

Bible Appetizers

Do you need something to stir up
your appetite for spiritual things?

This book has many short

Spiritual Appetizers

Most are two page or less

compiled/edited

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Why did God create Adam and Eve?

The answer may surprise you.

Does God know everything? Yes. Does he know the future? Yes. Now, here is a loaded question: If God knows everything that is going to happen in the future, then he must have known before he created Adam and Eve that sin would enter the world, and some people would become extremely evil; so why did he create them? Consider this: If he had created a race of people that never fell into sins, men could look at his creation and admire God's greatness, power, and even his love, but they would know nothing about his mercy. So, is this his purpose: To display to angels and men a greater aspect of his nature than just his greatness, power, and love; that is, to also display his mercy? Doesn't the display of his mercies go beyond the display of his greatness, power, and love? But to display his mercy, there would have to be a lot of sinners around and a lot of hurting people. This is how we begin to comprehend how great God's mercies are: when we see God taking the wickedest of sinners and turning them into saints, and taking hurting people and healing them.

So, the conclusion of this matter is: It is when we hear/read accounts of some of the wickedest sinners being transformed into saints that we become astonished to see an aspect of God's character that is even greater than his love, greatness, and power: that is, his mercy! There are many in the world today who have testified to God's mercy and transforming power, people who one time were criminals, killers, adulterers, prostitutes, rapists, war lords, gang leaders, bank robbers and many other such people.

Now, let's go one step farther with this analogy: How great is his mercy for sinners? So great that God sacrificed his own son, letting him take the punishment due to the sinner. What else could possibly display God's love and mercy greater than for God to sacrifice his own son as an atonement for the sins of mankind?

Here is a verse that goes right along with the above: "Where sin abounds, there that much more the grace of God abounds" (Romans 5:20). Our God put us in a world with "abounding" sin so that we could see evidences of his gracious favor abounding even more. Those sinners, who are now saints, are God's showcase to both angels and humans.

by Mr. James

Jeanne Guyon's Chapter Nine

From Guyon's autobiography (1648-1717)

SUCH WAS THE PRAYER that was given me once, far above ecstasies, transports or visions. All these gifts are less pure, and more subject to illusion or deceits from the enemy. Visions are in the inferior powers of the soul, and cannot produce true union. The soul must not dwell or rely upon them, or be held back by them; they are but favors and gifts. The Giver alone must be our object and aim.

It is of such that Paul speaks: "Satan transforms himself into an angel of light" [2nd Corinthians 11:18], which is generally the case with such as are fond of visions, and lay a stress on them; because they are apt to convey a vanity to the soul, or at least hinder it from humbly attending to God only.

Ecstasies arise out of the senses [the soul, the carnal realm]. They may be termed a kind of spiritual sensuality, wherein the soul, letting itself go too far by reason of the sweetness it finds in them, falls imperceptibly into decay. The crafty enemy presents such sort of interior elevations and raptures for baits to entrap the soul, to fill it with vanity and self-love, to fix its esteem and attention on the gifts of God, and to hinder it from following Jesus Christ in the way of renunciation and death to all things.

And as to distinct interior words, they too are subject to illusion; the enemy can form and counterfeit them. Or if they come from a good angel (for God Himself never speaks thus), we may mistake and misapprehend them. They are spoken in a divine manner, but we construe them in a human and carnal manner. But the immediate word of God has neither tone nor articulation. It is mute, silent, and unutterable. It is Jesus Christ himself, the real and essential Word, who in the center of the soul that is ready or willing to receive Him, never one moment ceases from His living, fruitful, and divine operation.

Oh, you Word made flesh, whose silence is inexpressible eloquence, You can never be misapprehended or mistaken. You become the life of our life, and the soul of our soul. How infinitely is your language elevated above all the utterances of human and finite articulation. Your adorable power, all-bothersome in the soul that has received it, communicates itself through them to others. As a divine seed it becomes fruitful to eternal life.

The revelations of things to come are also very dangerous. The devil can counterfeit them, as he did formerly in the heathen temples, where he uttered oracles. Frequently they raise false ideas, vain hopes, and frivolous expectations. They take up the mind with future events, hinder it from dying to self, and prevent it from following Jesus Christ in His poverty, self-abnegation, and death to self.

Widely different is the revelation of Jesus Christ, made to the soul when the eternal Word is communicated. (Galatians 1:16) It makes us new creatures, recreated in Him. This is a revelation that the devil cannot counterfeit. The only safe transport of ecstasy proceeds from here: that which is operated by naked faith alone, and dying even to the gifts of God. As long as the soul continues resting in gifts, it does not fully renounce itself. Never passing into God, the soul loses the real enjoyment of the Giver, by attachments to the gifts. This is truly an unutterable loss.

A prayer:

"Lest I should let my mind go after these gifts, and steal myself from your love, O my God, You were pleased to fix me in a continual adherence to Yourself alone. Souls thus directed get on quickly, but they are to expect great sufferings, especially if they are mighty in faith, in mortification and deadness to all but God. A pure and unprejudiced love and intenseness of mind for the advancement of your interest alone, these are the dispositions you implanted in me—and even a fervent desire to

suffer for You. The cross, which I had hitherto borne only with resignation, has become my delight, and the special object of my rejoicing.

What is Spiritual Authority?

To answer this question, here is an example or a parable: When Isaac was 2 or 3 years old, he no doubt spent a lot of time with his mother, Sarah—holding on to her apron string, and crying “mama, mama” at every little thing. But 10 years later, his father, Abraham, took him out in the fields and taught him how to tend the sheep and oversee the shepherds.

In this parable, the mother is the church, and the father is God. As Isaac matured, he left his mother and went with his father. Jesus also left his mother to follow his father-God. As maturing believers, should we be constantly looking to our mother-church for consolation, comfort, and guidance? Or should we know our father-God for ourselves and look only to him for our needs?

As a new-born baby is constantly crying to its mother, so it is proper for the new believer to look to the church for consolation, comfort, and guidance. But as Isaac matured, he increasingly knew the mind of his father, and looked to him for guidance; so the mature believer should know the mind of his [heavenly] father and look to him alone for his guidance.

Yet in the church world, we see many who have been in the church for many years but who constantly turn to the mother-church, rather than “knowing the mind of God” for themselves. Jesus also left his mother and followed his father. This writer did too. Those who follow the father, walk in victory. Those who are still crying to their mother-church at every little problem, for some reason have not learned to walk in the faith and victory that is available to all true believers.

This message is not saying leave the church, only do not depend on the church. Why? Very many churches are full of sins: abortion, divorce, homosexuality, adultery, love of money, pride, hypocrisy, idolatry, witchcraft, and almost every other sin. [In the community where I live, just five days before this writing, one church hosted an Satanic worship service. At those Satanic worship services there are usually human sacrifices—usually babies. About 1000 years ago, the churches promoted some of the worst terrorists the world has ever seen.] In the Holy Bible we are told to “come out of her my people, lest you be partakers of her sins.” This teaching to “come out” is found eight times in the Bible:

Isaiah 48:20 Jeremiah 50:8 Jeremiah 51:45 2nd Corinthians 6:17

Isaiah 52:11 Jeremiah 51:6 Zachariah 2:7 Revelation 18:4

When the scripture say “come out of her,” who is “her” referring to? Is it not the world’s systems which are doing things differently from the way God does them? Aren’t the political and religious systems of this world doing things differently from the way God does them? One who seemed to be a mature believer said to me, “....we are all stressed out.” Why don’t believers today walk in victory as the saints of old? Here are two examples:

1. In the book of Genesis, Joseph was in Potiphar’s prison on a false attempted-rape charge with no hope of ever getting out. He certainly was in a “stressed out” position, nevertheless, he walked in victory—and was delivered.

2. In the Book of Acts, Paul and Silas were in the Philippian prison, with their hands and feet in stocks and their backs bleeding. If anyone had an excuse to be “stressed out,” they certainly did; nevertheless, instead of complaining about their “stressful situation,” they **chose** to walk in victory and to sing praises to God—and God delivered them.

Has this message been tough on you? That is tough love. May we each learn to walk in victory,

knowing the mind of the father.

Written by Mr. James

Others May: You Cannot

Author Unknown

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it, and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence upon Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great, but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get credit for the work which you have done, and thus make YOUR REWARD TEN TIMES GREATER WHEN JESUS COMES.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never feel distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an Infinitely Sovereign Being, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in Jealous Love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

Settle it forever, then that you are to DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this PECULIAR, PERSONAL, PRIVATE, JEALOUS GUARDIANSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OVER YOUR LIFE, then you will have found the vestibule of heaven.

Saint Patrick...

.....arrived in Ireland when it was a most evil, demonized nation of druidic tribes. Operating in incredible faith, favor, and the power of God, Patrick spiritually subdued virtually the entire island of Ireland. Hearing God, raising the dead, and even having wild animals subject to him are just some

of the evidences of the grace in which he walked. There is controversy as to which of the many legends about St. Patrick are in fact 'provable,' but, apart from that, he was undoubtedly an awesome man of God to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude.

There are many sources from which to read about the life of Patrick, but I can highly recommend the 4th and 5th chapters of Thomas Cahill's book, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. In this book, the author makes a case for the Irish having saved not only Christianity but also Civilization itself. It is a book with "big words" that must be read slowly but it is rich in its historical perspective. From it and other sources, we can see that we might not have had any evidence of western Christianity today if Patrick and his subsequent Irish spiritual sons and daughters had not saved it.

During Patrick's time, the barbarians had overrun Rome and had destroyed almost every trace of scripture and Christian history throughout the whole empire. For scores of years, it was only Ireland that held the written scriptures and as well as the physical evidence of true Christianity. The rest of the known world was in the darkness of the Middle Ages. Christianity was then "reintroduced" to the world by the spiritual sons and daughters of Saint Patrick who risked everything to carry the written word as well as its manifestation from the tiny island-nation of Ireland to other parts of the world.

First, they labored intensely for years in copying the written word. Then they sailed on ships, boats, and even rafts everywhere to carry the gospel back to the uncivilized parts of the world. For a period of about 300 years, it was only Ireland that carried a real "pulse" of Christianity. The more we study and investigate, the more we will realize that we owe that nation a great debt of gratitude. When I was in Ireland, I was told that only 1% of the population is truly born-again. Yet, the memory of Patrick still reverberates throughout the entire land with virtually every town and village claiming some original connection with Patrick.

I believe we are coming upon the day when the Lord will honor some agreements that He made with Patrick in relation to Ireland. I believe that we will see Ireland again become a shining spiritual light for the world and that, once again, missionaries from this land will carry a pure fire to the four corners of the earth. Ireland will turn to "Fire-land" as the Lord honors the faith of Patrick. Ireland is still full of tourist displays of what is called "the breastplate of St. Patrick." Following is one of the versions of that declaration made by this great man of God.

I arise today through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism. Through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial. Through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension.

I arise today through the strength of Heaven. Against every cruel merciless power that may oppose my body and soul.

Christ to shield me today. Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the heart of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

Author unknown

Dancing Girls

A new feature has arisen in many churches in recent years: Dancing girls/ladies being postured/posed/put forth as a form of worship. Is this worship pleasing to the Lord our God? How does He view this new method of worship?

Now, in the Bible King David danced before the Lord, and a dance before the Lord is mentioned several times in the Bible. Is this the same as what is going on in modern churches? What's the difference? David was so thrilled, ecstatic that the **Ark of the Covenant** had been returned to Israel that he danced spontaneously. Now, if a person is so filled with joy over the presence of God or some great miracle or blessings from God, certainly he/she might dance for joy.

But there seems to be other influences in the churches. Surely King David did not take dancing lessons, but some of the churches are making dancing a stage-production which is more entertainment than worship. Should we study how to dance, or should our dancing be spontaneous as a result of great joy? Yes, it should be spontaneous.

But what harm does it do? Basically there are 3 harmful elements to dance:

- ① As young men look at the dancing girls, lust will arise in many of their hearts.
- ② Ladies who do not have graceful dancing figures will become envious of those girls.
- ③ The dance becomes "entertainment" rather than "worship."

Aren't most of the stage-production dances more "entertainment" than "worship"? Is a "production" compatible with "spontaneity"? Some churches call it an "art form." Does the Holy Bible say anything about using an art form to worship God?

Now, this message will upset many, but the church world—especially the leaders—will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment.

