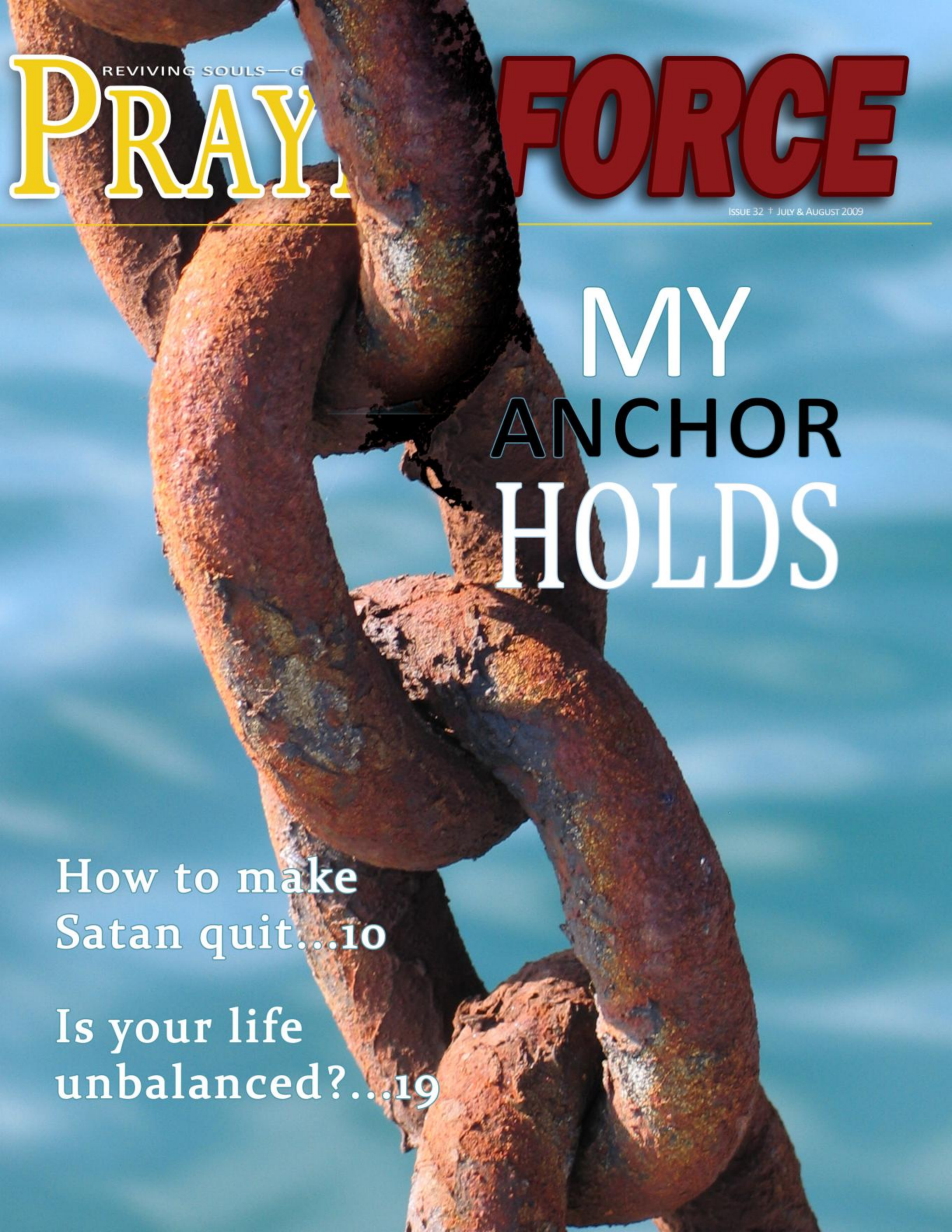




REVIVING SOULS—G
PRAY

FORCE

ISSUE 32 † JULY & AUGUST 2009

MY ANCHOR HOLDS

How to make
Satan quit...10

Is your life
unbalanced?...19

about House of Prayer



■ general board

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Ghost
OUR LEADERSHIP

■ 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."

OUR MISSION

■ 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**.

OUR CREED

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

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MY ANCHOR HOLDS

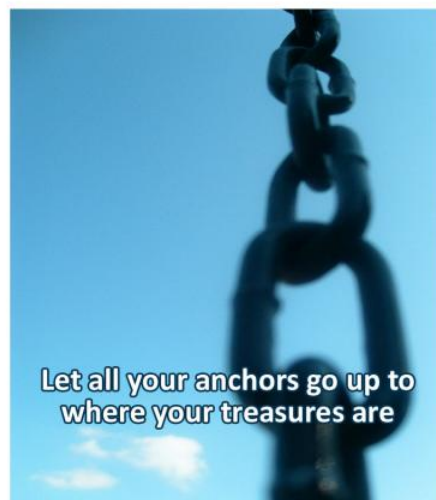
Placing the chapel during a noontime prayer meeting, I began to seek God's vision for the title of this issue of PRAYERFORCE. There are only two specific occurrences of the word "anchor" in the Bible, one of which, Acts 27, gives us the account of Paul and his company en-route to Rome. Having observed the fast for the Day of Atonement (v. 9 "because the fast was now already past"), about which time, according to commentators, oceanic navigation is pronounced unsafe, all hope of completing the voyage during that season was abandoned, the next question was whether they should winter at Fair Havens, or move to Port Phenice, a harbor about forty miles to the west. Paul assisted in the consultation and strongly urged them to winter where they were, but they would not listen for various reason. Later, we read how they were caught in a terrible storm called Euroclydon.

In verse 29, we read the sailors dropped four anchors out of the rear of the ship. It is this that I prayed over many hours. Why four? Surely, in the Word of God there is nothing written in vain, no detail arbitrarily placed?

Everyone needs anchors in their life, something that they can depend on, a solace they can find rest in. For some it is family; for others, it may be their career; and yet some may have their anchor in a favored pastime or hobby. Unfortunately, these examples are temporal; hence, undependable. This idea is what first piqued my interest. What are my anchors? In a particular seminary class, the teacher made the statement, "a Christian is to have no other attraction than God", then posed the question, "What attractions do you have aside from God?"; a serious question that is not to be answered without hours of prayer and self-scrutiny. What attracts me, or what attracts my attention? More insightfully, what attracts my attention *from* God?

The first anchor must have is God the Father. He it is that spoke all things into existence. Many have exhorted before

that the word in the original Hebrew meant specifically, "to create something *out of nothing*." There is an anecdote of some scientist challenging God to a contest of creation. The charge was that man had become so advanced, he too could create life; and, if God is not the only one to be able to do so, he must not really be God; hence, man need not walk according to His law. The story continues with God accepting the challenge of the foolish boffins and, coming down from His heavenly throne, offers them the opportunity to go first. Having exhausted extensive amounts of time building their laboratory and preparing, the lead genius stooped to gather a handful of soil, but God reprovably said, "Hold on, get



Let all your anchors go up to
where your treasures are

your own dirt!" Our God is a God of perfect order. Truly He is the designer of a perfectly balanced world; and if so, He also must be the designer of a perfectly balanced life. As Job clung to God and humbled himself in PrayerForce Qualified, it is in our best interest to hold fast to this anchor.

Our next anchor is in Christ Jesus, God the Son, the Word of Life. While God the Father was speaking all things into perfect existence, Jesus was the word that was spoken, for we read in the first chapter of John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and Jesus was the Word made flesh." Jesus testified that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that the only way man can approach God individually and intimately is by going through Him. No different than the

only way into your closet is through the door. When we allow our heart's anchor to be Jesus, we find that He reciprocates by being a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Growing up, though we were five years apart in age, my brother and I were the best of friends – to the point that, on specific occasions, we knowingly took the blame and punishment for the other. We also had an understanding, me being the junior, he would "toughen me up" at his good whim and leisure... but nobody else had better lay a finger on me! In a similar fashion, though, is Christ's love and attachment to those who have set Him as their anchor; He willingly took the punishment in our stead. As you'll read Hudson Taylor note in Missionary Insight, it is a "finished" work. Jesus Christ paved a road that leads straight to God. Surely, that is a dependable anchor.

The tertiary anchor is to be God the Holy Spirit. When power is demonstrated, be sure it is the Holy Spirit imbuing the individual, for He is the actual working power of God. Often, when referring to the Holy Spirit, the Greek word for power used in scripture is "dunamis", which is where we get our word "dynamite", and that is what the Spirit of God is, explosive power. If you ever travel through New England, you'll see that often the roads run through very large hills and, on both sides of the road, the rock face has large, vertical "half-pipes" burrowed into them. This is where the civil engineers drilled holes into the rock to drop dynamite – they literally blew up paths through the hills! It is this very Holy Ghost in Bible Seminary Chronicles that called Barnabas and Paul in Antioch, and made a path of salvation for Gentiles.

