open His Word to myself, as well as to you. Praise the Lord. If you have your Bibles, you might want to open them to Romans 8. Romans 8 is a very good chapter. I'm sure you all are very, very familiar with it. There have probably been many, many, many, many sermons preached out of it. Well, I guess you're going to get one more. I want to start at verse one. It says, ***There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*** Now, the word *condemn* there is a word for *judgment*, and because of the way that it's put there, it means *a judgment that comes as the result of something*. Hallelujah. It says that those that walk not after the flesh, ***...which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...*** The biggest battle that you and I have - it's really not your husbands, aren't you glad, ladies? It is not your wives. It is what Paul calls the "enemy within." Paul said in another place, ***For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing*** (Romans 7:17). You know, there are a lot of things going on, and there are a lot of things that people do, that create problems for other people. None of us live in a vacuum. There are things that we do that cause others a lot of trouble. But the trouble that they create for you isn't the thing that you have to beware of.

There's a little testimony of a lady who, for many years, was a very fervent Christian, seeking the Lord and moving in the things of God and her husband was not saved. In fact, he had several bad habits, drinking and smoking and sometimes abusing her verbally, if not physically. She would always come to church; she would always ask for the church to pray for her husband, that he might get saved. She was convinced that when her husband got saved, all of her troubles were going to be finished. I bet a lot of you can testify as to some thought that if a situation would

change it would make things in your life a little easier.

When I first began to seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost... They told me that when you get the baptism of the Holy Ghost, all your troubles are over! I found that when I got the baptism of the Holy Ghost, my troubles just started beginning! I thought I had troubles before, but the good news was that the Holy Ghost gives you the wherewithal to overcome those troubles.

Well, she prayed, the church prayed, and God was faithful. One day the husband got saved. Not only did he get saved, but man, he got revved up for God. He got so revved up for God that it started giving *her* a problem. So I would really judge, from the outcome of all that, that her husband wasn't really her problem. Of course, many of you ladies are probably convinced otherwise, but the Bible says that we wrestle not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). Hello! Do you hear that? Personalities really do not have anything to do with the fact of what we wrestle with.

Brethren, I think we're living in a critical, crucial time. I really do. It says that wickedness will increase, and I see much evidence to that in our time frame. I don't know what it must have been like in Sodom and Gomorrah, but I do know one thing that Jesus said when he was in Capernaum. He said that if the miracles that had been done in Capernaum had been done in Sodom and Gomorrah, Sodom and Gomorrah would have repented (Matthew 11:23-24)! So, that tells me that the time frame that Jesus was living in was somewhat worse and the people that were involved were somewhat more hardhearted. What must it be like in this day and in this hour, almost two thousand years down the road?

Sometimes I think that I'm going to have to get away from it, but I have a lot of information that comes across my path with regard to the Signs of the Times articles in the K.I.T. Bulletin. It seems like everybody is sending me these little articles, and, you know, I have to read them. They are about all of the things that are going on in the political arena: the sodomite's agenda, the ACLU agenda, all of the things that are going on. We're like the frogs in the pot. You know, the frog is in the pot, swimming around in the water, and it's not hot, it's just kind of tepid, and then the fire gets turned up and the frog just keeps swim-

ming until he gets anesthetized and boiled to death. Then he ends up on the plate for somebody's dinner, or at least his legs do; I don't know if they eat the rest of him. But the fact is, that is something like a picture of the condition of the church.

There are a lot of things that you and I can get caught up into as far as religion is concerned, but religion isn't something that you and I want to focus on. What we need to be focusing on is our relationship with Jesus Christ. That is what you and I need to be focusing on. The more that you are at odds with humanity, the more that you should be in tune with God. Hallelujah. Because it says in the last days it shall be, what? Brother against brother? Children against parents? Parents against children? A spirit of lawlessness (Matthew 10:21, Mark 13:12). That's something that you young people and younger young people should be really considering in the aspect of your relationship with your parents. When you are at odds with them, and contention and strife and things are going on, and you just don't like the way you're being treated and all of that, and in you rises up something that wants to resist the authority that is over you, you need to remember what age of time you are living in. I'm not saying they're right, I'm not saying they're wrong. I'm talking to you kids; now, I don't care, if you consider yourself a kid at my age, that's fine. I'm talking to you. But you have been put in a particular place for a particular reason, you have been delivered a particular word. Be that as it may, I don't know what kind of job your parents have done, I don't know what kind of example they've set. The fact of the matter is, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter, do you understand? It doesn't matter because in God, there is much capability and potential that is at your disposal as a young person. It does not matter what your age is, whether you're five, six, seven, eight, nine, four, three, two, one! I don't care. I don't care what it is, because the Holy Ghost has no basis of numerical value. It doesn't look at you as something of an entity that cannot comprehend. Of course, the older you get, the more responsible you become and the more liable you are before the Lord.

We don't believe the Holy Ghost. We don't believe the power of the Holy Ghost to circumvent any and every situation. We do not believe that it can give us the power to move beyond the place of our humanity and our finite thinking to where it can expand out and beyond what we can see with our eyes, touch with our hands or hear with our ears.


You know, my body is telling me something and what

it's telling me I don't like. I don't want to hear it; I don't want to recognize it. It is not as though I am playing the game of denial. Believe you me, in the morning there's no denying, or at the end of the day, there's no denying. There's no denying the fact that I'm not as strong as I used to be, I don't have as much wind as I used to, I don't have as much strength as I used to. But the fact of the matter is, there is something that God has given me that has given me the ability to circumvent my weakness. Come on! It can circumvent my weakness, for it says when I am weak, who is strong? He is strong (II Corinthians 12:10)! That means that there is something that He has to do in the fact of me being weak! That is why Paul could say, "I glory in my infirmities" (II Corinthians 12:9). If Paul had never been stoned, how would he know he could be lifted up and go on and do whatever he was doing? If he had not been flogged, how could he have stood at the end of the day and said, "I bear in my body" (Galatians 6:17)? How could he have said that? He couldn't have said that. Now, it's not as though we go and say, "Alright here, beat me with the cat-o-nine tails thirty-nine times." Don't worry. God will take care of it. He'll give you the opportunity if you're fortunate, maybe.

Now, the Bible says that there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1). Did you hear that? There is no condemnation. What did they teach me in science? For every cause, there's an effect. For every disobedience, there is a judgment that comes, not for the purpose of chastising you and making you feel bad that you were such a naughty person, but to get you to recognize your position of being out of harmony, out of sync, out of position, out of place with Almighty God's intent for you in the plan and the purpose that He has. My goodness. We are so easily, easily diverted. Of course, you're not easily diverted, right? You probably pray four or five hours a day and are out on the street witnessing, and doing those things that are necessary to perpetuate the Kingdom of God, right? You go to church every other night, at least, right?

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1). There is a difference between being in Christ Jesus, and hav-

ing Christ Jesus in **you**. Then why do we have so much trouble with it? Why do we have so much trouble with that thought? We have trouble with the fact that we are not demonstrating the reality of what it means to be in Christ. If I am in Christ, I am encapsulated. Not only am I encapsulated, I am incarcerated. **I therefore, the pris-**



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WHAT GOD NOW WANTS TO DO IS TO MANIFEST HIMSELF IN A GREATER MEASURE, IN A GREATER WAY, IN A FULLER DISPENSATION, IN A FULLER MAGNITUDE, IN A FULLER, VISIBLE, VIABLE, REAL SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN REAL HONEST TO GOODNESS GOD PEOPLE!

of God doesn't do something for you personally, individually, to where you become something collectively good, then you're missing God! You're missing God! God is not interested in knowledge without the reality of Him being manifested in the midst of that knowledge! Now, He could come down and vaporize Himself, or whatever you call it. Manifest, materialize. You know, whoomp - and there is God! But that's not how God wants to manifest Himself. God did that at one time. What God now wants to do is to manifest Himself in a greater measure, in a greater way, in a fuller dispensation, in a fuller magnitude, in a fuller, visible, viable, real set of circumstances in real honest to goodness God people! That's what God wants to do. That is what He has always wanted to do. That is what He said back there in Jeremiah, but alas, we have gotten so bogged down. The house bogs us down, our kids bog us down, our wives bog us down, our husbands bog us down, the guy at work bogs us down, our paycheck bogs us down, or we begin to have this ache and that ache and we begin to have this problem and that problem and

we don't sleep at night. Hallelujah. Well, if you can't sleep at night, I say get up and go pray. That's what I do, I get up and go pray. I mean, Holy Ghost prayer. I don't mean, "Oh, God, help me go back to sleep!" Of course, none of you have laid in your bed for an hour-and-a-half looking at the wall, saying, "God, I wish I could go back to sleep," and the only thing you prayed for

was sleep. You finally you got your sleep, but unfortunately, that was all you got. That was all you got. There's something about the reality of the business of God that God is wanting to do in the midst of a people that are willing to **give themselves over to the doing of it!** Let me affirm something; whatever you do for God *isn't going to be comfortable!* Hello! There went my prosperity doctrine right out the door. It's not going to be comfortable; it's not going to be fun in the sense that the world looks at fun. Oh, it might be exciting for a while, until you get really scared to death! You know what being scared is like, don't you? Oh, of course, you probably haven't had that experience over there in Africa. Let me tell you, I've been over there so many times and every time I go over there, I always get scared to death! Because I'm always being put into a situation that I don't want to be put into! Well, we want our little oatmeal in the morning and we want it a certain way, and our toast has to be buttered just the right way, and then we have to have our coffee and we have to have the right amount of sugar and the right amount of cream. And if everything isn't right where it's supposed to be, something happens! Then everybody starts looking for flack jackets and helmets.

Brethren, the world is going to hell! THE WORLD IS GOING TO HELL! You and I are supposed to be **saviors** of the world (Obadiah 1:21). **Saviors** of the world, sons of God. Oh, hallelujah. But we have difficulty manifesting our saviorhood in the midst of our personal, private environment! My God, hallelujah! There is just so much to do, so much to do, and not enough people to do it. I don't care what it is, anywhere that you are, there is just so much *that can be done*, with regard to God, if it is nothing more than fasting and praying and seeking the face of God! The fact of the matter is, God is trying with all of His might to get us into Him, so that when the indignation comes we can be hid! That doesn't mean that He is going to take us and stick us over in a corner and put a box on top of us where nobody can find us. Hallelujah. What it means is that you and I will have a position, a place of authority. We are so rooted into the things of the world. I have been thinking about a particular set of circumstances concerning some that are in this word. It is a situation that I have been thinking and praying about all this week, looking to God. We came with a word that they should begin to knock on doors and look for the opportunity of God moving with them collectively to accomplish the will of God. But, you know, the devil is not dumb, so what he did was to kick every one of them upstairs. He gave them good jobs and good benefits and all the things that go with that kind of environment and now they're hooked; do you know what I mean? They're hooked. So now they don't only have to struggle with doing what God



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wants them to do, they have to get unhooked! Well, some of us are hooked. Some of us are hooked with our own smartness. We're hooked with our humanity. My God! There is something that God wants to do; there is something that God wants to manifest and the fact of the matter is, none of us can do it. It is only God that can do it, but we have to make ourselves available to Him in order for Him to do it!

Somebody recently sent me an article. We think we're so far advanced. I say we have degenerated. I was reading in this article about these young men, one was sixteen years old and a commander-general in an army, one was representing as an ambassador at seventeen or eighteen. There was a twelve-year-old that was teaching. These are not people that had gifted IQs. They were just people that were diligent and dedicated and **they applied themselves**. If we applied ourselves to fasting and prayer and to seeking the face of God, and then walking it out in our everyday experience, what is there that could stop us from accomplishing the purpose for which we are born again? Hello! You know, I don't have to tell you that you're not acting like Christ. I don't have to tell you that; I don't have to explain. "Well, A, Christ would do this and B, Christ wouldn't do that and C, Christ wouldn't do that and D, you did this and you did that and you did this and that and this and that." Then you would say, "What do you mean, I did all that?! Well, what about you?" Pretty soon, you've got hell. Not God, hell. You got, not heaven, you got hell, that's what you got. Somewhere, somehow in that equation, somebody has to begin to act like God. That doesn't mean, sanctimonious, better-than-you, I'm-not-going-to-answer-you, I'm-not-going-to-talk-to-you. No, it doesn't mean that at all. It means with a broken and contrite heart, not before an individual, but before God! I can make you think that I'm this or I'm that or whatever, but God knoweth the frame, God knoweth the problem, God knoweth the trouble.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus... In Christ Jesus is a position that is designated for you and me. IN CHRIST JESUS! Now, if Christ is in me, everywhere I go, Christ has to go, for He

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says He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). So that means I could go out this door, go into that pool hall over there, begin to shoot pool, drink beer, smoke cigarettes, and God is right there with me. Now, to you, that may seem bad, but what about getting into a temper tantrum? What about getting into some sort of depressed funk because somebody did something you didn't like? That attitude that is not Christ, is it any worse? What about not aspiring to the things of the Kingdom, but instead, pursuing after the things that are out there in the world? I told a young man here the

other day, "You know, affluence and natural blessing are not a sign of God's favor." To think everything is fine and hunky-dory because you have finally achieved some extent of financial prosperity. "I got a little nest egg." Poof - and nest egg's gone. You can't control the economics of tomorrow. You can't even control the economics of today. You can't control your health. You can't control the weather. One thing that I found out in farming is that, unless you have an inside track with the Boss, it's an impossibility. When it's supposed to rain, it doesn't rain. When it's not supposed to rain, it rains. It doesn't just rain a little bit; it comes down in buckets. It came down so hard one time that our corn just all went flat on it's face before the Lord, only I didn't think it was before the Lord, not until it got resurrected, anyway.