Signed: Mr. James

Answering an Atheist

Can we answer the questions/accusations of the atheists? Few people who call themselves Christian can; however, let's look at one of their strongest arguments, and let's see if we have found a really good answer to give them. One of their strongest arguments goes like this:

Isn't it true that according to the Bible God himself has done some truly wicked, evil things such as:

At one time God ordered his people to go to a certain place to fight a battle, and he told them to utterly destroy everything and every one, including women and children, old and infirm, and even the cattle. What a horrible crime!

But there are quite a few other similar examples: Lot is referred to as a godly man, yet in the last reference to him, he got so drunk that he didn't know what he was doing, and his two daughters seduced him and obtained children by him while he was drunk.

There are plenty of other examples that the atheists bring up to God's children. Can we explain this? Yes, check out this explanation:

In this world we live in, where many horrible things are happening, there is a minuscule number of people who live only to help/bless others—thinking very little about themselves. We honor such people, and call them saints. But, among such people, very many of them are passionate readers of the Holy Bible. It is possible that these people have found a subliminal/hidden message in the Bible, a message that is not obvious in a surface reading?

Here is another example: Once there were two die-hard atheists who determined that they were going to destroy the Bible and Christianity by destroying its two strongest messages:

- ① The virginal birth of Jesus and
- ② The resurrection of Jesus.

They agreed to spend one year doing their research, one on the birth, and one on the

resurrection; and then meet one year later. For a whole year, they did not see each other. [They lived in different cities.] One year later when they met, they discovered that each of them had spent so much time studying the Holy Bible that both had become believers! They had discovered the subliminal message in the Bible!

So I say to you who are reading this, read the Bible for yourself, and see if you too can discover its hidden/subliminal meaning.

Things we cannot understand:

As long as we are in this finite existence, there are a number of things that we will not be able to understand/explain:

1. Eternal judgment and punishment
2. Creation & Evolution
3. The manner of Jesus' coming
4. God's eternal plan or purpose
5. God's passionate love for the wickedest of sinners
6. The nature of the God-head
7. Predestination & Freewill [known as Calvinism & Arminianism]

Our calling is first of all to love and obedience, secondarily to understanding. As for the above unexplainables, after our spirits have been freed from the encumbrances of these bodies, then we will begin to understand these things.

Below are a few thoughts on #7 above:

Predestination and Free Will

A simple explanation? Throughout the millennia of Israeli and Christian history, this dichotomy of predestination and free will has stirred many theological disagreements/discussions. Today, while I was praying/ meditating (while walking in an open field), I received a clear-cut illustration/understanding of the true meaning of predestination, and I want to share it with everyone:

When God spoke to Adam and said, "When you eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Doesn't that saying imply that if Adam had not eaten of the fruit of that tree, he would not have died? Isn't it obvious from this statement that Adam was destined or predestined to live forever? But God not only destined Adam to live forever, he also gave him free will—to do so, or not to do so.

So, how is it today? Hasn't God destined us for life, while also giving us freedom to accept or reject that life?

Now, Paul wrote to us that Eve was deceived, but Adam was not deceived (1st Timothy 2:14). If Adam were not deceived, then why did Adam eat of the forbidden fruit? Consider this answer: His love and desire for Eve was so great that he was willing to give up everything—even eternal life in the garden of Eden—that he might be with Eve. (Eve had already tasted the forbidden fruit, and Adam knew that they would be forever separated if he did not eat that fruit.)

Is God Reasonable or Unreasonable?

Answer: God is reasonable; however, His reasoning is on a level that is so much higher than our reasoning, that it seems unreasonable to the vast majority of mankind. It is only as we draw near to God with a passionate heart to know Him and be filled with His compassionate love, that his ways become more and more reasonable to us.

Evangelical Christians and Israel

Question: Which groups/races/religions are the most persecuted in today's world? The answer is obvious: The Jews are certainly the most persecuted race/religion that this world has ever known. But isn't it just as obvious that much persecution against the Evangelical branch of the Christian Church is also on the increase? [It is also true that Evangelical Christians have been persecuted since the beginning of the Christian Church, and the Jews much longer than that.]

What about other groups? How many are persecuting Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, those Christians who are in liberal theology, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians? Some, but nothing like the persecution against the Jews and the Evangelical Christians.

Now consider this: Who are Israel's most ardent supporters? Is it not the Evangelical Christians? And, because the Jewish people know that Evangelicals are their most ardent supporters, they appreciate the Evangelicals very much. The Israelis have even permitted those Christians to establish a Christian "embassy" in Israel.

Now, what is the significance of all this? Obviously, these conditions are causing Jews and Evangelical Christians to be drawn much closer to each other—close friends who are giving each other encouragement and support in their time of persecution.

How interesting that Jews are looking forward to the coming of their Messiah, and the Evangelical Christians are looking forward to the return of the Jewish Messiah. So, what will be the ultimate result of this close relationship? Will the Jews and Evangelical Christians eventually be united as Apostle Paul seems to imply in the 11th chapter of his letter to the Romans?

Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit

Understanding the difference between gifts and fruit is critical. Please study the following carefully:

The false prophets and the devil worshipers can duplicate the Gifts of the Spirit, but they can not duplicate the Fruit of the Spirit. (How could the devil have Love, Joy, and Peace?) That's the reason Jesus told us that we would know the false prophets by their fruit—not by their gifts. (Matthew 7:16) However, though the devil cannot duplicate the Fruits of the Spirit, he can and does imitate them. (When someone tells you how much he loves you, search out what his motive is: is it true love, or if he has some ulterior motive for telling you that he loves you.)

What is the difference between the gifts of the spirit and the fruit of the spirit? The Bible lists:

Nine gifts of the spirit

(1st Corinthians 12:8-10):

wisdom
healing
tongues (or languages)
knowledge
miracles
interpretation of tongues
faith
prophesy
distinguishing spirits

Nine fruit of the spirit

(Galatians 5:22-23):

love
patience
faithfulness
joy
kindness
gentleness
peace
goodness
self-control or self-discipline

Let this saying be deeply ingrained into you:

**The devil can duplicate the gifts of the spirit,
But he can only imitate the fruit of he spirit.**

Example: When Moses threw down his rod and it became a snake, Pharaoh's magicians threw down their rods, and they too became snakes. (Exodus 7:6-13) The magicians were duplicating a gift of the spirit.

However, though the false prophets cannot duplicate the fruit of the spirit, they do imitate them. When they act like they love you and are very happy, they are imitating the Fruit of the Spirit. We call this an imitation because they are not really happy, nor do they really love you. They are merely trying to use you (probably to get in your pocketbook).

When our spirit is freed from our body [after the body dies], our spirit will take with it the fruit of the spirit into the next life; it will not take the gifts.

Why Liturgical Worship?

Groups that promote Liturgical Worship often point out that "spontaneous" worship is an innovation of the last century or so. To proponents of such teaching, I wish to ask:

① When King David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, he danced before the Lord.

Wasn't that spontaneous worship?

② When Cain and Able offered sacrifices to the Lord, wasn't that spontaneous worship?

③ When Peter confronted Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5, wasn't that spontaneous ministry?

④ When David and Asaph wrote the Psalms, wasn't that spontaneous worship?

⑤ When God commanded his people to worship him with all of their hearts, doesn't that indicate spontaneous worship?

⑥ When Paul and Silas were in the Philippian jail with beaten, bleeding backs, they were praising God. Wasn't that spontaneous worship?

⑦ In Acts 7:60, when Steven knelt down, and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," wasn't that spontaneous ministry/worship?

⑧ If we love God with all our hearts, will we not worship spontaneously?

- ⑨ The following words that come from Moses [Deuteronomy 4:29] and Jeremiah [29:13], don't they imply spontaneous worship? God said: ".....you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

Those who walk in love

I was visiting a church that had a guest speaker from Africa who was a bishop over a network of churches. When he spoke, I was so impressed by the manifestations of the power of God that he had experienced. These were manifestations of biblical proportions. During a break between speakers, my friend who accompanied me wanted to go over to meet him and tell him how much we enjoyed his testimonies. While looking at him as he was speaking to my friend, I saw what was identified in my spirit as a spirit of lust manifest in this man's mouth. Even though I knew what I saw, and I only saw it for a second or two, it was easier for me to believe that my eyes were playing tricks on me. In my spirit, I kept asking the Lord to confirm what I had seen. I was so upset by this that I couldn't even pay attention to the second part of the service. Finally the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Don't be impressed by those who walk in My power. Be impressed by those who walk in My love." — Anonymous

Oh, America, America!

You were beautiful among the nations! Was there ever a nation like you? You sent your missionaries and envoys to every nook and corner of the earth. You out-shone all of the nations of the world when you led the way to freedom, decency, and godliness. What nation ever fought a war (at the cost of a half million of her sons) to free a nation (or subculture) of slaves? Have not all nations fought wars for selfish, greedy purposes, to take their neighbor's land, to avenge some ill that their king imagined? Yet **America** has fought wars, not only to free her own slaves, but to free nations held captives by Spain, and many Communist nations. Has there ever been such a glorious nation, who sacrificed her own sons in order to set free another people?

Yet what has happened to you today, **America**? Why have your institutions of learning become battle zones? And your beautiful streets, how is it that many of them have been taken over by gun-toting gangs of juveniles? Your parks and mountains were beautiful—"purple mountains' majesty"—now being ruined by acid rain, by liters of beer cans, by run-off of waste water from a thousand factories!

The children, the precious children; what has happened to them? Who turned them into bleary-eyed monsters? Was it the boob-tube that has turned many of them into zombies? Who taught them to carry weapons into their classrooms and playgrounds. For what purpose do they go into the classroom? To hate, to kill, to spread rebellion and profanity?

Oh, America, America! How I wish that my head were full of water, and my eyes were rivers of tears—so that I could weep all night for your children, your boys and your girls who begin having babies before they're old enough to know their left hand from their right hand!

And your churches, **America**, and most of all your churches and your synagogues that were once depositories of truth. Haven't many of them become money-making enterprises, social clubs, hideouts for those who conspire acts of destruction?

Where is your heart, **America**? Has it turned to getting more and more for yourself, and forgetting your less-fortunate brother? Didn't **America** become great while helping her neighbor,

spreading her missionaries to the ends of the earth, while showing good-will to all men? Have you forgotten, **America**, where your prosperity and abundance came from? Did it come from your own hand, or did it come as a blessing from the magnanimity of a God who rewards our kind deeds?

Consider your own minorities, oh mountain of **America**. Your Black people danced in the streets when your beloved President Lincoln issued the proclamation freeing the slaves. Consider this carefully, **Oh America**: Those who once danced in the streets, why are they today rioting in the streets? Is it because you have harbored hatred and prejudice in your hearts against them?

Turn, turn, from your evil ways, **Oh America**, with all your heart, so that the blessings of the Almighty God may once again be with you.

Overcoming Fear

I have had several experiences in my life wherein a lack of fear turned out to be a great blessing, but at the same time, I can't explain just how I acquired that lack of fear.

First experience:

When I was about 24-25 years old (almost 50 years ago), I was a student at a Bible college. At this school, we did evangelism every weekend: house-to-house, street preaching, preaching in jails, etc. One day when we were visiting house-to-house, I was assigned to go down a certain street, and one of the girl students was assigned to go with me. When we got to a certain house, there were two small dogs on the porch, and as soon as they saw us, the dogs came running after us barking loudly. The girl was frightened and stepped behind me. I ignored the dogs and kept walking straight to the front door. However, the dogs by-passed me and went to the girl, barking at her. She was terribly upset, but she saw me walking fearlessly to the house, and she followed.

Later after we left that house, she asked me, "Why did the dogs bypass you and come after me?"

This is the answer I gave her: "Dogs recognize fear and go after those who fear them. They didn't see any fear in me, so they bypassed me." The girl was astonished at the answer I gave her, and that day she learned an important lesson that I'm sure she never forgot. Actually, I learned an important lesson also: I learned that God had given me a blessing that I do not know how he gave it to me; I do not remember ever learning a lesson on fearlessness.

Second experience:

Quite a few years later, while walking on a mountain, I saw immediately ahead of me a snake raise his head and look straight at me. I'm not sure if it were a poisonous snake, but probably it was. Again I did not let fear rise up in me. At that time, I had been walking quite a long time, and I decided it was time to turn around and go back. When I turned around, I refused to look back, but remembered Lot's wife (the one in the Bible who looked back after God told them not to look back, and she was turned into a pillar of salt—her punishment for looking back). The snake did not come after me.

Third experience:

Some years later, I was teaching in a school, and at one time a group of tough-looking/rough-talking guys surrounded me and were trying to intimidate/threaten/frighten me. Once again, I felt the peace of God and did not react with fear. Rather, I looked around at those guys, and in a rather quizzical manner, I said, "You fellows got a problem?" My manner/attitude completely disarmed them, and they scattered leaving me alone.

