

Prayer and Praise

by Sis. Karen Varnadore
Brunswick, Georgia

In the Bible, Paul basically said in Philippians 4:6, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything." Paul says simply "pray about everything!" He teaches us that worry isn't worth the effort. Worry requires a lot of effort. Someone said, "A day of worry is more exhausting than a day of work." And I once heard a person say, "Worry is wasting today's time cluttering up tomorrow's opportunities with yesterday's troubles."

One recent survey indicates that 40 percent of the things we worry about never happen, 30 percent are in the past and can't be changed, 12 percent concern the affairs of others that aren't our business, 10 percent involve real or imagined sickness, and 8 percent are worth worrying about.

But Paul tells us that even 8 percent of "legitimate" worries aren't really worth worrying about. Why? Because we have the God of the universe on our side, and He offers to carry our worries

for us. So, Paul says, put your energy where it can really do some good. Pray passionately about whatever it is that concerns you!

It has been noted on many occasions that those who pray passionately end up overcoming the difficulties they face. They bring a "mighty power" to the issues they confront, and this power does incredible things in and through them.

Whatever it is that you care deeply about, the absolute best thing you can do for it is pray passionately. When trouble, restless fears, and anxious fretfulness strive to overpower the soul, our safety is in saying, "*My God, I believe in Your perfect goodness and wisdom and mercy. What You are doing I cannot now understand, but I shall one day see it all plainly. Meanwhile I accept Your will, whatever it may be, unquestioning, without reserve.*"

We should spend our lives in prayer and praise. Most of the verses writ-

ten about praise in God's Word were voiced by people faced with crushing heartaches, injustice, treachery, slander, and scores of other difficult situations. They knew that the sacrifice of prayer and praise was a key to victory on their spiritual journey.

So what? How does this apply to our lives? If we begin our days in prayer and then praise God for giving us a new day to worship Him, then we will find fulfillment and peace with little worries.

Prayer is an ongoing process, not just an occasional religious-sounding speech we make to a nebulous divinity "out there somewhere." Prayer is meant to be a part of our lives, like breathing and thinking and talking. If you pray, keep on praying; and if you praise, keep on praising. Blessings and peace.

(Portions copied)

Seven Days Without Prayer Makes One Weak

Dead Means Dead!

by Elder Jason Solomon
Cumming, Georgia

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

What is dead, is dead!

Have you ever seen a brain-dead person on a ventilator? They lay there with intravenous needles connected to tubes coming out of their arms. The poor body in this condition is only sustained by the continual intervention of machinery. The otherwise dead person is made alive by artificial means in the hope that by some miracle he will revive.

It is an imperfect analogy, but the natural human "spiritual" condition is very similar to the brain-dead patient. Their body is alive and there are some indications that life is present, but it is only a show. There is no real life there. They are dead.

Every man and woman ever born, Jesus excepting, was brought as a sinner into a sinful world. Born with depraved, ungodly nature, we are only further corrupted by the world's influences. Theologians call this the doctrine of Original Sin. The promise to Adam and Eve was that they would surely die, and they did, though not in the way many people think of death. Their disobedience led immediately to separation from God and thus separation from Life.

Even though their bodies continued to move and breathe, and be physically active, their souls died the moment they rebelled against God. Adam and Eve, having sinned by disobeying God's command, passed on their fallen nature to their children. These fallen children then added to this original fall, sins of their own. Therefore, fallen mankind is dead, truly being without God, the giver and sustainer of life everlasting.

None That Doeth Good

For anyone willing and able to read them, the Scriptures teach ever so clearly that mankind is a fallen race.

Combined with the weight of history, denying the state of humanity is like denying that the earth is round. Like the Europeans of the fifteenth century who insisted that the earth was flat, most people cannot fathom that human beings are not born good. However, while this conclusion is not one that people are naturally willing to make, it is nonetheless true.

"God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 53:2-3).

All of the truly wise church leaders have admitted to their abject poverty of righteousness before God. You can observe for yourself that even young children at play are selfish and covetous by nature. This natural inclination does not need to be learned. It is inherent. I like the illustration of the two children playing together. The one child sees a bicycle and asks his friend, "Do you want to ride the bike?" His friend says frankly, "Only if you do."

A man came to Jesus calling Him "Good Master," and the Lord said, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God" (Mark 10:18). Notice that Jesus does not deny His goodness, but calls attention to accolade of Good Master. In light of the truth of Psalm 53:3, Jesus enlightened the hearers and readers of the Gospel that only God is worthy of being called good. Calling anyone short of God good is to make a false statement. Why is that?

Dead In Trespasses And Sins

In preparing to deliver a message on our debts to God, I noticed how the Apostle Paul describes those without God as dead in trespasses and sins in Ephesians 2:1. Reading this previously, I never paid any mind to the inclusion of both of these terms. However, after

rereading this passage, I see what Paul is trying to communicate.

The word **trespasses** here is translated from a Greek word (paraptóma) meaning a false step. Webster's dictionary defines trespass as "any voluntary transgression of the moral law; any violation of a known rule of duty; sin."

The word **sin** here is translated from another Greek word (hamartia) meaning failure. Webster's dictionary defines sin as "*transgression of the law of God; disobedience of the divine command; any violation of God's will, either in purpose or conduct; moral deficiency in the character; iniquity; as, sins of omission and sins of commission.*"

Therefore, we are (by nature and physical birth) spiritually dead. In addition, our sinful nature is due to our rebellion against God's explicit moral law (e.g. The Ten Commandments), and also more broadly due to our failure to remain righteous outside of the Law where Godly wisdom should govern. With this understanding, we can see that we are lost coming and going. Our original parents sinned, and every generation has sinned since then, and we continue in sin.

In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive

The Apostle Paul was once a Pharisee devoted to the keeping of the letter of the Law of Moses. Being a Pharisee, Paul understood what it meant to get caught up in trespasses. However, through the revelation of the Spirit, he learned that God's standard exceeds the explicit law. To truly please Him, we must be like Him in every way and that is impossible without His gracious intervention. Because of this understanding Paul wrote to the Corinthians...

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even

so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:19-22).

In Christ alone are we made alive again. Spiritually dead, we are husks whose life is gone, but with the new life placed in us by the Holy Spirit, we are new creatures.

Mint, Anise and Cummin

Thanks be to God that by His gracious sacrifice we are not stuck in that dead condition. However, it is easy to lose sight of God's continuing desire for obedience. Disobedience got us into this mess, and sin continues to plague even God's Church. We must serve Him by seeking conformity to the image of Christ whereunto we are predestinated and called (Romans 8:29-30).