There is a position, a place that God is bringing us into. There is something that God is wanting to give unto us, an understanding, a glimpse. If we could be like Moses was, just to have some of the desire that he had to know Yehovah! Can you imagine going in before the Lord? Having Him talk to you? Having Him give you instruction? Being called up on the mountain? Wouldn't you like to have been in his shoes? Well, the problem was, my humanity probably would have been just as scared as the other two hundred and ninety-nine million Israelites that said, "You go, Moses, lest we die (Exodus 20:19)!" He wasn't high priest, but he could go into the Holy of Holies and commune with the Lord and have that fellowship. We seek the wrong things, do you know that? We seek the wrong things. He didn't say, "Well, I want to know what's

IF WE APPLIED OURSELVES TO FASTING AND PRAYER AND TO SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD, AND THEN WALKING IT OUT IN OUR EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE, WHAT IS THERE THAT COULD STOP US FROM ACCOMPLISHING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE ARE BORN AGAIN?

going to happen in the end time. I want to know what's going to happen. What is this thing called the five-fold-ministry? What is the thing that is called baptism of the Holy Ghost? I want to know these things, God. What are all these?" No, he said, "I want to know You." He didn't want to know anything but God. Somehow he had this understanding that everything else was irrelevant and had no value, *unless he knew God*. He said, "I want to see You. I want to see Your face (Exodus 33:13,18)." Did you know Moses was not ignorant? This man was a learned man. He wrote part of the Bible; they say he wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. He knew that **no man can see God and live!** (Genesis 32:30, Exodus 33:20). But, you see, that didn't make any difference. You and me, there's a difference. We want to hang on to some sort of shred of our personal environment, our personal identity, our position, our place of being human, of having the right of being human and being considered by those around us as being a little bit more special but still human! Of course, that is not the church's problem. Yes, it is. It is the church's problem, from the least to the greatest. We are trying to hang on to some shred of our personal identity!

Today as I was driving over, I was pondering a word that Jesus said. He said, "No man can take My life from Me (John 10:17-18)." Now, you may think He was only referring to the end of the matter. That is not what He was talking about, in reality. You see, He had a walking personal relationship with God, but He was also in the midst of gross humanity all around him, making demands upon Him, creating problems for Him. You don't think Peter wasn't a problem? Squabble and bicker; this man, Yeshua, had His head in the clouds, feet on the earth. He was talking to the Father and hearing the bickering of James and John and Peter and the rest of them. We are not much farther along than them. We're thinking that we are much farther along in the the sense of what is before us, the magnitude of eternity that is staring us right in the face!

We get so easily offended. It says, ***There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...*** That means if you and I aren't in Christ Jesus, there is a condemnation that we are bearing. We think it is because the other person is thinking bad thoughts about us. Sometimes those bad thoughts are not necessarily right, but they're not all necessarily *wrong*. You see, when our



humanity becomes so stubborn and so resistant, then God will go outside of humanity and He will use the mule, the jackass, to talk to you with regard to your rebellion, your place of resistance. The authority that you are resisting isn't the authority that is in the house or in the home or in the land or in the things of the government. That is not the authority that you are resisting, because God says He put those authorities in their position, in their place - to do what? What are they to do? They are for the purpose of chastising the wicked. If you get in your car and drive down the street like a maniac, how far do you think you'll get? Well, you will get just about as far as the next cop. That is as far as you are going to get. Now, you might luck out and make it down to the end of the street and not get it, or you might make it past the end of the street and out into the freeway and not get it, but somewhere along the way **you're going to get it!** Because, let me tell you something, your eyes can't be everywhere at the same time and still drive! These guys are really sneaky. They hide behind trees, they hide behind barrels, they hide behind signs, they hide everywhere! Somewhere, sometime, the finger of God is going to come down on you - if you are lucky! Or you might find yourself wrapped around a guardrail. Somehow, somehow, judgment always comes to you and me when we're outside of God.

If we knew that, if we really believed that, I think we would be a little more fearful, a little more cautious, a little more careful about relationships, for one thing, and also with regard to our attitude towards God. Proverbs tells us that to fear God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).

How many of you know that God is not a part-time job? Hello? Have you figured that one out yet? Amen. God is not a part-time job. God is not someone Who wants just a piece of you ten percent of the time, twenty percent of the time, thirty percent of the time, forty percent of the time!

God didn't create you for that purpose. Now, you could say, "Well, it was unfair." Maybe it was, who cares? You can take it up with Him in eternity. He created us to need Him, because He put something of Himself in us, and that something is incomplete without the rest of what it is that that little something is a part of. As long as you and I are out there pushing and testing and moving and doing this and doing that without fulfilling the will of God, it is nothing more than a lesson in futility. You can be the best

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mother, you can be the best wife, you can be the best husband, the best brother, the best sister and still be totally, absolutely unfulfilled. Why? Because, in all of that, unless you're doing it *as unto the Lord and working toward His objective*, it brings no revelation, it brings no infilling, it brings absolutely nothing of God into your soul to complete the thing that is inside of you that needs the fulfilled will of God!

We use the illustration of cutting off the hand and putting it on the table. How much a part of the body is that hand if it is on the table and it is separated from the body? That is basically what you and I do in our everyday activity as we are endeavoring to be human in a human environment. We do not have the fulfillment, unless what we are doing is the thing Christ wants us to do, or let me put it this way: it is the thing that Christ Himself *is doing!*

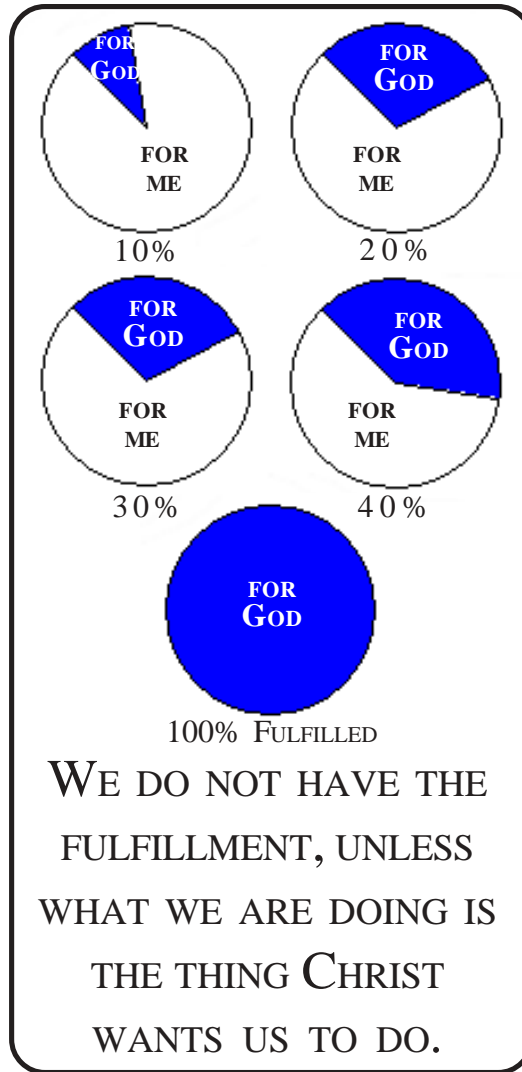
I made a discovery, and probably some of you have made the same discovery. It isn't what I suppose, or it isn't what I *think*, it is what I *know* because God has given me an assurance, God has spoken to me a word, and I don't mean, "Thus saith the Lord." I mean, there is something of God that says, "This is Me! Move hand! Move foot! Move hand! Move foot!" And it's there, it's working, it's bringing forth the reality of God! When all hell is breaking loose around me, it is not bringing me into a place of tumult and confusion and trouble and tribulation, where I begin to look at myself instead of God. "Oh, woe is me, poor me, I'm gonna be completely dissolved." But the Word holds me steadfast to His plan and His purpose to bring me to a point of fullness.

It says, *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh...* Brethren, let me put it as simple as I can: "flesh" means doing whatever it is you're doing and doing it, not as unto God, but as unto yourself. As it is in school, so it is in God. God gives us instruction, He gives us the mechanics and we begin to act as though we are Christian and move in a Christian environment and become, as it were, "Christian" in our actions, but in the midst of all that Christian-ness, God gives you an exam. An exam!?!? You know, I used to hate them. I had this teacher and he would always give

these pop quizzes. There was nothing "pop" about them, except for the fact that he just popped it down on my table, on my desk. And, of course, you know, I didn't have time to read, I didn't have time to study. Who needed to study? I have five fingers on one hand, five on the other hand and five toes on each foot. I can count up to twenty! Consequently, I never passed them. God gives us pop quizzes, He gives us pop tests, to determine how much of your doing is really God. Hallelujah. Somebody looks the wrong way, somebody says the wrong thing, somebody does the wrong thing and what happens? What goes on in that arena? What happens in that environment? **What is your attitude?** Is it *Christian*? Is it reconciliation? Is it har-

mony and peace and love and camaraderie? Is it, "Oh yes, yes, yes, you're absolutely right." Of course it is, isn't it? Just sweet, loving, everything's so hunky-dory, so much fun, all this good time, isn't that right? Or maybe you are like Mount Vesuvius? Smoke starts coming out your ears? Maybe not quite so visible. You just start rumbling, your earth starts shaking and you get that growling down inside, and it begins to shake a little bit. Maybe even after the first and second shaking, a little ssspptt - you just kind of spew out. Nothing like that ever happens to you, does it? Nothing like that at all. You're so loving, and oh so humble and absolutely Christian and so forgiving and everything is just good, and it just takes you *minutes* to get over everything! Praise God! I thought I was speaking to the wrong crowd. Well, would you say that you're in Christ? Would you say that your action is excusable before God? Do you think that there is something that is required in that kind of circumstance, that kind of situation?

You know, I always told God, "God, just put me up in the mountain someplace, put me in a cave and I'll be fine." It wouldn't be fine. I find myself fighting with myself. Paul repeatedly speaks of the inward conflict, the war between his two selves (Romans 7:14-25). Have you ever been in those situations where you just start kidding around with each other and it gets a little serious and a little more serious and a little more serious, and pretty soon everybody's not kidding anymore. It's not fun, is it? It's not something that you can think back upon with pleasure. You walk





away from the situation more damaged and more hurt than edified or exhorted.

God wants us to be Godly. That means I have to respond like God. I have to spend time with God, I have to have God inside of me and me becoming a part and being made up in the aspect of His character. That is where God and I get so mixed together that you can't see me anymore because you can only see God! That's what God wants. He has therefore, what? Given you and me this ministration of reconciliation. What reconciliation? Whereas, He was in the world and the sin that was in the world He did not... what? ...give it to them, or count it against them. But He took it upon Himself (II Corinthians 5:18-19). Don't get me wrong. I don't say you can go out and start sinning for other people. That's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that there is a position, there is a place that the church has to be in at a certain time. There has to be a manifestation of that thing that God calls *son*! And if you're not manifesting in your home or in your private set of circumstances, you're not going to manifest it out there no matter how much you know, or what you got, or how many times you speak in tongues a day! You see, the Holy Ghost wasn't just given to you for the sake of you edifying yourselves, and speaking in another tongue. The Holy Ghost was given to you to lead you into truth. Truth about whom? Truth about Him, that the more truth I know about Him, the more truth I know about me and I find out that the truth about me isn't something that I necessarily want revealed anywhere other than in His closet, with Him. So I have to be covered over with Him. So completely, so entirely, so absolutely, totally encapsulated *in Him* that I cease to be. I really think that's what happened to Enoch, do you know that? I think that He got so close to God that He just walked into God. He pulled God down around Him. Hallelujah! Can you imagine knowing God so intimately, so closely, that one day you get up to God and just reach out and pull God over you, and as far as everybody else is concerned, you're God. "Where did he go? Where? I don't see him anymore. He's gone! He was here a minute ago and all of the sudden he's gone!" And all the time he's standing there *with* God! Maybe you don't want it. I *want* it. **I want it!** I WANT IT! It doesn't make any difference what my circumstances are. God created my circumstances. Of course, I may not think He knows what He's doing because I don't like what he's doing. Don't like it at all! Don't like the place I'm in. I don't like the thing I'm doing. I don't like what I have to do and here and there and all the demands that are being made on me. It's God. It's God! **It's God!** It's

God, do you hear me? **IT'S GOD!** I have to buckle down, I have to get down before God and submit myself to that washing machine. Have you ever watched those washing machines? Back and forth, back and forth. I throw something in that water and it just pulls it down in there. Do you know, I really like doing that. I just throw it in and it just pulls it down! I say, "This is fun!

I just put it in there, and it pulls it down." I don't know what you girls find hard about washing. I could sit there and watch that washing machine all day long, just pouring clothes in there. And when you pull them out they're nice and white and clean. But you know something? I not only see it going in, I see it coming out. I see it go in dirty and I see it come out white. I don't know that down there it's getting crunched and beaten and kicked and stomped and flipped around and twisted around. The sheet gets twisted around the towel, and the shirt gets twisted into the midst of it and it's all twisted up together! But they all come up clean. They all come up clean and so entwined. Of course, you can grumble and complain, "Oh, oh, oh, I have to get this all straightened out, blah, blah, blah, who ever invented this washing machine!" Hallelujah. Or, just watching the clothes dryer going around. I'm kind of strange, I guess. I remember when I was in the service, we had to do our laundry down at the Laundromat, and we would throw our clothes in that big old dryer. Now, of course, we just threw everything in there. We didn't take the whites, and put them in there and take this and put it in there and wait, wait, wait, or put them in another machine, we just threw *everything* in there! The dryer would be going around and around and around and this shirt would be diving this way



SOMETIMES WE THINK

WE'RE JUST GOING

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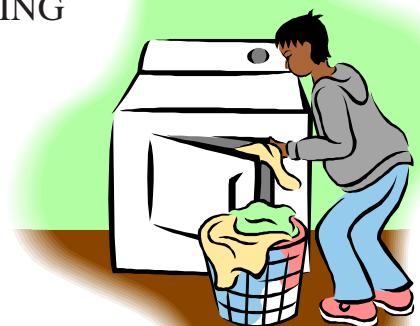
AROUND AND

AROUND AND

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WELL, YOU'RE

JUST IN YOUR DRYER.