Fourth experience:

After I was over 70 years old, I made a trip to Africa. While there, I was taken on 160-mile ride by a dare-devil driver over a road that had thousands of pot holes in it. I knew my heavenly father

did not want me to allow any fear (or show any signs of fear), so I just set my mind and said to the Lord, "Lord, I'm keeping my trust in you, and I am not looking at my circumstances." The whole journey (6 hours) I kept my mind on the Lord, and I felt peace in my heart.

Fifth Experience:

In a dream, I saw myself on a dark street at night. There were some teenagers there coming after me, and at least 2 of them had guns. But I had absolutely no fear in me. When one said: "Stick 'em up" [Put your hands up], I refused saying, "I don't take orders from people who point guns at me." Again: I had absolutely no fear in me. My reactions caused the guys to become desperate, and the same one screamed, loudly, "I said, stick 'em up!" Again, in a very calm, quite, confident voice, I said, "I don't take orders from people who point guns at me," and I added, "Now you are going to see the glory of God." About that time, I floated up or levitated about 2 feet off the ground, and was moving towards them. Then they saw that, they fled in terror.

My disclaimer

When I started writing the above, I knew I might possibly leave the impression that I'm bragging about how holy or fearless I am. Rather, I wish to give all glory/credit to God, rather than to portray myself as some kind of super saint. For this reason, I sign my name:

Signed: Anonymous

Is This What the Bible Teaches About Tithing?

In Deuteronomy Moses mentioned *The Tithe of the Third Year* twice, in chapters 14 & 26.

Now, I have never seen any teaching on this subject, and I'm uncertain just how we of the New Covenant era should accept and fulfill this instruction. Let's look at the scriptures:

Chapter 14:22-29

The first six verses of this passage mention only the annual tithe [of farm produce]. Then the last two verses say this about the third year:

Verse 28: At the end of the third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates.

Now, this verse seems to say that on the third year [or every third year] they were not to take the tithe of their farm products to the temple priests, but to store it within their own gates. Then the next verse explains the purpose of **The Third Year Tithe**:

Verse 29: That the Levite (because he has no portion nor inheritance with you) and the stranger/foreigner and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied [and then he explains another purpose of this storage:] so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

Surprise! This tithe is for those who are poor and needy [who are usually strangers/foreigners, the fatherless, and the widow, as well as for the Levites]. This passage seems to say: Pay tithes to the priests two years, then in the third year, you distribute the tithes that you have stored up in your barns to the needy ones, then, on the fourth year, go back to paying tithes to the priests again and start the pattern over: Give the tithes to the priests for two years, and then, in the third, distribute your tithes yourself.

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Now, Moses wrote a different instruction in the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter. The first 11 verses are about the annual donation which He did not call a tithe; all He said was, "...you shall take some of the first of all your produce [I take it that the "of all" means some of each kind—some beans, some apples,

some corn, etc.]....and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide [meaning where the tabernacle (and later the temple) which were to be established, for Moses wrote this before the tabernacle was erected.] And He added this instruction: You shall go to the one who is priest in those days and say to him: “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.” And, after the priest accepted the offering, the doner was to add a much longer passage [about 5 verses] that they were to speak before the priest. Apparently they would have had to memorize it ahead of time. Then they were told to set the offering down and rejoice before the LORD their God for all of the good things the LORD had given to them and for the Levite and for the stranger among them.

Then starting with the 12<sup>th</sup> verse, He gives further instruction concerning ***The Tithe of the Third Year***, which He also called ***The Year of Tithing***, as if during the other years only the first fruits were required—not a tithe. After they stored their produce inside their gates, they were to recite another saying before the LORD their God. This one is 4 verses long.

I find it puzzling that in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, He informs them that they were to take the tithe to the priest in the temple 2 out of every three years, but in the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter He does not ask for a tithe, but only “a basket full of the first fruits of the produce.” The only tithe that he asked for in the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter was the one to be used to help the poor and needy.

Now, I can just hear somebody saying, “Well, I never heard anything like that”. Well, it’s right there in your Bible. Try studying that book some time.

### **An Alternative Use of Water Baptism!**

Some years ago, our pastor, Steve Fatow, was invited to speak in a Lutheran Church in Germany. He went. Brother Steve said that on his way, the Lord spoke to him and told him to speak on water baptism. He did. At the meeting, he saw nothing happen. Questions arose in his mind if he had missed the mind of the Lord, or misunderstood what the Lord was speaking to him. This he thought while flying in an airplane all the way home.

Over the next few years, every time he thought about that church, the same question arose in his mind, and he finally concluded that, yes, perhaps he had missed the mind of the Lord. Some years later, I met a couple who had done some missionary work in Germany. They told me the rest of the story:

After Brother Steve left Germany, the people to whom he had preached discussed his message. In the Lutheran Church, they had been “baptized” by sprinkling. They were not immersed in water. Brother Steve told them that real baptism meant immersion in water. After they discussed it, they decided that they should be re-baptized by immersion. The Lutheran pastor refused to baptize them, telling them that their request implied that the sprinkling baptism was invalid. They looked around for another church that would baptize them by immersion, but they did not find any, so they decided to baptize each other. They did.

Finally the priest of the Lutheran Church found out what they had done, and he kicked all of them out of his church. Now they were without a church, so they looked around for another church to join, but did not find one. Finally they decided to start their own, and they did.

The missionary couple that told me this story said that today that church was one of the fastestgrowing churches in Germany, and is now one of the largest, strongest churches in Germany. Wow! God used Brother Steve Fatow’s message on baptism by immersion to start a good, strong, vibrant church. Who can fathom God’s ways! How many times we have done things and asked,

“Lord, did I do the right thing? Did I miss your mind?”

### **About the Trinity Doctrine**

1. The word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible
2. This phrase from the ancient creed: “God in Three Persons” is not found in the Bible.

This is my explanation [only mine, you may disagree with me if you wish]: You are Spirit, Soul, and Body. Are you 3 persons or one person?

So also, God is one

- ① The Bible says that God is a spirit
- ② The body is the one born of Mary,
- ③ And his soul is his love and his plans for humanity.

Now, we know that when we die, only the body dies, not the spirit or soul. So, when Jesus died, his soul and the spirit did not die, only his body. Now, we know that God cannot die, so when Jesus died, we learned that his body was not God, even though the body was wholly submitted to the spirit. [It can also be said that his enemies could not have killed him, but, as he said, he laid down his life willingly—for our sake.]

Now, the question arises: How could he say that he was the Son of God and yet die? Answer: How can we say we are sons of God and yet die? Obviously, our bodies will be tossed into the trash bin of history, but we will still be sons of God, that is, our spirits will still be sons of God.

Now, I’m sure many questions remain, and many will reject the above: The conclusion of the whole matter is: While we are still in this finite state of existence, we will not be able to fully comprehend the nature of the Godhead. This is evidenced in Isaiah 55:8-9, which reads: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Do we dare to claim to be able to comprehend the Godhead while we are still in this finite existence? I don’t think so.

### **An Urge to Kill: Son of Sam Pleads Guilty**

Copied from TIME Magazine, May 22, 1978

“Did you have a purpose?”

“To kill somebody.”

“Did you have any particular person in mind?”

“No.”

“What consequences did you expect?”

“That I’d be arrested and put in jail.”

Speaking calmly and without hesitation, David Berkowitz, 24, also known as “Son of Sam,” took just 21 minutes last week to complete the macabre litany required by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Joseph R. Corso. Its purpose to establish Berkowitz’s understanding of his plea and its consequences, regarding the year-long spree of 44-caliber shootings that left six victims dead, seven wounded, and made Son of Sam a watchword of terror in New York City. Once the questioning was over, Justice Corso had established that the quiet former postal clerk understood the charges, and knew that what he had done was wrong. He then accepted the defendant’s plea on the first of six counts of second-degree murder: guilty.

By convincing the judge that he was competent to plead and then admitting guilt, Berkowitz may have started a new series of legal developments. Both his defense lawyers protested his plea, saying that he was denying himself the chance to be found not guilty by reason of insanity. They promised to appeal, but first Berkowitz will probably be sentenced to from 25 years to life on each of the six counts next week.

Few killers in recent memory have seemed as psychotic as Berkowitz, who also called himself “The Duke of Death” “The Wicked King Wicker,” “The Twenty-Two Disciples of Hell,” the “John Wheaties, Rapist and Suffocator of Young Girls.” When finally captured last August, Berkowitz explained that he received orders to kill via a black Labrador retriever. The messages actually came, he explained, from a 6,000-year-old demon reincarnated as Berkowitz’s next-door neighbor, Sam Carr. He even may have been, in addition to his killings, a mass arsonist. Introduced in evidence at the hearing were the murderer’s diaries listing 1,400 fires, most set in The Bronx between 1974 and his capture in 1977. While it was not established that he actually set them, Berkowitz told his lawyers that he did, and that the number of fires was closer to 2,000.

The self-declared killer’s calm demeanor in court was evidently due, at least in part, to a religious conversion that he underwent while in custody. He had been visited in prison, at the behest of one court-appointed psychiatrist, by a Pentecostalist known as “Sister Smith”—Ollie Smith, 58, a beautician who serves part time as a volunteer prison worker. According to *In Camera* testimony obtained by the New York *Daily News*, the psychiatrist described Berkowitz as “ecstatic, radiant, quoting Scripture right and left” after their talks. He also said that Berkowitz saw the guilty plea as a way to confess his “sins” and to avoid stirring up his personal demons again. Under the terms of his probable sentence, Berkowitz will be eligible for release in 30 years.

Such a prospect seems certain to increase support for proponents of the death penalty, who only two weeks ago failed by just one vote in the New York State senate to overturn Governor Hugh Carey’s veto of a bill to reintroduce capital punishment. In that sense, Son of Sam and his demons may haunt New York for some time to come.

### **Atheists Challenge God!**

What does an atheistic community do on Christmas Eve? The scene is in 1908 in Messina, Italy—a whole community given over to atheism. On Dec. 21st, the town newspaper published a parody defying God and daring Him to make Himself known by sending an earthquake. On Christmas Eve, the city council passed a number of disrespectful and mocking resolutions, flouting God on behalf of the entire community.

After these defaming actions had been accepted by the people, a strange thing transpired in their midst. The animals of the town—dogs, donkeys, horses and oxen dashed about in evident distress, bawling and neighing and trembling with wild eyes. Both domestic fowl and wild birds flew screaming through the air in great alarm. Even the fish of the sea were affected and rose to the top of the surface and floated there where they were caught in large numbers.

Then, nature began to protest as winds began to howl and the sea to roar and toss. Underground noises like thunder were heard. Only three hours after the infamous “Christmas Resolutions” were passed by city council, there came the warning signs of the earthquake that the newspaper had dared God to send!

Mountains were thrown down and level fields were raised. Streams gushed forth from dry rocks. Chasms opened in the earth and swallowed alive people, animals, and even whole trees. Some of the chasms closed tightly as a tomb upon their victims. The beautiful city of Messina and surrounding districts were completely destroyed—75,000 inhabitants being wiped out!

Is it surprising that there are 100 verses in the Bible that speak of the fear of God?

### **A Second Jeremiah**

In Jewish history, Jeremiah was God’s prophet who warned Jerusalem of the impending danger when Jerusalem—and Solomon’s temple—was destroyed. However, Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt and again destroyed 656 years later—70 AD. Did God have another Jeremiah to cry out against the sins of the city that were the cause of its coming destruction?

Yes, his story is found in the writings of Flavius Josephus, the most famous of ancient Jewish historians. Josephus was born four years after Jesus’ crucifixion, therefore he must have been about 35 years old at the time that Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus, who was son of Vespasian, the Roman Emperor. Josephus wrote:

Four years before the war, while the city was enjoying prosperity and peace, a rude peasant named Jesus [or Yeshua in Hebrew language], son of Ananias, came to the feast of the Tabernacles. He stood up in the temple, shouting “A voice from the east, a voice from the west, a voice from the four winds, a voice against Jerusalem and the sanctuary, a voice against bridegrooms and brides, a voice against all the people!”

Day and night he walked the streets with this cry. Some of the leaders arrested the fellow and beat him, but he only kept on shouting as before. The magistrates brought him before the Roman governor, who had him whipped to the bone, but he neither begged for mercy nor shed a tear, only crying at each stroke, “Woe to Jerusalem!”