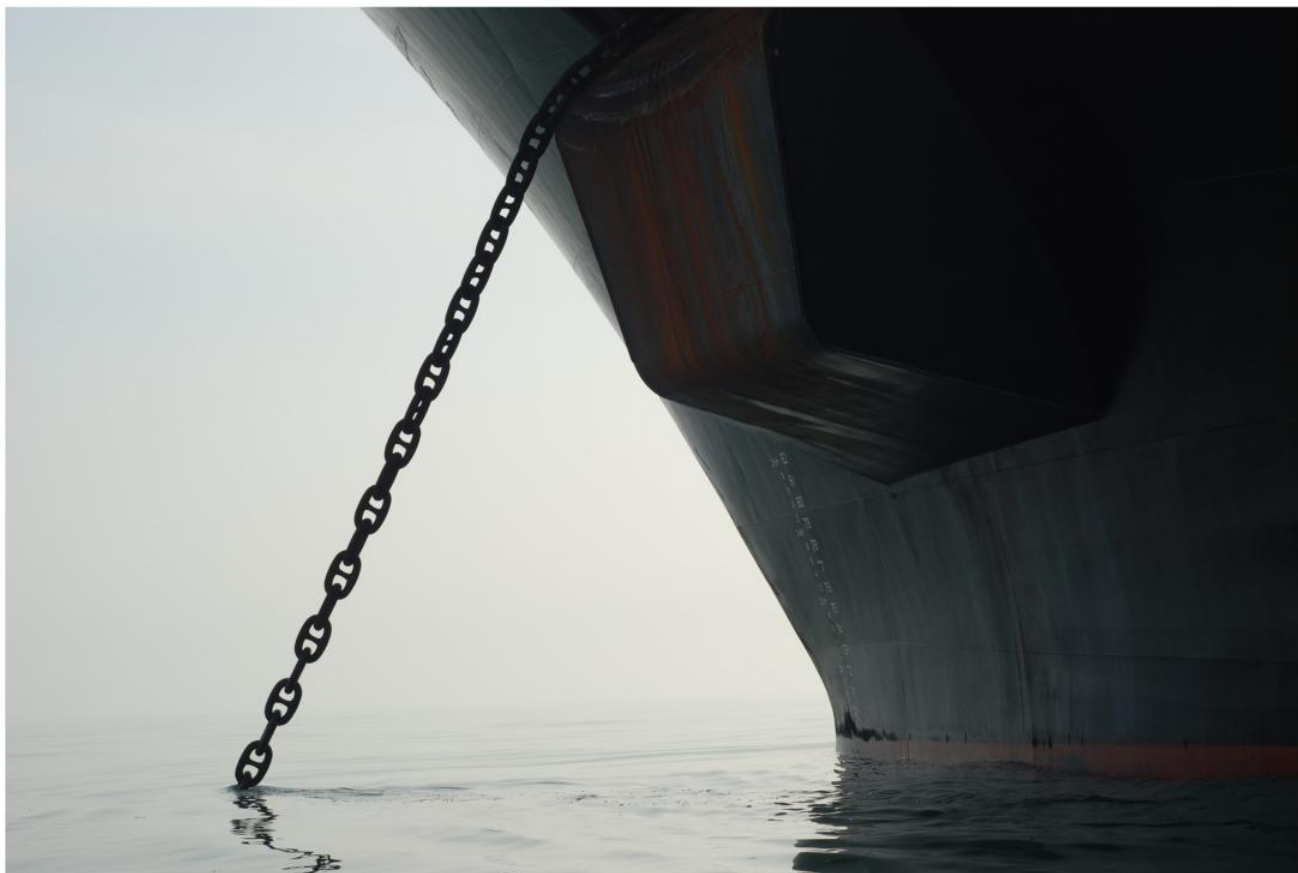
As for the fourth anchor: Hope. Hebrews 6:19 speaks of God's inability to lie, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul"; our hope is that God *cannot* lie; thus, every promise He has furnished us is a promise we can count on. Unwilling to let any perish, God exhorts us "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also", let all your anchors go up, so when you reel them in, the chains of faith that connect you to your anchors will pull you ever closer to this great Rock of Salvation. Don't be anchored by anything else, hope thou in God! 🙏

MY ANCHOR HOLDS

A POEM

I know three things must always be
To keep a nation strong and free:
One is a hearthstone bright and dear
With Joyous, happy loved ones near;
One is a ready heart and hand
To love and serve and keep the land;
One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.
So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive;
God, keep them always, everywhere—
The home, the heart,
the place of prayer.

-My anchor holds





Practicing the

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

ECCLESIASTES 9:10

PRESENCE

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.

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; hence, kitchen duty was a challenge. However, the way that he tackled it provides guidelines for victorious living almost three and a half centuries later.

Lawrence believed that even the most mundane and unspiritual 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 book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence shares what God taught him.

"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...."

He wrote that he began each task with fervent prayer and then did it with love for God. At the end of the 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.

"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 is practicing the presence of God. 🙏

THE TEST: PATIENT ENDURANCE

“**F**OR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH!” This was the cry from the distressed heart of one of the ancient patriarchs, Job. It was exclaimed in the midst of the hardest trial any man has had to endure. Job had lost it all: his children, his wealth, and finally his health. In addition, the worst was that the heavens seemed to be made of brass, that his prayers were going unheard, as heaven was silent. The more he pleaded, the quieter it got.

While many mighty men would no doubt have quit and cursed God, Job did not disappoint his Maker, but boldly exclaimed, “My Redeemer lives!” Without a Bible to direct him, without the presence of God to comfort him, and without the blood of redemption to keep him, this patriarch of endurance shows us that a man can serve God under any condition and during any circumstance.

No soldier has ever been given a weapon and just thrown into the midst of a war. He had to be broken, trained, and made into a soldier. All Christians are called to be soldiers. We are not fighting some imaginary war in our minds, nor are we engaged in a bloody conflict for land or possessions. We are in a spiritual warfare against Satan and the enemies of God.

Throughout history, before any great revival or spiritual awakening erupted, God’s people were first broken, tried and made into true Christians: to see if their “possession” matched up with their “profession.” Are we, for even one moment, to imagine that we are any better Christians than those in past generations? Do we think we do not have to be tried in the fire? Our excuses have run out, our facades have crumbled; now may our lives be transparent for all to see. Our prayer is that *our* generation may see men and women of patient endurance. May the world now see a clean people in whom they can hope, a pure people they can trust, and a holy people they can follow!

Many of the brethren have experienced battles and trials, but have not yielded to the enemy’s taunting cry, “Why don’t you just curse God and die?” Quitting is not an option for us dear Brothers and Sisters. The fight for righteousness and truth has been great, but God has some praying saints who have dug in for the duration of the fight.

“Our Redeemer Liveth!” is our cry to a lost and sinful generation that needs a reality in God. The word is getting out: the winds of revival are stirring! 📣





A CHALLENGE

In the year 1849, Garibaldi, that great Italian patriot, soldier and leader of men, stood and spoke to his ragged, hungry and battle-weary soldiers. "Men," he said, "we have gone through many battles together. You have watched your friends die by your side. You have been hit by the enemy's bullets. You have been hungry and thirsty and tired, but you have marched on. The battle now before us is the greatest of all. Everything depends on its outcome. The eyes of the nation are upon you. If you follow me it will mean hunger and thirst and forced marches and battles and, for some of you—death. But every man who has the courage to follow Garibaldi, step forward!" And the record is that the entire company of men stepped forward at that challenge to follow their great leader into battle and to victory.

In the year 1940, Winston Churchill, another figure in history, stood before the microphones in London and challenged the British Empire and the whole world by saying: "Ours is not an easy task. It will mean blood and toil and sweat and tears, but we will fight on—and we will never surrender!" With those challenging words ringing in their hearts, freemen around the world girded themselves for battle—and victory!

At this very moment Jesus the peerless Christ is standing before each soul saying: "You who bear My name; you who claim so much through Me; you who sing pretty songs and preach beautiful sermons about Me; the war with sin and Satan is, at this moment, raging in full fury. Souls, immortal souls, are at this very moment being defeated and damned. If you really love Me as you say you do, if you really love My cause as you claim to, fall on your knees and tarry there until you are ready and willing to follow Me up and down the line where fallen men and women need redeeming grace; then, help Me as I lift the broken and sin-blasted souls to the merciful arms of a loving God."