- almost flying - and then this towel would be going around like this - and you're watching it and you can almost hear Beethoven - and in the midst of the dancing, here comes a sock! Oh, and when they come out... Ahhhhh! Just put your face in it. Course, that's a no-no, I understand. You

don't want your greasy hair and face all over your clean clothes! But, boy, they smell so good! Clean! They smell clean. And, you know, the shirt didn't care if the sock was going in it's sleeve and coming out at the end of the cuff, or that some other piece was wrapped up in the midst of it. It didn't care! Didn't care! They were all in the fire together! In the fire together! To make it smell so sweet, do you know it took the heat of that drying element and the tumbling around together? Tumble, tumble, tumble, tumble, tumble. Sometimes we think we're just going around and around and around and around. Well, you're just in your dryer. Because I don't believe that it isn't without purpose. God is not foolish. God is not foolish. The fact of the matter is, God knows the end of the day, where you need to be, and He knows what it takes to get you there.

Therefore, those that are **in** Christ Jesus! Now, we could say, "Well, blah, blah, blah. Because of this, I'm out of sorts," and we begin to make all kinds of excuses. Let's just use it as a *positive*, and not as a *negative*. If you know you're under some kind of judgment, repent! It's quite simple. It's quite one, two, three-ish. You repent! "God, forgive me for being in the flesh. Forgive me for losing my temper. Forgive me for being frustrated. Forgive me for being rebellious. Forgive me for seeking to achieve my own way, my own way, my own way, my own way, my own way!" Quite frankly, *quite frankly*, I think the church needs to get back to basics in order to get on into heaven, into the revelation of God! It's not a word, it's not a knowledge, it's an entity, it's a personality. It's a **PERSONALITY**, do you hear, that has to be demonstrated within this vessel right here, **IN THE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT GOD HAS PUT ME IN!** I don't have to like it, but I can do it with joy *as unto Him*. You know, I can do a lot of things that I don't like to do, **IF I do them as unto the Lord!** I mean, there are a lot of things that I don't like to do. I just don't like to do them! And yet, God puts me there again, and again, and again, and again and one day He says, "Stop looking at it and *look at Me!*" I said, "Okay, let me try that for a while." I found out it works! Now, that doesn't mean that I like it any better, but there is something of a joy that I have in the midst of my "not liking." In the midst of what I'm in and what is going on, there is a joy that I have, an **EXPECTATION** of a hope that something is coming that is **MUCH BETTER!** Oh, hallelujah, **hallelujah, HALLELUJAH!**

It is possible, because it says, "For the law of the spirit

of life in Christ Jesus has, what? **MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH (Romans 8:2)!** What it's really saying is, "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death in the aspect of **my humanity!**" You know, my humanity is under the law of sin and death and the only way that I can circumvent that law is to **get up in Him** and stop being human and start being divine! What we are speaking about is resurrection! I don't need to be whooshed off my feet, I don't need fuzzy-wuzzies going up and down my spine, I don't need the hair standing up on end nor chills running up and down my spine. I don't need to be speaking in tongues in some glorious, assertive way. All I have to do is to know the reality of **His presence!**

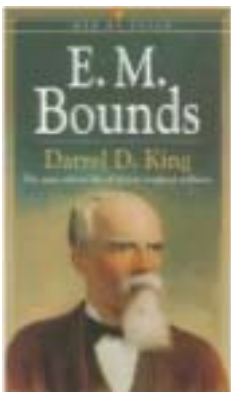
It is not that we don't have to overcome things. Brethren, may I say to you that we are all put into circumstances that we don't like? Something about them pricks us. It's not the utopia, the epitome of absolute happiness, the fulfillment of one's aspirations and dreams. Somewhere in the midst of that euphoric realm of humanistic thinking, something is *not right*. Something is pricking us.

Something is saying, "You're not happy! You're not content!" The devil, he flashes this in front of you, he flashes that in front of you, he flashes this, he flashes that. Flashcards. You know what they are? And because we're not where we're supposed to be, we look and we begin to falter. You know, you think you're above certain propensities, at least I do, only to find out you weren't as good as you thought you were. Something happens, something is flashed before your face and it looks nice. "Weeell, that wouldn't be so bad, would it?" If it isn't God, if it isn't God, **IF IT ISN'T GOD**, it is of no value. Not only is it not of any value, but it is detrimental, *detrimental* to your position and - watch out - it could be hazardous to your spiritual health.

Romans 8:3, ***For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled... not in Him alone, but ...in us, who... what? ...walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*** After the Spirit! Oh, hallelujah. There is just so much going on, brethren, that needs the strength of the Son. As the church has lost its strength, wickedness has increased in its boldness and the agenda of Satan has been politicized and

continued on page 13...

...IF IT ISN'T GOD, IT IS OF NO VALUE. NOT ONLY IS IT NOT OF ANY VALUE, BUT IT IS **DETRIMENTAL TO YOUR POSITION AND - WATCH OUT - IT COULD BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH.**



E.M. Bounds

By Darrel King

Publisher Bethany House Publishers

A Book Nook By: Tim Culver

The countenance of E. M. Bounds was a light that shown everywhere he went. His messages stirred men to repentance, whether he crawled up next to you during a long night, stuck in a foxhole at one of the civil war battles of Vicksburg, Fredericksburg or the defense of Atlanta, or you heard him in one of his many pastorates over the years. Maybe you read his writings, which were quite prolific and anointed of God. But behind everything that people saw, there was hidden an intense life of prayer. This man had power through prayer and his life showed the glory of God, whether he was a soldier for the Confederate Army or as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was always at his post of prayer, earnest about the souls of the men and women around him.

Power was lacking in the Southern Methodist Church. The Civil War brought much suffering, deprivation, and a spiritual bewilderment, but God was raising up a man in St. Louis, Edward Bounds. He was going to be a force for God throughout the war wearied ranks of the Southern confederacy, fighting for the souls of those who were about to die, and those who were bleeding at death's door. Born just outside of St. Louis, Missouri, his father was a man of business and a strong man of faith. As a family they had time in the Word and prayer every day. This produced children who had a foundation to turn to when they came to the end of themselves. They produced children who were committed to a life of Christ-centered living.

After a short jaunt to Placerville, California in search of gold, he settled back in the St. Louis area going to school to become a lawyer. At 19 he became the state's youngest lawyer. This was a good first step for this preacher. It was in law that he learned to be a good speaker and came into an understanding of the law. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Bounds did not align himself with either side. By this time he was a preacher and pastor in St. Louis. Missouri was more sympathetic toward the Southern cause than toward the North and with Northern troops occupying the state, seeds of discord began to be sown in the hearts to the Union troops and the citizens of the state of Missouri. The Union troops under the command of General R. Curtis were given absolute authority in the state, the president having declared marshal law. But Bounds could

not keep himself out of the war. A small skirmish took place in his home town. His church was used as the offensive staging area for the Confederate soldiers against a Union garrison stationed across the street at the courthouse. This eventually led Mr. Bounds' name to be unjustly put onto the black list of Southern sympathizers and Edward found himself in a war prison in the dead of winter. Eventually, E. M. was banished to the South where he hooked up with the 18,000 Missourian Army as one of their chaplains. This army became known as one of the most courageous, determined and self-sacrificing armies in the entire South. After gaining renown in the defense of Vicksburg, his army found themselves as the cork in the bottle of defenses in the defense of Fredericksburg. Brother Bounds was given plenty of opportunities to preach, pray and testify to the men on the front lines of the saving power of Christ. At first he did not want to be on the front lines, but during a surprise attack by General Grant upon a riverfront fortification that his detachment was holding on Fredericksburg, he saw how effective the gospel was right in the thick of the battle. He saw men crying out to God for deliverance, he heard the wounded at night groaning for strength to see the breaking of day. Brother Bounds would crawl from man to man all night long testifying of Christ and praying with those desperate souls.

But E. M. didn't only whisper to men about their need of a Savior. He also preached it. Night camp meetings began to start during these long nights. The souls of men were anxious to find something to focus on in this horrific tragedy that pitted brother against brother. The revival meetings were so powerful through E. M. Bounds that the Northern armies would stop shelling and firing when night-fall came. The men rather crept up as stealthily as they could, nestling themselves in trees, bushes, shrubs, and the banks of rivers to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Union soldiers would even call across the field of battle prayer requests and songs. God's Spirit was sweeping through the armies of the South.

As the war began to turn in the favor of the Union, the Spirit of God began to move more and more powerfully



until during the defense of Atlanta it had come to a full flame, touching the city! “Bounds often preached regarding hell, sin, and eternal death, issues that were critical to the men who heard them. With his uniform buttoned to the neck, his light brown hair neatly combed, and his beard trimmed, Bounds implored the men to turn to Jesus. His concern for souls was so real that tears streamed down his face as he spoke.”

After the war, Mr. Bounds took up pastoring in the southern states that had been ravaged by the war. God continued to move in power as Bounds preached the need for the true love of Christ in the hearts of the broken Southerners. It seemed as if Bounds found himself in a new church every couple of years. And hard as this was, it

soon turned for the furtherance of the gospel. It was a time of compromise in the church with much worldliness and misapplied resources. Soon there were fires throughout the South as the life of Christ in Mr. Bounds began to ignite hamlet after hamlet with the power of love, the Savior of the world! Mr. Bounds also became a writer and editor of a Christian publication, which was spread throughout the whole South. This publication was called the Advocate. He was truly a man appointed for a special time in the history of our country. He was a firm believer in following the conscience of the Holy Spirit and his last article was on those lines. If I may quote a small portion of it in closing I pray that it will give you understanding and insight into this man of faith and prayer. ✨

Loss of Conscience, an excerpt from the book

“It is not a bad thing to have a conscience, that is, to the man intent on doing the right thing in the right way. To him it is a blessing. A conscience enlightened by the word of God and by His Spirit is like a sun, central and luminous. It guides, warms, and gladdens. A good conscience, trained and sensitive, stands like an ever wakeful guard to protect and warn. Strong and honest convictions are the results of a good conscience. The man of conscience is a reliable man. You know where to find him, and he is worth finding. Conscience may be lost. We can sin against our conscience by violating its injunctions till we not only silence its voice, but destroy its being.”

...continued from page 11 (*Encapsulated In Christ*)

manipulated to bring about an era of sin and death. There is no hope for our country, there is no hope for the world, outside of the intent and the plan of God. No hope. No hope! I don't believe that you young people have the twenty, or thirty, or forty years that I had to get ready. Things are changing. What are you going to do if they come knocking on your mom and dad's door and want to arrest them and take them off because they're preaching the gospel? What are you going to do? It's coming. It's coming. It's a sobering thought, but nevertheless, it's coming. The anti-Christ spirit that *hates* God, *hates* you. The more that you preach God, and the more that you bring forth and manifest the nature of God, the more it hates you. Without God, we don't stand a chance. That is how serious it is. I can paint it up, make it like cotton candy, but it is not. It is not. It is not. It is not.

There was a bill that was being pushed through the government. It went through the legislature, and I don't know if it's gone through the Senate yet. It is an agricultural bill, concerning subsidies for the agricultural community. Sounds harmless doesn't it? But do you know what the writers of the bill did? They took the sodomite agenda that says that if I talk to you about what the Bible says about sodomy, I am guilty of hate mongering, and they've attached it to an *agricultural subsidy program*. Now, this isn't state, this is federal. So that means, what they did in California, although it has no affect on you, could one day become a *reality*. Where is the strength of the church? Where is the power of the sons of God? What

are you going to do, children, when you find yourself confronted with the reality of sin that wants to *kill* you? There has never been a day like we live in, where the malice of hell is being manifested in humanity, do you know that? It is because God has been cut out of the realm of humanness. He's been eliminated! He has been taken out of the schools, He has been taken out of the government, and He's being taken out of church. That is what people are doing, you know that? They are legislating what you can preach from the pulpit and if you don't think it is not going to be a reality to you, you better think again. You better think again. Hallelujah. Oh, God, help us.

I was watching the news the other day, and they were reiterating what they did there in Jordan. It's unbelievable to me, inconceivable. I cannot conceive how man can inflict death and destruction on someone whom they don't know or have no cause against and then take credit for it. Where is your safety? Where is your mechanism of escape? What is it that God had planned and purposed for this time? God has purposed and planned that the Son might rise forth out of the midst of humanity! He says, “I will call my son out of Egypt” (Hosea 11:1). Let us begin to rise up. Let us begin to rise up in the midst of our personal environment, our personal position of humanistic thinking. Our position of carnality and flesh, let us begin to subject it to the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ. Let us begin to rise up as sons and move to do the Father's will, that the Father might receive that which He has labored for. God bless you. God bless you. ✨



Where is my child's heart? We'll look at two avenues in this article: **who** has their heart and **what** has their heart. As we see these two avenues, we can more clearly see how we can cooperate with heaven to regain the lost hearts, regain those rebellious, disobedient hearts in our homes. Bringing our children to a surrender of all selfishness is the most important work on this earth. This heart work must be done not only with Christ but more importantly in Christ; there is a difference.

Who has your child's heart right now? Is it toward the world or is it toward God? By looking at his behavior, attitude and countenance parents can evaluate accurately "by his doing" (Proverbs 20:11), who has his heart. "Ye shall know them (my people) by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16-20). Does Christ and right doing possess his heart or do you see Satan's selfishness possessing his words, disposition and deeds? Galatians 5:16-25 lists the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit to guide your fruit inspecting to know which spirit is leading your child.

Satan is prince of this world since the fall of Adam and Eve and he possesses the heart of our child by nature unless we **re-direct** our little ones and our youth to give their heart to Christ and follow His laws instead. Satan takes control of every mind (heart) that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God. If we are not actively directing our children to Jesus, they are automatically under Satan's control! Unaided by the divine, neither child nor parent can do anything but serve sin and selfishness. How important it is for a parent to bring their Disrespectful Danny to Jesus that He can redeem him from Satan's service. Christ longs to empower and direct parent and child alike in the ways of righteousness. Who will decidedly take up this work?

My heart ached as I heard my two boys, ages ten and twelve, on the back porch one Sabbath afternoon with other Sabbath believer's children, entering into foolish, inappropriate talk and laughter. My heart ached, not that they were laughing, for we know Sabbath should be a happy, pleasant day but they were laughing about someone not present, inappropriately making fun of someone else. Older children were leading this conversation, but my boys knew that was not right, yet they listened to and followed the

Where Is My Child's Heart?