When Governor Albinus asked him who he was, where he came from, and why he uttered these cries, he merely repeated his dirge, “Woe to Jerusalem!” For seven years and five months [starting four years before the war and continuing three years through the war], he maintained this cry.

Finally while making his rounds on the wall during the siege, he shouted with his piercing voice, “Woe once more to the city, to the people, and to the temple!” Then he suddenly added, “And woe to me also!” As soon as he spoke the words “woe to me also,” he was struck dead by a stone. The above copied from: Josephus, *The Essential Writings*, translated by Paul L. Maier. Copyright 1988 by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501. Page 362.

### **A Chinese Lady is Translated**

*....Enoch was translated that he should not see death;  
and was not found, because God had translated him  
— Hebrews 11:5*

In July of 2001, in the city of Taichung, Taiwan, a godly Chinese intercessor told her three sons that she was going home to Heaven on the 23rd day of that month. They laughed at her and accused her of joking. But she insisted that the Lord had told her that He was going to take her on that day, and they must be there to see it happen. Two of her three sons were Christians. The middle one was a prodigal.

On that day she told her oldest and youngest that they must find their brother and bring him home to see the miracle. He came very reluctantly. Suddenly she began to be raised up from the

floor. When that happened, he began to weep and repent, confessing that he was a great sinner. She said, "Look at me!" and as they all looked, her skin was transfigured in front of them and her face shone as bright as the sun. She rose up through the ceiling and disappeared. She hasn't been seen since.

This testimony was told to me in Peter Snyder's house in Jerusalem during the Passover season of 2002 by a young Chinese Christian from Taichung who vouched for its veracity. If I understand correctly, he was related to her.

This message was reported in a magazine named **Endtime Handmaidens & Servants**, founded by Gwen Shaw of Jasper, Arkansas.

### **Revival Shakes Philippine School**

by Jay Esteban and Lucille Talusan, *CWNews*, July 22, 2005

Have you ever heard of a Revival happening at an entire school? Well, it did, recently, in the Philippine Islands. On February 18 at a Christian school in the Philippines, children were down on their knees, deep in prayer. It started in a 4th grade classroom during regular morning devotions. Suddenly, students fell on their knees and were consumed with a spirit of intense prayer that eventually spread throughout the whole school.

School chaplain, Pastor Emilio Henares, said the experience was 'a first' for Destiny Christian Academy. He explained, "The presence of God was unusually strong, in such a way that many kids started to repent. Kids, maybe 6- years-old, started to prophesy. Many of them started to see visions. It was as in Acts, Chapter 2, where it says, 'In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit and your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions; your old men shall see dream dreams.'

Some of the kids from Destiny Christian Academy spoke with CBN News:

Nine-year-old John Algora, who is in the 5th grade, said, "I saw Satan and God fighting for me. Satan said, 'He's my child. He's not yours.' God said, 'No. He's mine, I created him'."

Johnny Dubouzet is a 14-year-old in his third year of high school. "I saw this vision. Fire came down from heaven and struck this church. The fire spread, and tidal waves of flame consumed the city. People just started to weep, to repent of their sins."

Apart from seeing visions, the children said they received messages from God.

Jeroel Lyble, 15, said, "God was saying to me: 'If you are ashamed of Me, I will be ashamed of you in Heaven.' God was saying to me that I should speak up, I should be a voice."

According to the school's teachers, the students' performance in school has remarkably improved since that significant day. "They became more obedient," said Destiny Christian Academy teacher, Cleffe Limsiaco. "Now, they are excellent in every way inside the learning center. They have better grades now. And in our devotions, they became more hungry for the Lord." Henares told us, "God is using these children because they have nothing to lose, they have nothing to prove, they have no reputation to protect; they are just in love with Jesus."

This article is found at:

<http://kidsinministry.com/Articles.Teachings/FilippinoRevival.html>

### **The Garbage Dump People**

July 28, 2000 by Jim Bramlett

The below story is one of the most fascinating I have ever heard. It comes from a reliable Christian friend. I first heard it last year but was able to document the details only a few days ago. It demonstrates the power of God's love to penetrate even the most closed cultures when His people are willing to lay down all for the Savior and take up His cross. It also demonstrates the outpouring of God's Spirit in these last days.

A missionary couple had been laboring in a certain Muslim country that I will not name for purposes of protection. They had become terribly discouraged in their attempts to share the gospel with the Muslims there, and they were about to quit and go home. However, they first decided to take a few days to fast and pray, asking the Lord for direction and guidance. To their surprise, during this period of seeking, the Lord gave them this simple instruction, "Go to the garbage dump people." (In my humble experience, whenever God really speaks to us it is usually very succinct—short, to the point, with few words, very direct. I am always wary of long dissertations purportedly from God.)

The garbage dump people lived on the outskirts of this large Muslim city, the last people group anyone would normally ever want to visit. There are thousands of people there who literally live in the garbage dump. They have no other place to live. They actually comprise a city built on top of all the garbage. "Homes" are typically cardboard boxes. (My friend has photos.) People live off of what they find in the garbage. The stench is described as terrible.

The missionary couple hesitated, humanly not really wanting to go, but they decided that if the Lord was speaking to them they had better obey. (Good idea.) They soon began an outreach to the garbage dump people. God's anointing was obviously on the effort because after only a short time they had 30-40 people gathering around them for a Bible study in the garbage dump. In less than a year, 800-900 people were gathering every time the missionaries went in to preach and teach, which was three times a week. They soon began to see God's wisdom in this unique ministry. The garbage dump was a totally protected place because no one, including the authorities, wanted to go in there to interfere with what they were doing.

One day, their numbers having reached into the hundreds, they were talking with one of the oldest men of the garbage dump city. They told him that somehow they were going to have to find some shelter so that the assembled people would have some cover from the elements. The old man said, "When I was just a child, many years ago, some of the old people at that time said that there was a cave, and far down into the cave there is a meeting place. I remember being taken in there as a young boy. I think I could take you there again." They agreed to come back and go with the old man. The missionaries soon returned with friends and flashlights. The old man led them to a back part of the garbage dump with a lot of rock formations. He then took them to the opening of a very large cave. They all entered the cave and walked and walked, for about 45 minutes. Finally, at the end, there was a turn, and then to their astonishment they saw an enormous, incredibly well-preserved theater! It was like one of those in the Roman times we have seen in pictures. It was in immaculate condition, obviously preserved from ancient times by the unusual climate. They discovered there was seating for about 5,000 people! The missionaries began to use that underground theater as the meeting place and as the church. God began to fill the place with garbage dump people.

It was not long before every seat in the whole theater was filled, and it was not unusual for lines of Muslims waiting to give testimonies of salvation to go down both sides of the theater, to the left and the right, all the way to the back. These were all Muslims who had come to faith in Jesus Christ, many of them after a supernatural experience, with Jesus appearing to them in dreams and visions, a phenomenon in Muslim countries we have heard about from other reliable sources. Services sometimes go on for hours. All this happened because the Father's love through the Holy Spirit

stirred in the hearts of two people—a committed missionary couple—who said, “yes,” and who were willing to lay down their lives, personal ambitions, ego and pride for Jesus, and preach in a filthy, stinking Muslim garbage dump. I marvel at God’s wisdom and how He loves and remembers the lowly. To Him be all the glory, honor and praise! The above report copied from:

[www.choicesforliving.com/spirit/part4/garbagepeople.htm](http://www.choicesforliving.com/spirit/part4/garbagepeople.htm)

### **God, I Hurt!**

A lady whose son was killed in an accident prayed and had this dialogue with God:

I said, “God, I hurt.”

And God said, “I know.”

I said, “God, I cry a lot.”

And God said, “That’s why I gave you tears!”

I said, “God, I’m depressed.”

And God said, “That’s why I gave you sunshine.”

I said, “God, life is hard.”

And God said, “That’s why I gave you loved ones.”

I said, “God, my loved one died.”

And God said, “So did mine.”

I said, “God, it’s such a loss.”

And God said, “I saw mine nailed to a cross.”

I said, “God, but your loved one lives.”

And God said, “And so does yours.”

I said, “God, it still hurts.”

And God said, “I know.”

### **Wait...My Child**

— Author not known.

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried.

Quietly, patiently, lovingly God replied.

I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate,

And the Master so gently said, “Child, you must wait!”

“Wait?, you say, wait!” my indignant reply.

Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!

Is Your hand shortened? Or have You not heard?

By faith I have asked, and am claiming Your Word.

My future and all to which I can relate

Hangs in the balance, and You tell me to wait?

I’m needing a ‘yes,’ a go-ahead sign,

Or even a ‘no’ to which I can resign.

And Lord, You promised that if we believe

We need but to ask, as we shall receive.

And Lord, I’ve been asking, and this is my cry:

I’m weary of asking! I need a reply!”

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate

As my Master replied once again, “You must wait.”  
So, I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut  
And grumbled to God, “So, I’m waiting...for what?”  
He seemed then to kneel and His eyes wept with mine,  
And He tenderly said, “I could give you a sign.  
I could shake the heavens, and darken the sun.  
I could raise the dead, and cause mountains to run.  
All you seek, I could give, and pleased you would be.  
You would have what you want...but, you wouldn’t know Me.  
You’d not know the depth of My love for each saint;  
You’d not know the power that I give to the faint;  
You’d not learn to see through the clouds of despair;  
You’d not learn to trust just by knowing I’m there;  
You’d not know the joy of resting in Me.”

### **Mary’s Dream . . .**

I had a dream Joseph. I do not understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren’t for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house! They decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don’t think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn’t it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone’s birthday if they don’t know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus . . . not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I’m glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.

### **What Happens to People Who Mock God?**

Don’t be deceived; God is not mocked:  
whatever a man sows,  
that’s what he’s going to reap.  
— Galatians 6:7

Here are some men and women who mocked God:

#### **JOHN LENNON:**

Some years before during his interview with an American Magazine, he said: “Christianity will end, it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that. I am certain. Jesus was ok, but his subjects were too simple, Today (1966) we are more famous than He is”. Lennon, after saying that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ, was shot six times.

**TANCREDO NEVES:**

During the Presidential campaign in Brazil, he said if he got 500,000 votes from his party, not even God would keep him from Presidency. Sure he got the votes, but he got sick a day before being made President, then he died.

**CAZUZA:**

During a show in Rio de Janeiro, whilst smoking his cigarette, he puffed out some smoke into the air and said: “God, that’s for you.” I can’t even explain how he died.

**THE MAN WHO BUILT TITANIC:**

After the construction of Titanic, a reporter asked him how safe the Titanic would be. With an ironic tone he said: “Not even God can sink it” The result: You all know what happened to the Titanic.

**MARILYN MONROE, Movie Star:**

Evangelist Billy Graham visited her. After hearing what this preacher had to say, she said: “I don’t need your Jesus” A week later, she was found dead in her apartment. [Suicide?]

**BON SCOTT:**

The ex-vocalist of the AC/DC. On one of his 1979 songs he sang: “Don’t stop me, I’m going down all the way, wow the highway to hell”. On the 19th of February 1980, Bon Scott was found dead—choked by his own vomit.

**CAMPINAS/SP IN 2005:**

In Campinas, a group of friends, drunk, went to pick up a girl. Her mother accompanied her to the car and was so worried about the drunkenness of her friends. After her daughter was already seated in the car, she held her hand and said to her: “My daughter, go with God and may he protect you”. She responded: “Only if he (God) travels in the boot [trunk], ‘cause inside here it’s already full.”

Hours later news came that they had been involved in a fatal accident—everyone had died. The car was so damaged that officers could not even determine what brand it had been, but surprisingly, the boot was intact, and the police found a crate of eggs in the boot—none was broken.

**A SCIENTIFIC PRAYER EXPERIMENT**

Mission America reports the pastor of a Christian church in Phoenix, Arizona, asked the members of his church to randomly choose 80 people from the telephone book. He then asked them to pray for each of the 80 names every day for 90 days. At the same time, he asked them to choose another 80 names from the telephone book—but this second list was simply laid aside, and nobody prayed for the people on the list. After 90 days of praying, church members called all 160 people on the lists, asking them whether they would allow Christians to visit them to pray for them. “The amazing result,” says Alvin Vandergriend, speaker of the American Lighthouse movement, “was this: only one person on the list of people who did not receive prayer was prepared to allow Christians to visit, whereas 69 of the 80 people for whom the church members prayed were prepared to allow Christians to visit, and 45 even invited them into their house, offered coffee and named special prayer requests. Prayer was clearly the decisive factor causing these people to open their houses for personal prayer,” he says.

