

Prayer **FORCE**

ISSUE 21 † 2007

TRIED by FIRE

THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

EVIDENCE
that GOD is STILL
with YOU **page 6**

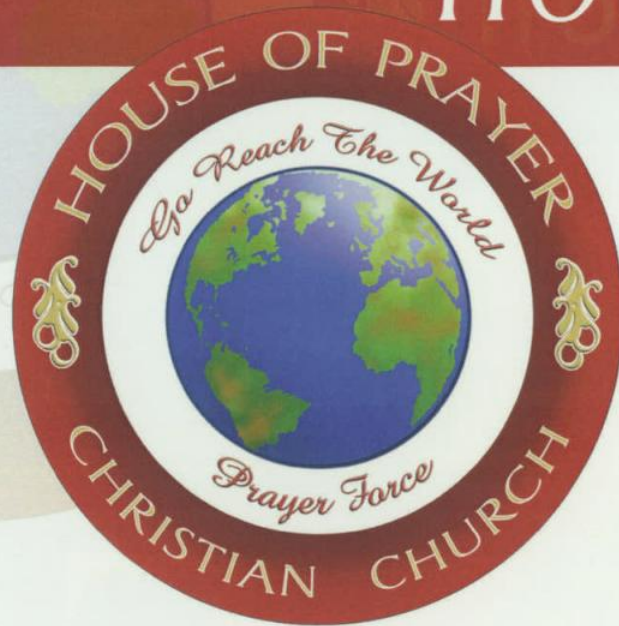
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR
SPIRITUAL
INHERITANCE?
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GOD
of **MIRACLES**
FIND OUT WHAT HE'S DOING
ON PAGE 2

SAUL
VS.
SAUL
page 21

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD.

about House of Prayer



the mission

De Oppresso Liber. Latin for "To Liberate the Oppressed."

The Lord has proclaimed it to us in the clearest of terms:

"To preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty them that are bruised,
and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

the creed

Do all we can **now**, to all the people we can **now**,
In all the ways we can **now**, In all the places we can **now**,
At all the times we can **now**, Love all the souls we can **now**.

If my people, which are called by my name,
shall 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.

2 Chronicles 7:14

...before honor is humility.
Proverbs 15:33

■ **general board**
God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Ghost
OUR LEADERSHIP

OUR MISSION

OUR CREED

Issue 21 - 2007
Prayer**FORCE**



Amy Carmichael
Part II



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God is Still With Us

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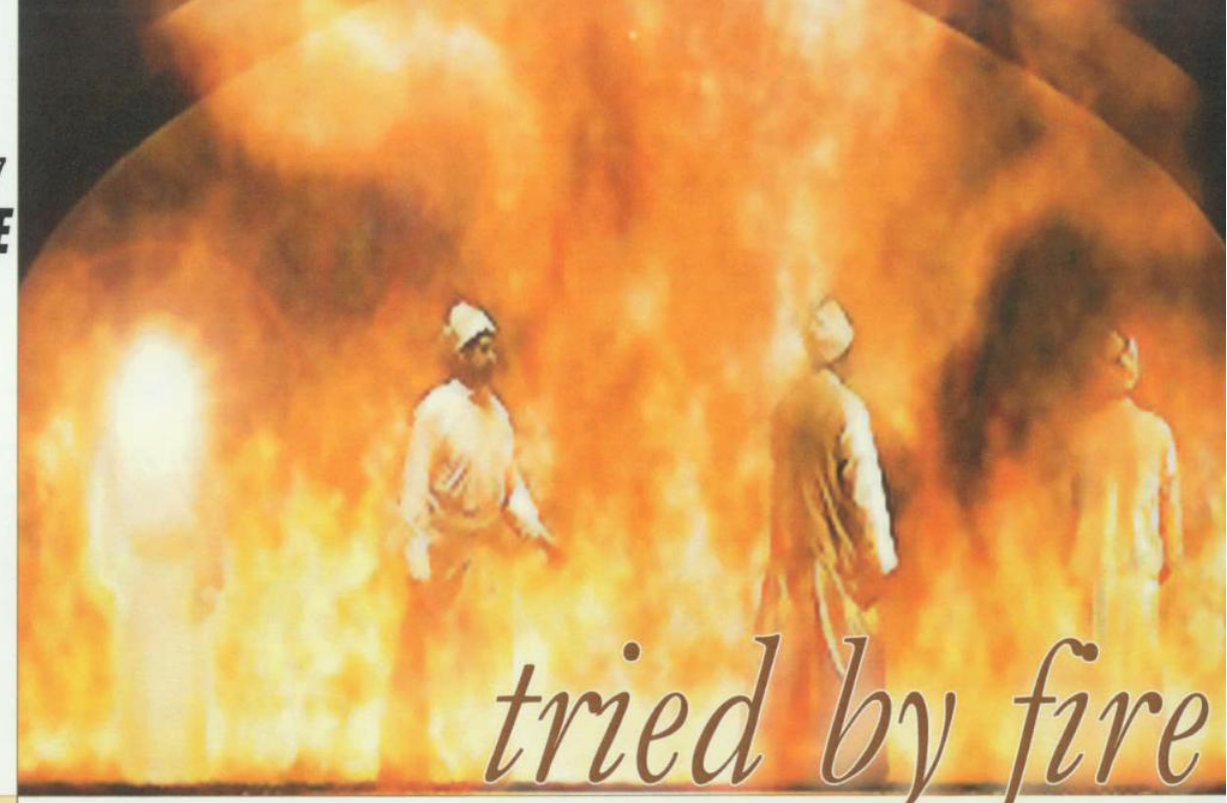
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tried by fire



miracles

...then & now

What is a Miracle?

A miracle had been defined as a work wrought by a divine power for a divine purpose by means beyond the reach of man. The general idea is that it is something wonderful or unusual- an event, experience, or discovery so singular and strange as to awaken in one the feeling of awe. Phenomena in nature and events in history are labeled "miracle." If a friend escapes death in a car accident, we are apt to say, "It was a miracle that he was not killed." The ordinary course of nature is referred to as a miracle. Augustus expresses the thought, "The daily miracle of God has grown cheap by repetition." But the nature of Christian miracles presents essential features the common use of the word ignores.

The term "miracle," from the Biblical standpoint, is used to describe the wonderful phenomena accompanying the Jewish and Christian revelations, especially at critical moments. The Biblical conception of a miracle is that of some extraordinary work of God transcending the ordinary. It is evidence of the supernatural working on man's behalf in time of crisis.

Miracles, as an integral part of the Bible, provide evidence that it is God's divinely inspired Word. Among other aspects of the design or purpose of the inclusion of so many miracles is the manifestation of the glory of God. He is Lord *in* all, and of all (John 11:4). Miracles are "both the official and authoritative seal of God."

Miracles are also the insignia of Christ's deity and Messiahship (John 2:11; 11:4; Matthew 11:4-6; Acts 2:20; 10:38). In these displays of His inherent power, we have the exercise of His creative, punitive, and healing authority. All of His miracles were in "accord with His miraculous origin, sinless nature and moral perfection." They provided God with a method of authenticating Christ's divine mission. He Himself regarded His miracles as evidence that He was from God, and was God (John 14:24). As we come to the study of New Testament miracles, we see how many of His miracles were the natural expressions of His sympathy for a suffering humanity, as well as the confirmations of His divine commission and teachings.

The Bible Then

Virgin Birth of Christ

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is both a mystery and a miracle. How great is this mystery of godliness - God manifested in the flesh! If we discredit altogether this initial miracle of Christianity, we lose our soul, for no one is a Christian who does not believe this. True faith rests on the declared fact that Christ was "conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary."

Job asks the question, "How can he be clean that is born of a woman?" (25:4). God was able to bring a clean Babe out of a woman tainted with inherited sin. As we have already indicated, we cannot account for the sinlessness of Jesus if we reject His virgin birth. As Mary was truly His mother, an additional miracle was needed to cleanse her womb of the taint of sin. In the moment of conception, the Holy Spirit laid hold of that part of the Virgin's flesh out of which the body of Jesus was to be formed and purified it.

Another aspect of the supernatural in our Lord's birth was that in the moment of conception, the Holy Spirit took deity and humanity and, fusing them together made possible the Lord Jesus, who came as the God-Man to save us all.

The Bible Today

A month ago, a brother traveled to Jacksonville, Florida, to see his grandmother for what he thought would be the last time. During the end of his visit, his cousin, curious about this brother's markedly different lifestyle, began to ask questions. "Did you always live this way? How did you get saved? What is Bible College?"

He answered his cousin's questions, and seeing the hunger for God in her soul, invited her to come visit him for a week. She eagerly accepted, and shortly thereafter was in church service with him. After this visit, she said she liked the church, and wanted to come up every weekend to attend services and fellowship. Her mother allowed her to come for a while, but soon was forced to keep her in Jacksonville due to her grandmother's bad health.

The grandmother had been suffering from cancer, and after her treatment, her esophagus was burned so she was unable to eat. However, the news of this development reached the congregation, who prayed for her healing. She was healed to the point she not only was able to eat, but desired to come visit the church also. Now, this brother's two cousins, aunt and grandmother are all hoping to attend the Fall Conference and receive the touch of the Master's hand upon their souls!



TRUE FAITH *is* COMMITTED

To many Christians, Christ is little more than an idea, or at best an ideal; He is not a fact. Millions of professed believers talk as if He were real and act as if He were not; and always our actual position is to be discovered by the way we act, not by the way we talk.

We can prove our faith by our committal to it, and in no other way. Any belief that does not command the one who holds it is not a real belief; it is a pseudo belief only. And it might shock some of us profoundly if we were brought suddenly face to face with our beliefs and forced to test them in the fires of practical living.

Many of us Christians have become extremely skillful in arranging our lives so as to admit the truth of Christianity without being embarrassed by its implications. We fix things so that we can get on well enough without divine aid, while at the same time ostensibly seeking it. We boast in the Lord but watch carefully that we never are caught depending on Him. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Pseudo faith always arranges a way out to serve in case God fails it. Real faith knows only one way and gladly allows itself to be stripped of any second way or makeshift substitutes. For true faith, it is either God or total collapse. And not since Adam first stood upon the earth has God failed a single man or woman who trusted Him.

The man of pseudo faith will fight for his verbal creed but flatly refuse to allow himself to get into a predicament where his future must depend upon that creed being true. He always provides himself with secondary ways of escape so he will have a way out if the roof caves in.

What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they know they must do at the last day. For each of us the time is surely coming when we shall have nothing but God. Health and wealth and friends and hiding places will all be swept away, and we shall have only God. To the man of pseudo faith that is a terrifying thought; but to real faith, it is one of the most comforting thoughts the heart can entertain.

It would be a tragedy indeed to come to the place where we have no other but God, and find that we had not really been trusting God during the days of our earthly sojourn. It would be better to invite God now to remove every trace of false trust, to disengage our hearts from all secret hiding places and to bring us out into the open where we can discover for ourselves whether or not we actually trust Him. That is a harsh cure for our troubles, but it is a sure one. Gentler cures may be too weak to do the work; and time is running out for us.

Unclaimed Spiritual Inheritance

The conquest of Canaan by Joshua was a beautiful type of Christ's conquest for His people concerning their spiritual inheritance. Everything that the land of Canaan was to the Hebrew, the Holy Ghost is to the believer. It was a rich, fertile land. This wonderful land supplied all their needs and made them a rich people. In like manner, the Holy Ghost supplies all the needs of the believer and makes him rich in love, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The occupation of Canaan by the twelve tribes represents our entering into the inheritance, which the Captain of our salvation has subdued for us. At the time these words were spoken, the land had been vanquished and thirty-one kings lay dead, figuratively speaking, at Joshua's feet. Most of this great territory was now occupied by the twelve tribes as God directed. Over half the tribes did not receive their inheritance until Joshua came to them and stirred them by the challenge, "How long are ye slack to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?" In this, we see a true picture of the church, as well as individuals. How slow the people of God have been to enter and claim their full inheritance.

