

finding **TRUTH & Hope**

ISSUE #40

Edited excerpts of message (#9828 www.churchofgodpreaching.com) by Bro. Henry Grimes Dallas, TX 2024-06-16

WORK . . . Involving mental or physical effort.

We have a mindset that work is bad. If there's any way to get out of this, we're going to do it! *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling* (Philippians 2:12). We have to understand that work is essential. We are allowed to do work by God. We need to have a mind change, “Lord, what would you have me to do, that I may give glory and honor to you?” We need to understand that work is not a bad thing. It's a good thing! Working smarter is still working. It needs to be in line with the fear and honor of Jesus Christ. He'll give me knowledge and understanding. It sometimes seems hard—we don't know how to do. God says, **“I'm going to help you do it!”**

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb . . . (Acts 3:2). The very ability to work is a blessing. If you and I can be up and do something for the Lord, we need to be thankful—not with eye service, but doing things as unto the Lord.

Not only are we saved from sin, but I need to work on myself. Lord, I want to get rid of this thing so you can use me. Some things that we get rid of are very easy to get rid of. Some things take work, are a task, and are very difficult to be rid of. ***For it is God which worketh in you . . . to do of his good pleasure*** (Philippians 2:13). He's wanting to help us to be willing to do what He wants us to do. When we do a little work, a little effort, there's going to be a little push back. Some of our baggage we need to get rid of. Some are not willing to put out the effort. Some people work all the time not putting God first. Without Him we couldn't take another breath. (Continued on page 2)

Shine Light Around Your Neighborhood

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Dan Adams Loranger, LA 7-2-24 a.m.



Be a furtherance of God's plan in our world today! When we're in the place God would have us to be, it makes the enemy uncomfortable. There's something so much more to marriage than just staying together! The enemy attacks so much. The Lord wants us to have that which actually makes the enemy uncomfortable. (Genesis 2) One flesh – synchronized! Marriage should be a level above team work—a dimension above! Marriage should be exceptionally fulfilling on this side of eternity—purposeful, consistent, intentionally assisting and encouraging one another.

Problems can be intimidating. Address problems from the point that we intend to conquer the problem. We're facing the world as ONE—fulfilling to the point that you become oblivious to those around you! It is dangerous to drift away from God. Your heaven on earth is never going to substitute for your Heaven of eternity. There's more! The Lord wants your marriage to be an offensive weapon against the enemy. Have some living water flowing in your marriage that's able to penetrate the any darkness. (Evening Light Song # 300) I'd like to see the enemy take a step back. Let the living Word spread out into a world that's so dark.



WORK

(Continued from front cover)

Notice in Matthew 25:14-15, that everyone got something from God to do! Your responsibility is to know what God gave you. The one that had one talent – he sat on it!

If you have one talent, work it like nobody's business!

You are not responsible for someone else's talent. Do not look down on what God gave you. Sometimes we take what God gives us and kick it under the bed somewhere, then gripe about what God doesn't give us. It is God that works in us, that helps us to do some good. Don't sit on it. Maybe God will bless you in it and give you more. **Count on His blessing!** We sometimes shrink a little bit. *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might* (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Sometimes we are dealing with difficulties and are not at our best. Sometimes we're tired. Where does our strength come from? Lord, I've been plugged into Your strength! *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength* (Isaiah 40:29). This is how to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

Young men, God wants to use you. Get saved now and begin to work in His kingdom. We need to be living in such a way that He can use us. Work while it is day, while we have time and opportunity. Point some soul to Christ. Everybody's not strong in everything. Teach them so they can be strong, too. If they're weak in a certain area, then help them out. Don't look for a pat on the back. There's something that **you** are weak in. Bond with one another. Be close so, when the enemy comes in, he doesn't get anything. There's strength and power in unity and the devil knows it. Get in there. Give a word of encouragement. Do some work for the Lord. Help those who are struggling. *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much* (Luke 16:10). The strength we have is not ours. Use what God has given you to be a blessing to someone else.

If any would not work, neither should he eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The food tastes better, the water tastes better, when you've done something. People watch you working, then tell you that you're doing it wrong. Did you know God wants you to work together? When I'm doing something myself, I won't have time to talk about that. There's always enough work to go around. You can help them do that. Then give a word of encouragement, that they be not weary in well doing, that they faint not.

If you're like me, I've been allergic to work. I want to be a better man for God.