Reported by the FridayFax news service

Posted on the internet at: <http://www.pastornet.net.au/jmm/aame/aame0410.htm>

## **Defeating a Witch Doctor**

by Alistair Petrie

It used to be that the presidents of Antigua would go to a witch doctor to try and get themselves elected. The witch doctor was in Grenada. When the president went over to Grenada to get the curse done, the curse would always send a response to Antigua. The people would be mesmerized into voting for this man. The president was an occultist. A couple of years ago, suddenly a small group rose up saying “that’s it, we’ve had enough, “and they began seeking God’s vision, the council of God, the whole cycle of prayer, and God gave them a prayer.

So when this president went to Grenada as he had done for many many years, he said, “Okay, give me the curse.”

And the witch doctor in Grenada said, “I can’t, somebody has alerted the Christians. I have no power. The president went back over to Antigua and there was a long feud on the morning of the election. Half-way through the day, he realized that he had no hope. He went out on the air on the radio and capitulated. He said, “I can’t do anything against the prayers of the Christians.

I capitulate, I give my seat to my adversary”—who happened to be a born-again, spiritual Christian.

## **Revival Shakes Yale University**

Taken from *America’s Great Revivals* published by Bethany House Publishers (no author listed) and distributed by Intercessors for America] Quote starting on page 33:

At Yale College a revival “shook the institution to its center.” God’s instrument here was Timothy Dwight, grandson of Jonathan Edwards. Yale was such a hot-bed of infidelity that the students called each other by the names of Voltaire, Rousseau, and other French intellectuals.

Dwight became president in 1795. He met the situation head on. The students handed him a list of subjects for class disputation, thinking to prove that free discussion was limited at Yale. To their surprise, Dwight chose the subject, “Is the Bible the Word of God?” He told the students to do their best.

Most of the students took the side of infidelity. But when the debate was over, Dwight’s appraisal of their arguments convinced them they really didn’t know what they were talking about.

Dwight then preached a famous series of sermons in the college chapel. Most devastating was his 1796 baccalaureate sermon on “The Nature and Danger of Infidel Philosophy.”

The effect was immediate. “From that moment infidelity was not only without a stronghold,” wrote a student, “but without a lurking place. To espouse her cause was now as unpopular as before it had been to profess a belief in Christianity.”

That same year twenty-six Yale students founded the Moral Society of Yale College. It discouraged profanity, immorality, and intemperance. By 1800 it included “between one-third and one-half of all the students in its membership.” Its influence laid the foundation for four revivals at Yale in the opening decades of the nineteenth century.

## **Slave trader’s descendant begs forgiveness in Africa**

By Terry Kirby, Chief Reporter, Published: 22 June 2006

Sir John Hawkins was a buccaneering Elizabethan seaman and adventurer, who helped his cousin Sir Francis Drake beat the Spanish Armada. And he was also one of the pioneers of the slave trade, becoming the first person to buy slaves in west Africa and sell them to Spanish landowners in the Caribbean.

Now his descendent, Andrew Hawkins, a youth worker from Cornwall, has delivered an extraordinary personal but public apology for his ancestors’ involvement in the trade, kneeling in chains in front of 25,000 Africans in a stadium in Banjul, the capital of the Gambia.

Mr Hawkins's apology took place during a trip this month to west Africa organized by the Lifeline Expedition, a charity project aimed at achieving reconciliation over the slave trade.

Mr Hawkins, 37, from Liskeard, said yesterday: "I apologized on behalf of my family. I apologized for the adults and children taken. I recognize that it's a small, simple act to say sorry - but it was a handful of people who started the slave trade and the ripples of their actions caused evil throughout the continent of Africa.

"It was one of the most memorable things I've ever done. It was a learning experience. You see just how deep the wounds left by the slave trade are. As someone with family links to the slave traders, it was a very difficult thing to see the consequences of their actions. Hopefully a handful of people can now be the beginning of something good."

After he had spoken, the Vice-President of Gambia, Isatou Njie Saidy, came forward to accept the apology and symbolically remove the chains.

The event was part of the Roots Festival, linked to the Alex Haley bestseller, *Roots*, which tells the story of the origins of black Americans in the slave trade. The Lifeline Expedition group also wore chains and shackles during a "reconciliation walk" in the village of Juffureh, from which Kunta Kinte, the slave whose story is the basis for *Roots*, is believed to have come from. Mr Hawkins was among 20 Europeans on the Gambia trip, which is part of a seven-year reconciliation project which started in 2000. It aims to bring people from Africa, the Americas and Europe together to promote fair trade and foster education about issues of slavery, racism and reconciliation.

David Potts, the founder of the Lifeline Expedition said: "We do not think there has been a really sincere apology from Europeans to Africa and we want to do our part in trying to redress that." Next year, the group plans a walk between London, Liverpool, Bristol and Plymouth to mark the 200 years since the abolition of the slave trade in 1807.

## **THE QUESTION that CHANGED MY LIFE**

-by David Ryser.

A number of years ago, I had the privilege of teaching at a school of ministry. My students were hungry for God, and I was constantly searching for ways to challenge them to fall more in love with Jesus and to become voices for revival in the Church. I came across a quote attributed most often to Rev. Sam Pascoe. It is a short version of the history of Christianity, and it goes like this:

Christianity started in Palestine as a fellowship;  
it moved to Greece and became a philosophy;  
it moved to Italy and became an institution;  
it moved to Europe and became a culture;  
it came to America and became an enterprise.

Some of the students were only 18 or 19 years old--barely out of diapers--and I wanted them to understand and appreciate the import of the last line, so I clarified it by adding, "An enterprise. That's a business." After a few moments Martha, the youngest student in the class, raised her hand. I could not imagine what her question might be. I thought the little vignette was self-explanatory, and that I had performed it brilliantly. Nevertheless, I acknowledged Martha's raised hand, "Yes, Martha."

She asked such a simple question, "A business? But isn't it supposed to be a body?" I could not envision where this line of questioning was going, and the only response I could think of was, "Yes."

She continued, "But when a body becomes a business, isn't that a prostitute?" The room went dead silent. For several seconds no one moved or spoke. We were stunned, afraid to make a sound because the presence

of God had flooded into the room, and we knew we were on holy ground. All I could think in those sacred moments was, “Wow, I wish I’d thought of that.” I didn’t dare express that thought aloud. God had taken over the class.

Martha’s question changed my life. For six months, I thought about her question at least once every day. “When a body becomes a business, isn’t that a prostitute?” There is only one answer to her question. The answer is “Yes.” The American Church, tragically, is heavily populated by people who do not love God. How can we love Him? We don’t even know Him; and I mean really know Him. ... I stand by my statement that most American Christians do not know God--much less love Him. The root of this condition originates in how we came to God. Most of us came to Him because of what we were told He would do for us. We were promised that He would bless us in life and take us to heaven after death. We married Him for His money, and we don’t care if He lives or dies as long as we can get His stuff. We have made the Kingdom of God into a business, merchandising His anointing. This should not be. We are commanded to love God, and are called to be the Bride of Christ--that’s pretty intimate stuff. We are supposed to be His lovers. How can we love someone we don’t even know? And even if we do know someone, is that a guarantee that we truly love them? Are we lovers or prostitutes? I was pondering Martha’s question again one day, and considered the question, “What’s the difference between a lover and a prostitute?” I realized that both do many of the same things, but a lover does what she does because she loves. A prostitute pretends to love, but only as long as you pay. Then I asked the question, “What would happen if God stopped paying me?”

For the next several months, I allowed God to search me to uncover my motives for loving and serving Him. Was I really a true lover of God? What would happen if He stopped blessing me? What if He never did another thing for me? Would I still love Him? Please understand, I believe in the promises and blessings of God. The issue here is not whether God blesses His children; the issue is the condition of my heart. Why do I serve Him? Are His blessings in my life the gifts of a loving Father, or are they a wage that I have earned or a bribe/payment to love Him? Do I love God without any conditions? It took several months to work through these questions. Even now I wonder if my desire to love God is always matched by my attitude and behavior. I still catch myself being disappointed with God and angry that He has not met some perceived need in my life. I suspect this is something which is never fully resolved, but I want more than anything else to be a true lover of God.

So what is it going to be? Which are we, lover or prostitute? There are no prostitutes in heaven, or in the Kingdom of God for that matter, but there are plenty of former prostitutes in both places. Take it from a recovering prostitute when I say there is no substitute or unconditional, intimate relationship with God. And I mean there is no palatable substitute available to us (take another look at Matthew 7:21-23 sometime). We must choose.

This article is posted at: <http://centrepoinnews.com/?p=2625>

## **Are We Sinners?**

Most of us who call ourselves Christians or believers do not consider ourselves to be sinners, but let’s consider these things:

1. In the Lord’s Prayer, he told us to pray: “...give us our daily bread.” Since he used the word “daily,” doesn’t that mean that he expects us to pray this prayer every day? If so, then notice that the very next verse tell us to pray: “Forgive us our sins as we...” (Luke 11:4) So, by putting these two verses together, we should ask for forgiveness of sins every day. So, are we sinners?

2. Consider Prophet Samuel's saying to the Israelites: "God forbid that I should sin in ceasing to pray for you." 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 12:23. If Samuel considered "...ceasing to pray for you" a sin, haven't we all come short in this area of obedience? Perhaps we call this a "sin of disobedience or a sin of omission," but isn't that a sin that we should repent of?
3. This is the Greek word for sin: ἁμαρτία (pronounced amartía). Greek scholars tell us that the root word is "mark" with a negative prefix. So, it translates to: "miss the mark." If being like Jesus is the mark, then, haven't we all missed the mark? The word sin means to "miss the mark."
4. Rev. 3:16: "...because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue you out of my mouth". In this world, those who are "hot" (fervent) for the Lord are considered fanatics, weirdos, or crazies. Aren't the rest of us "luke-warm" Christians about to be spued out of his mouth?
5. Peter said unto him, "Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death," but in just a few hours, Peter denied that he knew Jesus. Haven't most of us made rash vows in an emotional church meeting that we failed to keep?
6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. He said, "...my people"—not the sinners, the atheists, the criminals, the adulterers—are to turn from their wicked ways.
7. What does drawing near to God mean? Those who have come into God's awesome presence have found this: Those things in their lives that they considered as nothing, or insignificant, suddenly rise up before them as horrible monsters.
8. How often we have failed to take a stand for our God because we knew it would bring persecution? Isn't this also a sin we should repent of?
9. Have you ever felt separated/isolated from God? Check out Isaiah 58:2 "Your iniquities have separated you and your God."
10. In the last years of his life, Apostle Paul referred to himself as "the chief of sinners." Dare any of us say we are less "sinful" than Paul?

It would be good if we all recognized that we are sinners and humbled ourselves before God.

## **Are we Saved?**

The Bible teaches that we:

1. We were saved (past tense),
2. We are being saved (present tense)
3. We will be saved (future tense)

Can we explain this? Yes.

Can we build a doctrine on this? No, we better not.

Below are some verses that teach:

### 1. He saved us

Titus 3:5 "...he saved us..."

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:9 “Who has saved us....”

also: Ephesians 2:5+8 “...you have been saved...” (both verses)

2. We are being saved:

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:18 “...we who are being saved...” NKJV & NIV

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:15 “...those who are being saved...”

3. We will be saved:

Mat. 10:22 & Mark 13:13...he that endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:13 ....he that will endure to the end, he will be saved.

Here is a verse that has all 3 (were..., are being..., and will be...) 2nd Corinthians 1:10:

“From such a great death, God delivered us (past tense), and he continues to deliver us (present tense); in him we have hope that he will yet again deliver us (future tense).” (Translated from an ancient Greek New Testament.)

See also:

Acts 15:11 “...we will be saved....”

Romans 5:9-10 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from wrath through him.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we will be saved by his life.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:18 “...if the righteous scarcely be saved....”

Romans 13:11 “...our salvation is now nearer than when we first believed.”

**Sins that many Christians commit:**

|                      |                                              |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| envy/jealousy        | boasting/bragging                            |
| gossip               | ‘little’ lies                                |
| unforgiveness        | love of money (James 5:1-5)                  |
| gluttony/overeating  | offensive talk (James 5:9)                   |
| foolish talk/jesting | selfishness                                  |
| cheating             | deception by false doctrines/religions       |
| pride/conceit        | prejudice (racial, religious, social status) |
| hypocrisy            | saying we love God while hating His ways     |

It is also true that Christians sometimes commit:

adultery and murder (see King David –2nd Samuel 11), or

prostitution (see Samson, Judges 16)

**A Revelation of the Apostolic Movement**

by Tammy Alsup — a transcription of selected passages from CD

God is giving revelation of the apostolic movement to people who ain’t nobody—I qualify. An apostolic heart in a city is the affection of Jesus being released in that city.