"There remaineth very much land to be possessed." There is much unoccupied territory in the Word of God; promises that we have not yet made our own and truths that we have not yet grasped with our minds and translated into our lives. We have learned some lessons of love, but do we possess the love that "beareth all things," that "never faileth?" We have learned to suffer long, but have we learned to suffer long and "be kind"; have we come into "all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness?" Have we received the "beauty of holiness" and the finer touches of the Spirit?

What does it mean to go deeper, or to possess the land? Generally speaking, it means that there should be a steady advancement on all spiritual lines; there should be a continual growth in grace and a well rounded Christian character. To be a little more particular; if we are possessing the land we should have a sweeter spirit. Without this sweetness of spirit, we bear a mere image without His beauty and attractiveness.

Secondly, there should be a deeper joy. One of the promised fruits of Canaan was grapes - the land was one of vineyards, while the presses did burst out with new wine - it holds true then that the deeper into Canaan we go, the more

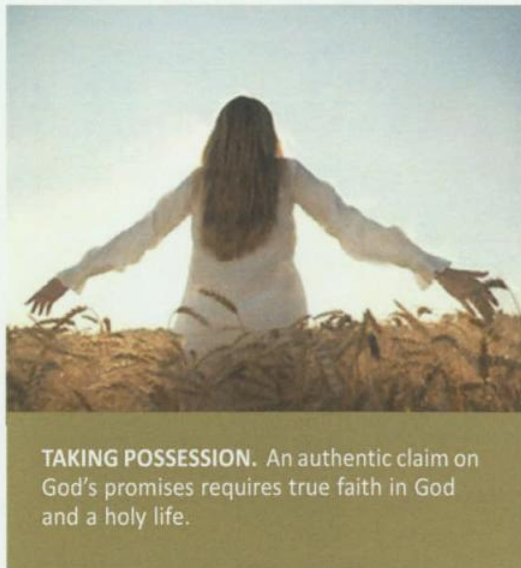
vineyards and Pentecostal wine we will possess. Men can answer argument with argument, meet logic with logic, eloquence with eloquence; but to see the shining eye, the luminous face, and hear the thrilling, overflowing speech will do more to convict and convince than all the tame, lifeless, joyless sermons.

Thirdly, there should be increasing faith. Since faith is the gateway by which we receive all the blessings of God, it is essential that we have an increase of faith. After many testings and severe trials to our faith, we become fixed, settled and anchored in God Himself. We laugh at impossibilities and cry, "It shall be done." Faith is an experience; the same as love, joy, and peace are conscious experiences. It becomes a fixed habit to believe God. Where you once doubted, you now trust. Faith holds the soul steady amid all the trying circumstances of life.

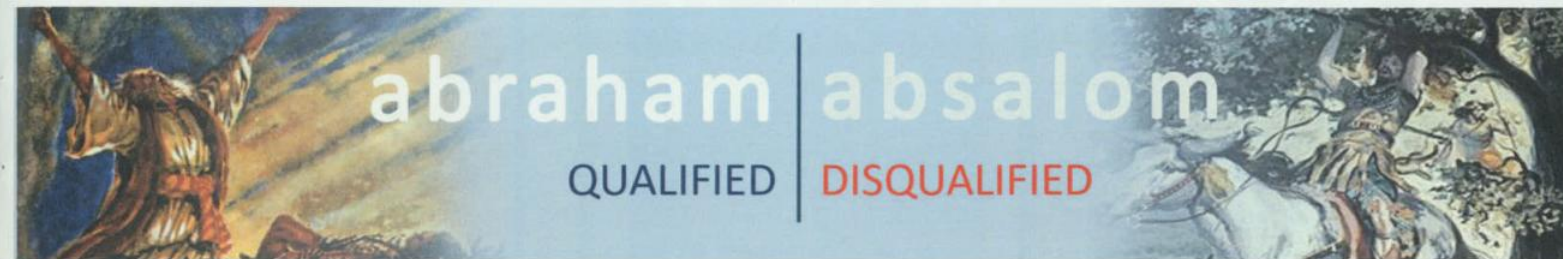
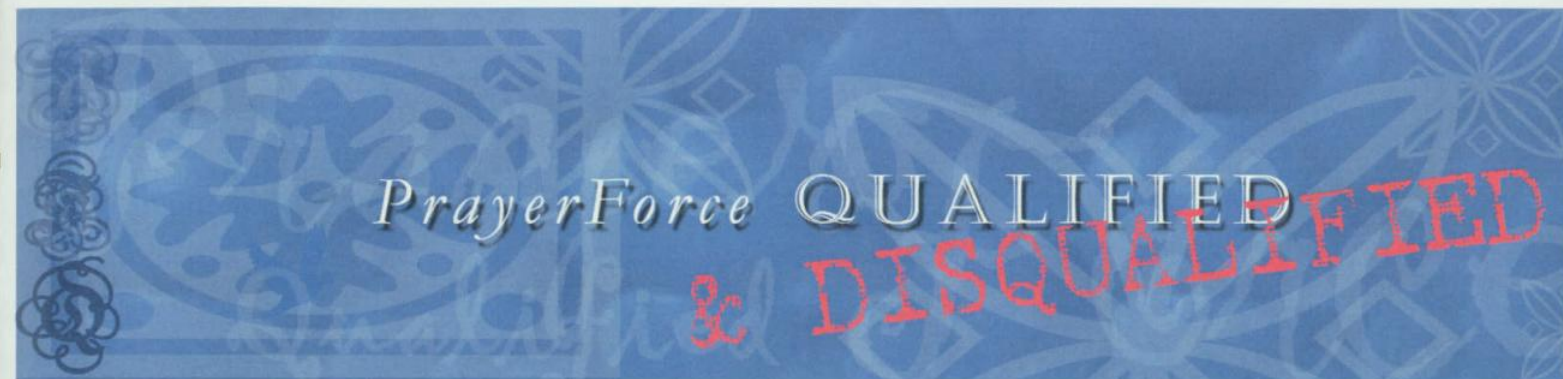
Finally, our victories should be greater. Many overlook the fact that when Israel entered Canaan, their victories and triumphs increased. Many of God's people are fond of quoting the Jericho experience as Israel's greatest triumph; but, according to the Bible, there were other victories far greater than the leveling of the walls of Jericho. On two occasions, a vast army confronted them, and by earthly and military standards, they had but a slight chance of victory. The strategy of God's people was to play on harps, and praise the beauty of Holiness. A panic broke out in the ranks of the

enemy, they began slaughtering one another; and Israel was three days in gathering up the spoils. There is a spiritual lesson in all of this for us: as we advance in the Canaan experience, we depend less on the earthly and more on the heavenly, less on methods and more on the Holy Ghost. It would be of no use to enter the Canaan experience depending on the weapons we used in Egypt and in the wilderness. As we go farther into Beulah Land, drink deeper of its heavenly Spirit, and gather more of its Divine wisdom, we begin to drop the javelin of our ability and take up the harp of praise to Him that giveth the victory.

If we continue to live and dwell in Canaan, staying under the blood and refusing to retreat, God Himself will fight our battles, defeat our enemies and make us more than conquerors. Let us not be satisfied with present attainment, but go on to possess the land. 🕊



TAKING POSSESSION. An authentic claim on God's promises requires true faith in God and a holy life.



the man of true faith

His name means "father of a multitude." He uttered no prophecy, sang no song, wrote no book, gave no laws; yet in the long list of Bible saints, he alone is spoken of as "the father of the faithful" and "the friend of God." Abraham loved God, and nothing God asked was too great. When told to leave country, family and home, Abraham's response was simple obedience. He left it behind willingly, surrendering the seen and known for the unseen and unknown.

Promises, three in number—of a *country*, Canaan; of *posterity*, as the stars of heaven; of a *spiritual seed*, through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed, were made: as he awaited their fulfillment, he believed God in the face of long delay and amid difficulties that seemed insurmountable. For this, he is called "the father of all them that believe."

Perhaps the greatest trial in the Old Testament was laid upon Abraham when God told him to sacrifice Isaac, this long awaited son of the promise; yet even this was not too great a request between these two hearts of love. God's friend would not withhold that which He desired but bound him to the altar. God's desire was not the life of the young man; but rather the true heart of Abraham. The Bible offers us many types of Christ, but Abraham *is the only type in Scripture of God the Father*; centuries before Christ was born the heart of John 3:16 was portrayed, Abraham so loved God as to give his only son. The ram was provided, the sacrifice was made, and Abraham received the testimony that he pleased God.

Abraham's story is written in tears and blood, Oh, but how God was glorified by his trials of faith! Abraham's faithful obedience earned him the honor, "Abraham, My friend." Truly, there is no greater honor than to be described thus. Yet such is our privilege if we exhibit the obedience of faith, for did not Jesus say, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you"? 🕊

the man of shame

His name means "father of peace." What a singular fascination there is in the story of Absalom; as to the story of his rebellion against David, his father, such a heartless deed carries with it one of the most solemn lessons in the whole of the Bible. Undoubtedly, he was heir to the throne and the favorite, the idol of his father.

He was gifted with remarkable physical beauty, eloquence and persuasiveness, which won him the hearts of all Israel. He had a traitorous nature, having murdered his own brother, and he came to an untimely end (II Sam. 18:9). Having everything in his favor—a throne ready made for him and fortune bowing at his feet to load him with favors, his life ended in tragedy. Brilliant in its beginnings, his life ended buried like a dog in a pit in a lonely wood, leaving a name that was execrated. What brought Absalom to his Paradise Lost?

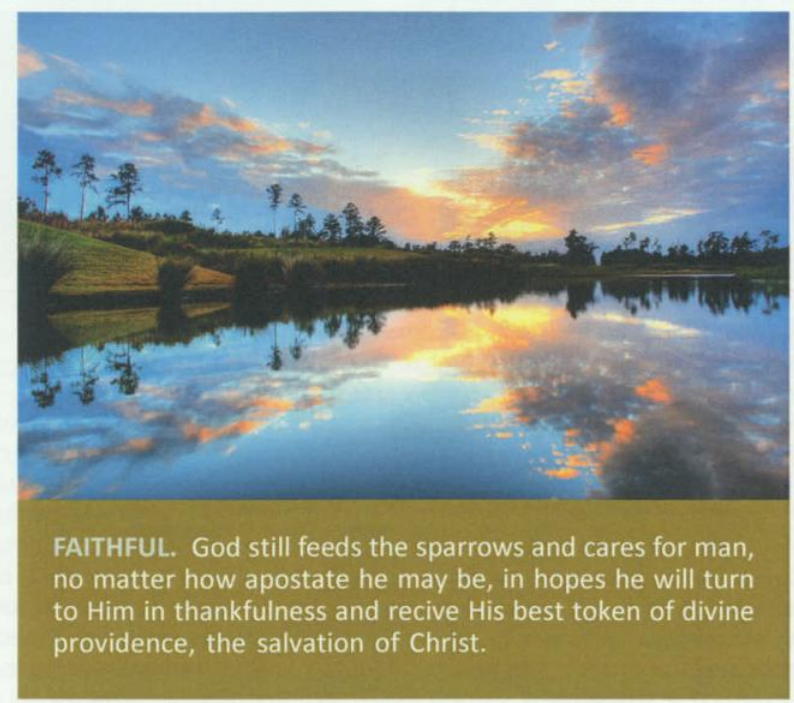
Self-aggrandizement was Absalom's sin. He had no thought, no feeling, no pity for anyone but himself. Filial affection and generous sentiment were sacrificed on the altar of his inordinate ambition; but in trying to save his life, he lost it. He was his own master; his own will was his only law. Love, tenderness and pity were not his traits because he had no reverence for God. His glory brought about his final tragedy. Adding to the beauty of Absalom was his flowing hair. Being proud of his chief ornament, he must have carefully attended to it; but, as Joab's men pursued Absalom, his hair was caught fast in the boughs of an oak tree and he could not free himself.