The Lord is looking for a people that have a relationship with Him. The Lord may take you outside the expected. People of established and Godly faith have a relationship with God, His Son, and His Word. Faith is not solely defined by an action or a lifestyle that we can point to. **Faith is a condition of the heart. Because of that, people of faith give themselves to investing in a relationship with Jesus Christ.**

Bro. Rod Smith

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Finding Truth & Hope

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Edited by Nelson & Genece Doolittle, assisted by Carlos Doolittle.

The Loranger congregation cuts, folds, tabs, and labels, which greatly aids in getting the papers ready to mail.

“Cal 26”

Prayer changes things as told by Bro. Thomas Short

In his prayer at the revival service that night, Bro. Max Williamson, aged and blind pastor at Baton Rouge, LA, prayed at length for God to protect his grandson, Thomas Short, who he knew was traveling overnight after services to Shreveport to select and bring back a wild mustang. Dennis Williamson was also going along for the drive.

Though they had arrived early and first, the selection process the next day deemed that they would be 26th to make selection, and second from last. Someone ahead of Tom got the wild mustang that would have been Tom's first choice.

As Tom's first choice was loaded up by someone else, and as they were pulling away, he could hear the wild beast from California kicking and banging the trailer as it pulled away.

Tom got his second choice mustang. It was led into Tom's trailer, its halter rope laid up over the mustang's shoulder. When they arrived home to Bachelor, LA, four hours later, all was calmly still the same. The halter was still over the mustang's shoulder, as it had been laid many hours earlier.


After getting home, Dennis stood at the corral fence watching Tom gingerly bridle the wild horse, put a saddle on, gently cinch it, and with little resistance mount the beast. It seemed that instead of bringing home a wild mustang to break and to train, Tom must have brought home a “Dud”. Dennis said, “Grandpa must have overdone it!”

The truth played out at the end of the week when Tom again tried to work and mount the horse. Then the mustang was very much alive, throwing Tom three times in the first ten minutes.

Grandpa Max's prayer at the revival had very much soothed the transfer and arrival of the Cal 26 mustang as it came to be called. It became a favorite for many years.

From the Heart of the Editor

As a teenager, a couple years at this Baton Rouge congregation made a lasting impression on me. It forever won a place in my heart for small congregations. With only a handful of persons in a congregation – everyone has an important place and part!

The burden for *Finding Truth & Hope* surely, in part, stems from my days with a smaller congregation . . . with desire for the shut-in, isolated, the imprisoned, and a world of hurting, needy ones. As a youngster, some were ministering at the Amite parish jail. A couple times I “rode the bus” visiting Angola State Penitentiary. Jesus, the Son of God, had/has a heart for those “sick, and in prison” (Matthew 25: 36, 39, 43, & 44). 

Relationships

by Sis. Sarah Irene Spanogle

Neither give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Ephesians 4:25-32 deals with relationships. The devil does most of his work through relationships! Jesus rebuked Satan as Satan was working through Peter. May God help us recognize when Satan is trying to cause division by giving us unfounded thoughts and feelings. 1 Corinthians 13 teaches us how not to give place to the devil. We must be longsuffering, kind, not self-seeking, not thinking evil of others, and not easily provoked. Not to make use of this admonition is to give place to the devil. If we love our neighbor as ourselves, we will extend to him the same charity we want. People can misunderstand and misinterpret our motives. How do we want them to judge us? We always want them to give us the benefit of the doubt! Today, let us not give place to the devil. Let us “*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* (Ephesians 4:3).

THE POLICE CAPTAIN'S CAP

A Bible Smuggling Story

By Merv Knight

An aging man boarded a bus in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with a long journey ahead of him — possibly a 12-hour ride. In his hands, he clutched a box of about 30 Bibles that he was taking to tribal Christians in the highlands. As he looked for a seat on the crowded bus, he pondered how he would get through the many checkpoints along the way without his precious goods being discovered.