God didn’t just say “Pray”; if revival could come just through prayer, it would have already been here. There is a place of watching—you’ve got to watch in the spirit.

It’s not just about ministry; it all about Jesus. In the apostolic age [which we are now in], it will be nothing but love. Your techniques, your great gifting of administration, all your stuff ain’t going to work! It’s only going to be through love and intimacy with Jesus Christ that the strategy of God is going to be released to you.

For too long, this city has been held in captivity by the tongues of **MY** people. Intercessors are sometimes keeping the city locked up. They keep targeting the stronghold. The Lord said, “If you do not note your destiny, you’ll note your bondage.”

The whole kingdom is going to be given over into the hands of the saints—not to a few apostles coming into town, not to a few prophets coming into town—but over into **your** hands.

The Lord said, “You know what Tammy, you can build an empire out of my gifts and my anointing on your life, but it doesn’t mean your heart is right with me.” And he said, “There’s a high place of deception, and it’s called ministry.”

I saw leaders stepping into their streams and being just absolutely transformed and released back out—delivered from their ministry. In whatever area you harden your heart, watch out; because that could be your assignment.

I kept feeling a spirit of rebellion [in me], and the Lord spoke to my heart and said, “Tammy, even though your actions are right, there is a place of rebellion in your heart that is not submitted to where I placed you. I spent 2 days repenting before the Lord. When I got my heart cleaned up before God, instantly—within a matter of days:

I found that the attitude of my heart had 3 assignments locked up! I was in the most intense place in my whole life ever! I seemed to be crying to be taken out of here. I didn’t want to do another thing for ministry; I just wanted to be with him forever and ever. It was in that place that God said, “There is a higher calling; come up higher.”

I know you think that your prayer group is the only group that’s got the revelation. I know that’s how the enemy attacks. “You’re it!”—you know! You’ve got to go to the prayer group where you think they haven’t got it. Because there is some little nobody sitting out in the middle of nowhere that’s been in the heavenlies.

It’s not about works; it’s about intimacy. But works are going to come out of intimacy.

For the past 3 years, I have been getting 5 hours of sleep every night—since I got delivered from ministry. The higher calling is right there each time you go into [the presence of the Lord] —right where you left off.

We have to be very careful that it doesn’t turn into rebellion. With every revelation, we build a kingdom around it. This is how denominations are formed. The Lord said, “There is a portion that is in their eyes that I want you to look into, but then you carry a portion that I want them to look into. Then, with one voice, you lift up your voice on the land. Then it is a corporate voice that is lifted up.

I don’t even go to cities until God weaves the city in my heart. Never transition by gifting alone. But you watch the assignment by the love of God that is woven into your heart. This city is going to be transformed one relationship at a time. We’ve got this dream that [revival] is just going to pop out. Ministry in the city isn’t just going to drop down one day. For heaven’s sake, what a deception! “When the pastors get united”—come on, we have been playing that violin since I got saved eleven years ago. Let it be done apostolically—which is available to you—it’s not by going to hear the apostle.

The apostolic anointing comes by revelation—it doesn’t come by reading the book on it. Whenever you go back to your hometowns, please, please, please do not get deceived in this “move of God”. Please, please, please do not be one that tries to imitate it and ends up developing a counterfeit of it—just because you’ve got the buz word—Please don’t do that. It won’t start until you start building around the Word. Please! The deeper you go in the spirit with God—all of this other stuff will just happen.

## **Drawing Near to God**

Psalm 73:28

Often we have heard the admonition, “Draw near to God”. But just what is it like to draw near to God?

What does it mean to draw near to God? What will it be like?

Suppose a person shuts himself up in a room by himself for the purpose of drawing near to God. He spends a lot of time praying, meditating, fasting, studying the Holy Bible; what good will it do, or what will it be like drawing near to God? Here are some of the things that I have learned during the time I wanted to draw near to God.

Such spiritual exercises do not remove temptations to sin. A person who wants to cleanse himself of sin, must follow Jesus' admonition to "deny himself" (Mark 8:34). If Jesus were speaking modern English, perhaps he would have said, "Discipline yourself". If a person wants to draw near to God, the first thing he will need to do, is discipline him/herself. Just as an athlete wins by disciplining him/herself, so we can win in life by disciplining ourselves. If we admire an athlete who disciplines him/herself, we condemn ourselves if we do not discipline ourselves. Athletes aren't born with athletic bodies; they too have to discipline themselves.

When we draw near to God, the enemy—the devil—Satan, will throw every stumbling block he can before us.

- a. Some of those stumbling blocks will be our closest friends coming to us and telling us we are too fanatical or crazy or wasting our time.
- b. Evil thoughts will come into our minds even while we are praying to God. This is the work of the devil. If evil thoughts come into your mind in a time of prayer, just you remind yourself that this is the work of the devil; those evil thoughts did not necessarily originate with you.
- c. A thousand thoughts of "things I've got to do" will come into your mind. This too is a trick of the devil.
- d. There will be desires for food, sleep, companionship, rest, pleasure, etc. These also are temptations that the devil is putting before you. Are these things legitimate? Yes, but these are the same things that athletes have to deny themselves in order to win.
- e. With some people, the devil will put thoughts into their minds such as: "Now I am becoming so holy; there are few people on the face of the earth who are as good as I am". The name of this sin is: Pride—which the Bible declares is a stench in God's nostrils.

This is what it will be like: While in a place of drawing near to God, thoughts will come into a person's mind about some very minor failing/shortcoming/sin. Ordinarily it may look very minor, but while we are in the presence of God, those things will seem like a horrible monster. After all, big sins always started out as small sins, just as a murder may start out with jealousy or hatred, or as a raging fire that started with one match stick. When that happens, you will know that you are on the right track. Is this not the reason that the apostle Paul, at the end of his life, wrote these words: "I am the chief of sinners". Paul, himself, walked in the very presence of God, and in that place, the most minute sins looks like a horrible monster. All these things together constitute what is sometimes called "spiritual warfare". This warfare is primarily against our own human nature. It is only after we have done this warfare against our own human nature that we will be prepared to do spiritual battle against the forces that are coming against our society.

### **High-Level Temptations**

The heavenly father has given me to understand that those who walk very closely to him, face levels of temptations that ordinary mortals don't know anything about. Why? Because the enemy, the devil, knows that those who walk very closely to God will do much damage to his (the devil's) kingdom of evil. And it is for this reason that against those people he throws levels of temptations that we could not even imagine.

Example: The enemy knows most of us have already overcome the ordinary temptations, the adulteries, drunkenness, crimes, etc. So, he will come and implant these thoughts in our minds: "Now, I'm more holy,

more God-like than the vast number of mankind.” The problem with this is, it brings up pride—another sin. Eventually, pride will lead a man to become slack in repulsing other temptations, till before long, one of those temptations will seduce him.

Paul also wrote that the enemy will come to you as “an angel of light”. It will look like the most beautiful anointing you have ever seen, but watch it carefully. The false anointing will eventually say something that will expose itself to those who know the one who is The Truth.

If we walk closely with the Lord, we will face temptations constantly. There will be a constant stream of distractions—all for the purpose of side-tracking us from the dedication/commitment we have made to follow the Lord Jesus closely.

Example: God touches a young man’s heart in such a way that he wants to do nothing but serve God and rescue the lost souls from their evil ways. We’ll call him Thomas. Because this young man has his heart so set on God, he has a successful and prosperous ministry. He becomes well known and good-size crowds come to his meetings. As his ministry grows, so do offerings and prosperity. Many have started out as Thomas did, but later got side-tracked from the truth. They set up ministries in their own names: The Reverend Dr. Thomas Ministries, International. They take the offering of the people and build a ministry headquarters with a large sign: The Thomas Ministry International.

Newsletters/magazines flow out of that building with the Thomas name and a glamorous picture of Reverend Thomas on almost every page. Thomas has built a memorial to himself rather than to the God who saved him.

This is what Jesus said, “I came in my father’s name, but you did not receive me; if someone else comes in his own name, you will receive him” —John 5:43. Many have gone this route. Notice the next verse: “How can you believe while receiving honor from one another? You are not seeking the honor that comes only from God” – John 5:44

I visited one such ministry headquarters recently, and in the lobby I noticed many pictures of this “Thomas”; one was a life-size picture—6 feet tall. Also in the lobby, I saw plaques in memory to those who had made donations for that building. Again, our Lord told us to do our charitable contributions in secret —Matthew 6:1-4. In the past 40 years, I have met/heard of numerous ministers/ministries that have gone down this route. May God open the eyes of our understanding —2 Corinthians 1:18.

### **Does God Arrange Phone Calls?**

I’m sure this is the wildest experience that I have ever had in my life. I’m still flabbergasted over this event that could have been arranged only by God.

Several years ago, I was driving on Interstate 75 near Dayton, Ohio, and had my wife and children with me. It was about that time that one of my sons said: “Hey, Dad let’s get some pizza!”

I turned off at the next exit, Route 741, where one sign after another advertised a wide variety of fast foods. “A sign,” I mused. “That’s what I need, God, a sign.”

My son and daughter-in-law had already maneuvered the second bus into a pizza parlor’s parking lot, and they stood waiting as I pulled up. The rest of the family bounced down the steps, while I sat staring into space.

“Coming?” Barbara asked.

“I’m not really hungry,” I told her. “I’ll stay out here and stretch my legs.”

Barbara followed the others into the restaurant, while I stepped outside, closed the bus doors, and looked around. Noticing a Dairy Queen, I strolled over, bought a soft drink, and ambled back, still pondering. I was exhausted, but I wondered, “Are my doldrums a sign of permanent burnout?”

A persistent ringing broke my concentration. The jangle was coming from a payphone in a booth at the

service station right next to the Dairy Queen. As I approached the booth, I looked to see if anyone in the station was coming to answer the phone. But the attendant continued his work, seemingly oblivious to the noise. Why doesn't someone answer it? I wondered, growing irritated. What if it is an emergence? The insistent ringing went on. Ten rings. Fifteen.... Curiosity overcame my lethargy. Walking to the booth, I lifted the receiver. "Hello?" "Long-distance call for Ken Gaub," came the voice of the operator.

I was stunned. "You're crazy!" he said. Then, realizing my rudeness, I tried to explain. "This can't be! I was just walking down the road here, and the phone was ringing...."

The operator ignored my ramblings. "Is Ken Gaub there?" she asked. "I have a long-distance phone call for him."

Was this a joke? Automatically, I smoothed my hair for the Candid Camera crew that must surely appear. But no one came. My family was eating pizza in a randomly-selected restaurant just a few yards from where I stood. And no one else knew I was there.

"I have a long-distance call for Ken Gaub, sir," the operator said again, obviously reaching the limits of her patience. "Is he there or isn't he?"

"Operator, I'm Ken Gaub," I said, still unable to make sense of it.

"Are you sure?" the operator asked, but just then, I heard another woman's voice on the telephone.

"Yes, that's him, Operator!" she said. "Mr. Gaub, I'm Millie from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. You don't know me, but I'm desperate. Please help me."

"What can I do for you?" I asked. The operator hung up. Millie began to weep, and I waited patiently for her to regain control. Finally she explained: "I was about to kill myself, and I started to write a suicide note. Then I began to pray and tell God I really didn't want to do this." Through her desolation, Millie remembered seeing me on television.

If she could talk to that "nice, kindly minister, the one with the understanding attitude...." "I knew it was impossible because I didn't know how to reach you," Millie went on, calmer now. "So I started to finish the note. And then some numbers came into my mind, and I wrote them down." She began to weep again. Silently I prayed for the wisdom to help her.

"I looked at those numbers," Millie continued tearfully, "and I thought—wouldn't it be wonderful if I had a miracle from God, and he has given me Ken's phone number? I can't believe I'm talking to you. Are you in your office in California?"

"I don't have an office in California," I explained. "It's in Yakima, Washington."

"Then where are you?" Millie asked, puzzled.

I was even more bewildered. "Millie, don't you know? You made the call."

"But I don't know what area this is." Millie had dialed the long-distance operator and given the numbers to her, making it a person-to-person call. And somehow she had found me in a parking lot in Dayton, Ohio. I gently counseled the woman. Soon she met the one who would lead her out of her situation into a new life. Then I hung up the phone, still dazed. Would my family believe this incredible story? Perhaps I shouldn't tell anyone about it. But I had prayed for an answer, and I had received just what he needed – a renewed sense of purpose, a glimpse of the value of my work, and electrifying awareness of God's concern for each of his children – all in an encounter that could only have been arranged by his heavenly Father.