By Sally Hohnberger

older children and appeared to be enjoying it. That hurt me. Where is their heart? It's not under God's control. I thought they knew better. Why aren't they doing what they know is right?

I was teaching (telling) them what was right. I wasn't training them. Training deals with their will, their heart and sees to it they do what they know is right, as it is in Jesus. I didn't understand the importance of bringing my child to a firm decision to do right, and let Jesus direct me in the way to take so He could change their heart.

The heart represents the thoughts, feelings and behavior. The words and deeds of my child tells me his thoughts. The character of his thoughts tell me who is on the throne of his heart, influencing his doings. It's either Christ or Satan; there is no middle ground. "He that is not (actively) with me is against

me" (Matthew 12:30).

Fruit inspecting said, Satan had my children's heart! Satan's voice was heard (the flesh), they responded and cooperated with these thoughts, thus producing this behavior. The problem was, my boys didn't understand God's voice at this time in their life, so they didn't respond to Him, thus they followed another master. I want Jesus to have their heart!

"What must I do Lord?" *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28). *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye* (Psalm 32:8).

Christ must become a personal friend and companion to you, the parent, like He was with Enoch. Become sensitive to recognize the voice of God to your conscience and then you must teach this relationship to your child by example, instructions and disciplines. Christ must be on the throne of your heart. That means, by a willing surrender, you will filter all your thoughts and plans through God, then do His will, not yours. He needs to be a personal Lord and Saviour.

If Jesus has your thoughts and feelings, then He has the root fibers of your heart and can transform everything else to serve righteousness; your reactions, your desires, your disposition, your habits, conduct, even your affections can serve right in this way. Christ must have access

through the voice of your conscience to lead you and you must learn to follow by actively choosing to serve God, by actively surrendering the fleshly way, and by actively cooperating to do right. Only in this way can Christ possess your heart and make His abode with you. When Christ is abiding in this way, He can recreate you into His image. Only by acquaintance and association with Christ, can you become like Him. As you learn this life of surrender in Jesus, teach this to your children (Deuteronomy 6, John 15).

I experienced God redeeming my heart (thoughts and feelings) from fearing the bears to trusting Him to keep the bears; down to the level of my thoughts and feelings was I delivered. So I took my son, I'll call him Angry Aaron, to Jesus and instructed him how to surrender his heart in prayer. I had to discipline him, led of God, before he'd cooperate to pray. The flesh doesn't like to be restrained. Next, I told him he'd have to trust Jesus would change his feelings in time but for now, even while wrong thoughts and feelings were still there, he could still choose to speak loving words in place of hateful words because Jesus would make it possible. When he chose to obey (surrender) and speak the opposite of his present thoughts and feelings, Christ took away his anger and put love in his heart in its stead. Jesus put love down to the level of his thoughts and feelings. Jesus did this little miracle every time my son listened to me and his own conscience and cooperated. By repetition he was beginning to recognize the voice of God to his conscience. Jesus possessed my son's heart in place of Satan. He was redeemed from Satan's servitude and so much happier. With heart communication with Jesus, the back porch incident need not be repeated, for Jesus would direct them aright. Who has your child's heart?

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). ***In him was life... ..But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God...*** (John 1:4,12).

What character trait has your child's heart? Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right (Proverbs 20:11).

Many toddlers, children and youth have joined Satan's rank because they do not experientially know Jesus to be their Saviour from self. Many professed Christian's children are in open rebellion against law and order in the home. They walk contrary to the ways of God because Satan leads their thoughts and feelings and they are following him. There is Rebellious Rufus, Temper Tantrum Tommy, My Way Willy, Sassy Suzy, Interruptive Ivy and Selfish Sarah. They walk in the broad path with Satan as their companion because they



know no other way. The parents commonly excuse their behavior for this or that reason. There is no excuse for sin and selfishness; God hates selfishness and tell us to uproot all of it. Our children are this way because we are too busy to tell them about Jesus and take them to Him and train them how to walk the narrow path in Jesus. How sad! They will grow into these traits with repetition, not out of them as Satan has suggested to the world. Do not allow Satan to come into our home ranks and take our children unto disobedience and wrath without a fight! Ephesians 6:12 says it's a war with powers and principalities, its not just flesh and blood we're fighting. We must get in Jesus first, then with a firm hand in His, deny ungodliness in our home. We must cultivate and train our children to live valiantly for God, to be servants of righteousness as it is in Jesus. They will love us and respect us for this in due time.

As I committed myself to **personal daily study time and prayer**, God spoke through His Word, and His impressions to my heart, of my need to pull the weeds of unrighteousness. I was convicted I was allowing the weeds of disrespect, slothful work habits, lazy brain study habits, anger and poor me attitudes to grow in my home by allowing them to be expressed and acted out. God said He would be with me but I must pull these weeds; deny them firmly, give consequences for uncooperativeness, without harshness and anger of the flesh but in Christ. I could be a barrier against allowing these evils in my home and Jesus would fight the flesh for me (Exodus 14:14). With fear of failure, trepidation and timidity, I followed Christ and He did fight for me and in time my boys each gave their heart to Jesus and were delivered from all these ways. God led me to the replacement principle which was leading them to think and act out the opposite trait of character as it can be in Jesus. Instead of "coming up," God taught me how to "train them up" in Him. What weeds of character have your child's heart?

Parents, you, too, must **study for yourself; no one else can learn this for you** because it must become an experience, not just an intellectual knowledge. It was by reading and talking with God that I saw the error of my ways of letting my children "come up." I thought, "What comes up?" In an unattended garden, weeds come up, thorns and thistles come up without any care from the gardener. These undesirable fruits steal the nourishment and choke out goodly plants by crowding. Wrong character traits as disrespect, poor me thoughts, etc. that we allow in our children, are the bitter fruits of letting our children "come up." These things come up without any care on our part. It takes time, effort and planning to cultivate in goodly plants of righteousness, to provide

time with God, to feed, nourish and challenge them to upright thinking, speaking and acting.



Will you let Satan crowd out God in this way? Or will you redirect their ways, see to it they get time with God and “train them up” to do the right?

If you do this, you will **need much time with them** to become their companion, confidant, and regain the respect you need for authority over them. You must win them by love and much prayer, but never letting down the standard of righteousness. Rather uphold firmly the right in and with Jesus, ever pointing your child to Jesus, who is able to change them in heart and life. They will fall in love once they come to know Jesus, their Saviour from selfishness. A neat and orderly home doesn't come up without a work plan to get it in order and daily disciplines to keep it that way, does it? It's the same with our child's character traits. The plan is, there is a need to daily come to Jesus to soften their heart, to water the goodly plants, to nourish the right and to keep it all clean.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 says discipline and denying self is important. ***Because sentence against an evil (selfish) work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*** Any wrong permitted to be done will grow and strengthen with exercise and repetition. Then parents need to be diligent to pull the weeds when they are little and more easily removed. Proverbs 13:24 says, ***He that spareth his rod, hateth his son.*** When conflicts arise and discipline is necessary, you need Jesus to direct you aright in this warfare! My studies showed me that evil is anything that is against the will of God; it's any and all selfishness. “Lord, help me with this great heart work! It's not simply behavior modification I need for my children, it's a “new heart,” therefore, I need You to direct me in this warfare!”

I experimented to apply what I was reading on union and communion with God. I took God with me in my homeschooling endeavors. He would be the Principal and I would be the underteacher. It was an excellent method. Christ did put thoughts in my mind how to direct my boys to a true heart surrender. It takes time and effort. Without Christ I only gained outward conformity in obedience. But with Jesus leading, He obtained the heart of my son and obedience. This obedience came from the heart, the inner man; how sweet it was. When Christ possessed the heart all unrighteous thoughts had to leave; all the I can'ts, I don't want to's, all fears of failure and all tears were cleansed away. With Christ on the throne of his heart, righteous thoughts came in; I can do my math, I enjoy English, I'll get this done as quick and as well as I can, let's see how good I can do on my math timed tests, I need not fear it. Its wonderful to have Jesus have my heart and gain

the heart of my son in our day to day life. It is time well spent. Communication with Christ

is as vital as breathing is to sustain our life.

What has their affections? Is it heavenly or earthly? Look at what is on their bedroom wall. A weird sports hero? Is it some ugly music group, muscle men or fashion queens? It ought to be you! Their affections are on this stuff instead of you! With whom do they spend their time? With associates of the mind set you see on the wall? Why are they attracted to these associates, to these ugly things of earth? Its often because they are accepted as they are by these associates and they want to please them by liking what they seem to like. They have a need to belong, feel a part of something and since you weren't around to be interested in them, or direct them, the world had more time for them and as a result they gave their time and affections (heart) to them. Since they didn't have a family, they joined these drug fellows and learned to like what they like.

This is so sad because it need not be so. Their walls ought to have some pleasant nature scene that reminds your child of their special outing with you or the family on the wall, or some sweet animals, or some meaningful scripture verse. Their affections should be in the family and with Christ. They need to belong, to be loved; it should be in heavenly ways in their own home by their parents. Parents, it's up to you to bind their hearts to yours! Regain their hearts, let Jesus change your story.

If you gain their heart, then their affections will be towards you. They will love to talk with you, spend time with you, work with you, play with you. Their greatest joy is to be by your side, they feel loved, appreciated, and desire to please you. They can discuss anything and everything with you; nothing is a secret from you. They have found you now to be so trustworthy that if you disagree on some matter they know you have their best interest in heart and will work through the situation with a heart seeking for what is right. This is the fruit of spending much time with your child. They know they are a priority in your life. On the other hand, a disrespectful, disobedient child gives evidence that the parent does not have their heart. Where did you loose your child's heart? Children want their parent's love, approval, and support. Often the father is too busy elsewhere, has time for others but not his child. The child gets the unsaid message that they're not important or loved. Then the host of negative attributes comes from the influence of that substitute associate that took your place. Do you want your son's, your daughter's heart back? Our girls as well as our boys need father as well as mother. Give them you, your time, not things! I believe all youth can be won back. Don't let the devil make you think that yours can't be!

We have a war to fight, only with Christ can we do it. "Ye are not warring against flesh and blood but powers and principalities of darkness" (Ephesians 6:12). Satan wants the heart, the affections, the tastes, the thoughts of our children. Are you going to let him have them without a fight?

In order to possess the heart, you must **spend time with them** to regain their affections. True love will cooperate with God and lead your children out of this Egypt of selfishness. No matter how much time and effort it takes, having your children's hearts with your heart in Jesus is worth all the effort. If you want them to know Christ, to know the joy of obedience it's really up to you, no one else.

If not you, who?

If not now, when?


Start by making your children a **priority** in your life. Spend quantity and quality time with your children every day; 10 minutes isn't enough! If you don't, I'll guarantee Satan will provide someone to take your place and the associate will take your child away from you and God.

Father, work is not your life, your children are and they need you to work with them, their hearts, their habits, teach them the thoughts they should think, how to come to Jesus and be changed. Listen to their hurts, come to know their interests, their thoughts; they deserve a goodly place in your time today - not tomorrow. Sacrifice all to have their hearts in yours and together in Christ's. Sell all to regain the lost and straying heart! Many fathers today are deceived and distracted, thinking that their work is everything. It is nothing if you don't have your children! Just ask business men who have lost their youth to the world. Your children are wearying, waiting for Father to have time for them. If you don't take heed soon, they will not have time for you. Many premature marriages are youth striving to get the love they don't get at home. Strangers are not to be given time and attention in preference to your children's needs. Stop, listen, if you've been deceived with this misconception, correct it today. God's grace is sufficient for you to change your thinking and direction and His grace is sufficient for mending the hearts of your little ones, even your youth to you today. Admit your wrong course and correct it. Show your children by your actions now that they are the priority in your life. Yes, father has to work to support the home, but come home and give yourself to them regularly in the evening hours, keep your promise to be there, to go camping, to go for a bike ride and you will

regain their hearts. If you fail to gain their hearts first, they will not be interested in your Jesus or your rules of life. If you've wounded their hearts, only your actions can speak louder than your words and reverse your course. John 17:19 says, *And for their sakes I sanctify myself.* You must change first, father, for the sake of your sons and daughters!

Mother, what keeps you from your children? The telephone, neighborly chit chats, over-work or slow work habits, many trips to town due to lack of organization, or perhaps its your inability to say no to others? Even evangelism is to be secondary to raising your child to follow Christ. Change square about, call out to God, sort it out and follow as He leads you to correct your life today, now. Make your children your business, your priority. Train up their thoughts and feelings in righteous ways; this is a good work that no one else will do if you don't. Telling them what is right is only half of this work. Training is the greater work that sees to it they do what they know is right. Training requires your calling out to God for instructions in how to deny the wrong thoughts and feelings and how to cultivate in the opposite trait of character in divine power, not just human methods alone. Cultivation requires working up the soil of the heart, and implanting goodly ways in place of the wrong. Training takes the child to Jesus for goodly thoughts to replace the wrong ones. On their knees they must surrender, then they must get up to act out the right. It's in obedience that their hearts, their thoughts are changed by grace. Jesus never intended you and I to do this heart work without Him; in fact, we can't. The best humanity can get in behavior modification is outward conformity, without Christ the heart is not made new. So let Christ direct you in this warfare for their hearts.

In corrections, reproof and even giving consequences for disobedience you are saying to your child, "I love you too much to let you disobey, I will not let Satan have you. Come, let's go to Jesus to lay down the wrong and pick up the right." Home needs to be an oasis, a fortress against the evil trends of this world, a loving place that upholds firmly God's ways over selfish ways. God in us leading, can cleanse the music, dress, diet, hair styles in our homes and redeem these tastes and affections unto Himself and us. If you do not give consequences and motivations led of God for disobedience you will loose their heart to Satan and unrighteousness. Instead, give consequences in Jesus and gain the heart.

Go out and gain the hearts of your children and bind them to yours in Christ! 