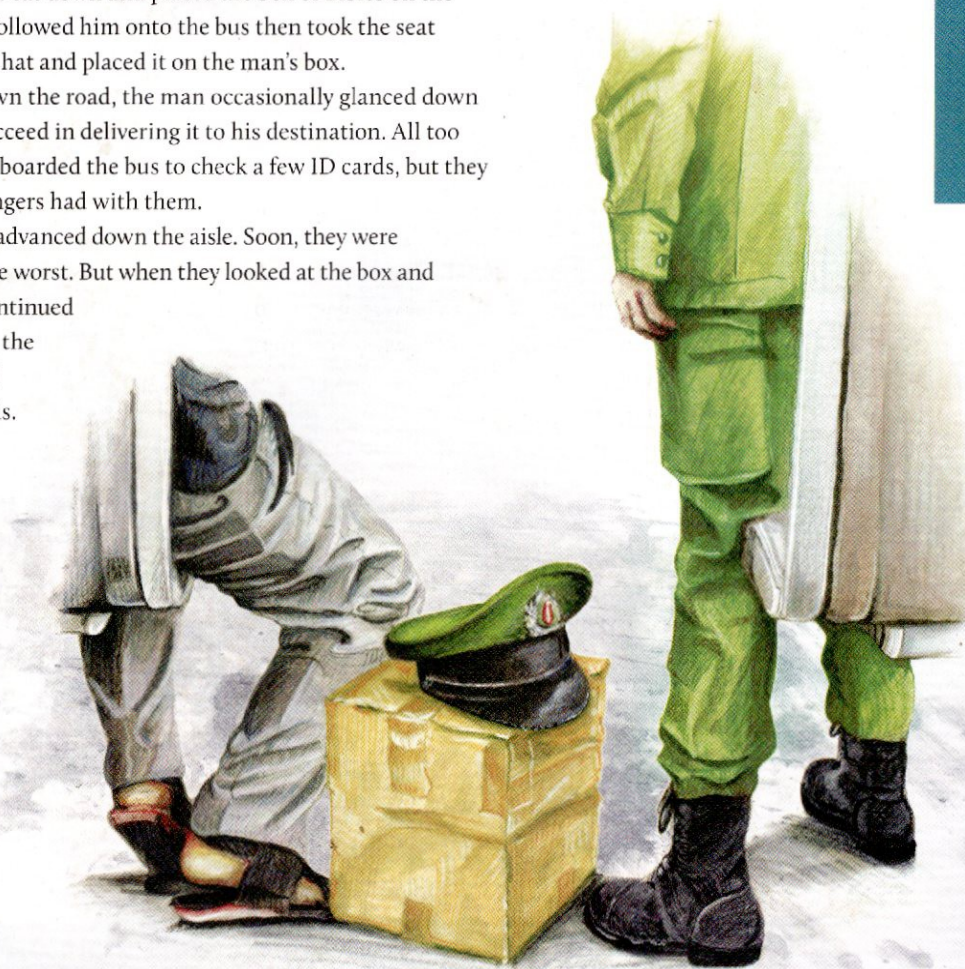
After finding an empty seat along the aisle, he sat down and placed the box of Bibles on the floor against his leg. A police captain who had followed him onto the bus then took the seat across the aisle from him, casually removed his hat and placed it on the man's box.

As the bus coughed and sputtered its way down the road, the man occasionally glanced down at his precious cargo, wondering if he would succeed in delivering it to his destination. All too soon, they reached a checkpoint. Police officers boarded the bus to check a few ID cards, but they were especially focused on any boxes the passengers had with them.

The man's heart skipped a beat as the officers advanced down the aisle. Soon, they were standing by his box of Bibles, and he expected the worst. But when they looked at the box and saw the police captain's cap resting on it, they continued down the aisle to the next passenger. Eventually, the man reached his destination and safely delivered God's Word to awaiting believers in the highlands.

Miracles occur in different and sometimes simple ways. God's hand was at work protecting His precious Word. When we think about it, miracles happen often. In the rush and bustle of life, let us not fail to recognize God's hand, lest we miss the blessing. ■

Merv Knight has been serving the persecuted for more than 50 years. A VOM board member and co-founder of Voice of the Martyrs – Australia, he is also the Wurmbrand Historian and author of the book Richard Wurmbrand: The Man and His Work.



Alive from the Dead

by Sis. Sarah Irene Spanogle

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Ephesians 2:1).

Just as a dead person is unaware of the good things of life, so were we unaware of the good things of God. As we see the beauties of springtime, and smell the fragrance of spring, a corpse is unaware of all these things. As we smell the aroma of food, and our appetite is stimulated, all of these sensations have no affect on a corpse. This was our condition if God had not had mercy on us. He made us aware of the beauty of salvation, and the value of salvation, and stimulated our appetite for His word. Had God not quickened us and made us alive spiritually, we would have remained in our sins dead and without hope. How we must appreciate His mercy for waking us up from that spiritually dead condition! How we must value our spiritual life, nourish and care for it, just as we do our physical body! Our physical bodies will die no matter what we do to them. But praise God for giving us spiritual life. As we do those things that will keep us spiritually strong in God and as we listen to His Spirit, God will keep us. **If we neglect our spiritual health, it will decline, just as our physical health will decline if we neglect it.** We nourish our spirit as we read God's word, pray, and go to church every time the doors are open. Today, let us value and take care of this wonderful gift of spiritual life.