May such a lesson not be lost upon us! Our chief glory can become the cause of our greatest shame; our choicest endowments and most cherished gifts can become our greatest temptations. Our gifts, like ourselves, need to be washed every day in the fountain of God's truth, guarded and sanctified by prayer, if they are to be fit for the highest service. 🕊

FAITHFUL PROVIDENCE

God is *still* with us

It is a singular thing that such a question as this should ever be asked at all: "Is the Lord's hand waxed short?" If we look anywhere and everywhere, apart from the conduct of man, there is nothing to suggest the suspicion. Look at God's creation, is there anything that would make you say, "Is the Lord's hand waxed short?" What pillar of the heavens has begun to reel? What curtain of the sky hath been rent or moth eaten? Have the foundations of the earth begun to start? Do they not abide as the Lord hath settled them? Has the sun grown dim with age, or have the starry lamps flickered or gone out in darkness? Are there signs of decay today upon the face of God's creation? Have not howling tempests, the yawning ocean, and death-bearing hurricanes, asserted but yesterday their undiminished might?



FAITHFUL. God still feeds the sparrows and cares for man, no matter how apostate he may be, in hopes he will turn to Him in thankfulness and receive His best token of divine providence, the salvation of Christ.

Say, is not the green earth as full of vitality, as ready to yield us harvests now, as it ever hath been? Do the showers fall less frequently? Hath the sun ceased to warm? Are there any signs and tokens that God's creation is tottering to its decay? No, journey where you will, you will see God is as potent upon the face of the earth, and in the very bowels of the globe, as He was when He first said, "Let there be light, and there was light." There is nothing that would tempt us to the surmise or the suspicion that the Lord's hand hath waxed short.

Look ye also in providence; is there aught there that would suggest the question? Are not the prophecies still fulfilled? Doth He not cause all things to work together for good? Do the cattle on a thousand hills low out to Him for hunger? Do you meet with the skeletons of birds that have fallen to the ground from famine? Doth He neglect to give to the fish their food, or do the sea-monsters die? Doth not God still open His hand and supply the want of every living thing? Is He less bounteous today than He was in the time of Adam? Is not His cornucopia still as full?

Doth He not still scatter mercies with both His hands right lavishly? Are there any tokens in Providence any more than in Nature that God's arm hath waxed short?

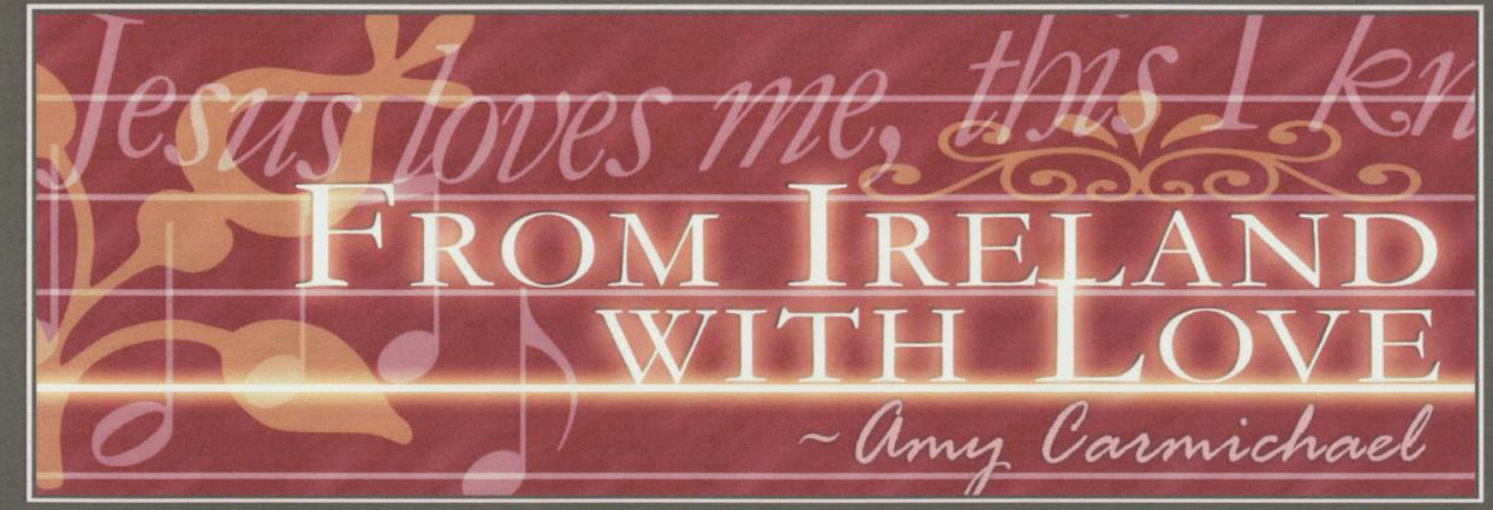
Look ye too in the matter of Grace: is there any token in the work of grace

that God's power is failing? Are not sinners still saved? Are not profligates still reclaimed? Are not drunkards still uplifted from their sties to sit upon thrones with princes? Are not harlots as truly reclaimed as were those in the days of Christ?

Is not the Word of God still quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword? Which of His arrows hath been blunted? Where have you seen the sword of the Lord snapped in twain? When hath God assayed to melt a heart and failed in the attempt?

Which of His people has found the riches of His grace drained dry? Which of His children has had to mourn that the unsearchable riches of Christ had failed to supply his need?

In Grace, as well as in Providence and Nature, the unanimous verdict is that God is still Almighty, that He doeth as He wills, and fulfills all His promises and His counsels. How is it, then, that such a question as this ever came from the lips of God Himself? Who suggested it? What suggested it? What could there have been that should lead Him or any of His creatures to say, "Is the Lord's hand waxed short?" We answer, there is but one creature that God has made that ever doubts Him... It was left for man, the most favored of all creatures, to mistrust his God. Fear not, oh trembling pilgrim... your God is still with you, if you believe. ✞



"REFUGE, REFUGE!"



Amy practiced the Master's admonition to "suffer the little children to come unto Me."

One day in early 1898 a cry of 'refuge, refuge' was heard at Amy's gate. A girl of 16 had gone to a mission school and become a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Her family would not allow her to retain her faith and demanded the missionaries to hand her over to them, but the girl was of legal age and therefore her independence was legal. The family however burned the mission school where she had learned of Christ.

In early 1901, a village woman who was a convert to Christianity appeared with a small girl in tow. The seven year old girl, named Preena, came out of desperation; she had been sold to the temple to become a *devadasis* or 'woman of the temple.' First they were taught to sing and dance for the temple gods, but eventually they would be used to entertain Hindu men who patronized the temple. In other words, they would be temple prostitutes! She had already been burned as punishment for running away at an earlier time. How could Amy turn away such a needy child? She was only a foreshadowing of a greater calling. India at one time allowed the practice of *sati*, or burning the living widow on the funeral pyre of her dead husband; they had also at one time allowed the offering of girl babies as a sacrifice to the gods, but these evils had been done away with. Now this abuse of young girls must be made public and abolished. This was to become Amy's vocation.

THE STARRY CLUSTER

Until this time she traveled with a group of women who called themselves the 'Starry Cluster,' evangelizing in places where the gospel had never been heard. With the orphans and young girls rescued from the temples, some complained they would tie Amy down from her former itinerant preaching, which brought her much joy. Her response? Could she not be tied down for the sake of her Lord whose feet were once nailed? Her sentiments ran along the lines of Pere Didon who said, "This sacred work demands not lukewarm, selfish, slack souls,

AMY: POET

The following poem should be familiar to most Bible Seminary students.

IF: *Calvary Love*

If I covet any place on earth but the dust at the foot of the cross, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I ask to be delivered from trial rather than for deliverance out of it, to the praise of His glory: if I forget that the way of the cross leads to the cross and not to a bank of flowers; if I regulate my life on these lines, or even unconsciously my thinking so that I am surprised when the way is rough and think it strange, though the word is *THINK IT NOT STRANGE, COUNT IT ALL JOY*, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I refuse to be a corn of wheat that falls into the ground and dies (is separated from all in which it lived before), then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If the love that 'alone makes light of everything, and beareth evenly every uneven thing' is not my heart's desire, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I feel bitterly towards those who condemn me, as it seems to me unjustly, forgetting that if they knew me as I know myself

but hearts more finely tempered than steel, wills purer and harder than diamond."

By what creed did such a woman as this live? Her vow? *Whatever Thou sayest unto me, by thy grace I will do it.* Her joy? *To do thy will, O God.* Her discipline? *That which I would not choose, but which thy love appoints.* She knew that joy was not jolliness, but rather perfect acquiescence to the will of God!

53 YEARS IN INDIA

Her work continued with the expected ups and downs until October 24, 1931. Her prayer that morning was, "Do anything, Lord, that will fit me to serve thee and help my beloveds."

Surely she had no idea of how the Lord would answer that prayer. That afternoon she fell into a pit being dug to serve as the outhouse for a new property being developed for the mission. A compound fracture resulted that was to rob her of her mobility for the rest of her days. For sixty-one years she had been physically active and productive; now it seemed God sat her down to listen. She wrote to those living in the mission compound, "Have we any prayer like 'use me' in the Bible? We find every other verb; teach, lead, bless etc... The captain will use the soldier if he be prepared for use." Amy was certain that the weakness of their prayers was the reason heathenism still enslaved the Indians. "How is it that so much of our busy energy appears to be expended in vain? Holy Scripture, personal experience, the voice of conscience, all these alike suggest one answer—we have neglected largely the means which God Himself has ordained for anointing from on High..."

How difficult to accept the divine will when it was so different from what she had always been able to do! She wondered at the inner workings of God's sweet Spirit. At this time she wrote, *'No wound? No scar? Yet, as the Master shall the servant be. And pierced are the feet that follow me; But thine are whole: can he have followed far who has no wound or scar?'*

*Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod,
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.*

—Amy Carmichael

Amy Carmichael died in her sleep in 1951, a mother to many motherless boys and girls rescued from the dreaded future that was no future at all, being sold as mere merchandise to satisfy the degraded passions of sinful men. But the legacy was more than bodies delivered; the souls of these precious ones for whom the blood flowed from wounded hands and feet were nourished and nurtured to continue the work begun by a simple Irish girl. One of those rescued grew to be a woman of great commitment to Christ, becoming a head nurse at the hospital there. She wrote,

*Give me a passionate passion for souls; give me a pity that yearns.
Give me a love that loves unto death; give me the fire that burns,
Give me, O Lord, to be fervent in prayer, pouring out all for the lost;
Give me to pray in the Conqueror's Name, Spirit of Pentecost.*

they would condemn me much more, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.

If I feel injured when another lays to my charge things that I know not, forgetting that my sinless Savior trod this path to the end, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I say 'yes, I forgive but I cannot forget', as though the God who twice a day washes all the sands on all the shores of all the world, could not wash such memories from my mind, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If a sudden jar can cause me to speak an impatient, unloving word, then I know nothing of Calvary love; for the cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted.