My heart overflowed with joy. "Barb," I exclaimed as my wife climbed back into the bus, "you won't believe this! God knows where I am!"

God also knows where you are. Place yourself in His hands, concentrate on knowing His will for your life, and he will never forsake or forget you.

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## **The Knowledge of Good and Evil**

An interesting thing about the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden is that it was not called The Tree of the Knowledge of Evil, but The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. So, is God telling us that evil is so evil that we would be better off not knowing good, rather than having to know both good and evil? The answer to this question seems to be Yes; however, this answer leaves questions in the minds of many people. Perhaps this explanation will help:

There is no way we can know good without knowing evil; after all, goodness implies that evil exists, and the concept of evil implies that there is such a thing as goodness. A parallel example is the existence of light. Since light dispels darkness, the concept of light presupposes the existence of darkness. If there were no darkness, there would be no need for light. Good and evil are the same way. Following are some examples of men who refused to use the knowledge of good and evil:

God told Abraham to offer his own son as a burnt offering to God. If Abraham had used his “knowledge of good and evil,” he would have rebuked the voice that spoke to him thinking that it was the devil speaking. Rather, Abraham used simple child-like trust in God instead of the knowledge of good and evil. God also spoke to Abraham that his descendants would be slaves for 400 years. Did he rebuke God or argue with him? In Moses day, God told Moses that when the Israelis went to battle certain nations, they were to “kill everyone—including women and children and cattle.” If we were given such a command, would we have accepted it as from God, or from the devil?

One time God told Isaiah to take off his clothes and walk naked (Isaiah 20). How many in the modern church world would have accepted that statement without using their knowledge of Good and Evil?

Another example: Simeon prophesied to Mary (Luke 2:35): “A sword will pierce your own soul.” Mary, if she had been like much of the modern church world, would have said, “I don’t accept that, you’re an angel of Satan!” Rather, Mary used simple, child-like trust in God rather than using the knowledge of good and evil.

Jesus told his disciples that they would be persecuted, chased from town to town, and be killed. If they had used their knowledge of Good and Evil, wouldn’t they have forsaken him?

Here is an example of someone who did use his knowledge of Good and Evil: Once Peter rebuked Jesus for saying that he was going to Jerusalem to die. Peter was using his knowledge of good and evil. He considered dying on the cross to be an evil thing—not understanding God’s purposes. Another time Peter forbid Jesus to wash his feet. Again Peter was using his knowledge of good and evil.

However, in Acts 21:10-14 is the story of the man who tied himself with Paul’s belt, and prophesied to Paul that he was going to prison. Did Paul use his knowledge of good and evil, or did he accept his imprisonment as being God’s will?

Now let’s look at another area in which many are using the knowledge of good and evil: When the churches start setting up laws and by-laws, aren’t they setting up standards of good and evil? Aren’t they eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? One church sets up a dress-andmake- up code. Another insists on worship on a certain day of the week. Another bans all Bibles except their favorite version or their own translation. Another insists on commitment to a certain man, pastor, priest, or pope. Another insists on participation in certain rituals. Another sets up laws about divorce, drinking alcoholic beverages, participation in sports, dances, movie going, and an infinity of other by-laws. Are all these examples of church leaders eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

Some will ask: “How can we have a church without standards of holiness? If we did that, anything would

go in our churches.” God’s answer is that if we are in the true anointing spirit of God, that spirit would convict those who do not maintain standards of holiness in their lives, or come into our churches immodestly dressed. Such people would either repent or else leave until they are ready to submit to God’s standards—not the church’s standard.

This statement implies that churches that set up their own standards have lost the true anointing that convicts of sin, and they have substituted their own standards to cover up the fact that they have lost the true anointing. Furthermore, there are some churches that do not have any anointing that would convict of sin, and still they have no standard of holiness. In those churches, anything goes. They are no different than Satanic cults who love their sins, and think that sins are good things.

When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they were shut out from the blessedness of the garden of Eden. Men are still eating from this same tree, and they are still shut out of the blessedness of the garden of Eden. There is a difference: We should know better because we have the Bible which tells us what happened when Adam and Eve sought the knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, we are more guilty than Adam and Eve!

Before Adam and Eve disobeyed, they were in a condition of innocence. Apparently they did not know good or evil. It seems that this is the condition that God wanted us to live in. Probably the best thing that we can compare that to in this life is the condition of new-born babies. They do not know what good and evil are. They trust their parents ultimately. They trust their parents to give them good things. They don’t have any ability to judge things, whether they are good or evil. An example is when a young child runs out in the street to play, not knowing that there is danger of being run over by a car. Notice that Jesus once said that we must become as little children. He was speaking of the innocence of little babies and their simple, child-like trust in their parents. Can we live like that, not judging between good and evil things, but trusting our Father God to give us good things? Beloved, let’s learn to trust God implicitly as a little child trusts its father or mother to give him good things.

### **A Whole Nation Delivered from Demonic Oppression!**

Over 200 years ago, Haiti was known as an island of outstanding beauty, but it soon fell to some of the most degrading poverty in the world. What caused it to fall? What transformed it?

This nation which is about 100 miles east of Cuba was taken over by the French who imported African slaves. The beauty and prosperity of Haiti was built on the backs of slave labor. However, the day came when the slaves rebelled against their French overlords. But, they turned to their African voodoo religion to help them in their rebellion. This was about 1770. They made a blood covenant with Satan, and the nation of Haiti has been a land of poverty and oppression ever since.

The following report from the Haitian bishop Joel Jeune recently reached us via Gerry A. Seale, General Secretary of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean and Regional Coordinator of the AD2000 Movement. The report was made available by missionary David Schmidt. The following is an extract from bishop Joel’s own words (although translated into English from a German version of the original): Satanic blood covenant 206 years ago

“On 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1791, God’s people in Haiti experienced a historic victory over Satan, a milestone in winning our country back for God. The reason lies in history. The slaves brought here from Africa have suffered incredibly for many years. Their masters acted with the blessing of the Catholic church, which declared black to be the colour of the devil. Hence, they reasoned, black slaves have no soul. For this reason, the slaves turned disappointedly away from God, and called to their African gods for help. On 14 August 1791, a slave leader by the name of Boukman called a secret meeting in a wood called Bois-Caiman near Cap

Haitien, which was attended by a large number of slaves. They celebrated a Satanic ceremony, sacrificing a pig and drinking its blood, swore to serve the devil and dedicated Haiti to him. Up to the present, Haiti's historians have all attributed Haiti's achievement of political independence in 1804 to this ceremony. For 206 years, Bois-Caiman was a very holy place, a high place which could only be entered by witch doctors during Voodoo ceremonies. For 206 years, they have been meeting there every 14. August to sacrifice to Satan.

Mobilization to fasting and prayer:

Today, 'the pearl of the Antilles' is a land of suffering, poverty, political tension and instability. A number of Christian leaders, including Paul and Gerald Clerie of 'Vision: Haiti' and Christian leaders among the large numbers of Haitians in the USA, Canada, France and other countries, called Christians to unite on 14 August 1997 to pray and fast that Haiti would return to God. In Haiti's towns, villages and mountains, Christians came together to fast and pray, held victory marches in the streets and a large event in the capital from 6am to 10pm during the holy invasion.

Holy Invasion:

Our church members started their march in front of the President's palace and marched for 6 hours to the place where the Satanic ceremony took place 206 years ago. We had informed the government and media of our intentions weeks before the event, and were told that the witch doctors would be there, as they were every year. When we arrived, they had hidden themselves, unable to directly confront the Christians. It was a significant spiritual battle to reach the tree under which the pig was sacrificed in the original ceremony. We formed a Jericho march, circling the magic tree seven times. On the seventh time around, God gave many people a vision of the devil fleeing from the area. The Christians were overjoyed. We cancelled the Satanic contract and broke the curse, before celebrating communion and dedicating the area as a place of prayer. We also declared 14<sup>th</sup> of August to be a national prayer day, on which people should pray that Haiti will return to God.

Reactions:

On the same day, several witch doctors turned from Voodoo to the Christian religion during the events in the capital. Three days after our holy invasion, the witch doctors returned to Bois-Caiman to bring their sacrifices and call on the spirits. After days of effort, nothing happened, because we had commanded the spirits never to return and dedicated the area to Christ. The witch doctors complained to the government and media. At first, the government also protested, speaking in a press release of 'terrible damage to a Voodoo holy place in which no Christian had set foot for 206 years.' The US ambassador was shocked by the government's attitude, publicly declaring his displeasure, and the media made much of the event, asking us for interviews day and night. By the grace of God, the government relented and respected our legal right as Haitians to gather at any place in Haiti, including Bois-Caiman, where they now allow all Christian groups to meet. The place is now very popular, and local Christians gather there daily for prayer and fasting.

All Haitians now know that the country no longer has a pact with the devil; the contract has been canceled, the curse broken. Churches who initially opposed us out of fear of persecution, have now joined us. Visitors to Haiti sense a fresh atmosphere in the country. God will completely change our country spiritually, economically and socially. We are already calling it 'Haiti G.C., Haiti, God's Country'." Source: Bishop Joel Jeune via Gerry A Seale, e-mail gaseale@caribsurf.com

Since the above was written, the nation as a whole has returned to Voodoo. In April of 2003, President Aristide proclaimed Voodoo to be the official religion of Haiti. Haiti is today in as much poverty and oppression as it has been for the past two centuries.

Another group wrote:

In 2004 we were asked to go into Haiti's President Aristide's palace [after he had just been removed] and to pray the removal of the bloodshed. He was just about to renew 200-year-old blood pact. It was through

intercessory prayer he was removed. We worked with the leaders in that nation. There were 462 pastors working with them. There is a move in Haiti to make it “the pearl of the Carribean” one more time.

### **What did Jesus say the future holds?**

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

— Matthew 24:8 (KJV and NKJV)

When Jesus said, “All these are the beginning of sorrows,” he was talking about the things in the previous few verses: deception, wars (and rumors of wars), famines, pestilences, earthquakes, and nations and kingdoms rising up against each other.

As I meditated on this saying by Jesus, I understood that many horrors are coming upon this world. But I still wanted to look more deeply into this verse, and I looked it up in the original language, the Greek language, and I found the word that was translated **sorrows** was translated from a Greek word that is not usually translated that way. The Greek word, ὀδίνων (pronounced othénon) is used to describe the pains that a woman has when giving birth to a baby, in other words, it is often translated as labor pains or birth pains. (Several of the more modern translations have translated this word as labor pains or birth pains.)

Now, if we go back to this passage, Jesus is saying that “All the things in the previous few verses are the beginning of the labor pains or birth pains. But I noticed that he was talking about natural disasters (earthquakes, famines, etc.). So, he seems to be saying that the earth itself is suffering birth pains or labor pains. If this is correct, what is the earth bringing forth? What is being born? Immediately I was reminded of this verse: Romans 8:22. In the King James Authorized Version, this verse reads: “the....creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together...”, and the New King James Version reads: “the....creation groans and labors with birth pains together...” So, now we have two verses that tell us that the natural earth, the created earth (along with all of its created creatures) are struggling in birth pains.

If birth pains in a woman bring out new life, what will the earth bring out? Will it be a whole new creation, a whole new civilization, a whole new species of beings? Let’s back up one verse in Romans 8: verse 21 reads: “....creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” Now this word, “the bondage of corruption” seems to refer to the aging/dying process in the physical bodies (plants and animals, and perhaps he is even talking about the inanimate substances). The passage “the glorious liberty of the children of God” seems to refer to the eternal life that the children of God have. Is there a time coming on this earth when death will be abolished? If Enoch and Elijah could escape death, is it not possible that such a life will be restored? Yes, there is a verse in the Bible that says that death has been abolished: 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:10 reads: “....our Savior Jesus Christ...has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light....” Now, let’s go back to Matthew 24. This chapter talks about the time known as The Great Tribulation. We usually associate horrors upon horrors when we think of The Great Tribulation, but if the whole earth is in labor pains, perhaps those horrors are part of the birthing of a whole new world. Furthermore, Jesus made it plain that “Immediately after the tribulation of those days....the sign of the Son of man will appear in the heaven...all...will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds ....” (Matthew 24:29-30) Let me make a bold statement: “If the Son of Man will appear immediately after the time of Great Tribulation, I say, let the tribulation come—the sooner the better.” But most of the believers are living in awesome dread of that time. If we truly believe God’s word, we do not have to live in fear.