Oh, that we may hear His challenge! May we accept His challenge and fall upon our knees and tarry there until our souls are filled with His passion, His love, and His burden for the lost, wounded and dying! May Almighty God help us in this crucial and climactic hour to rise up and accept the challenge, and go out in the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in bringing lost men and women to the great loving heart of God! But we will fight on—and we will never surrender!" With those challenging words ringing in our hearts, freemen around the world gird yourselves for battle—and victory! 🙏

THE CALL OF THE HOLY GHOST

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” -Acts 13:1-2

This passage of scripture is a perfect example of what is needed in the church today. There seems to be no lack of money, books, buildings, programs, all of which are geared to reach the world for Christ; yet, the world still serves the devil. All the things mentioned above are continually held before the eyes of well-meaning, good-hearted church people with a desire to work for Christ.

Today, if a man or a woman who feels the call of God on their life consulted a hundred different religious learning institutions for direction in the ministry, it is possible they would get a hundred different opinions, with the possibility that none of them would be right. In view of this, is it any wonder that churches today seem powerless against the constant attacks of Satan on our society?

I mentioned above ‘one hundred different opinions’, but in reality there are only two; the way of the flesh and the way of the Spirit. A fleshly or worldly view of the ministry can lead to many avenues which may all seem good at the beginning, and may work to get a crowd in a building, but all of them end the same way; lacking power to change sinners into saints.

Brethren, we must go back to the old path where the true believers followed the leading of the Spirit of God. I know this way is unattractive and undesirable to the flesh, but to reach the spiritual harvest we must sow in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

Is it not true that our spirits are restless, anxious, and dare I say, impatient? Many are willing to go, and do, but how many are willing to follow the example of Acts 13:2? If they “ministered to the Lord, and fasted”, they had no personal agenda, they had nothing to prove; they were offering themselves to God and His service. It was then that the Holy Ghost said, “Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

At House of Prayer Bible Seminary we believe there is one main requisite for the ministry, that a preacher must be able to follow the

leadership of the Holy Ghost. He is the one that can change the hearts of men; He is the one that can start true revival in any town or country. This truth is brought out in the book of Acts as we follow the ministry of the two men mentioned.

The Holy Ghost is the one who can and will shake the foundation of Satan’s kingdom, for in Acts 19:15 we hear the evil spirit say, “...Paul I know...”

We ask that our readers pray for the Bible Seminaries, that through them our Lord will send forth laborers into the harvest field. The time is short, the need is great, and the Spirit is still saying, “Separate me _____ and _____ for the work whereunto I have called them.” Will we dare say with Isaiah, “Here am I; send me”? 🙏



"I SAW UNDER THE ALTAR THE SOULS OF THEM THAT WERE SLAIN FOR THE WORD OF GOD..."

THE FOLLOWING IS A QUOTE from the records of the church in Smyrna, of which a man named Polycarp was the Bishop in the second century. He was the last man living at that time who had been personally taught by the original disciples of Jesus Christ and therefore he was taken by the Romans and brought before the proconsul.

"...As he advanced, the proconsul asked him whether he was Polycarp, and he answering that he was, he tempted him to renounce Christ, saying, 'Have a regard for your age'; and adding similar expressions, such as is usual for them to say, he said, 'Swear by the genius of Caesar. Repent; say, "Away with the atheists." But Polycarp, with a countenance grave and serious, and contemplating the whole multitude that were collected in the stadium, beckoned with his hand to them, and with a sigh he looked up to heaven, and said, 'Away with the atheists.' As the governor, however, continued to urge him, and said, 'Swear and I will dismiss you; REVILE CHRIST!' Polycarp replied, 'Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never did me wrong; and how can I now blaspheme my King that has saved me?' The governor still continuing to urge him, and again saying, 'Swear by the genius of Caesar,' said Polycarp, 'If you are so vain as to think that I should swear by the genius of Caesar, as you say, pretending not to know who I am, hear my free confession. I am a Christian. If you wish to learn what the doctrine of Christianity is, grant me a day and listen to me.' The proconsul said, 'I have wild beasts at hand, I will cast you to these unless you change your mind.' He answered, 'Call them. For we have no reason to repent from the better to the worse, but it is good to change from wickedness to virtue.' He again urged him. 'I will cause you to be consumed by fire, should you despise the beasts, and not change your mind.' Polycarp answered, 'You threaten fire that burns for a moment and is soon extinguished, for you know nothing of the judgment to come, and the fire of eternal punishment reserved for the wicked, but why do you delay? Bring what you wish....'

"Then all cried out together, that Polycarp should be burned alive.... Presently the instruments prepared for the funeral pyre were applied to him. As they were also on the point of securing him with spikes, he said, 'Let me be thus. For he that gives me strength to bear the fire, will also give me power without being secured by you with these spikes, to remain unmoved on the pile.' They, therefore, did not nail him, but merely bound him to the stake. But he, closing his hands behind him and bound to the stake as a noble victim selected from the great flock, an acceptable sacrifice to Almighty God, said: 'Father of thy well-beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received the knowledge of thee. The God of angels and powers, and all creation, and of all the family of the righteous, that live before thee, I bless thee that thou hast thought me worthy of the present day and hour, to have a share in the number of the martyrs and in the cup of Christ, unto the resurrection of eternal life, both of the soul and body, in the incorruptible joy of the Holy Spirit. Among whom may I be received in thy sight, this day, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice as thou the faithful and true God hast prepared, hast revealed and fulfilled. Wherefore, on this account, and for all things I praise thee, I bless thee, I glorify thee, through the eternal high priest, Jesus Christ, thy well-beloved Son. Through whom glory be to thee with him in the Holy Ghost, both now and forever. Amen.'

"After he had repeated amen, and had finished his prayer, the executioners kindled the fire. And when it arose in great flames, we saw a miracle, those of us who were privileged to see it, and who, therefore, were preserved to declare the facts to others. For the flames presented an appearance like an oven, as when the sail of a vessel is filled with the wind; and thus formed a wall around the body of the martyr. And he was in the midst not like burning flesh, but like gold and silver purified in the furnace. We also perceived a fragrant odor, like the fumes of incense, or some other precious aromatic drugs. At length the wicked persecutors, seeing that the body could not be consumed by fire, commanded the executioner to draw near to him and to plunge his sword into him; and when he had done this, such a quantity of blood gushed forth that the fire was extinguished. So that the whole multitude was astonished that such a difference should be made between the unbelievers and the elect...." 🕯



miracles

...then & now

A miracle has 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 of an event, experience, or discovery so singular and strange it awakens in one the feeling of awe. Many phenomena of nature and events in history has been labeled as “miracles”. If a friend escapes death in a car accident, we are apt to exclaim, “It was a miracle that he was not killed!” The ordinary course of nature is referred to as a miracle; one expressed the thought, “The daily miracle of God has grown cheap by repetition.” However, in this issue of PRAYERFORCE we are examining the nature of Christian miracles, which present essential features the common use of the word ignores. Professor T. H. Huxley well expressed the need of a definition when he wrote, “The first step is to come to a clear understanding as to the meaning of the term employed. Arguments whether miracles are possible; and if possible, credible, are mere beating the air until the arguers have agreed what they mean by the word ‘miracle’.”

The Bible describes its miracles in its own way and from its own points of view. As W. D. Thomson says, “Being exclusively a religious book, the Bible does not set itself to define miracles from the standpoint of the moral source, the moral power, the moral aim, and the moral effect which they represent. In outlining its definition of these miracles, the Bible wisely selects its terms from a supreme, and sole regard to religious and moral considerations; thus simply remaining silent as to all questions bearing on the relations of the miraculous to the internal arrangements, forces, and laws of nature.”

The term “miracle” then, from the Biblical standpoint, is used to describe the wonderful phenomena accompanying the Jewish and Christian revelations, especially at critical moments. The Biblical concept of a miracle is of some extraordinary work of God transcending the “ordinary evidence” of the supernatural working on man’s behalf in time of crisis. Wordy, yes, but digest this last statement.

Miracles, as an integral part of the Bible, provide evidence that it is God’s divinely inspired Word. Without its miraculous content, we could not accept it as a supernatural book. No miracles - no striking proof of its divine authorship. Among other aspects of the design or purpose of the inclusion of so many miracles is the manifestation of the glory of God. How eloquently they speak of His sovereignty in every realm! He is Lord *in all of all* (Jn 11:4). Miracles are both the official and authoritative seal of God.

Miracles are also the insignia of Christ’s deity- ‘a constitutive element of the revelation of God in Christ’ - 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).