If I cannot in honest happiness take the second place (or the twentieth): if I cannot take the first without making a fuss about my unworthiness, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I put my own happiness before the well-being of the work entrusted to me; if, though I have this ministry and have received much mercy, I faint; then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I am soft to myself and slide comfortably into the vice of self-pity and self-sympathy; if I do not by the grace of God practice fortitude, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I cannot catch the sound of the noise of rain, (1 Kings 18:41), long before the rain falls, and, going to some hilltop of the Spirit as near to my God as I can, have not faith to wait there with my face between my knees, though six times or sixty times I am told 'there is nothing' till at last 'there riseth a little cloud out of the sea,' then I know nothing of Calvary love.

Ancient but Modern Syria

! Parents, this article may be helpful to and interesting for your children. If possible, sit and read it together.

"What do you mean you've become a Christian?" Maria asked her brother Ibrahim. "Of course you're a Christian. You've always been a Christian, just like the rest of our family. We belong to a church, don't we? There have been Christians here in Damascus since New Testament times."

"Yes that's true," Ibrahim said. "It even says in Acts 9 that Saul (Paul) came here to Damascus to arrest the Christians because he didn't want the faith to spread to other places. He knew how easily that could happen because travelers and traders came here from far and wide and would take the good news about Jesus with them. It's a good thing God spoke to him before he ever reached Damascus. And after Saul became a Christian, he himself took the good news about Jesus to lots of other places."

"But Maria," Ibrahim continued, "when I went to study in Aleppo, I met Christians who were really excited about their faith. They told me that I could know Jesus as a special friend and they taught me to study the Bible for myself. It's an amazing book! Will you come to a Bible study group with me?"

"I'll come" Maria said. "You're so excited about it...I wish I could know Jesus like you do."

An ancient land

Damascus, the capitol of modern Syria, is an ancient city. It may even be the oldest

city in the whole world! You can find Damascus in the very first book in the Bible, in Genesis chapters 14 and 15. You can also read there about the River Euphrates, which flows through Syria and has been dammed to provide hydroelectric power for the country.

Syria has been a secular country since 1973, but three-quarters of the people are Sunni Muslims. There are other Muslim sects in the country, and the present rulers belong to a smaller Muslim group called the Alawites. For the last 50 years, the country has been involved in wars and conflicts with neighboring countries in the Middle East.

Not just 'some old book'

There are Orthodox and Armenian churches in almost every town in Syria. There are some Protestant churches too, but there aren't enough pastors and Christian workers to lead them. Although Christians make up only a small part of Syria's population, they have a lot of freedom. They can go to church whenever they want, and radio stations broadcast Christian programs at Christmas and Easter. They can buy Christian books and Bibles. Many Christians are highly respected in Syria and have good jobs as merchants, teachers, doctors and lawyers. Others work for the government and in the armed forces.

A lot of Christians in Syria are finding out that the Bible isn't just a big, old book of stories

about things that happened a long time ago. As they read it, they realize that it's the word of the living God. The Bible has lots to say to people today. They're excited about it and many, like Ibrahim and Maria, are coming to really know Jesus for the first time.

Christians and Muslims

For 1,300 years, both Muslims and Christians have lived in Syria. "We live in the Christian part of Damascus, and that's where our friends are," Ibrahim explains. "We meet Muslims at work and at school, but we really don't understand each other, so it's very hard to talk about our faith."

"I have a few Muslim friends, and I try to show them who Jesus is by the way I live. I want them to see that Jesus has made my life pure and clean, and that he fills me with joy. Some of my Christian friends don't understand why I want my Muslim friends to know Jesus, and my Muslim friends are afraid they'll be persecuted if they become Christians. But I want all my family and friends to know Jesus, who makes our lives new when we trust in Him."





Shepherd's Voice

Reverend and Sister Garzes
- Their Testimonies

A man would be foolish to think that in one lifetime he could possibly number all the times that he had an encounter with the mercy of God. How often has he intercepted our soul when we were on our way down a very dark road to an eternity lost without God, and pain as a welcoming committee? God had been the beacon of light that has shown through every adversity in my life. He has shown through every hypocrisy, every falsehood, every self-righteous attitude, every delusion, every mirage and diverse temptation.

In my life, He has been everything from an answer to prayer, to the remedy for self-destruction. Never have I ever met a shepherd that cared for me the way that Jesus has cared. Not many have understood the mercy and the grace of our Lord and Saviour as the thief on the cross, John Mark, Saul of Tarsus, and Peter. While I have not done great feats for my Lord as these men have done, I did need the mercy that they came to know. Perhaps the demoniac of Gaderra could tell us some stories of his deliverance. Perhaps the woman with the issue of blood could talk of how the world drained her not only of her strength, but also of her living. God's mercy reaches from the tombs of Gaderra, past the cemetery of despondency, far beyond the graves of self-degradation. I lived among these tombs; I lived among the conditions I am talking about. I thought myself lost forever; but there was a day when that light shined from heaven upon me. In my condition, there was no sun and the moon was only a reminder of the darkness in which I lived; but that glorious light was beautiful; so convincing.

"Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Revelation 7:15-17)

How can I be quiet? How can I not sing? How can I not pray? How can I not get excited? How can I not be thankful? King Agur said in Proverbs 30:9 "Lest I be full and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." The King understood death to be certain; and he only wanted to be certainly ready. Have we forgotten the sweet aroma of His presence when he walked into our

lives? Where before there was no one to guide me, there was no one to venture into the enemy's camp and rip my soul out of the hand of the devil; now there is an avenger to deliver me. Are the costs great? Will the devil fight back? Oh yes; but the Lord is with us. Jesus said whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. No greater love hath any man than this.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:3-12, Paul speaks in humility, knowing that none of us deserves an opportunity to preach the gospel, but if the saved will not tell of His mercy, then who will? Do the rocks have a better story to tell? Can the animals testify, having never experienced God's great salvation? Paul said, being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you not the Gospel only, but also our own souls, because you were dear to us. I have come to understand that I never would have made it this close to heaven without somebody praying me through. I thank the Lord that someone did not count the cost too high or the weight too heavy. Because they fought for me, there came a day when I too, heard *the shepherd's voice*.

- Brother Garzes

"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) This scripture, spoken by my Lord and Savior, is so very true, yesterday, today and forever. I had heard the gospel years ago, but with time, the church I attended grew cold. I myself went cold with God until a few years ago. I was left "useless and without hope" so I thought. My life was a wreck; contemplating divorce; I was so deep in sin that I had convinced myself there was no more hope for my marriage or my soul. When I went for help to those over me in the church, I was told 'there's too much damage done, I don't know how even God can fix this one.' Filled with discouragement, I would try looking for the missing peace in my heart in music, movies and clubs; only to leave empty.

One day I came from the club, and looking out my bedroom window I cried, "Send me to a place where there's truth, a place where I can find you in truth and in purity. Please, somehow repair my life." Little did I know that God was making preparations from that time on for me. My husband received a phone call about a place where the truth and pureness of the gospel was being preached, so I went along; but I had determined just to go and watch. I wanted to see if this was real, if the Pastor, his wife and others really lived the life of true Christians. In time, as I watched, my eyes not only saw the Pastor and the congregation pray, but my husband was also! He told me that he had gotten saved and was a new man. I saw in my home a man being transformed daily by the blood and power of Christ. Daily he went to the prayer meetings and daily a conviction was in my heart, so I decided to go back and hear more about God. I kept hearing how 'God doesn't have any throwaways'. God is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. Draw nigh unto Him and He will draw nigh unto thee. There was a love there, and fire. At the closing of the message, in my heart the words I had prayed before were brought to my remembrance. With tears, I could wait no longer, nor watch any more, but respond to the 'missing peace', Jesus! As I asked for forgiveness, my heart was made clean and light. God was helping me love, trust and obey.

Not only was my heart being repaired, but my marriage was also, through God's power. A marriage and a family were almost lost, but through God's power and prayer, it has been restored. The power of God and His mercy was not finished. One year ago, I had literally lost my mind. I couldn't talk, think right, or take care of my children. How could this happen, you might ask? I would like to say 'with God all things are possible'. The doctors thought and stated that I would never come out of it, and back to normal life, but God still heals and restores. Whether it's for your soul, your body, your mind or your marriage: with God, all things are possible.✍

- Sister Garzes



Brother and Sister Escudero

Hinesville, Georgia

Julio Escudero

I would like to start by giving praise and thanks to my Lord Jesus Christ. While growing up, I always believed in God, I just never knew one could have a lasting relationship with him. My parents raised me Catholic; I can remember them wanting to instill good Christian values in me and eventually they enrolled me in a Catholic middle school and then high school. Although I went to school and attended all the school's religious activities, I never really came to personally know God. My parents would send me to Sunday Mass alone, but that just became a ritual for me, and after a while I would skip out and come home with the pretence of having attended. I always felt since I was raised with good values and thought of myself as a good person, that I would make it to heaven. I never new that Jesus is the way and that no one can come to the Father except by him.

It wasn't until I enlisted in the army and 8 years of being sent to different duty stations, that God led my family and I here to Hinesville, GA. My wife and I had discussed from time to time about attending church, but could never agree on what religion; for she was raised Baptist and I Catholic. Oh but praise be to God, for He sent a soul winner our way. He invited my wife to church. She began to go and would take my two children at the time, with her. Her prayer life and desire to serve God soon won me over to the Lord. I finally agreed

to go to church and on that fateful day, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

We served God for many years, faithfully soulwinning and

spreading the good news to others. Our journey hasn't been an easy one, but God has always had a plan in store for us. He has always kept his loving arms of protection around us, even during a period in my life when I allowed old slew-foot to get the best of me. We PCS'd to Germany and were stationed two hours away from the church. We would make the commute on Friday and spend the weekend attending services and soul winning. Eventually I began to slack off on my prayer life and Bible reading. Soon after, I started to get proud, and went back to a life of sin and eventually turned my back on God. I allowed my pride to come between God and me. I'm so thankful for the power of the Holy Spirit, for it was thru him and the love for Almighty God that my wife did not compromise and she continued on serving the Lord. She would make the commute with our kids every weekend: rain, sleet or snow. Nothing would keep her from going.

Eventually I deployed to Iraq for a year; I was lost and on my way to hell and didn't even give it a second thought. I experienced the grace of God many times while out on patrols. I can vividly remember one particular incident in which I was clearing a route; I got out of my vehicle to check on a crater just off the side of the road. As I leaned down to mark it, I caught a glimpse of some wire running into the crater; which had an explosive device buried inside. It was by the grace of God that it didn't go off at that particular moment, while I was standing right over it. God had mercy on my soul that day and the whole time I was over there. My heart was so proud that I didn't even acknowledge God's grace towards me, and I kept sinning.

I returned from Iraq and PCS'd from Germany and was stationed back in Hinesville, GA. God still had not given up on me. I am a true believer that God does answer prayers. I am thankful for those who continued to pray for me to find my way back home; God heard and answered their prayers. My heart began to ache for God; I realized that I had to stop running from him. I was sorrowful for having left my first love, and was ashamed to come back to God; but I was reminded of the account of the prodigal son and how he laid down his pride and returned back to his father. I am so thankful that we serve a merciful and forgiving God. I have since rededicated my life to my Lord Jesus Christ, thru true repentance. He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. We must not let pride stand in our way and keep us from serving Him. An ounce of pride can lead you astray. The second you feel pride trying to slip in and hinder your walk with God, head straight to the altar and pray; pray like you've never prayed before. The Holy Ghost can give you strength to overcome pride.

I'm so grateful to be in Bible Seminary, serving God once again. God has restored my faith and the Holy Ghost continues to give me the power to stay strong to be able to continue on fighting in the Lord's army. God has blessed my family and I immensely in so many ways. I just want to be able to make it to heaven and look upon in His face one day and tell him how much I love Him. Onward, Christian soldiers! ✨

ABOUT THIS SECTION

These are testimonies of House of Prayer Christian Seminary students. They explain their personal road to salvation.