Because they had neglected this basic truth, Jesus spoke very harshly to the Pharisees during His earthly ministry. He said in Matthew 23:23, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

They paid homage to the law through a show of works, but they failed to appreciate and seek after the law as well as judgment (or justice), mercy, and faith. As Jesus demonstrated in several situations, their understanding of the Law was limited at best. Their ability to judge appropriately was poor. Their display of

mercy was awful, and their mercy faith was weak at best.

Lest we fall into the same situation, we need to pay attention to the weightier matters, lest we fall away, spoiling our joy and peace. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Grow in Knowledge

- 1. "For the Lord hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of _____ and children of Gad; ye have no part in the Lord:....."
- 2. "Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, "If I _____ thee not, thou hast no part with me."
- 3. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first _____: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."
- 4. "And if any man shall take away from the word of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of _____, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."
- 5. " But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and _____: which is the second death."
- 6. "A wise servant shall have _____ over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren."
- 7. "If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no _____ dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."
- 8. "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an _____?"
- 9. "And thou shalt take the breast of the ram of Aaron's _____, and wave it for a wave offering before the Lord: and it shall be thy part."
- 10. "Wherefore Levi hath no part nor _____ with his brethren: the Lord is his inheritance, according as the Lord thy God promised him."

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Following the Lord

by Elder Marty Smith
Roswell, Georgia

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:26-27).

The Lord Jesus Christ speaks eternal life unto His sheep for whom He has died. In nature, they are conceived into physical life, but are dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). Between conception and the grave, at a time chosen by God, the mighty voice of the Son of God sounds within their inner-most beings, and they hear and live (John 5:25). His call unto eternal life is specific - He knows His sheep. His call unto eternal life is permanent - they shall never perish. His call unto eternal life is effective - the sheep, without fail, follow Him.

When and how do the sheep follow Him? Initially, they follow Him the moment He speaks eternal life unto them in the new birth. Coming out of spiritual death and into spiritual life is following the Shepherd. Ultimately, in the Resurrection, the sheep follow the Lord Jesus Christ completely. They become sinless, incorruptible, and conformed to the image of the only begotten Son of God. In the new birth, and after death, the truth spoken by the Lord in John 10:26-27 indeed comes to pass.

What can one say about following the Lord between the new birth and physical death? Certainly, the born-again sheep knows the person of Jesus Christ (even if they have never heard His name) because that is what eternal life is by definition (John 17:3), and they are taught to know Him in the new birth (I John 2:27). Certainly, the born-again sheep has faith; this is a part of the fruit of the Spirit of God given as a result of the new birth (Galatians 5:22).

Some people, however, wish to place a religious requirement on the phrase "they shall follow me." They insist that some form of positive response to some form of Christian teaching before physical death is a "required evidence" of eternal life. Yet the scriptures tell of those who died in infancy, or died in times or places the gospel never reached, but who live in the presence of God after death (Revelation 5:9 & 7:9).

Furthermore, we read of stretches of time in the lives of individuals who were clearly born again, when they were mired in unbelief. In John 12:42-43, we read of Jews who believed, but gave no outward evidence of belief. In Mark 16:14, we read that the apostles themselves had not believed the good news of the resurrection! In Acts 10, we read that Cornelius was so ignorant of true religion that he tried to worship Pe-

ter (verse 25), and yet he had been devoutly following the Lord in prayers and in giving (verse 2) for some time before he met Peter!

Is the Lord of the universe not able to cause all of His sheep to hear and believe the gospel? Without a doubt, He is able. Is the Lord of the universe not able to cause His sheep to quit sinning after being born again? Without a doubt, He is able. The question here is not one of ability, but rather one of God's choice. Unlike regeneration and resurrection, in which the sheep are passive beneficiaries, and which never fail, God has chosen to involve us in the work of the gospel, and in resistance to sin. And far too often, we fail in that work.

We should follow the Lord Jesus Christ in every way we know how. We should believe, be baptized, forgive those who offend us, give to those who are in need, and love one another as He has loved us. But when we state that someone has not followed the Lord and has no eternal life because we find the religion of that person to be deficient, we do err. Let us rejoice in every positive evidence of eternal life we find, and live and spread the true gospel so that we may rejoice even more.

Answers to Grow In Knowledge

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| 1. Reuben - Joshua 22:25 | 4. life - Revelation 22:19 | 7. part - Luke 11:36 |
| 2. wash - John 13:8 | 5. brimstone - Revelation 21:8 | 8. infidel - II Corinthians 6:15 |
| 3. resurrection - Revelation 20:6 | 6. rule - Proverbs - 17:2 | 9. consecration - Exodus 29:26 |
| | | 10. inheritance - Deuteronomy 10:9 |

"His Place of Defense Shall Be The Munitions of Rocks"

by Elder William M. Mullis
Waycross, Georgia

"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off" (Isaiah 33:14-17).

SINNERS ARE AFRAID

The above passage of Scripture tells us first that the sinners in Zion are afraid! Though we are all sinners, the word sinner has reference to one who is willfully sinning, living in open rebellion to God. When God begins to manifest His presence, the sinners in Zion are afraid. They may not be afraid of the preacher, or of the Church, but fearfulness fills the sinner when he feels the presence of God!

TWO QUESTIONS

Next, two questions are asked: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" The reference of course is to the fact that none can withstand the fiery judgments of God! "Our God is a consuming fire!" (Hebrews 12:29). When there are those in Zion who walk contrary to His word and way, He will come in judgment and none can hide, none can withstand, none can hold back tremendous fear! Study Hebrews 10:24-31 for a clear description of what God does to His

people when they walk willfully against His word and way!

ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS

Finally, there is an answer to the question of who can dwell with God who is a "consuming fire." Notice the characteristics of those who "dwell with Him" in Zion, in the kingdom of Heaven, as they live here in this world: "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off" (Isaiah 33:15-17). Those who are walking and speaking righteously, and shunning evil, those who are walking in the light as He is in the light, **THOSE** are the ones who are "dwelling with Him," partaking of His bread, drinking His pure water, dwelling on high in the kingdom of heaven, beholding the King in His beauty and beholding the land that is very far off! They are the ones inhabiting the city which Abraham looked for (Hebrews 11:8-16).