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Christ the Forerunner

By Melissa Trotter

There is a phrase that God has been dropping over and over into my mind for a long time now. He has developed it in my heart and it has grown into a picture in my mind of God's great love and purpose for us as human beings here on this earth. I want to take this opportunity to write and try to put on paper this scene I feel and see so clearly in my heart.

The phrase He put in my heart is "a better way." Hebrews speaks 12 times in reference to something better. The number 12 means completion. Proverbs says there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25). The way that God has laid out for His sons is much better than any other way and it leads to the completion of His plan for the earth and mankind. This is the more excellent way, the better way, that God has planned. Every other way will fall far short of the best that there is. As I have looked into these ways, there seems

to be a division made into three parts: an old way, a better way and the best way that is yet to come.

It is quite clear and simple from reading Hebrews that Moses' law and the priesthood is the old covenant, the old way (Hebrews 8:13). People who lived before Jesus could only obtain forgiveness from sin by going to the high priest and offering a sacrifice for sin. When they died, they went to paradise, a part of hell. The Bible says that when Jesus died, He preached to the spirits in prison, which were people in hell who may not have been very righteous when they were on earth, but who repented before they died (I Peter 3:19-20). Then Jesus took them up to heaven with Him. Jesus became the high priest when He shed His Blood and we now have remission of sins by Him, not by another man offering the blood of bulls and of goats (Hebrews 9).

I want to quote a number of scriptures from Hebrews that speak of

something better, so the idea of what He is saying will become more clear. Since it would take too much space to quote the context of all these verses, I encourage you to read it yourself, or read the whole of Hebrews! Hebrews 7:19, *For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.* This verse is wonderful because it says that the law made nothing perfect, but, by Jesus, who is our hope, we can draw nigh to God. God made a faultless, perfect way for us to draw nigh to Him. He made it such that power is given to us to come as close as possible to Him, to be so holy and so near to Him, that we are just like Him.

Hebrews 8:6, *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.* This covenant is the promise that He will put His laws into our minds and write

them on our hearts and He shall be to us a God and we shall be to Him a people. This is God covering all the wickedness in us with His laws, His righteousness.

Hebrews 9:23, *It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.* This is saying that bloodshed of animals was a physical, earthly pattern of what went on in the heavenlies, that it was necessary to purify the people. It took the better sacrifices of Jesus' Blood, the whipping, the thorns on His head, the sword in His side to establish forever in the heavens, the spiritual realm, that man can be saved by His Blood.

Hebrews 10:34, *For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.* Now he says the reason for Jesus' Blood is not only remission of sins, but that heaven, which is eternity, is where we will have a better substance. It didn't matter that their goods were spoiled.

Hebrews 11:16, *But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.* This passage, in the famous faith chapter, is talking about the saints who have died before us who said that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. They did not obtain the promise, but they saw it and they believed it. They knew there was a better thing in heaven than they would ever get on earth.

Hebrews 11:35, *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:* This verse says to me that not only is there an eternal resurrection that they believed in, but there is a better one. If one is better

than the other, that must mean that there is one that is not so good.

Hebrews 11:40, *God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.* Oh, now this is interesting. Just a few verses down from the last one, He is saying that we, too, are provided with the opportunity for a better resurrection! They are in the heavenlies watching and waiting for us to get the promise. Many, many have died in faith since Paul wrote Hebrews, and I believe that as time has gone on, it is closer and closer to the end time when man will receive the promise and be totally covered in Christ and experience the greatest resurrection.

There are three stories of people in the Old Testament that I found that show a progression to a better thing. Daniel is the first example. We know the story. The young men were carried away to Babylon and when the king's meat was put before them, at Daniel's request, they ate pulse instead. They were tested at the end of 10 days and it was found that they looked better than the rest of the children. The diet planned for those children changed forever after that. I would imagine that it may have changed for more people than just the captives from Israel. It would never be the same as it had been. Daniel 1:20, *And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.* So here is a dividing factor. These ones who diligently served the Lord were put on a scale higher than their peers, and not only that, better than ALL the magicians and astrologers. You could call all the original king's men the old and call Daniel and his friends the new. Now, relate that thought to the verses in Hebrews about the old and new – the old covenant becoming void and the new covenant being established. Now, out of those

young men, there was an even further separation. It says in Daniel 6:3, *Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.* Here was a man who loved God and served only Him and in the natural, in Babylon, he was preferred, BECAUSE an excellent spirit was in him. Obviously, it was the Spirit of God. Then, later, because of His faith in God, he overcame the lion's den and the king made a decree that all men were to fear the God of Daniel.

This next one is about someone who failed. I Samuel 15:22, *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.* This was spoken to Saul when he did not fulfill the commandment of the Lord. Even back in those days, when pardon was obtained by the blood of sacrifices, Saul was reprovved for not following the better way. It suggests to me that even though a way I may be walking is good, maybe there is a better way. In the midst of Hebrews speaking about the better way, is there a BEST way in there somewhere? Saul rapidly went downhill from here and instead of being exalted, he got lower and lower until he actually killed himself.

The next story is about Esther. The story is that King Ahasuerus called Queen Vashti to come before him and she refused to come. She disobeyed. Disobedience was banished and obedience was ushered in. Esther 1:19, *That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.* Then they gathered virgins from all over the kingdom, who prepared themselves for 12 months. Then the king picked which one he wanted. The fact is, all those virgins were better than Vashti. All of them were given the opportunity to become

queen. Vashti was the old. The ready virgins were the new. Yet it says in Esther 2:9, *...and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.* The keeper of the women was pleased with her and here she is brought to a higher level. She was given the BEST place, even before she became queen. Then, of course, the king chose her to be queen and that was the best of all. Esther 2:17, *And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.* The end of this adds another dimension to this study in that Esther, in her place of obedience and total faith in God, was able to SAVE God's people.

The list of examples could go on with Gideon and the separation of the 300 men, Joshua and Caleb alone going into the Promised Land out of all the people who came out of Egypt and Jesus' parables about 30, 60 and 100-fold. You could look at the tabernacle and see how the Outer Court was available for anyone to come into, but there were very specific requirements for going into the Holy Place and then into the Holy of Holies. And one more, I Corinthians 12:31, *But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.* These gifts are good, they are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, yet he says there is a more excellent way. The next chapter is about agape love. This kind of God's love is the best.

The next part of this is that Jesus, by the shedding of His Blood, established the better way for a purpose. The purpose is not just so that we don't have to sacrifice animals for remission of sins anymore. I'm going to quote more verses here because I think that

all of them together give a profound message.

Romans 8:29, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* This verse almost says it all! His purpose is for us to be fashioned like Jesus. If Jesus is the firstborn, there must be more of his brethren coming after Him. But who

The WINNER says,

"It may be difficult, but it's possible!"

The LOSER says,

"It may be possible, but it's too difficult!"

are Jesus' brethren? Look at the next verse.

Matthew 12:48-50, *But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? ⁴⁹And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! ⁵⁰For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.* It is exciting to know that Jesus wants us for His brethren! It is IF we do the will of the Father.

Romans 8:17, *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;* Here it is saying it a little different - joint heirs with Christ. What a calling!

Hebrews 6:19-20, *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth*

into that within the veil; ²⁰Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Now, it comes to the meat of it. Jesus is the forerunner. The Strong's Concordance definition of forerunner is #G4274, *prodromos*, "a runner ahead, i.e. scout." This word comes from another word that means, "to run forward, i.e. outstrip, precede." The root of that word means, "in front of, prior to." Jesus has run the way prior to us. He has scouted it out and He accomplished the goal - going through the veil into the Holy of Holies, which represents heaven, the eternal realm. In the Old law, once a year, the high priest would go through the veil with the blood of the animal in order to make atonement for the sins of the people. Jesus went through the veil when He shed His Blood and it forever takes away the sins of the people. This next verse explains that a little bit more.

Hebrews 10:19-20, *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;* When Jesus gave up His life, His flesh, that was when He went through the veil. Jesus had to come in a human body, to be subject to flesh, yet He went through that as an overcomer, without sin.

Luke 9:23, *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* There is the opportunity to come after him. He was the first and any man is able to come after Him.

I Peter 2:21, *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:* God wants us to follow in His steps.

I Peter 4:1, *Forasmuch then as*

Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: This adds a new dimension: Christ suffered. Get your mind ready with the thought of you suffering, too.

I Peter 4:13, *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.* But rejoice, because His glory is greater than the suffering.

Hebrews 13:13, *Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.* Christ wants us to follow Him all the way without the camp to the cross. The cross was outside of Jerusalem, out of the city. So, not only is there suffering, but Jesus wants us to follow Him all the way to death!

That is the only way to go through the veil, like He did.

Revelation 1:5, *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.*

But, he sure doesn't leave us hanging. It says He is the first begotten of the dead. Jesus resurrected first. If He is first, then there must certainly be those coming after Him.

I saw two pictures in my mind when I was thinking about the fact that Jesus wants us to do what He did, to go where He went, to give up our lives as He did. The first is like someone shoveling deep snow, like from their doorway to a car buried in snow. The person has an objective – they are making the way, shoveling the path to that car. When they get there, they have achieved the goal. The car has

been reached. They don't need their shovel anymore. Jesus has forged the way. He has walked in it, broken the path and has left us the tools we need to follow in His footsteps. He left the power of His Blood and the Holy Spirit, the comforter. The other picture is of geese that fly in a V shape. The very first goose breaks the air so that it is much easier for the other geese to follow. Only the strongest geese lead. Of course, Jesus is our leader. He has done the very hardest work for us.

Hebrews 4:15 says, *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time*



Footprints



One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand, is when I carried you."

By Mary Stevenson

of need. Jesus has felt every one of our infirmities. It says He was tempted like we are in ALL points. He had to be human, to live in the flesh, to be on this earth, to do the same kinds of things that we as humans have to do. He was the forerunner, the one who forged the way! And so, let us come boldly unto the throne, because He is there to help us.

Hebrews 2:18, ***For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*** The word *succour*, from Strong's Concordance #G977, means "to aid or relieve." It is from another word that means "to run, helper." When the verse says that He was the forerunner, I thought of this meaning, to run. That thought combined with this verse says that because He ran the course already, He is able to run with us, help us, aid us. I thought of the poem written called Footprints. The footprints in the sand, I believe would lead to the cross. And He is there, even to carry us in the hardest of times, as long as we stay on the trail. Thinking again of the snow shoveling, going off the trail would be harder, and it would be a way of self-gratification and would eventually lead to hell. Jesus said His yoke was easy and His burden was light (Matthew 11:30). So which way shall I go, the way of the cross or the way to hell? Those are the choices – there is no middle road. Those who overcome will be sons of God. Those who do not overcome will be sons of hell. God wants us to His sons. He created man in His image and in His likeness.

Remember the verses in Hebrews about the better things? In the midst of all the *better*, there is the fact that there is coming a *best*. In the midst of the virgins in Esther, there was a best one. In the midst of the young men from Israel, Daniel was the best. It seems to be a breaking down into thirds. Good, better, best. Outer Court, Holy Place, Holy of Holies. Old Testament law (a shadow of things in

the heavenlies), Jesus, the literal New Testament and the sons of God, the whole purpose for the first two. The old law had to be established because of sin in the world. Jesus took care of overcoming all sin and He made the way so that men could attain perfection and overthrow Satan once and for all. Then God will have His perfect creation that He started with in the beginning.

I was studying Romans 8:28-29 which says, ***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*** ²⁹***For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*** And it goes along with Hebrews 6:20, ***Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus.*** These definitions are all from Strong's Concordance.

Purpose (4286) means "a setting forth, i.e. proposal (intention)."

Foreknow (4267) means "to know beforehand, i.e. foresee."

Predestinate (4309) means "to limit in advance, i.e. predetermine."

Firstborn (4416) just means first born, and it is from 4413 which means, "foremost (in time, place, order or importance)."

Forerunner (4274) means, "a runner ahead, i.e. scout" from the next word that means, "to run forward, i.e. outstrip, precede."

All these words are from a root word, *pro* (4253) that means, "'fore,' i.e. in front of, prior (figuratively, superior) to." So, God had a purpose, an intention, something that came "in front of." It came in front of Him actually creating us. Then He had a people, whom He planned beforehand. He had predetermined what He was creating them for. Then He sent Jesus, the most important part of the purpose. Jesus was also the scout, the runner ahead. It is obvious to me that God wants us for sons, too.

I have been thinking about why I

want to be a son of God. I know God wants me to be, but this, in a nutshell is why I want to be. God says, I John 4:19, ***We love him, because He first loved us.*** I want to be a son because He loves me, and the more and more that I get to know Him, the more I love Him and the more I want what He wants more than what I want. Also, God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die. Jesus submitted Himself to the will of God. He said, not My will, but Thine be done. He let the whip cut into His back, the thorns to be pushed down in His head, His blood came out of His body with much pain and hurt - just for you and me, just so that I could call upon His name and be delivered! Jesus died so that He could have brethren! The whole purpose is that He made the way for us to be like Him! His Blood is the power to destroy Satan. Then He rose from the dead and He overcame death! And do you know, He has the same plan for us? To overcome the worst and last enemy there ever will be? What a glorious thing! And then to be ever in the presence of the Father, to the praise of His glory! This last coming forth of God in His people is the last and best, the fulfillment of his eternal purpose. This best, excellent way will bring salvation to the world. Esther did not know beforehand what part she would play in the saving of the Jews. Neither do we know the magnitude of God's purpose. But I want to be part of it!

One last *better* verse to sum all this up. Ecclesiastes 7:8, ***Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof:*** The triumphant end of God's people in the earth is better than the beginning of it! Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace to obtain help in this end of time from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has run the gamut, succeeded and left His people the baton! Let us be faithful to those witnesses who have gone before and carry on the testimony of Jesus Christ. 🙏

WHO WILL OVERCOME?

Brother Martin Kluson reports on the Czech Children's Camp
December 2004
Dlouhy, Czech Republic

"Forbid not children to come unto me," said the Lord Jesus Himself (Matthew 19:14). So, we gathered together the last week of the year and we took our children to a camp in a small village called Dlouhy. We went to the same place where we had been the last time. Dive with us into the children's hearts where we set off to place something in them.