POWER OF PRAYER



GOD HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH PRAYER

from The Classic Collection on Prayer by E.M. Bounds, page 311



Christ is all. We are complete in Him. He is the answer to every need, the perfect Savior. He needs no decoration to heighten His beauty, no prop to increase His stability, no girding to perfect His strength. Who can gild refined gold, whiten the snow, perfume the rose or heighten the colors of the summer sunset? Who will prop the mountains or help the great deep? It is not Christ and philosophy, nor Christ and money, nor civilization, nor diplomacy, nor science, nor organization. It is Christ alone. He trod the winepress alone. His own arm brought salvation. He is enough. He is the comfort, the strength, the wisdom, the righteousness, the sanctification of all man.

Prayer is God's business to which Christians can attend. Prayer is God's necessary business, which only Christians can do, and that Christians must do. Those who belong to God are obliged to pray. They are not obliged to grow rich, nor to make money. They are not obliged to have large success in business. These are incidental, occasional, merely nominal, as far as integrity to Heaven and loyalty to God are concerned. Material successes are immaterial to God. Christians are neither better nor worse with those things or without them. They are not sources of reputation nor elements of character in the heavenly estimates. But to pray, to really pray, is the source of revenue, the basis of reputation, and the element of character in the estimation of God. People are obliged to pray just as they are obliged to be Christians. Prayer is loyalty to God. Non-praying is to reject Christ and to abandon heaven. A life of prayer is the only life that heaven counts. ✨

<< STUDENT INSIGHT + FROM PAGE 12

Tamara Escudero

2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." God touched my mind and healed me. I had been depressed and felt as if no one could help me; until I finally met the true healer. Many nights I feared going to sleep, I couldn't hold any food down, and wasn't able to gain any strength; but somehow my God knew and had a plan. We made it here to Ft. Stewart in June of 1995 and it was here that the Lord was able to show me that he would help me: my husband and family couldn't take away the hurt, not even the doctors could help me. When a soul winner came my way and invited me to church, I didn't come right away. About 2 weeks later I made my way to church. As I sat there listening to the service, I knew that I was empty on the inside and was lost and on my way to hell. I remember the pastor saying to slip up your hand if you want him to pray for you; I slipped mine up quickly, then he said a prayer for those that had raised their hands. When he asked us to come to the altar, I went forward with tears in my eyes because I needed

something to take away the hurt in my soul. Immediately God's loving arms embraced me and I gave my heart to him and made a commitment to serve him.

Growing up I thought I had it all, but there was something very expensive that money couldn't buy, and that is salvation and a genuine walk with God. I remember in Germany in 2004 the entire left side of my face had dropped, and I didn't know what had happened. That very same day I received a call from someone that I know loves God and prays to that very same God that is able to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). I knew someone was praying for my family, and how I needed God to touch me again. I went back in my mind again and that scripture came to me from Heb. 13:5, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." There in my hallway I would lay on the cold wooden floors in my doorway praying to God, asking him to show me what to do. I knew I had to be where I could receive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16>>



BIBLICAL TRUTHS uncut · unadulterated · no spin · straight from kjv

How Many Sins Does It Take to Damn a Soul?

ONE SIN

is sufficient to damn a soul. One sin cut the whole race off from God: "by one man sin entered into the world...by one man's offense death reigned...by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation...by one man's disobedience many were made [constituted] sinners" (Rom. 5:12-21; Gen.2:17; 3:1-19). One sin, committed before or after a person is saved, will have the same effect that the one original sin had. "When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity...All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned... in the sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die...for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die" (Ezek. 18:24-36). Again, "The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in his transgression...for the iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it" (Ezek. 33:12-20)

ONE SIN

cursed the whole race (Rom. 5:12-21); Cain (Gen. 4:8-13; 1 John 3:12); Pharaoh and Egypt (Ex. 3:2; Rom. 9:15-23); Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-7); Achan (Josh. 7); Gehazi (2 Ki. 5:20-27); Judas (Acts 1:25); Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11); and many others (1 Tim. 1:19, 20; 2:14; 5:11, 12, 15, 20; 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:18, 26; 4:10; Heb. 4:11; 1 Cor. 10:1-18; Jas. 2:10; etc.).

ONE SIN

caused Lucifer and one-third of the angels to fall, as well as the pre-Adamitic race that Lucifer ruled over (Isa. 14:12-14). One sin sent angels to hell (2 Pet. 2:4; Jud. 6, 7).

ONE SIN

will cut men off from God. This is His own law and He cannot be just and truthful if He does not enforce it (Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 3:18-21; 18:4; 13; 18; 20; 24; 26; 33:9, 12, 13, 18; John 8:34; Rom. 6:23; 8:12-13; Gal. 6:7-8; Jas. 2:10; 1 John 3:8). Many times, God promised to "cut off" any man that committed certain sins (Gen. 17:14; Ex. 9:15; 12:15, 19; 30:23; 38; 31:14; Lev. 7:20-21, 25, 27; 17:4-14; 18:29; 19:8; 20:3-18; 22:3; 23:29; Num. 9:13; 15:30, 31; 19:13, 20; Ezek. 14:8; Mal. 2:12; Rom. 11:22, 24). The phrase "cut off" means destroyed in death and "cut off from my presence" (Lev. 22:3; Ps. 109:13-15; Zec. 13:8; Matt. 24:51; Luke 12:46; Rom. 11:22-24).

IN CONCLUSION

Sin committed is as much sin one time as it is another. It is as much sin to the saved as it is to the unsaved. It is the sin itself that is sin, and the time it is committed does not make it unrighteous at one time and righteous at another, or sin to one and not to another. Any transgression of the law is sin, whether before or after one is saved, and the penalty for the broken law must be enforced without exception, as well after salvation as before. To reason that sin is not sin when committed by saints, or if committed after salvation, is poor reasoning and the very devil himself would blush at being accused of such utter lack of intelligence.

Whenever one sins he must, for the time being, cease to be holy. He must stand condemned and must incur the full penalty of the law that the one sin of Adam incurred, or God would be a respecter of persons and a party to selfishness and sin. If he broke the law which he and all free wills are obligated to keep, he would be a sinner. If man does not incur the penalty, then the law is abrogated and he has no rule of duty; consequently, he cannot be holy, or sinful. The penalty is no law. It is only counsel or advice. If God's law is merely advice, then there are no sinners, no need for a Savior, and the whole plan of the Bible is a sham.

We conclude that man is damned for breaking the law of God and for his own sins and that the sin of rejecting Jesus is merely the last sin that seals the doom of man for his own sins and for original sin. ✎

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Rom. 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Gen. 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen. 4:8-13

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him...And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Lev. 10:1-2

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Acts 5:3-5

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ...And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

1 Tim. 1:19-20

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

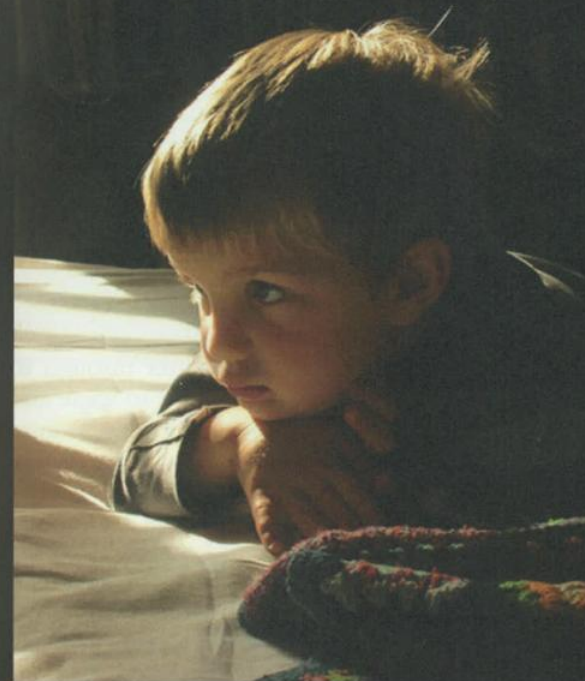
Ezekiel 33:18

When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

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This is part 5 of a multi-part series

Television and Morality

INSIGHT OF A TV PROFESSIONAL

Allow me to quote at length from Malcolm Muggeridge, the British media expert who came to Christ, and in the light of Christian reality evaluates the effects of TV fantasy. He says, "Television (has) been developed to attract its huge audiences all over the world, becoming the greatest fabricator and conveyor of fantasy that has ever existed. In (its offerings), it is almost invariably *eros* (sensual love) rather than *agape* (divine love) that provides all the excitement; celebrity and success rather than a broken and a contrite heart that are held up as being pre-eminently desirable; Jesus Christ in lights on Broadway rather than Jesus Christ on the cross who gets a folk hero's billing.

"Good and evil, after all provide the basic theme of the drama of our mortal existence, and in this sense may be compared with the positive and negative points which generate an electric current. ...The transposition of good and evil in the world of fantasy created by the media leaves us with no sense of any moral order in the universe, and without this, no order whatsoever, social, political, economic or any other, is

INITIATING DEPRAVITY. Television prepares the heart of any viewer for increasingly lower moral standards, but never for higher morality. Why not behold the glory of the Lord, as Paul says, instead?

ultimately attainable. There is only chaos. To break out of the fantasy, to rediscover the reality of good and evil, and therefore the order which informs all creation - this is the freedom that the incarnation made available" (*Christ and the Media*, pp. 46,47).

Along with his analysis, Muggeridge has given an idea of what the future holds. "In surveying the future of the media, it should be realized that the ever-expanding television schedules can not be filled except with the help of old movies, which means that the more successful films now being shown in the cinemas will find their way almost automatically on to the television screen. As many of these belong to a category that up till quite recently would have found an outlet only in squalid...dives, it may be assumed that before very long children will be watching what has hitherto been reserved for the sick, the perverse, and the depraved" (*Ibid.*, pp. 52, 53).

CHANGING INTO AN IMAGE

Paul asserts that "we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Cor. 3:18). Jerry Mander has done a great amount of research and has discovered that the same thing happens to people morally as they view television. He cites many sources of information along this line in his book, showing "voluminous physiological evidence (measurements) which at last fit the model of proof that the images we carry have something important to do with who we individually become" (*Four Arguments*, p.220). He proceeds to show that the images we bear in our minds cannot only affect every cell of our bodies physically, but they can also affect us emotionally and ethically, shaping our characters in the likeness of what we view.

Siding with what Paul says, we had better spend more time looking upon the glory of the Lord, and less upon the secular fantasy of television!

BIBLE SEMINARY CHRONICLES

Faith Warriors
Wanted<< STUDENT INSIGHT +
FROM PAGE 13

some spiritual food for my soul. By this time, I had made up in my mind that I was headed back to the states with my kids while my husband was in Iraq. I recalled the conversation with the man of God that I had spoken with on the phone the day that my face had dropped. He said that we were heavy on their heart and that they had been praying for us and he asked how we were doing. I didn't tell him what happened to me that day. It made God's word more true to me. The morning we woke up and prepared for our flight, the entire left side of my face was back to the normal appearance (For great is our Lord and of great power, Ps. 147:5).

I want to be found faithful, no matter the cost. Since we returned from our tour in Germany God has touched my husband and my children, and they are serving God today. I am so thankful for true men and women that will pray without ceasing and be real prayer warriors that will stand and pray. Had it not been for true people of God that didn't back down or stop calling out to God, my family would not be here today living for God. I am looking forward to hearing my Saviour say "well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord". I can never repay the debt, but I can work on helping to build up God's kingdom: I can help to spread the greatest news ever; that Jesus saves!