DEFENSE IN THE ROCKS

But look now at a particular expression in the passage at the beginning of this article: "**his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks**" (verse 16). *Why would someone who is walking with the Lord in the light of His word need a place of defense? WHY?* Because the word of God tells us, "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may

devour:" (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus told Peter, "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:" (Luke 2:31). The word of God teaches, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Timothy 3:12). Jesus Himself taught us, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles" (Matthew 10:16-18). Jesus went on to warn us, "they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake" (Luke 21:12). Jesus further warns us of persecution when He said, "the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me" (John 15:19-21). Suffering persecution **WILL** be a part of every true Christian's life!!! Even in the Old Testament, those who were faithful to God were persecuted and needed a place of defense! David said, "Keep me as the apple of the eye, **hide me under the shadow of thy wings, From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about**" (Psalm 17:8-9).

The people of God who follow His ways have many enemies! David said,

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD” (Psalm 27:5-6).

We need a hiding place! We need a place of defense!!! The text says, “His place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks.” Do you get the picture? Many rocks! One HUGE ROCK, but many other rocks all combined to make a fortress, a place of defense.

HIDING IN THE CLEFT OF THE ROCK

Consider some of the munitions of rocks that can be our place of defense. First, there is THE GREAT ROCK, the perfect rock, the living rock, Jesus Christ! He is the chief cornerstone, the Solid Rock! The same one who wrote about this “munitions rocks” being a place of defense, prophesied the coming of Jesus and made this statement: “And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land” (Isaiah 32:2). David knew this GREAT ROCK who was also his hiding place, as he said, “Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah” (Psalm 32:7). He said, “Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: **be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress;** therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me” (Psalm 31:2-3).

Have you ever sung “The Rock That is Higher Than I”? It comes from the passage in Psalm 61 which says, “Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: **lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the**

enemy.”

SCRIPTURAL ROCKS AS A DEFENSE

David reiterated this truth when he said, “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: **I hope in thy word**” (Psalm 119:114). AHA! We are here led from the LIVING ROCK, Jesus Christ, to the ROCK of truth, the word of God, the Scriptures as “munitions of rocks” which are a place of defense. Every verse of Scripture is like a rock, a place of defense. How many times have you used the rock, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want,” as well as every other verse in the twenty-third Psalm? We have run to that wonderful rock shelter, rock fort, “munitions of rocks” as a place of defense numerous times, and on every occasion those rocks of truth have strengthened, encouraged, protected, and blessed our souls!

What is the first “rock of truth” we find in the Scriptures? “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Every time Satan tries to promote his lies of evolution, they must be knocked down with the rocks of truth about God creating the heavens and the earth! When the devil tries to get the children of Zion to be afraid, there are great rocks of truth we shout, such as, “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6). Or we declare, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

Have you noticed Jesus using the word of God as His “munitions of rocks” as His defense when the devil tried to tempt Him? When tempted with food, His response was, “**It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Study Matthew 4:1-11, and you will see Jesus used the munitions of rocks as His defense each time by saying, “It is written....”

There are many great rocks of truth. Filling our minds with the word of God is a wonderful defense! After Peter declared that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus said, “upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). This “bed-rock” of truth MUST be established in our hearts and minds if we are to be His Church. Jesus also taught us that when we are doers of His word, we are building our house upon a rock! “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock” (Matthew 7:24-25).

THREE EXAMPLES OF ROCKS

The following verse of Scripture shows three different examples of ROCKS we have as our defense. “The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land” (Zechariah 9:15-16). Look at the verses carefully and see if you see (1) God as our rock; (2) the Scriptures as our rocks (sling stones); and the people of God as our rocks of defense.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE ROCKS

We need God! We need the word of God! And we need the people of God! We have already touched on God as our GREAT ROCK, and the Scriptures being full of rocks we use to help us in our battles against Satan. Can you testify that the people of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ, are truly a place of defense and munitions of rocks? Who held up Moses' arms in the battle against the Amalekites? “And it came to pass, when Moses

held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun" (Exodus 17:11-12). Aaron and Hur were his rocks, his helpers, his place of defense. Those three men (Moses, Aaron, and Hur) were a place of defense, munitions of rocks, for the whole body of the children of Israel.

Was Peter a rock? Some may deny that he was a very solid rock, but the Scripture says in John 1:42, "And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone." The word stone there

is much different than when the word "stone" is used in reference to Jesus! Jesus was the GREAT STONE, the perfect stone. Peter was a small stone. Nevertheless, our Lord did call him a stone! And Peter writes of both Jesus being the chief corner stone, and His people being lively stones. "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, **Ye also, as lively stones**, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion **a chief corner stone**, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded" (I Peter 2:4-6). Jesus, the Chief Corner Stone; the people of God as "lively stones;" and the word of God full of stones we use much like

David used his five smooth stones as he faced the giant!

Are you living in a straw house, a house of sticks, or in a solid rock house, founded on the great solid rock, which is full of living rocks for fellowship, and written rocks as ammunition? Only one house will stand the onslaught of Satan. Only one place can truly be declared a place of defense, the munitions of rocks!

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

The Way We Walk Determines Where We Go!

Walk:

The broad way = DESTRUCTION!

The Narrow Way = LIFE!

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

WALKING IN THE BROAD (EVIL) WAY:

1. In Pride-

"A wicked man walketh with a forward mouth" (Proverbs 6:12).

2. In Vanity-

"Surely every man walketh in a vain shew" (Psalm 139:6).

3. In Darkness-

"the fool walketh in darkness" (Eccl. 2:14).

4. In Stubbornness-

"walketh after the imagination of his own heart" (Jeremiah 23:17).

5. In Abominations-

"But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD" (Ezekiel 11:21).

6. In Ignorance-

"he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth" (John 12:35).

7. Into a trap-

"For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare" (Job 18:8).

8. In Lust-

"How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" (Jude 18).

9. In Worldly Ways-

(Ephesians 2:2).

WALKING IN THE NARROW (GODLY) WAY:

1. "Walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

2. "Walk by faith, not by sight"

(II Corinthians 5:7).

3. "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

4. "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Eph. 4:1).

5. "Walk in love"

(Eph. 5:2).

6. "Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise" (Eph. 5:15).

7. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

8. "Walk like Jesus walked!" (I John 2:6).

9. "Walk in truth" (II John 4; III John 3).

10. "WALK WITH GOD!" (Gen. 5:22-24; 6:9; Malachi 2:6; Rev. 3:4)

Witnessing And Winning Souls

by Elder W. H. Durrence
Brooklet, Georgia

The two ideas of witnessing and winning souls were derived from two separate Scriptures, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Solomon said, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and **he that winneth souls is wise**" (Prov. 11:30). In the New Testament we read, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). While these Scriptures are distinctly different, there is a definite link connecting the two. The connection, as I see it, is that by witnessing we "win souls."