In the morning they had time with their parents and then followed a meeting and preaching. After lunch and the afternoon's rest, we practiced in play what we studied in the Word in the morning.

Please, Stand Up

"Please, stand up! The ambassador of His Highness is coming." At that very moment, the royally attired ambassador of God entered the door with the sound of fanfares. He had a big scroll in his hand and read out of it:

*"Hear ye, the inhabitants of the Kingdom of God!
As per the decree of His Highness, Jesus Christ,
He is calling His sons and daughters, that is to say,
His princes and princesses, to take the reign in the Kingdom of God,
as it was given to them by inheritance and promised at their birth.
In order that there be no doubt that you have grown up to your task and will be
able to take up the kingdom in a manner which is worthy of your Father and also
for the undoubtable testimony, demonstrate real kingly character in the tasks
during the coming days.
Until the time appointed of the Father you are given in charge to my faithful keep-
ers. Demonstrate wisdom, courage, righteousness, temperance, and above all love
and a shepherd's heart. Your knowledge will be sealed after the accomplishment
of the tasks by a coronation in the last day.
And do not forget that the King Himself is with you at all times.
Amen!"*

And so it was. Five days, five virtues, five precious stones. He that overcometh and has five stones at the end will receive the crown. The children were divided into teams to their keepers until the time appointed. Does it remind you of the 4th chapter of Galatians? No, you are not mistaken. ☺ With all we were doing and saying, we were grafting into the children the Word of God. "To him that overcometh, I will give him..." and so we were reading the second and third chapters of Revelation.



He That Overcometh

- ... will eat of the hidden manna
 - ... will receive a white stone
 - ... will be clothed in white raiment
 - ... will sit in the throne
- there will be a feast
 - they will get a precious stone
 - we will all be dressed in white at the feast
 - we will set the children in the golden throne.

Generally, many games are set up as such that you compete for prizes, but at the end everybody receives a reward anyway. However, we didn't want this. Why then strive for anything and overcome? The Word of God speaks clearly. Also, we try to teach our children at home that everything has its consequences – the pleasant things as well as the unpleasant ones.

The contests were set up as such that everybody, whether big or small, was able to win. They were only about one thing – making a decision. Are you asking if some of the children did not receive the crown at the end? Yes, there were a few of those. Fortunately, they had something to think about afterwards so that they would not miss the real crown.

Princes and Princesses

The calling was not just an ordinary one. Children became princes and princesses, the heirs of the throne. But careful! They became such in order to show forth the praises (virtues) of Him who hath called them (I Peter 2:9). And so our camp verse, which was accompanying us while demonstrating the virtues, became I Peter 2:9.



“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises (virtues) of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

The children's eyes became as big as saucers as we placed the crown on their head right in the beginning, the crown that will be received by those who overcome. A golden crown with five colored precious stones. We also put in their hands a king's purple purse into which they were to collect the precious stones.

Emerald

The first task was to demonstrate wisdom. Wisdom, which is peaceable, which thinks of others. Wisdom, which knows how to find counsel in the Word of God and in God's character.

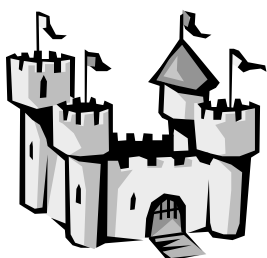
Each group received 55 gold coins as a base. They were to fortify the gate (who cared that it was a soccer goal). And because it was cold and it was the evening and because they needed to reign in the kingdom, they had to hire laborers. Each worker wanted five gold coins for half an hour of work. The children suspected that there wouldn't be money to spare and they speculated for a while whether it could be done in some other way. However, there should be a good reward for a good job! A verse that a laborer is worthy of his hire gave us a hint. And these laborers were really worthy – fathers and future fathers built a real wall made out of snow in just a few hours in the frost.

However, where to get more money? Well, it's clear – out of taxes. Mothers played farmers, with the littlest children as sheep. Reasonable tax was two gold coins per hour. And what if we raise the taxes? For example, to five gold coins? No way! It would not pay off. And again, we were able to look into the Word how the young king was making a decision whether to increase taxes or lower them. With the Bible in their hands our children behaved much wiser than our current government. In no way high taxes, in no way deficit budgets. Where would we get in our kingdom with that? ☺

Suddenly, the farmers came saying that they were cold. It is true they kept announcing that it would be colder this year. But what to do now? We learned from Proverbs that a wise woman is not afraid of winter because her maidens are clothed with double raiment. And so the children bought sweaters and clothed the farmers. They then, with joy, were bringing them taxes.



But what is this? Suddenly, a messenger is coming on his horse and announcing that there are pickpockets and thieves in the local woods that want to tear down our walls. There was not much money left, but there was no other solution. After studying Nehemiah, even the children understood that the laborers would have to work with one hand and hold a sword in the other. Obviously, the children had to buy the swords with the last gold coins. When the thieves came, the armed laborers drove them out – you should have seen them! There was much glory and joy.





And because everything turned out well and the children demonstrated wisdom, which was really needed, they received their first stone – emerald.

Gold

The second day, after the children got their rest and enjoyed, in wisdom, their first stone, there was the second virtue awaiting them – endurance.

The task was seemingly simple. The children were to go outside in the afternoon and buy the stone. Trivial. However, where to get money? There is nothing more simple. Go inside to Aunt Eva and she will give you a little coin... You want a little coin? All right, as an exchange for candies. Uncle Peter has them outside... Candies? I will give them to you, but for money. You don't know how to solve it, so go inside to Aunt Gabca and she will give you advice... And outside again and inside again and outside again and inside again. Remember, uncles are outside, aunts can be found inside.



When somebody, finally, after a long running and hunting for it got a coin, he found out that the precious stone costs five coins. Oh, no! After the children took their shoes off and put them on about hundred and fifty times, this was a real disappointment (they were not allowed in the house with their shoes on, so they had to remove their shoes to go in and put them on again to go out). However, they were not going to get the virtue otherwise. So, clench the teeth and into the battle again! Outside, inside, outside, inside..., from the aunt to the uncle, from the uncle to the aunt. Have you ever tried to get an approval for a mortgage? This is somewhat how it looked. Some wanted to give up, but the motivation was too strong – a golden stone.



Sometimes the task was above their ability. The gold coin on the chandelier was really high. They had to learn to ask somebody for help – for some of them, this was very difficult. When they were searching for another gold coin for half an hour, endurance and patience were stretching, but even the littlest ones endured it. Mainly, don't give up – set the teeth into it and go on. But where is the finish? This is what we know well, don't we? Sometimes it seems that the vision is delaying, that we fight, strength is running out and God is hiding Himself. Not at all, He is not hiding. Let us run our race

with patience and faithfulness, because God is creating something deep within us.

The children will find this endurance handy. Not only in their civil life while running through the authority offices, but the Word of God says that the one who endures until the end will receive a reward. And so, the motto of the day was: let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Diamond

Today we will not be running so much. We are going to be establishing righteousness. We are going to judge. Sure, because one day we are going to judge the nations. And so heads up and let's start. Six stories, six law suits, six judges – so that the children can take turns and each of them can demonstrate righteousness.



One judge's table, one bench, one gavel (so that there would be something to hit the table with when the children are saying, "Quiet in the court room!") and one bell. And judge, don't forget to appeal to the law. Which verse is talking about it?

~The chef and his apprentice. Today they are cooking goulash for their lord. "Apprentice, listen how goulash is made. Here you have an onion, you chop it and fry it. Then you cut the meat, make gravy, and it's done." What a rush! The poor apprentice was not able to remember it even if he wanted to. "Could you please tell me again?" "No! I have already told you clearly!" And so the apprentice messed it up. The chef was obviously upset. He gave the apprentice one more chance. He repeated to him what he was to do, however, at the same speed as the last time. The apprentice didn't know what to do, not even this time, so he got upset and intentionally burnt the goulash. It could not have ended anywhere else but in the courtroom. How



are you going to judge it, Prince Samuel? "The chef cannot shout at his apprentice in such a way and tell him so quickly. He couldn't have remembered it. He has to have patience with him." And the apprentice? "Well, apprentice, you cannot burn it intentionally! You didn't have an easy situation, but you have to be careful so that you keep righteousness in your life even at such a moment."



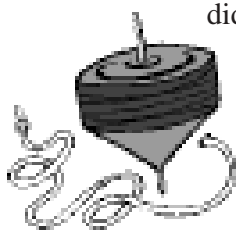
~"Set the table," mom calls to her younger daughter. However, before she has time to get up, the older one is already at the table, taking all the knives and forks and setting it. Obviously, the younger one doesn't like it, for

it was her job to do. Yet, the older one is not going to stop, and so there is tumult at the table. Princess Iva, what to do with it? It was simple. Only seemingly, but don't the children know it from their home? "I am right, I am." But the right is far, far above them. The right is love and esteeming the other better than myself. We don't play on who was first, who is older or younger. Iva judged it right and the children had something to think about at home.



~In the next scene a fight over a doll happened. Classic situation. Two girls, but only one new doll. While Martina is playing cheerfully with the doll, her sister, Magda, leers at her with envy. She is waiting for her occasion, which soon comes. Martina turns around and is looking for a dress for her doll. At that moment, Magda secretly takes her doll. When Martina finds out, she jumps after the doll and wants it back. Obviously, she was just playing with it. Magda tries to persuade her, however, with no result, that the doll was only "laying" there and nobody was playing with it. And because they don't settle the argument, they come to the "courtroom." Not even many adults would be able to judge it easily. The fact that Magda was behaving very selfishly was clear immediately to everybody. But what should poor Martina do? Did she act properly? After a discussion and searching in the Word, everything was cleared up and the children played for us what Martina could do better. After finding out that she lost her doll, she offered Magda even the dress which she went for before. It was clear that the children had reached much deeper than to human "righteousness."

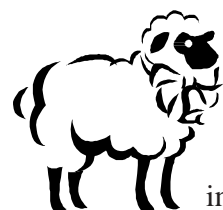
~Two sisters in a room. The older one is reading. The younger one, still with a pacifier, is drawing her a picture. The sun resembles the sun only from far away and the eyes have gone through the paper. ☹ "Sister, here, a picture for you." The younger one wants to make her older sister happy. "Well, this is an ugly picture, go away with it!" "Here, a picture for you! Take it, take it! You have to!... You are so mean!" The younger is upset with her sister that she doesn't want her picture and, in addition to not wanting it, she has found faults with it. So, Princess Ester, how are you going to judge the suit? After a longer discussion and explanation, it was clear. The judge, Princess Ester, explained to the girls what was righteous. The older one was to take the picture and praise it. She was to respect her sister's effort and make her happy. And that it didn't turn out very well? That was not the point. Ester



didn't forget the younger one either. "When your sister rejects you, it doesn't matter. Maybe there is something else that is bothering her. Go and play, don't be upset with her and you can give your picture, for example, to your mom in the evening."

~The girls are playing, each one of them with their new toy. Eva has a beautiful new spinning top. This obviously attracts the interest of her friend, Kristyna. And so, after a while, she asks her politely whether she could borrow it, upon which she receives also a polite answer of, "Not at the moment." Kristyna continues in a very polite manner to ask for the toy and stresses it out by quoting the Word, "When somebody asks you, give him what he is asking for..." (Matthew 7:7). However, Eva insists on her own and doesn't want to lend the toy until they start to argue and everything ends up where else – but in the courtroom. And there we had a stumbling block. Except for the arguing that the girls were reprovved of in the beginning, the children insisted, and relatively in one voice, that Eva was supposed to lend the toy to Kristyna when she asked for it. In the same spirit the answers were carried to question the leader, "What should your dad do when I come to him and ask him to give me his car or house?" "He has to give it to you." And so, after a long discussion, we finally had to intervene and set up the ownership law in Israel. If somebody has a toy, it is his sovereign right to keep it and do with it what he wants. And especially when Eva was just playing with her new toy, Kristyna could not enforce a claim. It's a comfort to know it is so. Socialism as a constitution in the Kingdom of God? ☹ No! ☺

~A stinky poor fellow and a rich thief visited us last. We need to point out that Uncles Tomas and Radek ranked with real actors not only with their costumes but also their theatrical performance. The rich man came in in a beautiful robe, all dressed in gold, a turban on his head, five wristwatches on his hand, and probably a hundred gold coins in his purse. The poor man had old pants, a sort of torn vest, ill fitting hat, and he smelled, oh my, how he smelled!



You see, he had Romadur (a very stinky Czech cheese) spread on his hands and who knows where else to make itself known. ☺ The story was simple. The poor fellow had one sheep, which he was taking care of. His neighbor, a rich man, had exactly one hundred of them. However, when guests came to the rich man's house, he killed and prepared the poor man's sheep for them. The rich man didn't deny it. Rather, he tried to explain to the court in a very polished and civil manner that this society would do best if they would get rid of similar

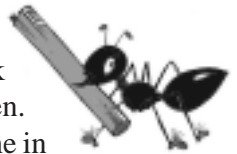
individuals as this poor man was. They stink and only bring shame. “Put him in prison so that there would be peace.” The rich man offered that he would donate much money for charitable purposes. The worst thing, however, was when he emptied a pile of gold coins right in front of the judge, Prince Jachym. You see, they were chocolate coins and Jachym, our youngest prince, had a big appetite for them. The charge of the poor man was simple. He uttered it in a very simple-minded way and with a constant sniveling and clearing his throat. But it was clear. “My neighbor stole my only sheep.” The verdict, seemingly simple, troubled the children a bit. They sent the rich man to prison with a relatively easy heart and he had to recompense for the sheep a hundred times. But some of them wanted to send the poor man to prison also, because he smelled bad. Nevertheless, at the end they just ordered him to get washed more often. And when even the main judge overcame the heap of chocolate ducats, the case was settled.



After the challenging afternoon full of judging, a short time of running outside and a good dinner came in very handy.