In our own spiritual experience we often find that not least of our trials is the fact that God seems so slow to respond, so inexplicable in His ways; sometimes it would appear that He is careless or indifferent. This experience is common to the novice and veteran warrior alike. Throughout the centuries even the most outstanding of God's servants have been confronted by the seeming problem of the slow response of the Lord. It sometimes looks to His people as though He were unhurried to the point of being tardy, and that just when their needs were most acute. But, in this we find the making of men and women whose faith will stand any test God will allow to come their way.

The scripture in I Kings draws our attention to the demand for persistent faith. It might be thought that the most critical moment on Mount Carmel was when the prophets of Baal had exhausted themselves in vain prayers and had to give way to Elijah with his water-saturated altar and his simple, dignified appeal to Israel's God. This was indeed a breathless moment and the high point of the story, the great miracle when fire fell from heaven; but what if that had been the end? We must remember that the country had been suffering from three years of intense drought, and if life were to be sustained it was not fire that they wanted but water! What they needed was rain and plenty of it. Wonderful and emotional as the burning sacrifice must have been, there could be no new life, no new hope if the rain did not come.

The Lord knew how critical their condition was and might have been expected to act, now that the people had repudiated Baal and committed their care to Him. When the crowd shouted "The Lord, He is God" the reformation seemed to be complete, and the natural sequel should surely have been rain clouds and water pouring down on this thirsty land; and yet no rain fell: no thirst-quenching, life give water from heaven came. Was God

indifferent to their need? There was no doubt that Elijah's faith had produced a remarkable answer from God, the fire had fallen. He could have folded his arms and taken his ease while the Lord did the rest; however Elijah did nothing of the sort; Ahab went home to eat and drink, Elijah went to the top of Mt. Carmel. He knew his business was not finished, and was determined to see the matter through to the end. Our prayers are apt to wane and our energy and enthusiasm decline because God seems unresponsive. What is He doing? He is making a servant; to Him this is more important than the actual service done. The Lord stands by to see our response; will we hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised)

"The Lord, He is God." The Lord had to make it clear the second time, not only in the fire, but in the rain; not only in the judgment but in the mercy; not only in the death but in the resurrection life. His delays, His hiddenness, His seeming indifference are all the testing means by which He develops true faith in His servants, and works something of His own Spirit into their very constitution. It was easy for God to send rain; what was more difficult but infinitely more worthwhile was to enable His servant to go on watching and praying for the full seven times, never despairing, never doubting, never giving up. In the end there was no lack of rain; but it came as the result of a second battle. First there was the battle with Baal, and then the battle with unbelief; the external battle, and the internal battle. It is on the last inward battle that the whole issue depends. God's need for this hour is men and women who will latch onto His promise and not lay down in rest until the whole is fulfilled. The need of this sin-filled world is a people who are determined to wait on the Lord for the fire and the rain; the fire of Holy Ghost conviction and the rain of His righteousness to fall.

Practicing
the
PRESENCE

BROTHER LAWRENCE was a monk during the 1600s, serving God in what was at that time a popular means of doing so: ascetism, or seclusion accompanied by complete devotion to God, studying the Scriptures, fasting, and prayer. Brother Lawrence wrote his spiritual classic, "The Practice of the Presence of God," during his years as a monastic dish-washer. All Christians would do well to embrace its deep spiritual principles and learn from this 16th century Christian who "kept under his body... that he might know Him." And know Him, he did...

Few people in the world can honestly say that God disappointed them, yet Nicholas Herman was one of them. He was converted to Christianity at the age of eighteen. Seeing a dry, lifeless tree in the dead of winter and realizing that soon it would burst forth into life as the sap rose in the spring, Herman knew that he was spiritually dead and asked God to give him a rebirth. It happened, too; for a period of time, Nicholas Herman served as a footman and a soldier, where he grew in Christianity and learned some of the duties that would later serve him as a monk.

In 1666, Nicholas Herman was admitted to a lay brotherhood at the Carmelite monastery in Paris. Herman entered the order expecting to suffer at the hand of God because of his prior sinful life, but God disappointed him. Instead of a life of regret and suffering, Herman, who was given the name of Brother Lawrence, found forgiveness, joy, and peace beyond expectation.

Brother Lawrence's faith, however, was soon put to the test, for he was assigned to the kitchen. By nature, he was awkward and clumsy. Kitchen duty was a challenge, but the way that he tackled it provides guidelines for victorious living three centuries later.

Lawrence believed that even the most mundane and worldly task can be done in love for God, and doing it for the great King gives the most humble task a spiritual purpose. In his little book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence shares what God taught him.

He wrote, "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees..."

**Whatever your hand finds to do,
do it with all your might.**

ECCLESIASTES 9:10

CONTINUED + ON PAGE 18>>



Excerpt from "The Practice of the Presence of God"

That we should establish ourselves in a sense of GOD's Presence, by continually conversing with Him.

That it was a shameful thing to quit His conversation, to think of trifles and fooleries.

That we should feed and nourish our souls with high notions of GOD; which would yield us great joy in being devoted to Him.

That we ought to quicken, i.e., to enliven, our faith. That it was lamentable we had so little; and that instead of taking faith for the rule of their conduct, men amused themselves with trivial devotions, which changed daily. That the way of Faith was the spirit of the Church, and that it was sufficient to bring us to a high degree of perfection.

That we ought to give ourselves up to GOD, with regard both to things temporal and spiritual, and seek our satisfaction only in the fulfilling of His will, whether He lead us by suffering or by consolation, for all would be equal to a soul truly resigned. That there needed fidelity in those drynesses, or insensibilities and irksomenesses in prayer, by which GOD tries our love to Him; that then was the time for us to make good and effectual acts of resignation, whereof one alone would oftentimes very much promote our spiritual advancement.

He wrote that he began each task with fervent prayer and then did it with love for God. At the end of each meal, he prayed again with thanksgiving. Lawrence wrote, "We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed."

How he found the habitual sense of God's Presence

"I renounced, for the love of Him, everything that was not He..."

"Having found in many books different methods of going to God, and divers practices of the spiritual life, I thought this would serve rather to puzzle me, than facilitate what I sought after, which was nothing but how to become wholly God's.

This made me resolve to give the all for the All: so after having given myself wholly to God, to make all the satisfaction I could for my sins, I renounced, for the love of Him, everything that was not He; and I began to live as if there was none but He and I in the world. Sometimes I considered myself before Him as a poor criminal at the feet of his judge; at other times I beheld Him in my heart as my Father, as my God: I worshipped Him the oftenest that I could, keeping my mind in His holy Presence, and recalling it as often as I found it wandered from Him. I found no small pain in this exercise, and yet I continued it, notwithstanding all the difficulties that occurred, without troubling or disquieting myself when my mind had wandered involuntarily. I made this my business, as much all the day long as at the appointed times of prayer; for at all times, every hour, every minute, even in the height of my business, I drove away from my mind everything that was capable of interrupting my thought of God.

Such has been my common practice ever since I entered into religion; and though I have done it very imperfectly, yet I have found great advantages by it. These, I well know, are to be imputed to the mere mercy and goodness of God, because we can do nothing without Him; and I still less than any. But when we are faithful to keep ourselves in His holy Presence, and set Him always before us, this not only hinders our offending Him, and doing anything that may displease Him, at least willfully, but it also begets in us a holy freedom, and if I may so speak, a familiarity with God, wherewith we ask, and that successfully, the graces we stand in need of. In time, by often repeating these acts, they become habitual, and the presence of God is rendered as it were natural to us.

To Brother Lawrence the practical aspects of Christianity could be summed up in three words from the pen of the apostle Paul: faith, hope, love. He said, "That all things are possible to him who believes, that they are less difficult to him who hopes; that they are more easy to him who loves, and still more easy to him who perseveres in the practice of these three virtues." Putting faith, hope, and love into operation was to Brother Lawrence, practicing the presence of God. What a legacy!✍

Queen and Daughter of Evil

Athaliah means "Jah has constrained," or "Jehovah has afflicted." She was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and so was half Israelite and half Phoenician, and she personified all the evil of her ill-famed parents and transferred the poison of idolatry into Jerusalem's veins. She was the granddaughter of Omri, 6th king of Israel, "who waded through slaughter to a throne he never inherited." Athaliah married Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat. After many years of strife between the kingdoms of Judah and Israel, political expediency on the part of Jehoshaphat — which remains a blot upon his otherwise good memory, caused him to give his eldest son, Jehoram, in marriage to Athaliah, whose brothers, loyal to the worship of Jehovah were murdered by Jehoram. Of this union, Ahaziah was born; with such a revolting figure as a mother, licentious and the personification of despicable arrogance, he never had a chance to develop finer qualities of character. With such a mother as his wicked counselor, what else could he do but walk in the ways of godless Ahab? (2 Chronicles 22:3).

After reigning for eight years, Jehoram died unmourned of a predicted incurable disease. While he reigned, he was dominated by Athaliah, who had the stronger character of the two and, who having inherited from her evil mother strength of will and fanatical devotion to the worship of Baal, made Judah idolatrous. Ahaziah only reigned for a year. Wounded in battle by Jehu, he fled to Megiddo where he died, while his wicked mother (II Chronicles 24:7) became envious of the throne. Even though the sons of Ahaziah stood in her way, with fanatical ambition she seized the opportunity and massacred all the legal heirs — so she thought. This wholesale, merciless, cruel-hearted murderess sought to exterminate the last vestiges of the House of David, through which the promised Messiah was to come. Behind her dastardly crime to destroy "The Royal Seed", we can detect the evil machinations of the devil — a murderer from the beginning — to annihilate the promised seed of the woman predestined to bruise the satanic head. A bad woman, bent on destruction is doubly dangerous.

After putting to death her young grandsons, Athaliah reigned for six years and was the only woman to reign as queen of Judah. The daughter of a king, wife of a king, mother of a king, she is now queen. While her husband reigned, she was the power behind the throne — now she is the power on the throne and proof of her energy, forcefulness and ability are seen in the length of her reign. A despotic ruler, her every gesture had to be obeyed. During

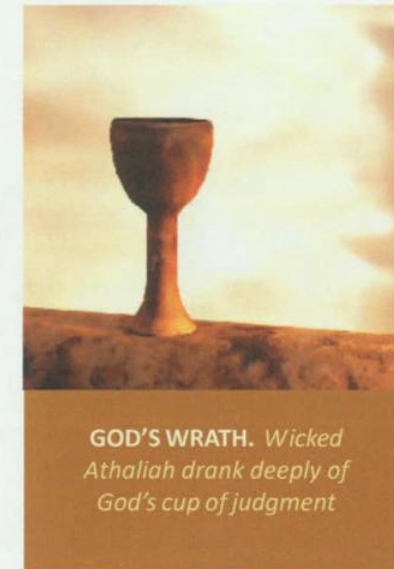
her reign, part of the Temple of Jehovah was pulled down and the material used in the building of a temple of Baal; however, the God who overrules in the destinies of men and nations intervened to redeem His promise of a Savior from the tribe of Judah.

Unknown to Athaliah as she set out to massacre all her grandsons, the youngest was hid from the orgy of destruction. The sister of Ahaziah, Jehosheba, wife of Jehoiada, the high priest, hid Joash until he was seven years old (II Kings 11:2; II Chronicles 22:11). Jehoiada plotted to put Joash (Jehoash) on the throne, and waited for the opportune moment to declare the remaining son of Ahaziah the lawful king of Judah. Athaliah came into the Temple as the coronation of Joash took place, and rending her robe, cried: "Treason!" To save the Temple from being defiled with her evil blood she was slain just outside the door where the avenging guards waited to end her infamous life. Thus, as Edith Deen expresses it, "The horses trampled over her body where she lay dead at the gates. In her miserable

end, Athaliah bore a singular resemblance to her mother Jezebel, who was abandoned to the dogs. Athaliah was left in a horse-path, to be trampled upon. Like her mother she died a queen, but without a hand to help her or an eye to pity her."