It is important for us to realize that witnessing is not merely a New Testament concept. It is noteworthy that David desired to convert sinners (Ps. 51:13), and God spoke of His people as witnesses (Is. 43:10,12). It is therefore understandable that the New Testament Jews were very evangelistic. The scribes and Pharisees traveled across sea and land to make one proselyte (convert). I think it should also be pointed out that according to Jesus their converts were "two fold more the child of hell" than themselves (Mt. 23:15). This fact is important and we should exercise great care not to allow those who go about this noble work in the wrong way and for the wrong reasons to deter or discourage us from doing it for the right reason and in a scriptural way. The responsibility to witness is clearly ours, in view of the fact that early Christians gave witness to God's work of grace wherever they were driven by persecution.

Let us now consider what is meant by witnessing and winning souls. A witness is simply a person who gives testimony. In a court of law a witness

is someone who establishes a fact by giving testimony through knowledge of the incident. The witness may be an eye-witness, but he does not have to be; he may simply provide information pertaining to the case. It is for this reason that the ninth commandment warns "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Ex. 20:16). To win is to take, to receive, or to **gain** (Phil. 3:8). Therefore we witness as we give testimony which is directed toward gaining people to our way or idea. Now when we apply this concept to the religion of Christianity, we regard witnessing as telling facts about the truth of God's Word and the Christian concepts, and doing so with the intent to gain another to our way of worship and service to God. Our spiritual endeavors were not designed to redeem souls from everlasting destruction nor to save people to the eternal glories of eternal heaven, for only God is able to lift individuals from sin and make children of God of them. All the witnessing and winning we do will not add one soul to the eternal heaven, since Jesus is the only Saviour (Acts 4:12).

What then is the purpose and importance of witnessing? It is the same today that it was when the Bible was written. When the eleven disciples were sent out by Christ in what we now call "The Great Commission," it was not to **make** children of God, but to **baptize** and **teach** (Mt. 28:19,20). The witnessing work of Paul was two-fold: to give illumination of spiritual truths (Acts 13:47) and to deliver people from the power and practice of sin (Acts 26:18). It is still important for us to witness with both objectives in mind. If people substitute error for truth, they are likely to substitute sin for righteousness. James said, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall

save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19,20). We should witness to turn people from error and sin, so that they might not die to truth and righteousness. Such witnessing is soul-winning, and such witnesses are wise. Daniel wrote, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever" (Dan. 12:3).

Next we need to consider the subject and substance of our witnessing. The essential and irreplaceable element in all Christian witnessing is the person and work of God. It is obvious that Jesus, His work, and His words were the subject and substance of New Testament witnessing. Those early Christians would start witnessing by declaring Jesus as the Son of God and move on to declare that He was their Savior, or they would take some divine working and point back to Jesus as the source of the miracle. We can observe this pattern when the lame man was healed at the temple (Acts 3:1-10), and Peter began to witness of Jesus (Acts 3:11-26). What a marvelous way for us to witness today! When prayers are answered in the sending of rain during dry times, or when the sick are restored to health, then we should be willing to witness of the power of God who answers prayer. When special blessings are received, we should gladly witness about God, acknowledging Him as the source of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). God, not good luck, should get the praise for keeping us from serious injury or death when an accident occurs. Most important in our witnessing is the declaration that we are saved by grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. He will be glorified if we witness (give testimony) of His goodness.

Because of the nature of witnessing

and winning, only the saved can witness as I have described. Before we can believe the Sonship of Jesus, it is necessary for us to be born again (1 John 5:1), and we must have experienced grace to be able to testify of it. Peter said, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). We are taught to witness what we know or have experienced. David exhorted, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he [God] hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy..." (Ps. 107:2). God has redeemed us and this He did by grace. He chose us before the world began (Eph. 1:4), predestinated us to be conformed to Jesus (Rom. 8:29), sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins (1 John 4:10), and quickened us by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:1). No part of this is done by mortals; it is wholly the work of God! Though we bear witness of it, we impart no measure of it to another. Nev-

ertheless, as we declare those ancient doctrines of grace, we bear witness to God's work that He might be glorified. We should study to rightly divide the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2: 15), and then declare them to others as we witness. David declared, "Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul" (Ps. 66:16). Only those that fear God will hear and believe our witness. If God's Holy Spirit does not precede our witness, it will be fruitless! Nevertheless, we are to witness about Christ (Acts 2:36, 4:12, 9:15), and we are to witness of that which He has done for us (Luke 8:39, Acts 4:20, John 9:25).

Finally, let us consider the methods of our witnessing and winning. There are two of them: by word and by deed. By word we tell others about Christ and things which pertain to Him (John 1:45). Like the Samaritan woman, we tell what

we know about Him. She said, "...Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). Yet, if we do not live consistent with our witness, it is not likely to avail anything of much importance. By holy example, we have our strongest witness. More have been won by a good example (which shows the way) than by the words of those who say, but do not (Mt. 23:3). Peter said, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of their wives..." (1 Peter 3:1). By witnessing we may win husband or wife, parent or child, friend or perhaps foe. Most of all, we acknowledge the goodness of God and bring glory to His Son, our Saviour .

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. I Corinthians 9:19-22

Will You Please Help!

There are many ways you can help spread the truth of salvation by Grace and the Sovereignty of God. First, we need more Scriptural articles every month. We need more ministers to write. If every minister would send a written message of some of the sermons God has given him to preach, it would be a blessing to thousands of God's dear children. Second, we need more personal testimonies about the ways God is blessing your life. Every reader, young and old, could tell about a special way God has protected, provided for, or guided your life. Will you please write today? Thirdly, we need more financial contributions if you are able to help in this way. Since we place numerous magazines in Nursing Homes, hospitals, doctor's offices, libraries, and businesses, it takes extra help financially from those who want to help share the truth with others. Fourth, we need more people to help distribute magazines in local communities. If you could place magazines in your community, there is a box on the back of each magazine to put the name and address of the local church, name and phone number of the pastor, and the times of worship services. In addition to the above, we need your prayers. Please pause right now, and ask God to help, guide, and bless this effort to share the truth with others. If we all work together, we can help many of God's children rejoice in His AMAZING GRACE'

Vision

by Elder Steve Pearce
Waycross, Georgia

Nehemiah 2:17-18 states, "Then said I unto them, ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me. And they said, let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work." Although these two verses are short, they say a lot about what was going on with Nehemiah as he began to prepare for the work that needed to be accomplished

It had previously been brought to the attention of Nehemiah that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the city was no longer protected. Nehemiah was burdened and wanted to see the walls of the city restored. He made arrangements with the king to return to Jerusalem and to have the materials to repair the walls. Once he arrived at the city, he rode around the walls of the city viewing the damage.