Stone of Changeable Colors

To do something that somebody orders us to do and then they watch over us to make sure we do it is not very difficult. However, nobody commands the kings. And so the king’s children have to learn to be responsible even when nobody keeps an eye on them. The verse of the day for us became Proverbs 6:6-8, “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise... Which having no overseer still worketh.” She doesn’t have any overseer over her. And who is there to rush her? She knows the results of her work as well as what happens if she doesn’t work. And so we put a wrench in the works for the children.



Everybody was given a parchment with tasks to do for the afternoon. The tasks could have been done in about three hours of earnest work. But at the same time, we announced free time for the whole afternoon. The children could play, do whatever they wanted, and we adults gladly joined them and didn’t force them to do anything. There was only one catch – whoever fulfilled the tasks would receive the stone of changeable colors. And whoever had all the stones would be crowned.



The afternoon came and we were waiting to see what would happen. The parents who were choosing the tasks didn’t spare their children. At least half of the tasks fell under the category of those that the children didn’t like to do. Somebody had to wash dirty tights, somebody went to do the dishes, somebody cut figures for decoration, somebody had to quietly read a book for half an hour and somebody had to put away toys. And all of them were learning verses. The little children learned one verse and the bigger ones learned even a whole chapter. Nobody was pushing them, nobody was urging them, nobody was reminding them anything. What do you think? How did it end up? The parents did not recognize their children. ☺ Almost all the children fulfilled their tasks - by themselves, without anybody urging them, and even with joy. They learned a lot and their parents had something to think about and follow up on.



In order for us to reward the children a little bit, we performed a play for them in the evening. A play about ants and a cricket. It was a great fun for the adults, and as for the children, they were sitting the whole time with their eyes as big as saucers. Costumes, arrangement, music, as well as the narrator, were just excellent.

“No noise, children, not a word, I will tell you a story from the meadows. It will be a story like a tale, about the ants and a cricket. It was summer time and...” the ants worked hard and the cricket only played and played on his violin, the whole summer and the whole fall until winter caught him. While the ants had many supplies and were resting in the anthill, the cricket was freezing and didn’t have anything to eat... “Till he fell exhausted to the ground. Snow was quietly falling on his violin... However, the ants ran to him, and when the cricket woke up, snow and frost didn’t chill him anymore. He was in the anthill in a warm hall and the ants kept bidding him to eat. He sure ate a lot, children. When he finished eating and drinking everything, he bowed his eyes to the ground in shame. ‘I was not wise, I know it now, how will I recompense you?’ ‘Don’t talk about it any more, dear cricket, we owed you, too. When you were playing so nicely during summer, everybody was working more easily. Just one thing we ask you now, play for us as you did in summer.’ And the cricket got up and put his violin under his chin and played and played and played and played...” The curtain goes down and the children don’t even utter a sound. What are they going to dream about tonight?



Red stone

All of it would be absolutely for nothing if we didn’t have love. If we bestowed all our goods, were



wise, hard-working, but didn't have love, it would profit us nothing (I Corinthians 13:1-3). And so the last day of the camp we went with the children to visit a children's home. Each child brought one of his/her toys from home that we, with the newly bought things and made up cards, brought to the children's home. And because gifts are not everything, we spent time with those children, we talked with them and we also performed a play about ants and a cricket. We blessed and made happy the children in the children's home and we knew that without this period at the end, the character of the king's children would not be completed.

Coronation

Upon our return from the children's home there was a surprise waiting for us. The children had to change into white – white sweaters, shirts, T-shirts, pants, or only just to wrap themselves in a white sheet. They also got a purple gown and at the sound of majestic music they were led to a beautifully decorated coronation hall.



When we quickly evaluated our whole stay and recapped what we learned, we proceeded to a ceremonial coronation. Each child that overcame and obtained all the precious stones received a golden crown into which a king's goldbeater set beforehand individual stones! And each child was seated on a golden throne. You should have seen those sparks of happiness in their eyes! Sparks that were, in addition to it, underlined by the night fireworks. And then we just played, sang, danced, and praised God and everybody enjoyed it very much.

And what did the children take away with them?

At the camp I liked the skits the best. They were played so that we would learn and so that we would not be naughty. I liked how Kata gave Bibka the picture with a sun and she told her, "And where does it have a nose?" She told her, "Here it is!" Finally, Bibka said, "I don't want this picture!" Kata was crying and she was offended. I was the judge and was supposed to settle how they were to do it right. Uncle Martin finally said that they were to hug each other.

I also liked the theater about how the cricket became wise. The cricket didn't want to work with ants for the winter, but the ants worked hard. The cricket was a lazy fellow. He then didn't have any food for winter. The ants then, however, gave him food, because they wanted to help him. The cricket finally said to himself that he was foolish, because he didn't work for the winter. Then he said, "I will never do it again!" I learned that I am not to be a lazy fellow and that I am to clean up my room, because my mom would otherwise spank me with the "vitamin."¹



Ester Kotrlova, 5 years

When we were in Dlouhy we had such a game that when we came to an aunt or an uncle, they either gave us a task to do or they sent us to somebody else. We were to get five coins and buy with them a stone for a crown. When I was with uncle Tomas, I was to find the second coin either on a slide or on a seat made out of logs. I chose the slide. I couldn't find it. I had already searched the slide at least three times. (I was losing patience.) I prayed that God would help me and that I would find that coin. After this prayer I decided that I would go through the slide one more time. And so I was searching and I knew that it had to be somewhere there. I was looking and looking and at the bottom of that slide (where a small hole was) THERE WAS THE COIN! I took it out quickly and thanked God that He helped me!!!

Iva Oulicka, 10 years

I liked the coronation most of all, because there we received the crowns, which we have at home now. When we got the crowns, we sang the song, "We Give You Praises." I was lifting my hands to God, because I was very thankful that I had that crown. Every day we had a game in which we were to demonstrate a virtue, and always in the evening, when we had a meeting, the one who demonstrated the virtue, received one precious stone. Who had all five of them, he/she

continued on page 35...

¹ One time we were talking at the meeting for children that encouragement, rebuke, or even a use of a rod is as a vitamin we need for a healthy growth...



Feasting at the Conference

November 2005
By Terry Smith

This year has been the first time that I have ever attended an out-of-state conference for Sonlight Gospel and the Body of Christ. In November, I was blessed to be able to attend the Nebraska Conference. My mom, Bette Mullikin, and I attended together. I was blessed by all of the ministration of the Word given at the conference. I loved the session of deliverance and prayer for the brethren. The part that really impressed me was the Body of Christ, the way every part interacted and flowed like a machine. (I'm saving "well-oiled machine" for Georgia).

Before the conference, I had this desire to help in the kitchen at the conference. As it turned out, they were in constant need of a dishwasher, so I was able to be part of the kitchen activities along with quite a few other dishwashers. I just had a really strong thing in my heart to help and be a servant in some way to the Body of Christ. There was a word by Brother Mark Jantzi about the conferences being the wedding feasts, and that all of the conferences we have, until the Lord comes forth within His sons, will all be wedding feasts.

Then, in the kitchen, I thought about the word on the wedding feasts that Brother Mark had given, and also about the vision of Brother Cecil concerning the "1,000 lb Bag of Food for the Wedding Feast." I really was excited about being able to help the workers in the kitchen for the Wedding Feast of Our Father. There was also the dealing of repentance for missing many wedding feasts, because of my "excuses." Whatever my excuses were in the past make no difference, I repented for my past sins and received the precious cleansing of the Blood of the Lord, and covenanted with God to turn from that error.

The fellowship in Nebraska is a wonderful place. They have it fixed up with lots of room in the kitchen with room to eat, and a very large gathering room. The Body of Christ really blessed me there. Everyone worked so well together. There was so much love and

sharing in the midst of the brethren. The little children were especially well behaved, and as usual, I cried quite a bit, because the love of God was so very visible in all of the brethren, and in our midst.

I really wept the morning that we had to leave. I loved being with all of the brethren. Maybe I didn't know a lot of the names, but the love of God that I saw in the hearts of the attendees was such a blessing to be around that I really hated to leave. I can't quite put into words the feeling I had, but I really love being with the Body of Christ and I love the presence of the Lord that you receive by being in the midst of the brethren.

I decided that I was not going to miss any more wedding feasts with the Body of Christ – unless perhaps they are out of the country. Ed, my husband, said I couldn't leave the country without him. Sooooooo, if the Lord would like me to attend a conference that is out of the country before His return, He will have to change that, won't He? Hmmm!

Spiritually, I felt refreshed, renewed, revitalized, and strengthened.

In the natural, most of our travel arrangements worked out as planned. There was a matter of some lost luggage upon our return home that we hadn't planned on. Because of Brother Sigwarth's word about, "Now You Are A Target," the lost luggage became a blessing. If God had not accomplished any cleansing and drawing closer, no luggage would have been bothered. I knew that it was a test and praised the Lord all the way home. We did receive our luggage the next day, so it worked out well.

I love what the Lord is doing! I love how He just gets better and bigger and more wonderful with everything that He does. I love the Body of Christ, and I love the increase of Christ in each of the brethren. You all may not realize it, but I see the Lord in you and you are a precious part of the Body of Christ.

God bless you all and may Christ increase in your beings abundantly above and beyond measure. ✨

By Caleb Trotter:

This is about Obedience. I have a song to go with it. Can you guess? It's Trust and Obey. I don't think I want to disobey anymore. The End.



Kids' Chronicles

The Conference

I went to the Georgia Conference. Some of you were not there. If you were not, I will tell you how God moved. Mr. Strelow came. He shared an excellent word about his book. I really liked it.

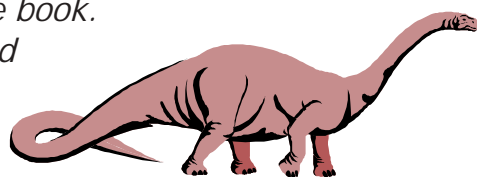
By Isaac Trotter:

Saved

We were going shopping a few weeks ago. When we had finished, we went back to the car and when we pulled out another car started to pull out. They did not notice that we had pulled out. We were too far out to pull back in. When Mommy and I looked out our window, the other car was about two inches away from my door and Mom's door, but then the car started going out and didn't hit our car. I was so thankful. By the way, I forgot to tell you that before we left to go to town, we prayed that we would be covered by the Blood of Jesus and our prayers were answered. I am so glad to have a God who answers prayers. The End.

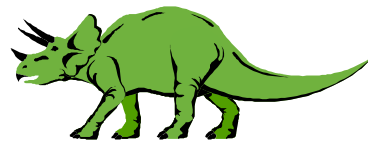
Trip to Georgia

The trip was very, very good. The drive to Georgia and back was very good. The meetings were very good. Later in the week, Mr. Bob Strelow came, the man who wrote the book Mr. Pegelow. He gave an excellent word about his book. Although I already read the book, I could hear it again out of the man who wrote the book. Whoever was not there, I need to tell them that the conference was excellent. I am glad I was there. The End.



By Johanna, Josiah, Christopher, and Sophia Asbill:

A little over a week ago, we went to see Dr. Kent Hovind, also known as Dr. Dino. He talked about how we did not evolve from "soup" millions and millions of years ago or come about from a big bang! Dr. Hovind gives lots of proof that the age of the earth is almost seven thousand years old and everything around us shows evidence of our Creator, God. He was fascinating to listen to and confirms our belief in God, the Master Designer, and also disproves the foolish theories of evolution. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to Dr. Hovind speak, but the best thing of all was after he spoke, we were able to talk with him personally. He showed us the scientific way to eat candy, shoot rubber bands and how to make paper airplanes that fly over 400 meters. He took us to the gym and we shot rubber bands and paper airplanes with him.



For our personal thoughts:

Johanna remarked, "We love to watch Mr. Hovind's videos all the time, but it was even more exciting to see him and talk to him in person!"

Josiah was delighted, "It was a dream come true for me!"

Christopher says, "I liked seeing him in real life because I got to talk to him. He even shot a rubber band at me!"

Sophia says, "Mr. Hovind likes kids a lot. He likes to talk to us and show us neat things about science and God." 🦖

What I s Reasonable?

by Stacy Asbill

One day as I was down in the basement working on laundry, I began to contemplate how self-oriented our world has become and how that *self* message is propagated. The Lord dropped into my mind the verse found in Romans 12:1 that says, ***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.*** This verse has really stuck with me and provided a measuring stick by which I have begun to consider my responses and actions in the midst of the situations in which I find myself. I would like to share with you some of the things that I have found in the Word; as I have begun to look at this particular verse and what it means, it has been like a treasure chest with much wealth.

First of all, I'd like us to consider the thought process that bombards us on the natural level. In our world today we are surrounded on all sides by a hedonistic culture with the mantra of, "If it feels good, do it." All you have to do is begin to examine the marketing strategies and slogans of businesses, and you get an understanding of what they are really appealing to. It is the pursuit of self. Have you ever heard the slogans, "You deserve a break today," or, "Have it your way"? My all-time favorite was a cash advance check in the mail from a credit card company with an advertisement of a tropical beach scene and a hammock swinging in the breeze. The phrase written across the top was, "Go ahead. After all, you deserve it." At the bottom in very small print were the details of the percentage rate, transaction fees, etc. You know, isn't that just like the devil and how he appeals to our soul? It's an offer to feed our self and our desires, but somehow in the glitz and glamour of it all, we don't necessarily see the fine details of what it will cost us in return. Another thought for us to consider is, what is it, exactly, that we think we deserve? Paul said in Romans

7:18, ***For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*** Now, why am I saying all this? If we think that we are exempt from the spirit of this age, all we have to do is recall the illustration that Brother duCille has given us in time past. Do you remember the three layers, or filters, that the Word has to go through before it reaches us? The Lord commanded Abraham to come out from his country, his kindred, and from his father's house (Genesis 12:1). We also have a need to allow the Word to penetrate through these layers and mindsets that bombard us on all sides. It is interesting to note that while the pursuit of pleasure and self is heightened in our time, it is a tactic that the devil has been using from the beginning when he appealed to Eve through his desire for self-elevation with the words, "Ye shall be like gods" (Genesis 3:5). The devil is still doing the same thing today; let's look into the Word so that we will not fall prey to his tactics.