While we have only samples out of the mass of miracles Jesus performed, those which we have reveal Him as being more than a prophet or a divine messenger in a delegated sense. The apostles could heal the sick and even raise the dead, but they never had power over this physical realm, to alter the properties of nature. For instance, there is no record of anyone walking on water without Jesus, nor of turning water into wine. Many of Christ’s miracles were “evidently unique” and were proofs of His Godhead and the insignia of His Godhood/Manhood, as found in Psalm 8 and Hebrews 2. His miracles prove beyond a doubt that He had supreme command over nature, and also over the soul and body of man. ☺

JOB: THE MAN WHO MADE SATAN QUIT

AGE AFTER AGE AND GENERATION after generation has heard of the endurance of Job, and has wondered at it. Man is born into trouble, and from the battle of life he can have no discharge. Among all the struggling, warring and suffering, however, Job is the supreme example of a man who, in spite of his troubles, and in spite of his doubts, holds fast to God, and in the end sees the vindication of his faith. Who was Job? When did he live? What was his race? Where was the land of Uz? Nobody knows. This is all the better for the purpose of the great book because it makes Job a plain man, a representative of all mankind in his relationship to the world and to God.

Let us turn to his story. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil." Job was a good man who had prosperity of soul, good health and prosperity in worldly things. He also had seven sons and three daughters, for whom the pious Job prayed regularly.

The next scene introduces us to a council in heaven. The sons of God presented themselves before Him, and among them was Satan. God asked Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him, in the earth...?"

At this mention of Job, who Satan knew well, he answered, "Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast thou not made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." Satan here advances the principle that there is no disinterested worship or faith, and that no man will serve God or believe in him without an earthly reward. Job did not know that he was being tested to prove this. Remember that God may wish to demonstrate to the world some principle of faith and of Christian light in your life even as he did with Job. God accepted Satan's challenge and told him to go out and touch all that he has; but Job himself was he is not to touch.

A messenger came to Job and told him that as the oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them, a band of Sabeans fell upon them, drove them off, and slew all his servants except the teller of the bad tidings. Then came a second blow: fire fell from heaven, and burned up the sheep and the shepherds. While he was thinking on this, a third messenger came and told Job that a band of Chaldeans had made a raid and driven off all his camels. All Job's worldly possessions were gone in one day, but Job, in despair, remembered his family. He still had his seven sons and three daughters. Then a fourth messenger came and brought him the worst news of all: a whirlwind had smitten the house of his eldest son, where his children were feasting, and buried them all in the ruins. When Job heard this, the climax of his calamity, he rent his mantle and fell down in his sorrow and distress on the ground. However, he did not do what Satan had said he would do under the circumstances. He did not curse or renounce God, but bowed before the will of God, and said that which has been said in circumstances of sorrow and distress ever since, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."



The second test of Job's integrity and faith was a physical and personal one. Job was smitten with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto the crown of his head. It was some loathsome, painful, disgusting disease that made him unbearable to all those around him. Realizing this, Job left his house, went out to the outskirts of the city, and sat on a heap of refuse. There in his misery, sitting amid the ashes of the burnt offal, Job scraped himself with a potsherd.

His own wife, perhaps a sheer emotional outburst while sharing in her husbands terrible distress, cried out for him to curse God and die. But Job still held fast: He said to his wife, "Shall we receive good at the hand of God and shall we not receive evil?" "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

Satan's second assault upon Job failed. Satan faded out of the drama, and Job's three friends came to mourn with him and comfort him. These three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, however wrong in many respects their theology, are to be commended for the sympathy which brought them from afar to sit near Job as he scraped himself on his dunghill.

JOB: THE MAN WHO MADE SATAN QUIT

For seven days they sat near him in silence, never speaking, for “they saw that his grief was great.” At the end of those seven days Job broke down. He didn’t curse God, but he did question and condemn the providence of God in his life, and in one of the most eloquent passages of this most eloquent of all books, Job cursed the day he was born.

The three friends of Job began to speak. Three times, each one in order addressed Job, and three times Job, and frequently with mockery and defiance, answered them and poured out the agony of his soul. They expressed their surprise that one who had been so noted for his faith and had strengthened others in their faith, had broken down in this way and found the consolations of God small. As Job continued to answer them, to defend his integrity and to pour out his agonizing questions to God, his friends grew angry with him. Their fundamental proposition was that all suffering is the result of sin, and that since Job has suffered so terribly, his sin must be exceedingly great. They even went to the length of saying that since Job, before calamity had come upon him, had such a reputation for piety and faith that he must be a great hypocrite.

Job flung their charges back in their faces, and turned in pathetic appeal to God. He wanted to speak face to face. “O that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! Behold I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him; on the left hand where he doth work, but I cannot behold him; he hideth him if on the right hand that I cannot see him.” Though Job questioned God, and even arraigned His providence and His justice in his life, he never cursed or renounced Him. Always he is stretching out his hands to find Him. The creed of his agony is this, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him.”

Hopeless of defeating Job in their arguments, the three friends at length were silent. Then a fourth man began to speak, the eloquent Elihu, who had sat as a listener to the long and tempestuous debate. Elihu rebuked the three friends because they had not been able to silence Job and because many of their arguments were not true; he also rebuked Job for his self-righteousness and exhorted him to humility and repentance. He reminded him of the greatness of God and the littleness of man. In this respect, the speech of Elihu prepared the way for the next great act in this drama, the speech of God himself.

God answered Job’s questions with more questions. These questions had to do with the sovereignty of God as the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Hast thou commanded the morning and caused the day spring to know his place? Where is the way where light dwelleth? Canst thou bind the sweet influence of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?”

And thus, in passages of overwhelming beauty and sublimity, God revealed his greatness in the universe, and exposed to Job the limitations of his knowledge. Job eventually saw the point of it all. He understood that if he knew so little about God in creation, or in the world, it is not strange that he cannot understand him in his providence, or in his dealings with Job in his own life. Overcome by the manifestation of God’s glory, Job humbled himself and repented. “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye seeth thee; wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Of what did Job repent? Not of any of those sins which his friends had falsely charged against him. He repented of his lack of faith, of his lack of submission, of his lack of humbling himself under the hand of God.

When Job repented, he was restored to his old estate. He prayed for his friends who had spoken unjustly of him and falsely of God and His ways. God repealed the captivity of Job. All his friends and acquaintances came from afar and made their contributions to his material welfare so that he could start life over again. Seven sons and three beautiful daughters took the place of those he had lost, and Job was again, under God, the great man of the east.

This great book tells us again that God is too great to be explained, to be discussed, to be analyzed, and to be complained against by man. God is to be obeyed and trusted, to be held to, even as Job said he would hold to him, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust him.” In your hour of trial, when it seems you have lost everything worth living for, remember Job. Remember “the end of the Lord,” that the Lord, although so great and majestic, is very pitiful and of tender mercy. 🙏

ONLY THE BROKEN ONES

GOD USES MOST FOR HIS GLORY those people and things which are most perfectly broken. The sacrifices He accepts are broken and contrite hearts. It was the breaking down of Jacob's natural strength at Peniel that brought him to the place where God could clothe him with spiritual power. It was breaking the surface of the rock at Horeb by the stroke of Moses' rod that let out the cool waters to the thirsty people.

It was only when the three hundred elect soldiers under Gideon broke their pitchers, letting the hidden lights shine through, that God wrought victory over their adversaries. It was not until the poor widow broke the seal of the little pot of oil, and poured it forth that God multiplied it to pay her debts and supply means of support.

It was when Esther risked her life and broke through the rigid etiquette of a heathen court that she obtained favor to rescue her people from death. It was when Jesus took the five loaves and, in the very act of breaking, they became sufficient to feed five thousand. It was when Mary broke her beautiful alabaster box, rendering it henceforth useless, that the pent-up perfume filled the house. It was when Jesus allowed His precious body to be broken to pieces by thorns, nails, and a spear that His inner life was poured out for thirsty sinners to drink and gain eternal life.

It is when a beautiful grain of corn dies that its inner heart sprouts forth and bears hundreds of other grains. All through the realms of history, human life, vegetation, and spiritual life, God seeks broken things to bless.

Those who are broken in wealth, broken in self-will, broken in their ambitions, broken in their beautiful ideals, broken in worldly reputation, broken in their affections, broken oftentimes in health, and those who are despised and seem utterly forlorn and helpless are the ones the Holy Ghost uses for God's glory. Those are the ones who will find the inside secret of strength.