Now that he had seen the damage, he began to develop a vision. The vision was of utmost importance because it defined what Nehemiah wanted to see happen. A vision is the ideal of what the future would be. Nehemiah wanted to see the walls of the city rebuilt, but he had to develop what he wanted and how he wanted it to occur in a way that he could communicate it to others. A vision is not of much use if it cannot be communicated with others in a way that they can understand what the vision is and why fulfillment of the vision is important.

The scripture doesn't tell us a lot about Nehemiah's ride around the city of Jerusalem other than to say where he went and what he saw. We are also told that he made the journey in secret. Nehemiah did not tell the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the rulers, nor

the rest that did the work. It was during this ride I believe Nehemiah developed his vision. What he saw could have been disheartening and caused him to drop into despair and depression. He could have asked why the walls had been allowed to be destroyed, or become dismayed at the completeness of the destruction. Nehemiah could have thought about the difficulty of the task and concluded that nothing could be done. How often do we look at a difficult situation and think about what cannot be done rather than what can be accomplished. Satan would have liked nothing better than for Nehemiah to become so discouraged that he would give up.

However, Nehemiah did not just see what was, but he also had a vision of what could be. That is what a vision is all about. I believe that as Nehemiah began to look at the ruins of the walls, his burden to do something grew. As Nehemiah was intentionally riding around the city alone with no one knowing what he was doing, he had the opportunity to communicate with God. We know Nehemiah was a man who prayed. When Nehemiah heard of the destruction of the wall of Jerusalem, he prayed. When the king asked Nehemiah what request he had, Nehemiah prayed. As he talked with God, I believe he began to see the walls of Jerusalem restored and he became convinced that the walls not only could be, but would be rebuilt! Nehemiah knew all the obstacles he faced: convincing the people that the wall could be rebuilt, and convincing them to do the hard work that would be required. And he knew the enemies of Israel that did not want to see the walls rebuilt.

But Nehemiah had faith. As he saw the walls and communicated with God, he believed the walls would be rebuilt by the people. Nehemiah had already

seen miracles. The king had allowed him to leave his place of service to return to Jerusalem. He was given letters by the king to assure his peaceful travel, and he was given the timber he would need to rebuild the wall.

Nehemiah knew that he would be unable to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem by himself. He needed the help of the Jews. To get that help, Nehemiah needed to communicate his vision to the Jews in a way that they would see the vision and make the commitment to help rebuild the wall. Again, I believe Nehemiah prayed as he developed his speech that God would give him the right words and prepare the hearts of those who would hear him.

Nehemiah points out to the people of the distress that Jerusalem is in. The city is in ruins and the gates are burned with fire. He gives them a reason that resonated with the people. The walls needed to be rebuilt to be sure that the city was no more a reproach. The city of God's people had lost respect among the other nations.

Nehemiah also told them that he was doing the work of God, which is good work. He then told the people of the support the king had given him in his goal to rebuild the city. It was this vision of walls rebuilt, of a city strong once again, and of a people respected, that inspired the people to get ready for the work. After the speech that Nehemiah gave, the people rose up ready to build.

The importance of vision cannot be underestimated. Proverbs 29:18 states "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The city of Jerusalem would have continued to decline if not for the vision of Nehemiah. Nehemiah rallied the people to rise up and bring Jerusalem back.

America is broken in many ways as the walls of Jerusalem were in Nehe-

miah's days. We don't serve God as we ought. Therefore, just as the Israelites accepted the broken walls, God's children are accepting an America that is broken. For America to rebuild, we need a vision. A vision of a nation that returns to God, serves God as it ought, and regains the respect of the rest of the world. If we can grasp that vision, and be inspired as the Israelites were, we would also rise up and build!

However, it is not an easy task. It was not easy for the Israelites to rebuild. They needed to strengthen their hands for the work. If America is to be rebuilt, it will take preparation for the work. God's people must study God's word and pray for direction and strength. It also takes a commitment to the work. If the Israelites had not committed themselves to the work, they would not have been successful.

Many thought it would be impossible to rebuild the walls. But with the vision of one man, the commitment of the people, and the power of God, the impossible was accomplished. Many say that it is impossible to bring America back. However, if we can grasp the vision of a renewed America, commit ourselves to the work, and receive the blessings of God, the impossible just might happen!

How Many Tears Do We Shed?

As we study the word of God, we find a number of different reasons people shed tears. Crying may not seem to be very "manly" today, and probably most of us do not want others to see us cry, but shedding tears can be a good thing! Remember, JESUS WEPT!

"Crocodile tears" are considered tears that are not genuine. There are people who pretend to cry, and can even produce tears, but there is no genuine feeling which brought about the tears. I heard Elder Alan Wade Corley, one of our older preachers who has gone Home to be with the Lord, say, "It is fine to shed tears when your cup runs over, but always be sure you are not just pouring them out of the cup."

There are numerous causes of tears. One of the main causes of tears is **loss**. Most of us cry when we lose someone we really love. We may even cry when we lose a pet. There are times we lose a possession very precious that we may cry.

There are times we shed tears because of the feeling of **guilt**. We may commit a sin and feel great remorse and sorrow resulting in the shedding of tears. Or, we may offend someone we love, and shed tears of sorrow because we have hurt that person.

Sympathy for others may be so strong we may shed tears. When we see someone in pain, sorrow, or grieving because of the guilt of sin, we may cry with them.

There are also those who shed tears for **joy**. We are sometimes overwhelmed with joy, and tears flow down our faces. At the birth of our children or grandchildren, we may be so happy we cry for joy.

On some occasions we may be so **filled with the Spirit** of God that our cups overflow. We may be in the house of God, studying His word in our homes, or praying when our hearts feel like they are going to burst, and tears flow down our cheeks.

We may also be so **fervent or pas-**

sionate about a matter that we are brought to tears. When there are those who refuse to turn from evil ways, we may weep for them, or we may cry in our pleadings with them.

REMEMBER: Isaiah 57:15 and Psalm 34:18!

Look at some of the following Scriptures which relate to tears:

1. Mark 9:24
2. Luke 7:38
3. Acts 20:19, 31
4. II Corinthians 2:4
5. II Timothy 1:4
6. Hebrews 5:7
7. Hebrews 12:17
8. I Samuel 1:8
9. John 20:13, 15
10. Revelation 5:5; 18:11
11. James 4:9
12. Romans 12:15
13. Mark 14:72
14. Luke 6:21, 25
15. John 11:35

We cannot choose the consequences of our sin, and we cannot choose which way our sin will find us out, but we should never forget that it always will. R. B. Ouellette

FACING THE WALL!