We Owe Jesus

by Sis. Sarah Irene Spanogle

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him (Ephesians 3:11-12).

How very much we owe to the Lord Jesus Christ! Ephesians 3:9 says that Jesus Christ is our Creator and the Creator of the universe. Revelations Chapter 5 tells us that only Jesus, the Lamb of God, was worthy and able to purchase our salvation. The Creator had to die for the creation. It is only through Him that we have this access to God to find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16). What a wonderful promise is in John 16:23, *Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father IN MY NAME, he will give it you.* It is only through

the name of Jesus that we can ask the Father, and He will give us what we need. And then that wonderful promise in Matthew 28:20: **“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us.** (Hebrews 13:5). Most people have been disappointed and let down by others. But Jesus will never forsake us! Therefore **He is so deserving of our sacrificial service to Him and all our adoration and praise.** After all the suffering Jesus has done for us, we must never disappoint Him.



Don't let God's visits fall *unheeded!*

Treasure the times that God may, in a still small way, intersect your thoughts and heart as you travel your busy days! Keep a pen and a bit of paper everywhere you go.

Elisha was plowing with the yoke of oxen when the prophet passed by casting his mantle upon him. **Be interruptible! Don't let God's visits fall unheeded!** Let your heart be full. *Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment* (Ecclesiastics 9:8). Do the near things God whispers that you **can** do. Include and care for the elderly, isolated, and lonely one. Shape the futures of children. Touch the Lord often with your heart and mind. Be anointed. Think of the many ones that only you will touch in a week's time. We need Him to quicken us for our journey. He invites that we don't have to 'go it alone.' *In all thy ways acknowledge Him.* He wants to direct your paths. He wants to give you peace that passes all understanding – peace the world cannot afford. There are those **you** can encourage, influence, and uplift. Possess and share God's Spirit. Turn loose the Spirit of the Lord in your home and on the job. Joseph did, and God was there to help him. Be there for your children, hear them, and ask about their day. **Be clean!** Go to the fountain often! Be a vessel meet for the Master's use. **How else will we ever make Heaven?** Be faithful in the little things. Joseph was sold as a slave, wound up in a dungeon with many long years of lonely disappointment, but was still found to be faithful and responsibly trustworthy. Be saved! He longs to save us, lead us, guide us, and take us to Heaven to be with Him.

Build again the altars where our fathers met and followed God. Dig again the wells the enemy tries to fill in. The enemy knows how faint we will become without refreshment and spiritual hydration! **Remove not the ancient landmarks.** *Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people* (Isaiah 62:10). Abraham guarded his sacrifice and wouldn't let the vultures prey upon his sacred, solemn things. Many spirits are gone out into the world. Watch and pray. Quit you like men. Stand fast (1 Corinthians 16:13). N D



God, you are my ALL-IN-ALL, my JOY & DELIGHT. You are so kind and amazing. You are faithful and loving and . . . SATISFYING! You ask for some hard things sometimes; then, You reward me beyond any sacrifice! PRAISE the name of the Lord! Help me give myself more fully to You, obey You better, and believe You – without borders . . .

Help me give all You ask and take all You promise. Help me open my heart and life to You so ALL of You can flow into all of me – like sunshine streaming in a window, warming a room and lighting it's crevices! Amen!

– Anonymous

God has beautiful and perfect plans for us each one, but we must be willing and faithful to endure the HARD stuff, so He can work in it all to give us the GOOD stuff!

PROMOTION from the *NORTH*

Here are some readings from the 75th Psalm: *Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare... I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn: For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.*

Properly applying this passage depends a great deal on how one defines promotion. To the carnal mind it can mean many things: money, professional or career advancement, achieving one's goals, perhaps gaining advantage over one's rivals. And yet there is a nature in us all that teaches the truest merit of life is in developing and advancing those character traits that are noble, virtuous, lofty. We are not animals. We are capable of understanding there are things found in relationships and values more important than feeling good or surfeiting in earthly glory.