Strength *is* an inside secret. It comes from the Lord's Spirit in the well of our inner being. Because His strength is limitless, our wells need never be empty. His strength is constantly surging up to give us exactly what we need in every moment. His strength gives us supernatural thinking power beyond our IQ, provides emotional strength when under pressure, engenders resoluteness in our wills, vision for our imaginations, and energizes our bodies with physical resiliency.

Zephaniah gives the secret of lasting strength. It is received in silent receptive communion with the Lord: "Be silent in the presence of the Lord God," (Zeph 1:7). What we discover in our silence becomes the source of our strength. The Lord rejoices over us, His children, with gladness. In spite of all our failures, He has chosen to be

our God and to cherish us. Think about it: God, and all the company of Heaven is rejoicing over us! This gives us the confidence of silent strength. We belong to God—He has redeemed us in Christ and placed His Spirit in us. He'll never give up on us as long as we don't quit.

Alone with Him, God quiets us with His love. The unqualified, indefatigable love of our Father gives us great confidence, security, and peace. There's no need to prove ourselves or blow our own horns. We can love with calm, winsome joy. And knowing that the Lord rejoices over us, it frees us to rejoice in Him. The Hebrew word for "rejoice" means "to spin around." Our hearts pirouette with praise as we hear God's song, more profound than audible sound:

"This is My beloved son, in whom I am pleased." Have you realized the great strength you have in God? 🙏



PHEOBE

Scripture reference—Romans 16:1, 2

Name Meaning—Pure or radiant as the moon.

We know nothing of this pious female who delivered Paul's 'inestimable packet'—the epistle to the Christians in Rome. We just have the brief mention of her name and service. Phoebe, a devout Christian, bore without change and without reproach the name of the moon-goddess of the Greeks. The goddess Artemis, known by the common epithet "Phoebe," was supposed to have been identified with the light of the moon. But the Phoebe whom Paul so highly commended shone as a light for Jesus, the "Light of the World." That she must have been a woman of some consequence appears from the fact that she planned the long journey to Rome on business of her own, and offered to convey to the saints there Paul's letter. In some fifty words Paul gives us a beautiful cameo of this saintly servant of Christ for whom he urged the saints at Rome to do their utmost. The importance of her visit is indicated by the appeal of Paul to the Romans to "assist her in whatever matter she had need of." Phoebe was—



A Sister

As used by Paul, this designation implies a spiritual relationship. He calls the believing husband and wife, "the brother and the sister" (1 Corinthians 7:15; 9:5). Young Timothy was his "son in the faith." Phoebe, then, was a member of a spiritual family in which the relationship is based upon the redemption of Christ and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 4:4-7). Apart from the natural relationships, no woman is my 'sister' unless she shares my experience of God's saving grace through which alone we are made members of His redeemed family. How or when Phoebe became a Christian and a sister in the Lord, we are not told. What is evident is the manifestation of her sisterly love and labors among her sisters and brothers in Christ.

A Servant of the Church

Phoebe was not only a member of a spiritual family, but likewise a member of the visible church at Cenchrea when Paul arrived there on his third journey and from where he wrote Romans. Phoebe was not merely a confessing and active believer; she was also a "*ministrant of the Church*." The word for "servant" is *diakonos*, from which we have "*deacon*" or "*deaconess*." It is not certain whether such an official female Order as "Deaconess" was in vogue at that time. Phoebe, however, occupied such a position in the church, and as such could be a teacher of all female inquirers of the faith, and be active in the relief of the temporal needs of the poor among the flock. We can safely assume that Phoebe was one of the first, if not the first, of the noble band of deaconesses in the Christian Church. If hers was not an official ministry, it was certainly a most gracious and effective one, and she was indeed one of the forerunners of the vast army of women who have rendered such loyal service to Christ and His Church.

A Succourer of Many, and of Myself Also

The word Paul used for "succourer" —*prostatis*—is a most expressive one. It literally means "one who stands by in case of need." It is classical Greek describing a trainer in the Olympic games, who stood by the athletes to see that they were properly trained, and not over-trained, and rightly girded when they lined up for the signal. Muele translates the phrase, "she on her part has proved a stand-by (almost a champion, one who stands up for others) of many, aye, and of me among them." Phoebe was the unselfish, liberal helper of the saints, conspicuous for her works of charity and also hospitality. 🙌



Missionary

"I must move men through God—by prayer." That was the philosophy of J. Hudson Taylor, first missionary to the interior of China and the founder of the China Inland Mission. From that December day, when as a teenager, he heard from Heaven, "Go for Me to China," this young Englishman set out to prove his philosophy. That he did so obediently makes for some of the most exciting reading in the records of evangelism.

James Hudson Taylor was a sensitive, thoughtful boy, bright and winsome, born to God-fearing parents in Barnsley, England on May 21, 1832. He grew up under pressure to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, although his seemingly chronic illnesses and delicate condition at times hindered his parents from pursuing obedience, they toiled in the Lord for this soul.

As he grew, he became very unhappy and indifferent, and at the age of seventeen, his sister Amelia, 13, became so concerned with his difficulty that she determined to pray for him three times a day until he got saved. She noted in her journal, after weeks of such prayer, that she would never cease to pray for her brother. While away on a two-week visit, at the intense urge of the Spirit, his mother one day locked herself in her room, and resolved not to leave the spot until her prayers were answered. Hour after hour she pleaded, until she felt the release of the Spirit and simply praised God for the salvation of her son.

At the same time, miles apart, Taylor had finished reading a tract, and, with a brief yet authoritative insight from the Spirit, he realized, "It is finished." With his sin debt paid, he fell to his knees to accept Christ. "Several days later, I ventured to tell my sister of my joy, only after she promised not to share my secret." When Mother came home two weeks later, he greeted her with a mind to tell her, but before he could utter a word, she hugged him tightly.

"I know, my boy. I have been rejoicing for a fortnight in the glad tidings you have to tell."

His mind rushed to Amelia's promise. "Why? Has Amelia broken her promise? She said she would tell no one."

She proceeded to tell her son about her time wrestling with God. Later, he picked up a book resembling his own, and opened it. He found his sister's diary—and her intercessory promise to the Lord, dated one month earlier.

At seventeen, God called him from his father's chemist's shop to the mission field. There was no looking back—there was but one objective for him: to perform his Master's will for, and in China. He began to prepare, studying Hebrew, Greek, and Latin on top of theology and medicine.

After his call, Taylor first moved from the comforts of his home with his parents and two sisters in beautiful Barnsley of Yorkshire to Drainside, Hull, a poverty-stricken, depressing area named after and notorized by its foul ditch. Taylor had gone there purposely to work for a doctor and accumulate a little medical knowledge, and also to accustom himself to something of the loneliness and dangers of living in a strange land where his only companion would be God.

Prayer Insight

It was at Drainside that Taylor learned one can trust God with his last cent. He had been called out late one night to witness to and pray over a sick woman with starving children. As he tried to pray, his words choked in his mouth because he reluctantly remembered that he had in his possession a silver coin that would answer his own prayer and alleviate their sufferings somewhat. "Hypocrite!" he heard his heart condemn him. "Telling people about a kind and loving Father in Heaven—and *not prepared to trust Him yourself, without your money!*" He gave them his last coin—only one bowl of porridge between him and poverty! As he ate that last meal he remembered the Scripture, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord."

The next day he received a package. In it was a gold coin

Thus at nineteen years of age, Taylor learned he could trust and obey God in every area of his life. There were many lessons to learn, but at the first he learned that a man can take God at His Word. Praying and answers to prayer! That became the passion of his life. He learned to move men through God by prayer. He asked no man for any material thing. He laid all needs before his Lord. As Taylor was faithful to God's wants and desires, so also God was to him as He sent Taylor to China.

There were storms at sea and miraculous deliverances in that five and a half months' journey to China. There was civil war when he landed at Shanghai, rebels holding the city. Fires, famine, fearsome circumstances were fought by the young missionary on his knees and God delivered him. And at the age of twenty-two, eight months a missionary, he also found himself responsible for supplying the needs of newly-arriving missionaries, the Parker family.

Taylor ministered in the river towns, married a godly wife and saw many miracles in converted Chinese. But on June 25, 1865, without the needed manpower, he made his move to minister to the millions of China "West of the Mountains, South of the Clouds, North of the Lake"—Inland China. At Brighton, England, on unemployment, he opened a bank account: "Ten pounds" (Fifty dollars) in the name of "The China Inland Mission." His initial goal was twenty-four workers. The next May the twenty-four sailed. Then there were seventy more. Then another hundred. Finally, more than eight hundred missionaries ministered across the far-flung miles of China's interior at over two hundred stations to the 125,000 Chinese Christians. Truly, this obsequious slave of Christ had found favor with his Master in the ministry of moving men through God by prayer.