Scripture reading- II Kings 20:1-6
**“Then he turned his face to the wall,
and prayed unto the LORD”**
(II Kings 20:2).

Hezekiah had just received the most shocking news he had ever heard. Through Isaiah, God told King Hezekiah, “Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live” (v.1). What did Hezekiah do when he faced this grave problem? First, he turned his face to the wall. Then, he prayed unto the Lord.

“Walls” in the word of God often represent obstacles: troubles, problems, or afflictions. Sometimes, people react in different ways when they have problems (walls) in their lives: sometimes, they run from the problem (wall); sometimes, they ignore the problem; other times, they freeze, or crumble when they have a problem (wall). But the word of God teaches us to face our troubles and problems as Hezekiah “faced the wall!”

In our personal lives, homes, Church, and nation, we need to learn the valuable lesson of “facing the wall.” However, if we face the wall (problem) in our own strength and wisdom, we will merely beat our head against the wall, kick the wall, and become frustrated because we cannot conquer the wall in our own strength. It takes supernatural power to overcome the wall, therefore we must pray unto the Lord once we have faced the wall!

Like Hezekiah, David knew how much God helped him when he faced the various “walls” in his life. What are some “walls” David faced? (The lion; the bear; his brothers; the Israelite army; King Saul; Goliath, to name a

few!) Each time he faced one of the aforementioned wall, he looked to God to help him. He faced the wall, and prayed unto the Lord. And the Lord helped him each time. For example, David declared, “For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall” (II Samuel 22:29-30).

All through the Scriptures, we find references to God’s people facing the walls and God helping them in various ways as they looked to Him. Joel declared, “They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war” (Joel 2:7). In Ezekiel 38:20, we read, “every wall shall fall to the ground.” Does this remind you of the walls of Jericho? When the spies went into the land of Canaan, they said there were “great walled cities” in the land, and used that as an excuse NOT to do what God had commanded them. They did not face the wall, and they did not pray unto the Lord. They ran, and they died. Forty years later, under the leadership of Joshua, the children of Israel faced the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, and the walls came tumbling down! The battle was not theirs, but the Lord’s. If they had tried to knock the walls down, or break the walls down after facing the walls of Jericho, they would have been defeated. However, they looked to God, listened to God, and obeyed God. THAT is the way to be able to overcome all the walls we face in our lives!

When Moses had come to the Red Sea, it was a wall in front of them and the Egyptian army was a wall behind them. God parted the sea, and the

wall before them became a wall on each side of them, and they marched between those two walls to victory. Then God brought down the walls on the Egyptians!

When King Jehoshaphat and Judah were faced with the great “walls” of the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites, they faced the wall! They knew the seriousness of the situation and knew they could not win by themselves. Therefore Jehoshaphat said, “we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee” (II Chronicles 20:12). Like Hezekiah, they faced the wall and prayed unto the Lord!

Look at Isaiah 49:13-16. In this passage, God told the children of Israel he would help them in the wall (affliction) they had. But they murmured against God and said He had forgotten them. God’s reply was, “thy walls are continually before me.” God loves you and you will never face a wall (problem, trouble, affliction, grief, sorrow, or loss) but what God is there and sees and knows all you face!

Every “wall” of temptation you face, God is there! Face the wall! Acknowledge it is real! Then look to Him and pray to Him for the grace you need! “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:13).

Face the wall! Pray unto the Lord! His grace is sufficient! We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! The Lord is our helper and we should not fear the walls of life!

So Fulfill the Law of Christ!

by Bro. Clay Gill
Patterson, Georgia

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:1-2).

I think that if a believer in Jesus Christ were asked if it is their desire to fulfill the law of Christ, they would respond with an absolute yes. Yet, I don’t think that all children of God meet the qualifications nor understand the mandates for fulfilling the law of Christ that is contained in these two verses in Galatians. With God’s help, I want to examine this passage and begin to establish how “ye which are spiritual” should “restore” someone.

This passage of scripture can be broken into six primary messages. We must carefully consider each message to rightly understand the meaning of both verses and to clearly see what the law of Christ is. A brief outline of the law of Christ is:

1. Brethren, if a man be overtaken
2. Ye which are spiritual
3. Restore such an one
4. In the spirit of meekness
5. Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted
6. Bear ye one another’s burdens

The first message is crucial in understanding who God is talking to and about. If you don’t carefully consider who this passage is talking to and about, then you will make a universal application to this passage which will destroy its meaning. This message is directed to the “brethren” and those which are “overtaken.”

The church of Galatia is facing a crisis. Paul, through the inspiration of God, is writing a letter of rebuke and admonishment to the brethren in Galatia because they have begun to believe

in a perverted truth about the gospel of Christ. Read through the first chapter of Galatians and you will find Paul being “marveled” at how soon the Galatian Christians have been troubled by those who were perverting the truth. By the time we arrive at Galatians 6, we understand that the brethren being talked to are those who believe the Gospel of Christ, and are holding to the truth of that Gospel. They are diligently seeking God, having fellowship with other believers, and living their daily walk in accordance with the gospel.

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken....”

The brethren are to focus their attention on those who may be overtaken. The word overtaken here in the book of Galatians is referring to those believers who have begun to believe in the perverted gospel and have left the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have been consumed by the enemy of lies and perversions.

Therefore, this passage is clearly talking to Christian men and women who believe the gospel in truth and who have been moved with compassion to minister to those who have been overtaken with lies and perversions of the truth. Think about how destructive it is for someone to take half-truths of scripture and mingle them with lies, and then proclaim them as truths to whole groups of carnal people. I think we see that often in our culture today: TV evangelists proclaiming a “name it and claim it” religion for those seeking prosperity and comforts in this world. The Bible never promises prosperity and comfort for the child of God in this world. This simple perversion of the truth causes weaker Christians to leave the truth altogether, seeking after things which are carnal and temporal, yet all the while thinking that they are pursuing such things in the name of

Jesus Christ.