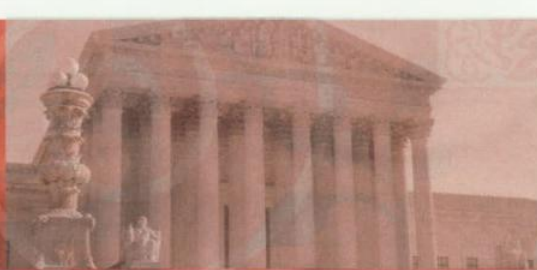
Among the lessons one can gather from the record of that murderess is that we reap what we sow. To Athaliah, life was cheap, and thus those who thwarted her purpose must be destroyed; however, by taking the sword, she perished by it (Matt 26:52). She breathed out murder, and was in turn murdered. A further lesson we learn from her stained history is that no one can thwart God's purpose of grace. Having promised a sinful world a savior, none could make such a promise null and void. Persecution and martyrdom have never been able to destroy the loyal worship of the True God. Idolatry and infidelity cannot possibly annihilate the imperishable Word of God. As we leave the shameful story of Athaliah, we find ourselves in full agreement with the summary of her bloody career:

"Her very name is an execration. She put the whole nation under the shadow of a great horror. She trampled on all faith. She violated all obligation. She lived with the shrieks of those she butchered in her ears. She lived with her hands red with the blood of princes and princesses; she died, frantic with rage, with the accusation of treason on her lips. She died in the barnyard under the battle axes of an aroused people."✍



GOD'S WRATH. Wicked Athaliah drank deeply of God's cup of judgment

THE WORD OF THE LORD



THE REALITY OF HOLINESS

"For I am the Lord your God, ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy: for I am holy." (Leviticus 11:44)

INTRODUCTION.

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ... purge your conscience from dead works to serve a living God?" (Hebrews 9:13-15). The writer of Hebrews is reminding us that the new covenant is a better covenant than the old, based on the better promises. He also compares the ceremonial cleansing, which was commanded, with the perfect cleansing by the blood of Jesus. God's standard for man has in every dispensation been holiness of heart and life. "...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

I. DISCOVERING HOLINESS.

This message is not to argue against the opponents of the doctrine of holiness, for there are those who are willingly blinded and fail to come unto the knowledge of the truth. The intent is to point the wilderness wanderer to Canaan, the land of inheritance; to tell the thirsty pilgrim of the Upper and Nether Springs; to encourage the believer to go on into an experience that is real and satisfying; to the troubled soul who is searching for a fullness of experience. We seek to proclaim that there remaineth a rest for the people of God. We wish to point out to the hungry heart that Jesus Christ not only justifies freely, but sanctifies wholly. We would proclaim with the apostle that "the law of the Spirit of the life in Christ hath made us free from the law of sin and death." We would sing with the poet:

*"I can see far down the mountain, where I wandered weary years,
Often hindered in my journey by the ghosts of doubts and fears.
Broken vows and disappointments, thickly sprinkled all the way.
But the spirit led unerring to the land I hold today."*

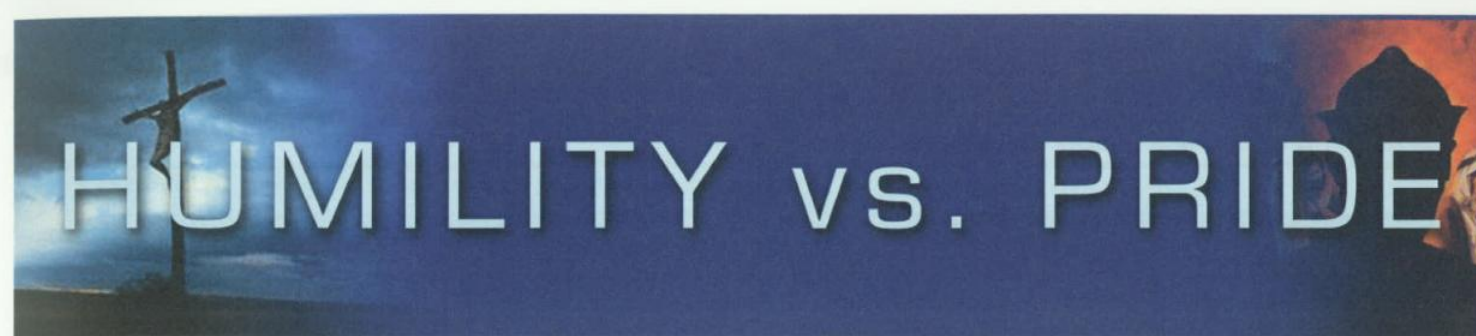
II. UNDERSTANDING HOLINESS.

There has been much error propagated concerning this definite second work of grace. The first false doctrine from Satan in Eden was that one could be right with God and sin in thought, word, and deed. The serpent asks, "Hath God said thou shalt surely die?" God said, "The soul that sinneth it shall die" and, "He that committeth sin is of the devil." One cannot sin and be a Christian. Until that sin is forsaken and repented of, and by faith he is born again, he is not a Christian.

III. INDWELLING HOLINESS.

Another error which has made shipwreck of the faith of multitudes is that when one is born again he has received Christ's baptism with the Holy Ghost. The new birth is for the unsaved—Christ's baptism is for the Christian. The new birth is being delivered out of Egypt—Christ's baptism brings us into Canaan. The new birth is deliverance from guilt—Christ's baptism is deliverance from the power of sin. The new birth is justification to the sinner—Jesus' fiery baptism is entire sanctification to the believer. The new birth is betrothal—Christ's baptism is marriage. The first baptism is the washing of regeneration—the second is "the renewing of the Holy Ghost." The new birth begins what Christ's baptism consummates. Jesus said "John truly baptized you with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Wait for the promise of the Father, which ye have heard of me." The promise of the Father was that he would send a person to them; "the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost." How much in error are those that propagate the doctrine of "one work." "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" This was the question Paul asked, and this is what we must ask ourselves today. Do we really have the fire baptism of the Holy Ghost that will empower us and keep us living holy all the days of our lives?

HUMILITY vs. PRIDE



Saul | Saul

"Our fellowlaborer"

"God hath rejected thee"

The New Testament speaks of a man named Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. He was at one time a fierce enemy of the church, but God saved him on the road to Damascus. From there, God took him into the school of humility, into the Arabian wilderness for three years. God emptied Saul of himself; and in that desert of humility, Saul of Tarsus was transformed into Paul, the apostle of Christ. Paul didn't see just his own smallness before God, but his *nothingness* before God. In Ephesians 3:8 Paul says of himself "who am less than the least of all saints". Even after conversion, Paul felt unworthy to be called a saint. We continue to see Paul's descent from human dignity into nothingness before God when he said in 1 Cor.15:9 "I am not meet to be called an apostle". Paul knew he was called to be an apostle, and the fruits of an apostolic ministry flowed abundantly through him; but in the next verse, Paul credited everything in his ministry to the grace of God. He said in 1 Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God, I am what I am". Near the end of Paul's ministry he made a statement in 1 Timothy 1:15, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief". Paul realized that without God's mercy, grace, the Blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit's power, he was the chiefest of sinners. Throughout Paul's Christian life his heart kept crying out for more humility before God, and he found that truly does God give grace to the humble.

Saul of the Old Testament was the first divinely appointed King of Israel. He came from humble beginnings, but his life ended in pride. The verse of Scripture that summarizes Saul's life is 1 Samuel 15:17 "And Samuel said, when thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel." Saul started out small; he was a nobody! In 1 Samuel 9:21 the Bible records, "and Saul answered, 'am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest tribe of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?" On the day of his coronation to become King, Saul even hid himself so as not to be found. What ruined Saul and led to his demise was pride, specifically the pride of image. Over time (for pride works through a process of time) Saul cared more about himself and what others thought of him than what God thought of him. God had become an afterthought. Saul was caught up in his own popularity, and had become the classic politician. He wanted the honor of man rather than the honor of God, which honor only comes through humility. In 1 Samuel 15:30 Saul said, "Honor me now before the elders of my people". Through Saul's self-elevation, he lost everything; God rejected him, for God resists the proud. Through his pride, Saul opened himself to the influence of evil spirits that led him to jealousy, competitiveness, idolatry through witchcraft, murder, and ending his own life in suicide. Truly does Proverbs 16:18 warn, "Pride goeth before destruction..."

Dear reader, whose steps are you following—the steps of humble apostle or the steps of proud King? Before honor there is humility, but pride goeth before a fall. Ponder your footsteps.

Heaven or Hell?

Dying Words of Christians, Sinners and Religious Hypocrites



Surprisingly, Ethan Allen, a noted enemy of the faith

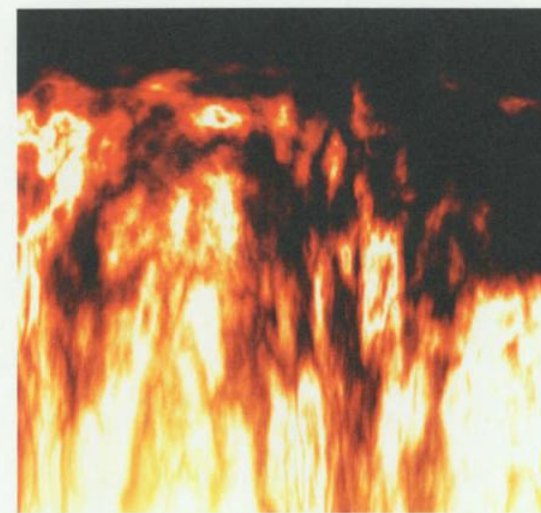
Though the following biographic note may be familiar to some, it may yet be useful to many. Ethan Allen was a professed infidel, or enemy of the faith. He wrote a book against the divinity of our blessed Lord. His wife was a Christian; earnest, cheerful and devoted: however, she died early, leaving an only daughter behind, who became the idol of her father. She was a fragile, sensitive child, and entwined herself about the rugged nature of her sire as the vine entwines itself about the knotty and gnarled limbs of the oak. Consumption, the old name for tuberculosis, marked this fair girl for its own; and she wasted away day by day, under its heavy hand.

One day her father came into her room, sat down by her bedside and took her wan, ethereal hand in his. Looking her father squarely in the face, she said, "My dear father, I'm going to die." "Oh no, my child! Oh no. The spring is coming and with the birds, the breezes and the blooms, your pale cheeks will blush with health." "No, the doctor was here today. I felt I was nearing the grave, and I asked him to tell me plainly, what I had to expect. I told him that it was a great thing to exchange worlds; that I

did not wish to be deceived about myself, and if I was going to die, I had some preparations I wanted to make. He told me my disease was beyond human skill; that a few more suns would rise and set, and then I would be borne to my burial. You will bury me, father, by the side of my mother, for that was her dying request; but father, you and mother did not agree on religion. Mother often spoke to me of the blessed Savior who died for us all. She used to pray for both you and me, that the Savior might be our friend, and that we might all see Him as our Savior, when He sits enthroned in His glory. I don't feel that I can go alone through the dark valley of the shadow of death. Now tell me, father, whom shall I follow, you or mother? Shall I reject Christ, as you have taught me, or shall I accept Him, as He was my mother's friend in the hour of her great sorrow?"

There was an honest heart beneath that rough exterior. Though tears nearly choked his utterance, the old soldier said, "My child, cling to your mother's Savior; she was right. I'll try to follow you to that blessed abode."