J. Hudson Taylor died in 1905, before the communist takeover of his beloved China. His days were days of extensive and effective evangelism. He had spent five years translating the New Testament into the Ningpo dialect. Multitudes of converted Chinese will rise up in Heaven and call him blessed. And many Christian workers whose lives were challenged and changed by the contagious Christian character of Taylor will follow in their train. 🙏

REWARDS OF SELF-DENIAL

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Few of us are yet aware of the full meaning of these words of Jesus. The average church member today is self satisfied, self sufficient and self righteous. Few are the believers who have denied themselves of anything; much less completely denied themselves to follow Jesus.

Self denial is the "cross" that every believer must bear. The cross of self denial that Jesus bore in the garden of Gethsemane was harder to bear than the physical cross of Calvary. The complete self denial, the laying aside of our own will and desires in order that we may daily do the will of the Father, is indeed a difficult cross for us to bear. Yes, it does cost something to follow Jesus and the greatest cost is not in material things, but in surrendering to Him. However, it is by no means one sided, for self denial and following God's will for our life also has great and exciting rewards. In Matthew 8:18-34, we have an excellent example of this choice, its price and its rewards.

Ministering, Jesus told His followers to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. As they prepared to depart, a man came to Him and said, "Master I will follow you wherever you go." This man had undoubtedly witnessed Jesus' miracles, heard His teachings, and thought it would be wonderful to follow Jesus and be with Him. However, Jesus' answer may have surprised him, for He warned him of the cost by saying, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man has no where to lay His head." Jesus was God's great minister, but he was virtually homeless. To this man He was saying, "Are you willing to give up your den, your nest to follow me?"

Many today are like this man. They are willing to publicly step forward and say, "I'll follow Jesus", but when they see the price, they turn back. They want the security of their den and the warmth of their nest. They want to be liked and respected; they do not want to be cast from

their synagogue or persecuted. Many pastors today preach about following Jesus, but won't do what they know to be right. Nor will they preach true conviction, lest they lose their den and be cast from the nest. The world is full of "foxy" Christians secure in their dens, and "unclean birds" feathering their own nests, but where are the disciples who will leave all and follow Him? Jesus demands self denial, but this man, like many today, was too self-centered to follow the Master.

Another came to Jesus and said, Lord, let me first go home and bury my father." This man was willing to follow Jesus, but only in his own time, to him Jesus replied, "Follow me and let the dead bury the dead." This man was placing his service to Jesus at his own convenience and his concern for the dead ahead of his love for the living. Can we be guilty of such a sentiment? Some have placed unsaved loved ones, who are "dead in trespasses and sins", ahead of their service to Jesus Christ, while many others have said, "Lord I will serve you as soon as..."

There is a spiritual lesson we must not overlook. When God calls us to follow Him, we must leave the dead past behind, and those who are spiritually dead. Many in this hour who are being filled with the Holy Spirit, or whose eyes of understanding have been opened to truth beyond the narrow doctrines and traditions of their church, may say "Oh, I must stay as a witness, I must still follow the old dead forms, hold fast to the old garment," but to them Jesus says, "Follow me and let the dead bury the dead."

These two men probably returned to their homes and did not follow Jesus; one went back to his warm house and soft bed, the other to a house filled with sorrow, while the disciples went with Jesus. They left their homes, their traditions and stepped out on faith, and that very day their faith was increased.

Some will be quick to point out the trials that Christians face, but they fail to

realize that hard times come to all. When the sinner faces the trials of life they turn to things that will destroy them such as drugs and alcohol. But when the followers of Christ, those who have denied themselves to walk the straight and narrow face storms, they hear their Master rebuke the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

After the storm was calmed, the devil came against Christ and His followers. Once again the timid soul will point out the danger of following Jesus, but the enemy comes against all, look at the broken families in this world, the sick and the hurting, most have not denied themselves to follow Christ so when the enemy comes they have no protection.

The disciples found that when the devil came against them, he also came against the Christ they were following, and Jesus had but one word for the devil and that was "GO".

The followers of Jesus experience great miracles, while those who stay behind see and hear nothing. When a person says they do not believe in miracles today, you know one thing about them- they are not following Jesus. Those who are busy dusting their dens, feathering their nest and burying their dead are the ones saying the time for miracles is over, but those who have dared to pick up their cross know better. They know that Jesus cannot rest His head in the den of foxy men bent on their own security, nor will he be found in dead rituals catering to the traditions of men. Jesus' followers know that He will be found where the action is; they will see His hand lifted against the tempest; they will feel the raging storms and the blessed peace. They will hear His voice rebuking Satan, they will see men saved, delivered, healed and going on to perfection; they are following Jesus. My friend, if the Lord can once again find a group of people who will deny themselves and take up their cross to follow Jesus, then it will be said of them as of the early church in Mark 16:20, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following Amen." 🙏

CARING FOR SOULS AGAIN

THERE IS SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE, for which I am very grateful. I'm thankful to have a genuine love for people restored to my heart. Although this may sound like pretentious rhetoric coming from a caretaker of God's flock, I am writing these words knowing that as a young Christian, I was more tender to the afflictions that plagued my fellow man than I am today. I remember when I could see a homeless man and his condition would move me to prayer and consideration of him.

A few months ago something that I had not experienced for a few years happened to me. A lady was praying at the altar, and having some knowledge of how she was living, my eyes became filled with tears as I watched her pray. The feeling was something I had not experienced in years.

I like how one brother expressed his renewed concern for souls. He said something close to these words, "It feels good to be driving down the road, finding myself praying and thinking about people I'm leading toward Christ." He expressed that it had been a long time since he felt that way.

There is no intent to make this a mushy, tear jerking, emotional article. This to me is an essential part of our Christian makeup that needs to be restored. I believe a genuine concern for souls will be fuel to cause us to pursue the uncompromising righteousness that God is looking to respond to. It is all part of the revival.

There is a real inner healing and work of restoration that must take place in many of us if God is going to have those vessels that He wants to pour His spirit into. It is hard sometimes tarrying, but we must "let patience have her perfect work." "Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

The revival has started. Prayer is a delight of the heart again. Care for souls is being restored. Daring faith is being exercised by many once suppressed and shackled by fear. The gifts of the Spirit are being poured out on those who dare to receive. Talk of missionary work is on the lips of those who once had settled for a favorite spot on a favorite pew. Those that bear record in Heaven are watching to see if we are serious, or if we will be like the many before, who started well, but then changed. Heaven has seen what we are experiencing before; but, as we know, it has been a constant cycle. Our abiding goal must be to get God to hear us from Heaven, and heal our land. 🙏





Hannah | Herodias

Humility Blossoms in Blessing | Rotting Pride Kills

In 1 Samuel chapter 1, God's Holy word offers us a perfect example of humility. We read of a woman named Hannah, whose humility is shown by her submissiveness to God's ordained servant, Eli, the high priest. The Bible clearly teaches us in Hebrews 13:17 that we are to obey them that have the rule over us, for they watch for our soul. The Bible also emphatically declares in Psalm 105:15, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." What marks Hannah's humility is that she remained humble and submissive even when Eli falsely accused her of committing sin.

In verses 10-13, Hannah is found praying unto the Lord. She was praying with a pure heart and, no doubt the presence of God was upon her as she prayed. The Bible then tells us that Eli was watching her as she prayed, and how he assumed she was drunk with alcohol. Now Eli, at this time, was a spiritual compromiser who was not bold against sin and would not make a stand for righteousness against his own children. To prove this point further, he did not have the spiritual discernment to see Hannah was truly praying. He was so far outside of communion with God that he could not sense the presence of God; yet until God removed him from that office, God still expected His people to follow and respect him as God's spiritual ambassador. You see, it is only when God removes the man that he no longer has authority, not when we want to remove the man from his ordained office.

When Eli wrongfully corrected Hannah she did not let pride get into her heart. She did not disrespect him, or get angry. She didn't even say to herself, "uh-oh, look at this, I had better act humble for this one." She wasn't acting; this was her spirit, for *she had the fear of God in her heart!* She remained humble and submissive to God *and* His ordained high priest, and God gave her grace to explain her plight. Because of Hannah's humility and submissiveness, God immediately turned everything around; God changed the rebuke into a blessing.

When you think the man of God "doesn't have the facts straight", what will your response be? Often times, God allows this because He is leading His minister to an area of our life that we have stonewalled the Holy Spirit in the past. He is leading the preacher to flank the heart we have fortified with "self-preservation" to see what's behind the humility-decorated bulwark we have raised. Let us all be more like Hannah, who, in the absence of pride, took no offence to the wrongful accusation, nor gloated over being right, but in humility awaited the Lord to clear her name.