“Ye which are spiritual”

I believe that this is why scripture puts this qualifier as the second message within this passage of scripture. Not just any brother in Christ needs to be concerned with those who have been overtaken. Specifically, it should only be those brethren who are spiritual. **“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” I Corinthians 2:14-15.** We see in this passage, that the spiritual man judgeth all things. This is because the spiritual man understands the gospel of Christ and has not received a perversion of this gospel. If the brethren are going to attend to the needs of those who have been overtaken, they must be spiritual men. To understand fully what this means, let’s look at another passage where Paul defines who a spiritual man is. In I Corinthians 14:37, we read, **“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”** Those who are spiritual acknowledge that the things contained in the scripture are truly the commandments of the Lord. This was a problem for the Galatian Christians. They had forgotten the true gospel of Christ and the things they had heard as the commandments of the Lord. They began to follow the teachings of natural men who were perverting the truth. Likewise, we today must qualify our spiritual walk based on whether or not we acknowledge that the scripture is the commandments from the Lord. They are to be taken in truth and rightly

divided to have understanding.

Let's look again at these first two messages in Galatians 6:1. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken, ye who are spiritual...." Notice, based on what we have read so far, that Paul is calling those who see the truth in whole to notice those who are seeing a perverted truth, based on the qualification that those who see the truth in whole believe that the commandments given to them come from the Lord (the source of Truth) and not from some man (the source of Lies). It is like a triple admonition contained in 10 words. Isn't it amazing how powerful the word of God is!

"Restoring such a one"

Paul is calling the brethren to restore those who have been overtaken. The word "restore" comes with the understanding that that person has left his original state. The person overtaken is a man/woman who was once a believer in the truth but who has left that truth for a perversion. Therefore, the brethren are to restore that person back to a state of Truth. The word "restore" implies that there is rot or decay within the person who needs restoration. If you understand anything about construction, you will understand that when a carpenter goes into an old home to restore it, they don't simply go in and put new wall paper and paneling up over rotting and decaying walls. It wouldn't be long before the rot and decay would eat through the new wall paper. Rather, a process of restoration means that the carpenter pulls back the outer appearance in pursuit of the rot and decay. When they find the source of the rot or decay, they take it all out, carefully removing what is not any good and replacing it with what is good. Likewise, when the brethren are "restoring such a one," we are to understand the truth so that we can recognize the rot and decay of the one overtaken. That means we can recognize the lies and perversions of the truth that is in their belief system. We then carefully begin the process of restoration, carefully removing the rot and decay, and replac-

ing it with what is good, the truth of the gospel of Christ.

As a counselor, I can say that to be a part of the restoration of someone who has been overtaken is a great blessing. To sit back and watch the Holy Spirit replace lies with truth, and then to watch that child of God begin to live his life in truth again, is a great blessing!

"In the Spirit of meekness"

With the process of restoration comes the fourth message of this passage: "in the spirit of meekness." The process of restoration and meekness goes hand in hand. To use the earlier analogy, when a carpenter goes in to restore a house, he does not come in with a wrecking ball or sledge hammer. He comes in with the appropriate tools with a very specific purpose, to seek out the rot and decay. If the brethren who are spiritual come in to restore someone, and they use "a wrecking ball" for evangelism, instead of restoration, you may get a home that is destroyed. The carpenter wants to restore the house, not tear it down. Those who approach the process of restoring someone who is overtaken must continuously remember that the spirit of meekness is truth and power tempered with obedience to Christ, His commandments, His guidance of the Holy Spirit, and with patience. The moment a brother begins to work out of his own understanding, it is like taking a wrecking ball to a restoration project – the building is in danger of being destroyed.

"Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

I think that the fifth message of this passage is crucial to understanding the entire passage. It is often where the brother in Christ mistakenly uses a hammer where only a screwdriver is needed. A brother who is diligently seeking the truth of the gospel of Christ is not above temptation and sin himself. It is very easy, once we have entered into the process of restoration, to get caught up in temptation and sin. Perhaps not the same sin as the person who has been overtaken, but sin

none the less. The brother may begin to believe that he actually has something to offer of his own understanding that will help the process of restoration. I am no carpenter, but I have tried a few wood-working projects on my own. I am carefully following the instructions. I am continuously comparing my work with the "picture" that came with the instructions. Every now and then, the directions aren't clear. So, instead of calling on someone who knows what they are doing, I "improvise" based on my own "knowledge" of wood-working. Do you see my error? I literally have a desk sitting in my home that if you were to try to move that desk, I would have to tell you to be careful because the whole top, even though nailed down, will come off very easily. Why? Because I leaned on my own understanding of wood-working. The brother who sees someone overtaken, and begins the process of restoring that fellow brother, MUST use only truth contained in scripture. The moment you leave truth, you have forgotten to consider thyself and have fallen into temptation.

One other application I want to mention is based on what I said earlier. As a counselor, I do find it a great privilege to be a part of the work of the Holy Spirit and watch someone be restored to truth. However, it is easy to become prideful and haughty because we have been a part of that restoration process. "Consider thyself lest thou also be tempted." Just because God has used you to be a part of restoration does not mean that you don't have areas in your own life in which you have been overtaken. Remember, the Galatians had left the truth for a perversion of the truth. We must continuously consider ourselves lest we also begin to believe in a perversion.

Finally, "**Bear ye one another's burdens.**" We are commanded to take on ourselves the burdens of others. We are to be moved with love and compassion to help restore our brothers and sisters in Christ to the Truth of God's Word. Their condition should

burden us in a way that moves us to do everything possible to help them see the lies they have bought and the

Truth they have left.

If we are to **fulfill the law of Christ**, then we must in meekness be laboring

to restore our brothers and sisters who have been overtaken with lies and per-versions of the truth.

Overcoming Fears

by Sis. Kelcey Taylor (15 years old)
Waycross, Georgia

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

Fear is nothing new. It has been around forever! Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself.” Thoreau wrote, “Nothing is so much to be feared as fear.” And Francis Bacon spoke that, “Nothing is terrible except fear itself.” I looked up the definition of fear and found words like: concern, anxiety, emotion, danger, pain, afraid, and evil! I do not know about you, but those words are a bit intimidating to me!

As we learn more about others, we see that everyone has fear in one form or another. On many occasions, David was facing enemies and was tempted to fear, but he refused to give

in to those fears because his confidence and trust was in God. Trust is not something you are born with. You must learn to trust. You trust your parents because they have been there for you in troubled times. They have protected and given you support when it was needed.

The same thing is true about our Heavenly Father! Over and over, we look to Him for help, protection, strength, and hope, and He always provides everything we need. As that happens repeatedly in our lives, our trust in God grows stronger. Once you trust Him with everything, you are kept safe in His hands!

In my chorus class in high school, before we go on stage for a concert, we always say a prayer. During that prayer, most of my fears are gone! We are human, so I know there are some times when we do fear. But with the help of Je-

sus, we can overcome those fears. We can even say like David, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; **whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**”

One final thought we need to remember is that Jesus said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). And remember that the wise man Solomon penned these words: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Fear God, but do not fear men or the troubles in this life. With the help of Jesus, we can overcome our fears!