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. There are certain key words that I looked up, so as we go through this verse, I'm including Strong's numbers, the Greek word, definitions, and also scripture verses where the same Greek word was used, but sometimes with a different English word to translate it. ***I beseech...*** (#3870 parakaleo: pray, comfort, exhort, intreat, desire). Isn't it like you can hear the yearning in the heart of Brother Paul summed up in this word? ***...you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present*** (#3936 oiktirmos: yield). In Romans 6:13 and 16, this same Greek word is used to describe standing before the judgment seat and in Romans 16:2, to commend oneself. If you look

in II Timothy 2:15, where it says, **Study to show thyself approved...** the word *approved* is the same Greek word translated to *present*). You can see that we are not just going to come in before the Lord and say, “Well, here I am!” There is a process that must take place and I believe that we can see it defined for us right here. **...your bodies a living sacrifice, holy** (#40 hagios: pure, blameless, consecrated), **acceptable** (#2101 euairetos: agreeable, well-pleasing) **unto God, which is your reasonable** (#3050 logikos: rational, logical) **service** (#2999 latreia: ministration of God, i.e. worship).

Now, the phrase that continues to come back to me is **your reasonable service**. When you look up the word *reasonable* in Webster’s dictionary, it gives a definition that I love. It simply says, *not excessive*. When I thought about this, an example came to mind. When I sweep my kitchen floor, there is an exactness and precision with which I perform the job to attain to the level that my father taught me when I was growing up. There is the same intent and desire that I have towards my children as they perform this task. Now, I can ask one child to sweep the floor and another time the next child will do the same job and the outcome will be different. Both children are at a level of maturity where they could perform this task to my expectation, so why is there a difference in outcome? First of all, their attitude comes into play. Do they willingly accept the job that was given to them? Next, how much do they want to please me in the task that they are doing for me? Also, is there something else that they would rather be doing at that exact moment, or do they willingly put that aside with the intent to do what Mommy asked them to do? Taking all these factors into account, they will develop, in their mind, a level of what they deem acceptable or reasonable as to the job that they do. Now, the bottom line is, I am the mom and I am the one who sets the standard according to their level of competence as to how the job should be done. My child may think it is acceptable to sweep the dirt pile into the cold air return grate because he or she doesn’t want to take the time to sweep it properly into the dustpan and empty it into the garbage, but I certainly do not. (Although I have to chuckle over it later on – especially because they think I won’t notice!) I believe that we can take

What God deems reasonable is oftentimes not according to our way of thinking.

this example and apply it to how we are with the Lord. You know, what God deems reasonable is oftentimes not according to our way of thinking. He says in Isaiah 55:8, **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD**. I have to admit that there have been many times in my life that, as God stretches and stretches me further, I have cried out in the pain of that stretching, “God, do You really know what You’re doing? God, You’re stretching me too far, I’m going to break!” He is faithful to answer, “My grace is sufficient for thee, you will not break,” and it has always proven to be true. So, we see that the reasonableness is not to be decided on our part, but it is He that has set the standard.

Continuing with the word *reasonable*, I found it really interesting that the only other place in the Word where its Greek derivative, *logikos*, is used is found in I Peter 2:2-3. It says, **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby, if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious**. When you look at the word *logikos* in the Strong’s, you find that its root is found in #3050 which is *logos*! Now, *logos* is *the Word given with potential* and, in essence, is the beginning. This is defined in the above verse where it talks of newborn babes, or in the Greek, *brephos*. So, if you take these thoughts and go back to Romans 12:1, the **reasonable service** is not

the end, but the beginning! Going on to verse two, **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**. Building upon Romans 12:1 and having come to the position and place of laying down one’s life, if you correlate this with the tabernacle and the pieces of furniture there, you see that we are still in the operation of the Outer Court. We know that the sacrifice was laid upon the brazen altar, offered unto God, partaken of by the priest, and then the priest entered into the Holy Place, and ultimately, the Holy of Holies. So, we see in verse two when it says, **but be ye transformed**, the word *transformed* in the Greek is *metamorphoo* (#3339) and means *to change, transfigure*. We know that metamorphosis is the process of change that takes place transforming a lowly cat-

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To Know Him

Philippians 3:9, *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:* ¹⁰ *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

About one month ago, the Lord revealed to me a particular malady of my soul called pride. This caused me to have a wrong outlook towards others and also a wrong self-awareness. My problem was that I compared myself with those around me. "Oh, they do that! Well, I wouldn't ever do that. I must be more spiritual than they are." That would be some of my thoughts when I would see somebody doing something that I do not do. Mr. Asbill spoke a word about this problem one Sunday. He said something to the degree of, "You cannot compare yourself with other people, but rather compare yourself against Jesus Christ." The first will lead to pride and a haughty attitude, which the Lord hates. The second will always humble a person because they realize how holy and perfect God is and how wretched they are.

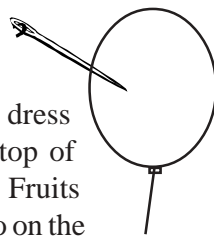
Well, the word didn't sink into my thick skull right away; it took about a month to run its course. When I finally realized what I was doing, it was like hitting a brick wall running full



bore. When I do something I do it with my whole being, and when I believe

something, I run with it. So I was running with the Lord in the understanding that I had and God threw this "invisible" brick wall in my way so that I would slam right into it. Somewhere amongst the twirling stars, bright lights and birds chirping, I finally understood what Mr. Asbill was saying. I cannot compare myself with those around me. I must use Jesus Christ as my measuring stick. Without a doubt, I repented right away and when I came back to a conscious state I didn't know what was going on.

I felt so different and so little. The man I thought of before as "Wesley, a big spiritual person" was not the case anymore. That balloon popped and twirled to the ground. I really didn't know what to think, because I was doing all the right motions and moves a Christian should do. I don't drink, smoke, or use bad language. I have great attendance at church. I dress appropriately. On top of that, I work at First Fruits in Mahomet and also on the K.I.T. bulletin. All of that is well and good. However, I was doing it to increase my own righteousness which Paul says is by the law and not of faith (Philippians 3:9). You see, I want the righteousness which is by faith. I want that white garment clothed upon me. Revelation 3:18, *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.* How does a person buy white raiment or be



By Wesley Schell

clothed in Christ's righteousness?

To jump ahead a little, I have a little story from Georgia that goes along those lines. At the conference one day, Brother Herrig commented about my outfit. He said that I was dressed like a businessman. I quickly replied, "Yes, I have some business transactions to do with the Lord. I am going to give Him my flesh and in return all I want is gold." If it was only that easy; well, it could be. Thinking back upon how the Lord has dealt with particular problems in my soul, I find a link that ties them all together.

God works with me through my natural everyday circumstances. He ordains events to occur in my life that reveal aspects of my own nature to me, whether big or small it doesn't matter, because it is the little foxes that will destroy the vine. Every time this happens I am first, ashamed that I have this in my soul and second, thankful because now I have the wherewithal to do something about my nature. I ask the Lord to forgive me of this nature that I was born with and then each and every time I think of it or it manifests, I ask the Lord to deliver me. "Deliver me of this carnal, habitual nature that is between You and me. I would like it removed so that I can be ever more like You and exponentially less like me." For me, it has started like that and then God marvelously moves to change me little by little. God works in my mind so that I no longer want the old but I want Him. Then one day down the road I will look back and say, "I don't



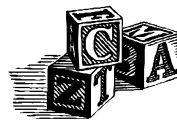
have that problem like I used to.” I then would have to choose to be like I used to be, instead of it being a habit for me.

This is how God deals with me then. All day long God shows me that my actions, attitude, and words don’t always glorify Him. It is not only the negative, but He also allows me to see where my behavior has been changed. Both aspects of it bless me very much because they are equally vital to overcoming. I really love this practical and real relationship with God. It is no longer a spiritual lala land of how many times I say hallelujah or amen in a meeting, but rather God using my natural situations as a medium to produce His own nature inside of my soul.

Now I was ready for the Nebraska Convention. Wow, pull back on the reigns now. Why am I going? It’s 4 days before I leave and I have not had one thought about why I am going. I was in the K.I.T. meeting on Tuesday night and I was reading articles nonchalantly, until I picked up Lydia Sigwarth’s article about her time at the Czech Conference. Before she left, she had a petition before the Lord that she would come home different than how she went. This caught my eye and I took it seriously. This is how I need to view the upcoming weekend. Lord, I want to be changed at that con-

ference! This is how I began to pray. I put certain problems in my soul before the Lord and asked Him to deliver me from them. I mean, it changed my whole reason for going. I now had a purpose and a goal to drive towards. Thank you, Lydia, you blessed me very much and made a huge impact on the outcome of the conference for me. So, I went with determination to meet the Lord and be changed. I tell you, it happened. I was delivered of the spirit of lust, disrespect, and also pride. They all took a blow. I know it because I am not the same person that I was a month ago. I even think differently because my mind was set free.

After the conference, the farm had stopped and I started to work construction. It was a very easy transition for me because if I was not farming I would want to be doing carpentry. I have a little story of how the Lord dealt with me in carpentry. My second week on the job I was asked to install trim detail on indoor columns made of hard maple. I had to put base on and also a cap. The pieces were quite small, and some were even the size of children’s blocks. I was told I needed perfect corners and joints. The first couple of columns I worked on with Jansen and then I was left to finish the task. I had an under-



standing of what I was asked to do, but I didn’t have experience to fall back upon for help. This was a huge learning experience for me. It took me a little time to work some of these corners to be seamless. There was one piece in particular that was 1 inch tall by ½ inch wide in the shape of a triangle and three of its edges had to be an exact fit. Sad to say, I spent half-an-hour on that one piece. It tested my frustration limit. By nature I like to accomplish tasks fast, but oooooohhhh no, not this time. The story was like this: cut the piece, try and fit it into the place. Sand a little on this side to make it fit tighter. Fit it in again. Sand some more, fit it again. This is walking inside to fit and walking outside to work. Man, the piece was not going to work. Cut, fit, sand, fit, sand, fit, cut, sand, fit and so on and so on. To finish the story, after asking Jansen and Tyson to help me, I finally was able to cut the piece that fit on the third try. This little trim block was a huge test of patience for me. It really caused me to pray and ask God to chisel the character of patience into me. Work seems to always be filled with little challenges like that, which in turn cause me to ask God for more character or virtue. II Peter 1:5, **And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...** ✨

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erpillar into a lovely butterfly. So it is with us that God desires to take us from one place of existence and create us into something that is totally removed from what we were before. We see that this process is taking place in this verse when we look farther down at the word, *perfect*. The word *perfect* in the Greek is *telios* (#1546) which means *complete in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, of full-age*. We see this same Greek word in the following passages: **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect** (Matthew 5:48). **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ** (Ephesians 4:13). This next verse I found most interesting because it highlights the progression that began in I Peter 2:2 and we see the fulfillment of it in Hebrews 5:14. **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age** (*telios*), **even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**.

We can look to Jesus Christ as our pattern. He freely gave of his life and for us to become a son of God, we must follow in the same way. Death to self is the end to self, but the beginning of living in Christ. To give yourself as a living sacrifice unto God is reasonable. In fact, God says that it is logical (makes sense) and is not excessive! Isn’t that so encouraging? Whatever circumstance or situation you and I may find ourselves in today, let us take comfort in that fact! May God bless you all! ✨

Announcing... K.I.T. for Kids!



Dear Readers,

The Lord has laid it upon our hearts to bless the children in our fellowships, as well as other places, and present them with the *Keeping in Touch for Kids*. And so, in addition to the Kids' Chronicles in our current bulletin, the children will have their own magazine (geared toward ages 6 to 12), in which they will be able to learn more about the Kingdom of God and their personal part in it. It is our desire to present the Word of God to the children on their level so that they too, might fulfill their calling and election in God.

The children's bulletin will include words and stories, motivating the little ones to spend time with their Heavenly Father and provoking them to manifest Godly character traits. It will be full of fun activities, by which they might exercise their understanding of the Word and increase their desire to serve God. They will also get a chance to read testimonies and articles written by their peers as well as write what is on their own hearts.

K.I.T. for Kids will be published monthly, with its first issue scheduled for March 2006. Please pray with us that it would reach, not only the children that have already been involved in the Word of the Gospel of the Kingdom, but also those who have not heard of it before.

If you would like to subscribe your children (or yourself) to receive *K.I.T. for Kids* on a regular basis, please send us your registration with the full name of your child and complete address to our e-mail address:

kitbulletin@truevine.net or kitforkids@truevine.net

or, our mailing address: News Bulletin, PO Box 409, Mahomet, IL 61853.

Due to the fact that the *K.I.T. for Kids* will include puzzles and coloring pictures, you might want to consider ordering more than just one copy if your family has a larger number of children.

We trust this project will bring much blessing into the Body of Christ and we covet your prayers at all times.

The K.I.T. for Kids Staff, along with the K.I.T. Bulletin Staff

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finally received the crown. And it is similar even in the spirit. We also demonstrate virtues every day, for example patience, love, courage, or righteousness... We may have problems every day and we fight against them, and when we overcome, it is good. When we don't manage, then we ask God and He cleanses our heart and when we finally overcome, God will give us the crown of glory.

When I do something wrong and I don't want to go on in something, because I don't like doing it anymore, I always remember how we played the game at the camp, where we wanted to get, I think, either a yellow or a white precious stone for patience. We had to bring five coins to our leader, which we were to obtain during the game. Our leader told us to go to somebody for a coin and that aunt said that we had to go to a different aunt or uncle so that he would give us, for example, candies so that we could get



the coin, and he sent us to somebody else. With this other person there was, as he said, a task to do for which we would receive that coin. And so it went round and round. We had to run in and out of the cottage, take off our shoes and put them back on, and I didn't like it anymore, but I wanted to get that precious stone, so I kept playing. It is similar as in our own

life. You run on and on. Sometimes I don't want to sweep the floor, but my mom gives it to me as a task to do. I always remember this game and go on so that I could receive that crown at the end.

Lucie Kotrlova, 7 years

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Corinthians 9:25 ☞