In Mark 6:14-28, the Bible unfolds and lays open before us the pride in the heart of a woman named Herodias. Her pride is chiefly illustrated by her rebellion and hatred of John the Baptist. Instead of Herodias humbly submitting to John's preaching and correction, Mark 6:19 says she had a quarrel against him, and would have him killed.

The Bible gives us a brief background of Herodias' life. She, at one time, was married to a man named Phillip, the brother of Herod, but when Herod began to rise to power and had a greater position of prominence than Phillip, she left Phillip and married Herod. This woman was living in open adultery and defiance to God. She thought in her heart, "I can get away with my sin; *no one* is going to tell *me* how to live." But friend, this attitude is pride and God is always going to have a preacher out there to tell you what to do and how to live based on the Word of God.

The showdown between John the Baptist and Herodias culminated when John began to preach to her and Herod that it was not lawful for them to be married. Herodias had Herod arrest John. In Mark 6:21, the Bible says "When a convenient day was come..." You see, sometimes pride is very patient and will wait for its opportunity to fulfill its cravings and lusts; that time came on Herod's birthday. After Herodias' daughter seductively danced before Herod, he granted her one wish. There was only one stipulation to this offer: she could not ask for any more than half of his kingdom. With such an overwhelming offer before her, and being under the pressure of the large coterie present at the party, this young woman did what most any shrewd, young woman would have done, she asked her mother what she should ask for. This is where we see pride in its full force; Herodias said "give me the head of John the Baptist."

Pride always resists correction and humble obedience to God's anointed ambassadors. Instead of Herodias humbling herself and submitting to God's teaching, she rose up in pride and spiritually destroyed herself and her family, and murdered a preacher of righteousness. 🙏

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

If there are any problems in your life, check your prayer life. Don't let anyone stop you from praying! When you read the Word of God, God speaks to you and you can converse with the King of kings. When you pray, the same happens, we open dialogue with God in worship, adoration and supplication, and He responds to answer our petitions. Prayer is an equalizer—it keeps everyone in harmony, even children; however, when we don't pray, we are unbearable to everyone, including God! We pray also to keep evil intent and bad attitudes out of our lives. Prayer is the only way God has provided for us to live for Him. If we don't pray, we die spiritually and in the end we will die the second death. It is far better to allow work to slip by default than to let prayer slip by neglect. We should follow the mantra of "Planned Neglect":

Neglect everything BUT prayer. The church operates through the gifts of the Spirit. The intensity of our prayer affects the value and quality of our work for God and our secular jobs. If we don't love God, we'll be too busy to pray. When we don't pray, not only are we blatantly telling God that we don't love Him, but we leave Him out of our lives and our work.

In Romans 12:12 and 2 Chronicles 7:14 the Bible states that prayer is a law, a necessity; Colossians 4:3-4, that prayer is urgent; and Ephesians 6:18 asserts that prayer is part of the Christian soldiers' standard issue (though we must remember that prayer is not a "weapon" as most think, to be used and put away until needed again. It is a manner of conversation—a way of life). Revelation 5:8 declares that the prayers of the saints are as a sweet smell unto the Lord, as pleasing sacrifices. In Deuteronomy 9:12-21, Moses recounted the story of his experience on the mount with God in the book of Exodus, when Aaron had listened to the people and allowed his heart to be filled with disbelief and sin, leading Israel into idolatry. God was so fervently angry because He is to come first in our lives; when we worship anything other than Him, He becomes infuriated. Prayer keeps us close to Him and keeps our knees bent only for Him. When we give our best time, work, finances, and energy to Him—He will give us His best blessings, because we will greatly please Him.

In the situation of Israel's pagan worship led by the high priest Aaron, God sought to destroy his chosen people for their ungratefulness. But a man named Moses changed God's mind when he stepped in and cried out, interceding for a disreputable people. He stopped God's anger by praying and fasting 40 days and 40 nights. Likewise, when we show God we're serious about drawing near Him in spirit and in truth, He tenderly considers our requests, for we are His children. When we pray, our hearts become good—we *want* to help people! We will display goodwill to all men!

In the ministry, a true preacher will pray for each brother or sister to assist them ascertain God's will for their life. Many times God will inform the pastor of the very thing He's been dealing with in each church member's life that they did not receive in their heart. God will do all to get through to you eventually – and you can only turn Him away so many times...

...So Brethren, we must keep praying for God to make our hearts supple and open to correction. We can never have too many prayer meetings, nor read our Bible too frequently. Be grateful to God, who moved the saints who made a stand, who sowed so many seeds that one made its way into you! Show your appreciation to God by praying! 🙏



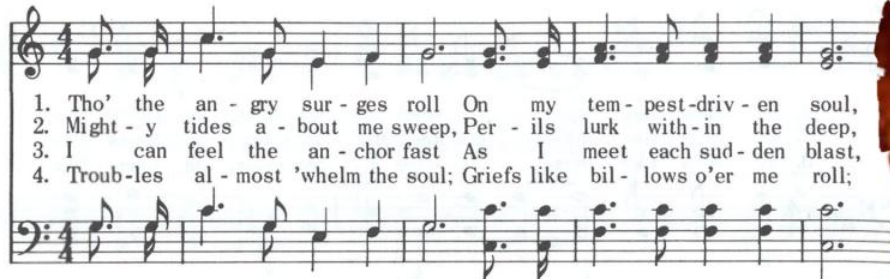
MY ANCHOR HOLDS

297

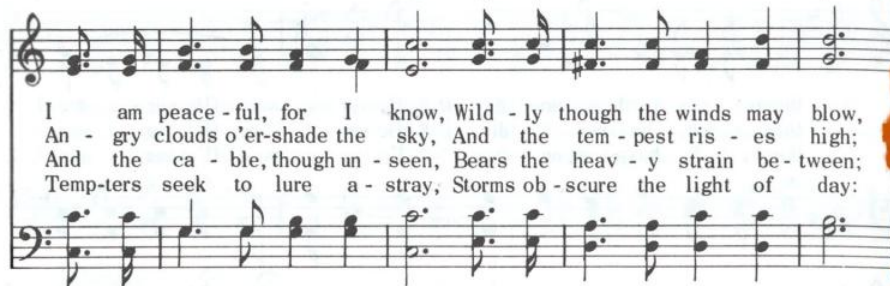
My Anchor Holds

W.C. Martin, 1901-

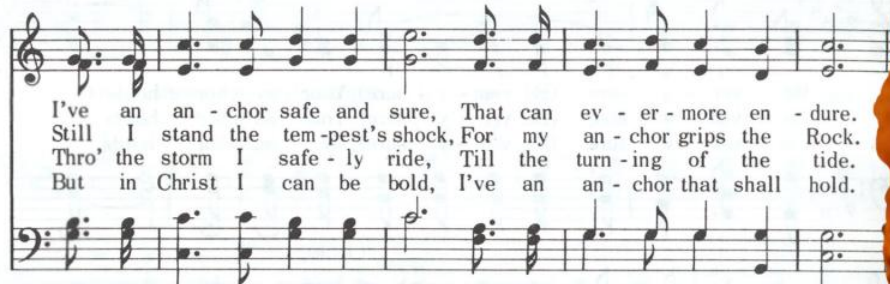
Daniel B. Towner, 1850 - 1919



1. Tho' the an - gry sur - ges roll On my tem - pest - driv - en soul,
 2. Might - y tides a - bout me sweep, Per - ils lurk with - in the deep,
 3. I can feel the an - chor fast As I meet each sud - den blast,
 4. Troub - les al - most 'whelm the soul; Grievs like bil - lows o'er me roll;

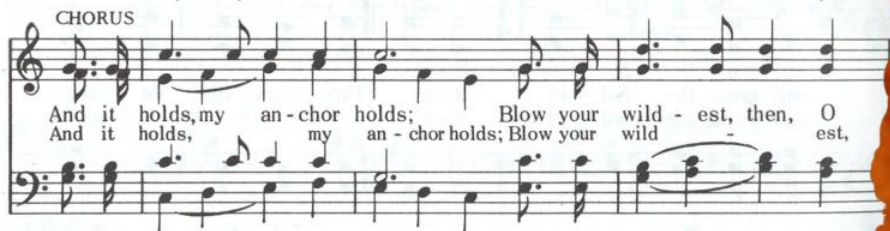


I am peace - ful, for I know, Wild - ly though the winds may blow,
 An - gry clouds o'er-shade the sky, And the tem - pest ris - es high;
 And the ca - ble, though un - seen, Bears the heav - y strain be - tween;
 Temp - ters seek to lure a - stray, Storms ob - scure the light of day:

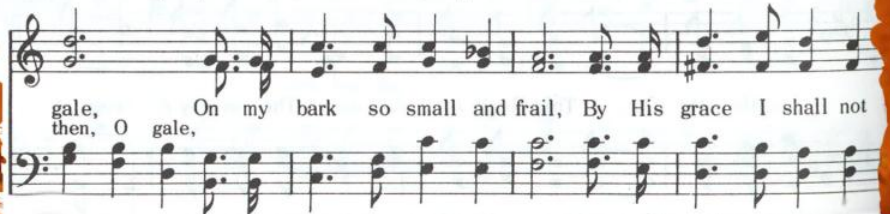


I've an an - chor safe and sure, That can ev - er - more en - dure.
 Still I stand the tem - pest's shock, For my an - chor grips the Rock.
 Thro' the storm I safe - ly ride, Till the turn - ing of the tide.
 But in Christ I can be bold, I've an an - chor that shall hold.