Down through the centuries and millennia of church history, the leaders, priests, pastors, and bishops have proclaimed that the church will go victoriously through the time of Great Tribulation.

It has been only in the past 200 years that some have been preaching that the saints will escape that time of tribulation. This is the way our heavenly father showed it to me: As Daniel went victoriously through the time of his great tribulation in the lions’ den, so God’s saints will go victoriously through the time of their

great tribulation; and as Daniel's three friends went victoriously through the time of their great tribulation in an over-heated furnace, so should we go victoriously through the time of our great tribulation. That is, those of us who are walking in obedience to God's commands. As for the rest, some will be martyred, but many will give up their faith and be lost. Arise, saints of God, and reach out to the greater things that the heavenly father has for you!

Written by Mr. James e-mail: [MrJames70@BellSouth.net](mailto:MrJames70@BellSouth.net)

### It's Not in the Bible

It is amazing how many Christian people go to churches and use religious words—terms, expression that are not found in the Bible. Check out just a few:

1. This phrase: "Go to heaven" is not found in the King James Version of the Bible. [This expression is found in only one book of the Bible: "Enter into the kingdom of heaven, and this phrase is found only once in the Bible: "...go into heaven" Acts 1:11.]

2. Altar call

3. The word "Trinity" is not found in the Holy Bible.

4. This expression is not found in the Holy Bible: "God in three persons."

5. Church building [there were no church buildings during New Testament times]. When Bible writers used the word **Church**, they were referring to a group of people.

6. "Has" —that's right, the word "has" is not found in the King James Version of the Bible, but one these words: *have* or *had* are found in the KJV 5,934 times.

7. Arch-bishop [however archangel is found in the Bible 2 times]

8. Choir robes

9. Many people say that Satan was one of the highest angels. Jesus said that he was a murderer from the beginning — John 8:44

10. "The Second Coming" — That's right, this expression is not in the KJV either; however, this expression appears only once in the Bible: "...he will appear the second time... Hebrews 9:28].

11. Pope and Cardinal are not in the Bible, but the word "Reverend" is found once in the Bible, and it is used to refer to God, not man.

12. "A move of God" – is not found in the KJV.

13. Neither are: The Baptist Church, The Methodist Church, The Catholic Church, The Presbyterian Church, The Nazarene Church, The Orthodox Church, and numerous other Churches. But these are in the Bible: The Church of God and House of Prayer.

14. "Rapture" is not in the KJV of the Bible. Nor are *pre-trib*, *mid-trib*, nor *post-trib*. The only *trib* in the Bible is tribulation.

15. This phrase: "Plan of Salvation" is not found in the Holy Bible. Even the word "plan" by itself is not found in the KJV of the Bible, but "way of salvation" is only at Acts 16:17

16. Bible. Yep! That's right. The word **Bible** is not in the Bible— Except on the front cover which was not translated from the ancient scriptures.

17. "Lead someone to Christ" is not found in the Bible

18. Jesus was "born in a manger" —[A manger is a feed box for animals.] He was born in a stable and "laid in a manger/feed box."

19. Pagan. These words were translated from the same Greek word: nation, heathen, gentile.

20. "Plead the blood." (There is nothing wrong with using this expression, or "Claim the blood", or "Look to the blood", etc.)

21. Three wise men. The Bible doesn't tell us how many "wise men" visited Jesus at his birth. Perhaps this phrase should refer to Daniel's three friends who were thrown into an over-heated furnace.

22. Shekinah

23. Here is another expression that is found only once in the Bible: Old Testament.

24. Senior Pastor. The word *Pastors* is found only once in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:11), but the Greek Bible has the word *Shepherds*. So, if it had been translated "shepherds" here, then there would be no such a thing as a "pastor" in the English language

25. The same goes for the word *Easter*, which is found only once in the KJV of the Bible, but the Greek has: *Passover*. So, if this had been translated Passover, there would be no such thing as Easter in our English language.

26. "Got saved" and "get saved." are not in the King James version of the Bible.

27. Noah took 120 years to build the ark [Nope, it's not in there].

Here are a couple of words that are found in the KJV Bible, but hardly any preachers or priests ever use them: *repent* and *hell*. *Repent* or *repentance* are found in the KJV 69 times. *Hell* is found in the KJV 54 times. Isn't it amazing how many clergymen like to use words that are not found in the Bible, but never use these words that are found many times in the Bible: *repent* and *hell*.

Above written by Mr. James MrJames70@BellSouth.net

## Was Jesus a Radical?

Consider these statements by Jesus:

- 1 When Jesus told his followers to sell everything and give all to the poor, wasn't that an extremely radical message? [Matthew 19:21 + Mark 10:21]
- 2 When he told his followers to forsake their families [father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, husband, and wife] to follow him, wasn't that an extremely radical message? [Matthew 19:29 + Mark 10:30]
- 3 When he told us that we ought to lay our lives down for one another, wasn't that an extremely radical message? [John 15:13 + 1st John 3:16]
- 4 When he told his disciples that few would be saved, wasn't that a radical message? [Luke 13:23-24] [Today, multitudes attend church. Are they saved?]
- 5 When he told his followers that the end would be "...as it was in the days of Noah," and "as it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah," wasn't that an extremely radical message? [Matthew 24:37-38; 10:15; Luke 17:29-30] In Noah's day, the whole civilization was wiped off of the face of the earth [one billion people?]. In the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, the whole district was wiped off of the face of the earth. Isn't that extremely radical?
- 6 When he told the leaders of the Jewish nation: "The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation that will bear its fruits," wasn't that an extremely radical message? [Matthew 21:43]
- 7 When Jesus told his disciples that they would be:
  - a. beaten in the synagogues [Matthew 23:34] or
  - b. killed by people who thought they were doing God's work [John 16:2] or
  - c. "hated by all nations" [Matt: 24:9] or "hated by all people" [Mark 13:13] wasn't that an extremely radical message?
- 8 When he told the Jews to eat his flesh and drink his blood, wasn't that an extremely radical message? [John 6:53-54]
- 9 When he told the people to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow him, wasn't that an extremely radical message? [Mark 8:34]

10 When Jesus said, "...wars and rumors of wars are suppose to happen," wasn't that an extremely radical statement? [Matthew 24:6 & Mark 13:6-7]

11 And, there are quite a few other messages in the Bible that would probably be considered extremely radical. Now, if Jesus brought out an extremely radical message, what kind of message should we be bringing out? If we proclaim these same radical truths as Jesus did, won't we also be persecuted, beaten, hated, and killed as these people were?

### **Does the Bible teach Tolerance?**

When John the Baptist rebuked King Herod for marrying his brother's wife, was he being tolerant? — Matthew 14:13-14; Mark 6:17-18; Luke 3:19

When Elijah proclaimed to King Ahab that there would be a drought, was he being tolerant? — 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 17:1

When Elijah told King Ahab that he and his father's house were the ones who had caused the trouble [famine] in Israel, was he being tolerant?

When Elijah said to King Ahab, "...you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD", was he being tolerant? 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 21:20

When Moses took the golden calf that the Israelis worshiped, ground it to powder, put the powder in the water, and forced the people to drink it, was he being tolerant? — Exodus 32:20

When Moses said to the Israeli people, "I testify against you", was he being tolerant? — Deuteronomy 8:19; 31:16-29

In Noah's day when God wiped civilization off of the face of the earth [except for 8 people], was he being tolerant? — Genesis 6

When Jehu told the eunuchs to throw Jezebel out of the window, was he being tolerant? — 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 9:33

When Jesus rebuked the political/religious leaders of his day, calling them a litter of poisonous snakes, was he being tolerant? — Matthew 23

When Peter asked Ananias and Sapphira why they lied to the Holy Ghost, was he being tolerant? — Acts 5

When Elisha said to Gehazi, "The leprosy of Naaman will come on you," was he being tolerant? — 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:25&26

When Paul turned a man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh body.....was he being tolerant? — 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:5 [Actually he was being intolerant to his body so that his spirit may be saved; so, actually he was being tolerant to his spirit.]

Yes, there are plenty of statements in the Bible that teach tolerance and plenty that portray intolerance. So, how do we know when we should be tolerant and when intolerant? Answer: We should pray to God and ask him for wisdom.

### **TREASURES IN PRISON CELLS**

by Bill Yount

It was late and I was tired, wanting to go to sleep, but God wanted to talk; it was about midnight, but it

dawned on me that God does not sleep. His question made me restless. “Bill, where on earth does man keep his most priceless treasures and valuables?” I said “Lord, usually these treasures like gold, silver, diamonds and precious jewels are kept locked up somewhere out of sight, usually with guards and security to keep them under lock and key.” God spoke, “Like man, My most valuable treasures on earth are also locked up.”

I saw Jesus standing in front of seemingly thousands of prisons and jails. The Lord said, “These have almost been destroyed by the enemy, but these souls have the greatest potential to be used, and bring forth glory to My name. Tell My people, I am going this hour to the prisons to activate the gifts and callings that lie dormant in these lives that were given before the foundation of the earth. Out from these walls will come forth a Spiritual army that will have power to literally kick down the gates of Hell and overcome satanic powers that are holding many of My people bound in My own House. “Tell My people that there are great treasures behind these walls, in these forgotten vessels.

My people must come forth and touch these lives, for a mighty anointing will be unleashed upon them for future victory in My kingdom. They must be restored.”

Then I saw the Lord step up to the prison doors with a key. One key fit every lock and the gates began to open. I then heard and I saw great explosions which sounded like dynamite going off behind the walls. It sounded like all-out spiritual warfare. Jesus turned and said. “Tell My people to go in now and pick up the spoil and rescue them. Jesus then began walking in and touching inmates who were thronging Him. Many, being touched, instantly began to have a golden glow come over them.

God spoke to me, “There’s the gold!” Others had a silver glow around them, God said: “There’s the silver!” Like slow motion they began to grow into what appeared to be giant knights in armor - like warriors. They had on the entire armor of God and every piece was solid and pure gold! Even golden shields! When I saw the golden shields, I heard God say to these warriors, “Now go and take what satan has taught you and use it against him. Go and pull down the strongholds coming against My Church.” The spiritual giants then started stepping over the prison walls with no one to resist them, and they went immediately to the very front-line of the battle with the enemy. I saw them walk right past the church, and big named ministers, known for their power with God, were surpassed by the giant warriors like David going after Goliath! They crossed the enemy’s line and started delivering many of God’s people from the clutches of satan while demons trembled and fled out of sight at their presence. No one, not even the “Church,” seemed to know who these spiritual giants were or where they came from. All you could see was the armor, the golden armor of God, from head to foot, and the shields of gold were there. The shields were restored to God’s House and there was great victory and rejoicing.

I also saw silver, precious treasures and vessels being brought in. Beneath the gold and silver were the people that nobody knew. Rejects of society, street people, the outcasts, the poor and the despised. These were the treasures that were missing from His House. In closing the Lord said, “If My people want to know where they are needed, tell them they are needed in the streets, the hospitals, the missions, the prisons. When they come there, they will find Me and the next move of My Spirit, and they will be judged by My Word in Matthew 25:42, “I was hungry, and you gave me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink.”

## **UNSHACKLED**

This is the true story!

Brother McClain’s church from Houston has a ministry in the Texas State Prison at Huntsville. I don’t know the details of how they came to do services on Death Row, but I know they don’t let those guys out of their cell for anything.

But did they have service? Yes, they did! One of the Death Row guys was filled with the Holy Ghost!

Praise the Lord! So they asked if they could take him and baptize them. The warden said No.

They then asked if they brought water there, could they baptize him? The warden agreed, so they brought a stock tank and filled it with water. The prison needed to take special precautions, so they had 2 guards. The guards put an iron collar on the man, along with wrist and ankle shackles, and then ran a chain through the whole thing and padlocked it. Then they brought the prisoner out of his cell, and they put him in the tank and baptized him in the name of Jesus.

When he came out of the water, his shackles were lying in the bottom of the tank and he began praising and magnifying God! The 2 guards, seeing the miracle, asked if they could be baptized too!

I tell you, I have chills all over me writing about this. We serve an awesome God! He proves to us that He unshackles us and sets us free. I'm so glad I know Him in the power of His fullness - what a blessing to serve God!

Author's name not given.

BACK COVER:

Do you ever feel like you need a shot in the arm to perk up your spiritual life? To be challenged to more sensitiveness to spiritual things? Do you feel that those around you seem to be keener to spiritual things than you are? Read about some wonderful things that God has done among his people — things that should arouse a greater appetite in you for spiritual things. There are 48 messages in this book, most are only one or two pages.