The Hebrew word *ramam*, here translated "promotion", actually means "lifting up", and to the Hebrew that did not mean more money or a better job. It meant deliverance from trouble; safety, victory. A father owes his family this kind of promotion; a mother owes it to her children, a judge or ruler owes it to his countrymen. Sad indeed is the family that has not one strong arm in its numbers to protect it from the hazards and hardships of an often unfriendly world; desperate is the community whose leaders seek only their own advantage at the expense of those less able who have entrusted them with power and position in hopes they will use their office with wisdom and charity. So how does one get this promotion? The answer begins with the fountain of all that is noble and upright, therefore sure and secure: Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks. May His great Name be near us all.

But having God near is not enough by itself; He is already nigh us all. There is a process for us to follow. Promotion does not come from the east, from trusting in the strength and energy of young people, who are taught to "hitch their wagon to a star," to grasp the problems of life and use their stores of resourcefulness and courage to find a path. Nor does it come alone from the west, where grey heads walk the path into the sunset, carrying on their backs and in their hearts the weight of a thousand experiences. It is possible to undergo many a hardship, taste many a pleasure and learn nothing virtuous from them. Promotion that produces deliverance from trouble, safety, and victory does not come from the soft warm south winds that caress the cheek and make balmy the days. It is not possible to learn to have victory over the battles of life by denying them or learning to shift them onto others or evading them.

Promotion comes from the north, which is to say from the cold penetrating winds of hardship and difficulty. Perhaps the greatest meaning of this passage is that the true purpose of human life is to be found in facing all that life has to offer: to taste it to its sweetest and bitterest essence. That means to unflinchingly face the monsters of grief and sorrow we naturally dread; to refuse to shrink from physical illness or deformity, or from standing for the right when great personal loss is the likely consequence. Who can say he has truly lived life who has spent his time in a vacuum, facing nothing, achieving nothing? And who is made better by facing life's adversities if their consequence has been to bend and embitter him until he no longer believes in anything? There is little sadder than an old person in whom the light has gone out.

Nor are the challenges of life all negative. As Rudyard Kipling put it, "If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same..." Success, praise, too much fame and recognition, money and position have ruined many a young and promising life. The answer is that we need something greater than any of us - lead me to the Rock that is higher than I. God's grace, flowing like sweet water into our thirsty souls, can keep us clean and sound inside, so that the north wind develops us into the persons God meant us to be. Have you talked to Him today?

The Sign of Jonah

These interesting scriptures are found in Matthew 12:38-40. *"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

The Israelite theological and government leaders who made this request probably had in mind something of the sort that had accompanied God's visit at Sinai, when there was a visible cloud showing God's presence in the daylight and a pillar of fire by night, as well as the other ways He had shown Himself while giving the Ten Commandments and the other parts of the law to Moses. Although Jesus had worked many miracles, in essence these leaders were saying, "The things that happened in Moses' time are what convinced our forefathers of God's way in the law He first gave; You are now claiming to bring a new law. Should we not expect to have the same or greater examples of God's working if what You say is true?"

But Jesus was not impressed with their logic, for truth needs no supporting thunder and fire; it is what it is. It is always right for people to love their enemies, bless those who curse them, render to no one evil for evil. On the face of it, what a strange witness He provided them! Except in one point, Jonah and Jesus were as opposite as it is possible for two people to be. Jonah refused his commission; Jesus gladly accepted His. Jonah tried to run away from God; the Lord submitted to His Father's will, and proceeded to the place in which He was to do God's bidding. Jonah grumbled when people repented in Nineveh; Christ rejoiced when even one sinner saw the error of his ways.

Yet, in the midst of these contrasts, one glorious detail eternally linked the prophet with the Son of God. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Think about this: when Nicodemus, a seeking sinner, asked for help, the Lord pointed toward the cross. When that cross approached, when Nicodemus sat in the council of the Sanhedrin as it unlawfully discussed murdering Jesus, he tried to prevent that in his timid, half-hearted way. Was it enough to exonerate him from the innocent blood? Surely he felt a crushing weight of guilt when he went to Pilate to beg the body of Jesus after the awful scene of the crucifixion to prepare it for burial. No doubt that cross took on enormous spiritual meaning to him in the later years of his life.