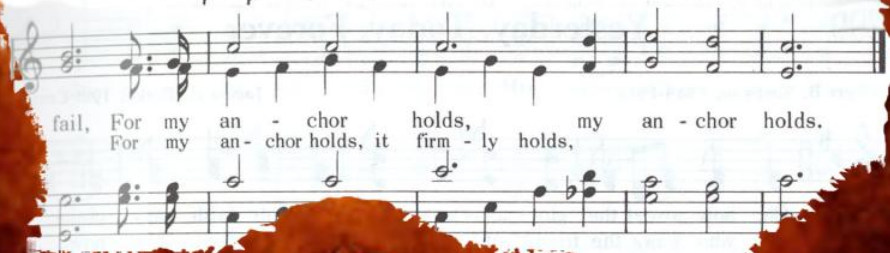
CHORUS



And it holds, my an - chor holds; Blow your wild - est, then, O
 And it holds, my an - chor holds; Blow your wild - est,



gale, then, O gale, On my bark so small and frail, By His grace I shall not



fail, For my an - chor holds, my an - chor holds.
 For my an - chor holds, it firm - ly holds,

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? Don't the foundations of the earth 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?

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 surmise or suspect that the Lord's hand hath waxed short.



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.

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. 🙏

BALI

From the Island of the Gods

A beautiful island

Anne thought Bali was the most beautiful place she'd ever seen. It had sandy beaches, brightly colored flowers, rice fields of green and gold and thousands of temples. She could see the mountains in the distance – some of them were volcanoes. She had even seen a performance of the graceful legong dances, which tell the stories of gods and demons, witches and kidnapped princesses. The dancers had worn dresses of gold, scarlet and green, with headdresses glittering with gold and bright, tropical flowers on their shiny black hair. And all the Balinese people she'd met had such gentle, smiling faces.

It's no wonder that more than 1,500,000 tourists visit Bali, a small island in the long necklace of Indonesian islands, each year. Visitors often call it "the island of the gods" or "the last paradise."

They believe that the soul of the dead person can't take its place with the spirits of all the other ancestors in the mountains until after such a ceremony.

Jesus' power

There aren't many Balinese Christians yet. Sometimes their Hindu neighbors treat Christians badly because they're afraid that their gods will be angry if people follow Jesus.

Eight-year-old Nyoman was afraid. Some people in the village had done mean things to his family because

Traditional dancers

**Invitation to the gods**

There are thousands of temples on Bali, because the Balinese are Hindus and worship many gods. The Balinese had many gods long before they became Hindus, and they still worship these gods, too. Every day they give small offerings to the spirits of their ancestors who have died. They believe it's very important to be on their good side.

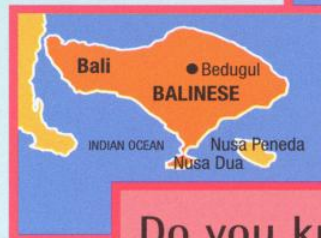
At the beginning of every year (the year in Bali is only 210 days long), the Balinese hold a special feast for the gods. At this feast they bring their gods out from their shrines and invite them to live in objects made of wood, stone and coins for a while. The people ask the gods to join them in feasting and dancing for ten days. At the end of that

time, the gods are put back in their shrines until the next ceremony.

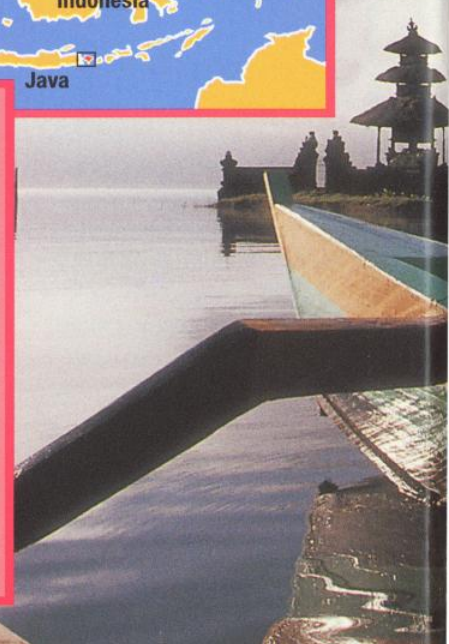
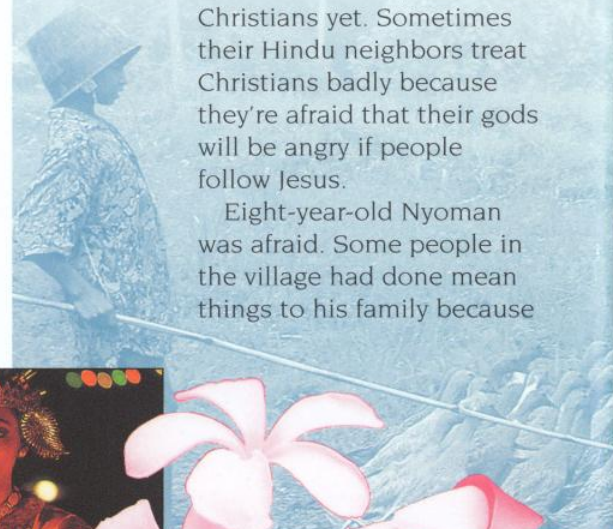
Spirits of the ancestors

The Balinese believe that the spirits of their gods and ancestors live in the mountains. When they build their houses, they make sure that the room with the altar for the spirits faces the mountains.

The Balinese are very concerned about what happens to them when they die. Sometimes a family will save money for several years so they can build an elaborate funeral tower and hold a cremation ceremony.

**Do you know?**

The Balinese have a legend that says that their beautiful island was once flat and nothing would grow there. When the island of Java became Muslim, the Hindu gods moved the short distance to Bali. They needed mountains where they could live, so they created some. Then water from these mountains made the island fertile.



BALI

they're Christians. "Why won't they let us have water for our fields? They don't want to have anything to do with us. What did we do wrong?" he asked his parents. "The other kids make fun of me and won't play with me. They even said that some night, when I'm asleep, the gods will come and punish me because I don't follow them."

"Don't be afraid, Nyoman," his father replied. "Jesus has promised that he'll always be with us. He's more powerful than anything or anyone who

wants to harm us. People in the village think the gods are angry because we've become Christians. They want us to turn back to our old gods. But we know that with Jesus we don't have to fear their gods. Jesus will look after us even when we're asleep. Let's pray, Nyoman, and ask him to take away your fears."

Christians often try to show Jesus' love to their Hindu neighbors by helping them in practical ways. They want them to know that Christianity isn't

a boring religion that belongs to white people.

One by one, Balinese are coming to know Jesus as the friend who is always with them.

And those who follow

Jesus are praying that many more Balinese will realize Jesus is far greater and more powerful than all the thousands of gods they keep in their shrines and bring out on special occasions. 🙏



Fact file

Country: Indonesia

Location: The island of Bali (three-quarters of a mile east of Java)

Numbers: About 2,000,000

Languages: Balinese; Indonesian

Religions: Hinduism; animism

Occupations: Mainly farmers growing rice, maize and coffee; weaving and wood carving



To help you pray for the Balinese

You can thank God for:

- the Balinese who are coming to know Jesus as their friend.
- the Bible translation in Balinese.

You can ask God:

- to help Christians show Jesus' love to their Hindu friends and neighbors.
- to show the Balinese that he is so much more powerful than all the gods they worship.
- to help Christians like Nyoman know that evil spirits can't harm them when they trust in Jesus.
- for whole families to come to know Jesus so that children can learn about Jesus when they're young.

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 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."

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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