A serene smile over-spread the face of the dying girl; and who can doubt there is an unbroken family in heaven?✍



A young man after his first, and last, drink

A young man stood before a large audience in the most fearful position a human being could be: placed on the scaffold! The noose had been adjusted around his neck. In a few moments more, he would be in eternity. The sheriff took out his watch and said, "If you have anything to say, speak now; as you have but five minutes more to live." What awful words for a young man to hear, in full health and vigor!

Shall I tell you his message to the youth about him? He burst into tears and said with sobbing: "I have to die! I had only one little brother. He had beautiful blue eyes and flaxen hair. How I loved him! I got drunk—the first time. I found my little brother gathering strawberries. I got angry with him, without cause; and killed him with a blow from a rake. I knew nothing about it until I awoke on the following day and found myself closely guarded. They told me that when my little brother was found, his hair was clotted with his blood and brains. Whiskey had done it! It has ruined me! I have only one more word to say to the young people before I go to stand in the presence of my Judge. Never, Never, NEVER touch anything that can intoxicate!"

Whiskey did it! The last words of this doomed young man make our heart ache, and we cry out to God, "How long, how long shall our nation be crazed with rum? When, oh when, will the American people wake up?" Oh that the professed people of God would vote as they pray. What about the licensed bar that deals out the poison that sends millions reeling and crazed with drink to hell? What about the multitudes of innocent people who are killed by inches, and sacrificed to the god of liquor? We protect and license a man who deals out death and destruction, and hang a man who gets drunk and kills his neighbor. Who was most to blame—this young man, or the saloonkeeper who made him crazy, or the government that gave the saloonkeeper license to deal in death? God help us to decide this question in the light of the coming judgment.✍

FROM THE LIBRARY

Having Begun in the Spirit

from *Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray, Pages 78-79

The words from which I wish to address you, you will find in the epistle to the Galatians, the third chapter, the third verse; let us read the second verse also, "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish?" And then comes my text- "Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

When we speak of the quickening, the deepening, or the strengthening of the spiritual life, we are thinking of something that is feeble and wrong and sinful; and it is a great thing to take our place before God with the confession: "Oh, God, our spiritual life is not what it should be!" May God work that in your heart, reader.

As we look round about on the Church, we see so many indications of feebleness and of failure, and of sin, and of shortcoming that we are compelled to ask: Why is it? Is there any necessity for the Church of Christ to be living in such a low state? Or is it actually possible that God's people should be living always in the joy and strength of their God? Every believing heart must answer: It is possible.

Then comes the great question: Why is it, how is it to be accounted for, that God's Church as a whole is so feeble, and that the great majority of Christians are not living up to their privileges? There must be a reason for it. Has God not given Christ His Almighty Son to be the Keeper of every believer, to make Christ an ever-present reality, and to impart and communicate to us all that we have in Christ? God has given His Son, and God has given His Spirit. How it is that believers do not live up to their privileges?

We find in more than one of the epistles a very solemn answer to that question. There are epistles, such as the first to the Thessalonians, where Paul writes to the Christians, in effect, "I want you to grow, to abound, to increase more and more." They were young, and there were things lacking in their faith, but their state was so far satisfactory, and gave him great joy, and he writes time after time, "I pray God that you may abound more and more; I write to you to increase more and more." But there are other epistles where he takes a very

different tone, especially the epistles to the Corinthians and to the Galatians, and he tells them in many different ways what the one reason was, that they were not living as Christians ought to live; many were under the power of the flesh. My text is one example. He reminds them that by the preaching of faith they had received the Holy Spirit. He had preached Christ to them; they had accepted that Christ, and had received the Holy Spirit in power. But what happened? Having begun in the Spirit, they tried to perfect the work that the Spirit had begun in the flesh by their own effort. We find the same teaching in the epistle to the Corinthians.

Now, we have here a solemn discovery of what the great want is in the Church of Christ. God has called the Church of Christ to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Church is living for the most part in the power of human flesh, and of will and energy and effort apart from the Spirit of God. I do not doubt that is the case with many individual believers. Oh, if God will use me to give you a message from Him, my one message will be this: "If the Church will return to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is her strength and her help, and if the Church will return to give up everything, and wait upon God to be filled with the Spirit, her days of beauty and gladness will return, and we shall see the glory of God revealed among us." This is my message to every individual believer:

"Nothing will help you unless you come to understand that you must live every day under the power of the Holy Ghost."

God wants you to be a living vessel in whom the power of the Spirit is to be manifested every hour and every moment of your life, and God will enable you to be that.

Now let us try to learn that this word to the Galatians teaches us some very simple thoughts. It shows us how (1) the beginning of the Christian life is receiving the Holy Spirit. It shows us (2) what great danger there is of forgetting that we are to live by the Spirit, and not live after the flesh. It shows us (3) what are the fruits and the proofs of our seeking perfection in the flesh. And then it suggests to us (4) the way of deliverance from this state.✍

Q&A

Qualifying the Co-Laborer

1. In scripture, what does it mean to be "tried by fire"?
2. What two phenomena of nature did God use to guide the children of Israel through the wilderness during the exodus?
3. When the kings of Judah and Edom joined with the king of Israel against Mesha, king of Moab, what atrocity did Mesha commit that was so appalling it caused all the warriors of Judah and Edom to leave the war and go back home?
4. What common practice was so despised of God, he straightly told Israel not to mimic it?
5. What four qualities truly awed the princes, governors, captains, and counselors of Nebuchadnezzar as they witnessed Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah walk out?

Answers to Issue 20

1. Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 9:15)
2. Nehemiah (1:3-4)
3. God (Genesis 7:16)
4. The gates and everlasting doors (Psalm 24:7-9)
5. Job's (1:18-19)
6. The foolish man (Mathew 7:26-27)

THE ROAD TO Eternal Life

Lives changed. Hopes restored. Minds made right; hearts made whole. Jesus has been proven as the one remedy for all this world's infirmities throughout the ages. Sounds too good to be true? It isn't - if you're fed up with life, coming to Jesus may be easier than you think. Read on, friend, and accept the Lord with the prayer at the end. All the host of heaven rejoices when one sinner is saved!

WHO IS GOOD?

ROMANS 3:10-12. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

WHO HAS SINNED?

ROMANS 3:23. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

THE ETERNAL COST OF YOUR SIN

ROMANS 6:23a. "For the wages of sin is death..."
ROMANS 1:18a. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..."

NOTHING YOU CAN DO CAN SAVE YOU

ROMANS 3:20a. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight..."

GOD'S LOVE HAS MADE A WAY

JOHN 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

ROMANS 5:8-9. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

PLACE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

ROMANS 4:21. "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

JESUS CHRIST ALONE CAN SAVE YOU

ACTS 4:12. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

...THEN PRAY AND ASK HIM

ROMANS 10:13. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
ROMANS 10:11. "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

BE CONFIDENT YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY
TO HEAVEN TODAY:
THIS PRAYER,
THIS MOMENT,
pray.

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. If I died today, I would not go to Heaven. Forgive my sins, come into my heart and be my Savior. Help me live for you from this day forward.
In Jesus name, Amen.

NOW THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

Your everlasting life has begun! To continue in the Christian way, get a King James Bible and study to build your life on a strong foundation. Find a church nearby that teaches sound doctrine, and make prayer a daily habit!

House of Prayer CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Doctrinal Statement

As Christian believers of the House of Prayer Christian Churches of America, Incorporated, we make the following declaration of the things which are "Believed Among Us" (Luke 1:1), so as, there will be no division or differences among us, and that all our churches preach, teach, and proclaim the following, doing so in love and by direction of the Holy Spirit, and by the Word of God.

I - THE SCRIPTURES: We believe that the Scriptures, (The Bible), are the inspired Word of God, and that they are to be taught and believed in their entirety - (II Timothy 3:15) (II Peter 1:21)

That the Scriptures will give us a complete revelation of God's divine plan of Salvation and His will toward man, and that this is to constitute the complete rule of Christian Faith and the practice of the same.

II - THE GODHEAD: Our God is a Trinity - manifested in three distinct Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, being co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal.

III - SALVATION: Salvation for man, (which is fallen from his perfect and sinless state through Adam), is attained by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ His Son, by His death upon the cross, through the Holy Spirit's conviction, by repentance, and through an experience of the New Birth. This is accomplished by grace, and is made effectual through faith in Jesus Christ by accepting Him as our Personal Savior. (Titus 2:11) (Romans 10:13-15) (Luke 24:47) (Titus 3:5-7)

IV - THE CHURCH: We believe that the Church is the Body of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18) (Ephesians 4:15) and that Jesus is the Head. Its earthly members are made up of believers, born again by the Spirit (John 3:6) and by the Word. (I Peter 1:23). To the Church is delegated authority, instructions, offices, and rules to govern it, and its members, so as to allow it to fulfill its mission in the fulfillment of Christ's great commission. (Matthew 28:19) (Mark 16:15-20)

V - MINISTRY: God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls and sets aside such as He desires to serve as Ministers of the Gospel. No one should under any circumstances be ordained to any office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

VI - WATER BAPTISM: Baptism in water is by immersion, and is a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19) and is for believers only. (Romans 6:4) (Colossians 2:12) (Acts 8:36-39)

VII - BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11) is a gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ, to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the New Birth. (John 14:16-17) (Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:38-39). The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied with the speaking in tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, this being the initial physical sign and evidence. (Acts 2:4)

VIII - SANCTIFICATION: The Word of God (The Bible) teaches that without holiness no man can or shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We believe the Doctrine of Sanctification to be a definite, yet a progressive work of grace in the believer's life, starting at the time of the born again experience in the believer's life. (Hebrews 13:12) (II Thessalonians 2:13) (I Peter 1:2) (Ephesians 5:26) (John 17:17) (I Corinthians 6:11) (I Thessalonians 5:23)

IX - THE LORD'S SUPPER: We believe that the ordinance of The Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior, and that its time or frequency of observance is left to the discretion of each congregation. (I Corinthians 11:26)

X - DIVINE HEALING: Healing is for the physical ills of the human body. It is wrought by God, through the power of God, by the laying on of hands and by prayer, through faith. (Mark 16:18) (James 5:14-15)

XI - THE COMING OF THE LORD: We hold that the coming of the Lord is imminent and is the blessed hope of the Church. We also hold that the rapture is to occur prior to the tribulation.

XII - RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND UNJUST: The Scriptures teach that the just (those born again, being justified by Jesus Christ) shall be raised by Jesus Christ unto eternal life and rewards. The unjust, (those who have rejected Jesus and His plan of salvation), shall be raised to judgement and eternal punishment.

XIII - HELL: When one dies in his sins without Christ, he is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire, and therefore has no more opportunity of receiving Christ as Savior, being eternally lost. (Hebrews 9:27)

The Lake of Fire is literal, (Revelation 19:20) and the words eternal and everlasting describe the duration of the punishment of those that are lost.

XIV - RELATION TO WAR: We believe that our government was and is established by God, and whereas we are thankful to the government of the United States of America, for the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and whereas we understand and believe that the Word of God does not command or teach, either by example or statement, that we should not protect or defend our way of life: be it resolved that during time of war or necessity, we will serve our government, bear arms, protect our citizens from enemies who try to overthrow our government and our country, and to serve in whatever role necessary.

XV - TITHES: We recognize the scriptural duty of all people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes unto the Lord. (Hebrews 7:8) Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord, and are not to be given to charity or used for other purposes. (Malachi 3:7-11) (Hebrews 7:2) (I Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2)

XVI - PRAYER: The Word of God plainly teaches that men must pray everywhere without wrath and doubting. (I Tim. 2:8) We believe that prayer is a vital and necessary part of a believer's life, and, therefore should be exercised without restriction, according to Scripture. (Luke 6:12) (Luke 18:1) (I Thessalonians 5:17)

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