Similarly, when hypocritical Pharisees asked for a sign, Jesus spoke of His resurrection. What a staggering indictment must that have been to them, they who conspired together to couple the cross and the tomb, all without knowing they were in fact acting only as God permitted! Their asking for a sign such as happened with Moses was a suggestion that if such a sign were given they would be obedient to Jesus' message. One has to wonder if when news came that Jesus was not in the tomb, that observers from the Roman soldiers who were to keep the tomb to great numbers of His disciples could positively assert that He was risen, those words of Jesus did not come back to their minds with punishing force. Did they think then of the implied pledge they had made the Lord that if the proper signs were present they would believe? How great must have been the horror that shocked their hearts when the first strong shouts of a resurrected Messiah began to be heard where they were!

And what of us today? What signs must the Lord show for us to believe? Let us beware that we not reject them because they are subtle, not as we expected, on silent angel wings rather than noisy carnal lips. Have you talked to God today?

GOD'S 5 minutes can be found at www.churchofgodtruth.com

How Real Do You Suppose Living For God Should Be?

Edited excerpts of message by Bro. Marty Clevenger Loranger, LA 7-4-2024

How real is God to be to us? I believe the Lord wants to be real to us in a spiritual way. There is a reality to serving the Lord. You know this all works by the experiences that we have. It is a reality to me! We're in very dangerous times spiritually. The Bible speaks of shaking times.

When in the middle of the night God answers prayer – try as you may, you can't take that from me! I've experienced the Lord that way many times. I am blessed because God has been a reality in my life.

Jesus is the true vine (John 15). We're connected to God. *Without me ye can do nothing* (5). Get a hold of the Word . . . make an experience out of it. Every child of God has the privilege of having an experience with God. We need the experiences God is willing to give us. A living experience. God is real. How can you pray the prayer of faith if you don't have the experience, if you never put God to the test? When God becomes real, I can say, "My redeemer liveth."

We could hear messages preached by angels every day and not profit anything if we don't **do** it! Lord help me have a brighter reality of what I'm doing. Lord help me to be a doer tonight. It's not dead to me . . . Jesus still lives in our lives.

I always felt the need of prayer when leaving out on a trip. Once on the highway, a driver forgot he had an empty lowboy trailer behind him, and he started coming over into us. The molecules separated and the trailer went right through our vehicle! Another time, a deer we were going to hit spun all around with it's feet up in the air and didn't touch us! It was like the angel just spun it really quickly. Bro. Gordon Humphrey, once, was trying to drive home with no money and no gas. They knew there wasn't enough gas to make it home. He felt impressed to pull over and go pray. He found a twenty dollar bill out in the field where he was praying. I think it was the Lord! He had the reality – God can help us! **If we go through our Christian life without incorporating God into it, we'll never have the reality.**

You can give yourself to a real God. *It's the building of your relationship.* God is good! It's not us! It's the Lord in all of this. God can be real to you. This is between you and God. If you have relationship with God, and I do, how could we not get along? This is the foundation of the Church of God, to have an experience with God.

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Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Let's not allow the world to reestablish our standards. If we conform to the world, our discernment is blunted. Are we then salt and light to the world around us? Or will the Lord find us *lightly-salted* and spew us out??

Selected/Edited

Too Much Food and Time by Sis. Charlotte Huskey

“Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Pro. 16:18

Have you heard the Bible story about two cities, Sodom and Gomorrah? It is found in Genesis 13. It says, “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.” Eventually, hot brimstone (something like an erupting volcano), fell from the sky burying both cities.

Did you ever wonder what was happening in these cities before they became so wicked? The Bible tells us: “...this was the iniquity of ... Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness ...neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore, I took them away” (Ezek. 16:49-50). A wise proverb of King Solomon is, “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall .” Pride, plenty of food and idle time was what caused the inhabitants of Sodom to fall into wickedness. If they had had to work hard to have food, perhaps they might have avoided the catastrophe.

Are we allowing our children to follow a path toward wickedness when we keep them full of food and give them time to be idle? An old wise saying is, “An idle mind is the devils workshop.” Shouldn’t all children have responsibilities equal to their ability? Even small children can be responsible for keeping themselves and their room clean, doing school homework and helping with family chores. Other responsibilities should be added as they grow. By the time they are young adults they should be working and paying for some of their clothes, their car, it’s insurance, gas and repairs, unless they are devoted to studying. When parents supply their needs, they have more time to experiment with sin. Parents are in essence giving their children “fulness of bread and abundance of idleness” – the very things that caused Sodom to decline. A busy child will be tired at night. He will sleep instead of staying awake doing things that are not constructive.

Another sin of Sodom was that they did not “strengthen the poor and needy.” While we are living a standard better than that of kings in former ages, the poor barely exist in their miserable conditions. What are we doing to strengthen the poor? Do we even share our abundance with them? Much of our abundance is thrown in the trash: half an apple, vegetables we don’t like, leftover food, that could be saved for another meal, etc. What kind of example are we showing the next generation? Are we using money for unnecessary comforts for our children, and those children are becoming selfish or experimenting with destructive things of the world, such as too much entertainment, popularity, drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography, etc.? Sometimes the sacrifices parents make for children are propelling the children toward tragedy. Perhaps they would benefit more by seeing their parents helping others and sharing the gospel.

Let us not allow our children to grow up in the sins of Sodom, for they may take up the practices of those cities as well. We can take our sons and daughters into the icy waters of self-denial, and give of our money to help others, and by so doing save our sons and daughters. On the other hand, we can huddle in our comforts with them and await the outcome. **God help us to save ourselves and our families from “pride, fullness of bread, abundance of idleness, and ignoring the poor.”**

Stability from the Word of God

Bro. Curtis Williams — June 28, 2020

The Word of God is a stabilizing influence, giving direction. We must hide it in our hearts. Our emotions pendulum to extremes, and Satan uses this. Eph 4:31-32 tells us to put away bitterness, anger, wrath...be kind one to another. This is a clear boundary. We must conform to the Word of God. We must put these moral boundaries in our life. The Word of God will cause the harmful emotions that grip us to let go. God created us with a moral law where we can understand the difference in right & wrong. Our sense of justice will rise up. The enemy attacks our sense of justice. We must remember: it's not about me but the cause of God. 1 Cor 6:19-20 says that your body is the temple, bought with a price; glorify God in your body AND in your spirit, which are God's. When we take things personal, we begin to react and take stands that aren't supported by scripture. Recognize what causes you to feel this way. It's not about me, but God and His kingdom. When we feel like it's not fair, remember that we are not our own. Glorify Him in your spirit. Instead of the principles of truth, we [tend to] look at it from a personal viewpoint. Consecrate your feelings of right and wrong, of injustice. If you don't, you'll find yourself carried away. How we respond will determine the type of spirit that is controlling us. If we have the Spirit of Christ, He comes by and checks us so we don't end up down a path of destruction. We can have stability in our lives, something that will guide us. The Spirit of the Lord will show us the right way. What happened to Christ wasn't right, but He had the right spirit. He demonstrated to us that it's not about us but the cause. As we read the Word of God, the emotions will loose their grip. We are facing volatile times with one motive, to provoke us. We know it's wrong to be provoked; there is a right way to handle it. If we come across a boundary, don't cross what the Word of God says. It will bring civility, peace, comfort and understanding with what to do in our lives. And we won't be carried away. But if we don't take time for the Word of God, then [our emotions] will overwhelm us. Our only hope of Heaven is being rooted and grounded in the Word of God. That's the place of safety and stability.

Excerpts submitted by Sis. Diane Doolittle

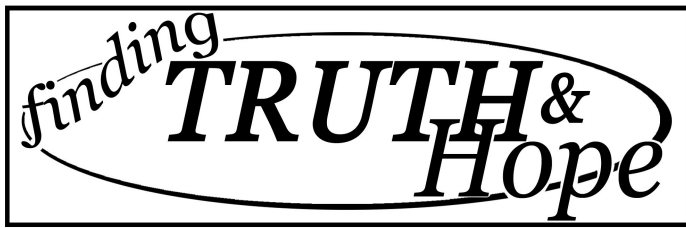
Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids/grandkids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident. **Raise them up** to know the power they walk in as children of God. **Train them** up in the authority of His Word. **Teach them** to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know that they can help to make a difference in the world.

Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. **Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan.** He knew Daniel could handle the lions' den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution.

He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life [with God's help]. He created them specifically for it! Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime. Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters!

God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were **born for such a time as this.**

~ Unknown



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"Men ought
always to pray,
and not to faint."

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Luke 18:1

How Real Do You Suppose Living For God Should Be? Page 9

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Two wonderfully illustrated Creation video books can
be found by searching on YouTube: *J Patrice Doolittle*

One is about Birds (17 minutes long); the other is about Bees (16 minutes).

www.churchofgodmeetings.com

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Before planning travel, check the website for the most up-to-date information.