"Pulpit to Pew"

It is not easy to formulate a suitable definition for all church members. They come in various moods and models. Some church members are like wheelbarrows: they won't move forward until they are pushed! Others resemble kites: they are so "flighty"

you have to keep a tight string on them or they will get away, some church members are like kittens: they are not content unless they are petted. Others bear striking resemblance to footballs: there is no way to tell which way they will bounce next. Some church mem-

bers are like balloons: all puffed up and ready to explode. Others are similar to water faucets: they run hot and cold. Ah, but it is good to know there are those few who are like a fine watch: real jewels, pure gold, and full of good works!

The words you speak today should not be harsh or bitter because you may have to eat them tomorrow.

Bible Reading Calendar form May

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	II Sam. 23, 24	Luke 22:31-53
2	I Kings 1,2	Luke 22:54-71
3	I Kings 3,4,5	Luke 23:1-26
4	I Kings 6,7	Luke 23:39-56
5	I Kings 8,9	Luke 24:1-35
6	I Kings 10,11	Luke 24:36-53
7	I Kings 12,13	John 1:1-28
8	I Kings 14,15	John 1:29-51
9	I Kings 16,17,18	John 2
10	I Kings 19,20	John 3:1-21
11	I Kings 21,22	John 3:22-36
12	II Kings 1,2,3	John 4:1-30
13	II Kings 4,5	John 4:31-54
14	II Kings 6,7,8	John 5:1-24
15	II Kings 9,10,11	John 5:25-47

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	II Kings 12,13,14	John 6:1-21
17	II Kings 15,16,17	John 6:22-44
18	II Kings 18,19	John 6:45-71
19	II Kings 20,21,22	John 7:1-31
20	II Kings 23,24,25	John 7:32-53
21	I Chron. 1,2	John 8:1-20
22	I Chron. 3,4,5	John 8:21-36
23	I Chron. 6,7	John 8:37-59
24	I Chron. 8,9,10	John 9:1-23
25	I Chron. 11,12,13	John 9:24-41
26	I Chron. 14,15,16	John 10:1-21
27	I Chron. 17,18,19	John 10:22-42
28	I Chron. 20,21,22	John 11:1-17
29	I Chron. 23,24,25	John 11:18-46
30	I Chron. 26,27	John 11:47-57

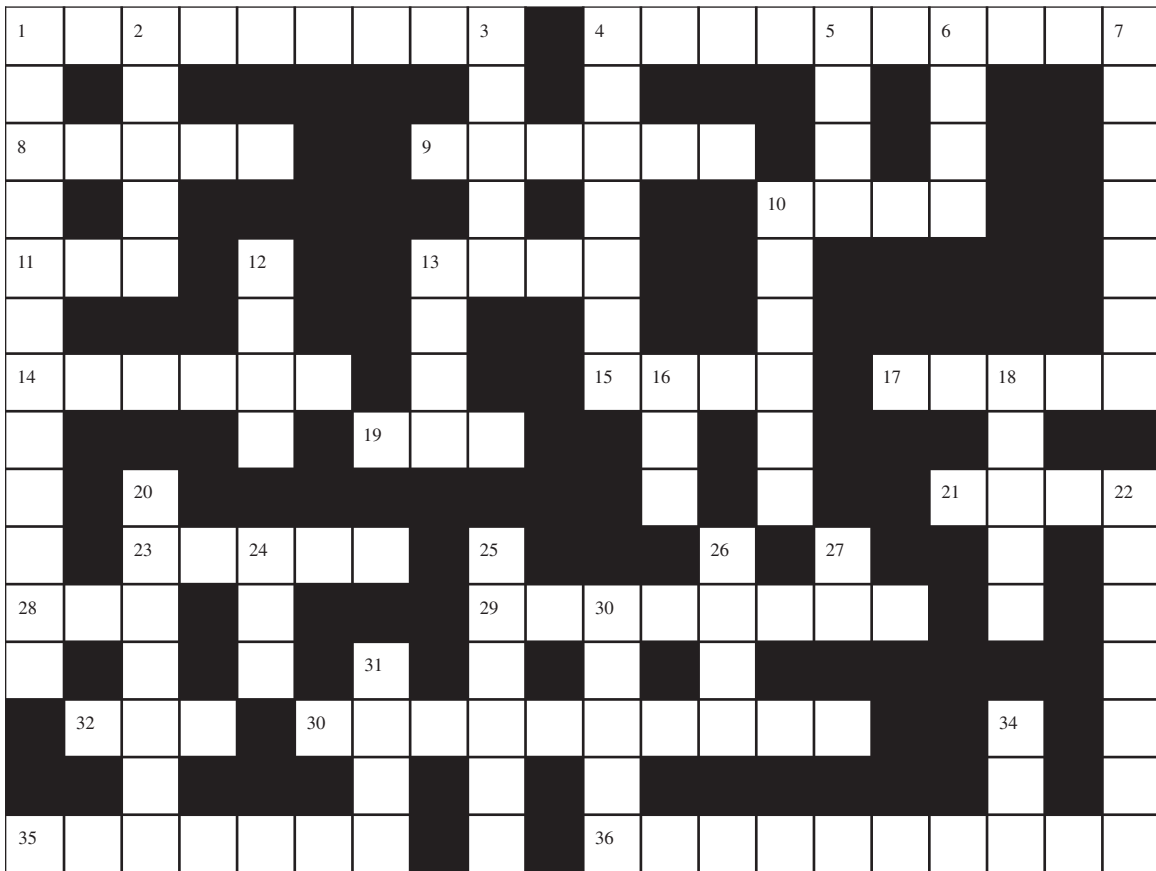
**ANSWERS TO
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE
APRIL 2010**

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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "That in the ages to come he might shew the ____ riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." 4. "But made himself of no ____, and took, upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." 8 "Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church ____ as should be saved" 9 "And hath ____ us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" 10 "For as many of you as have ____ baptized into Christ have put on Christ." 11 "With all lowliness ____ meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love;" 13 "Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, "This man, if he ____ a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him. for she is a sinner." 14 "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of ____." 15 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he ____ cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." 17 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All ____ is given unto me in heaven and in earth" 19. "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of ____." 21. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is ____ unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away." 23. "Rejoice in the Lord ____ and again I say, Rejoice." 28. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is ____ with thee." 29 "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became ____ unto death, even the death of the cross." 32. "For ye ____ all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." 33. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, ____, goodness, faith," 35. "And entered into the house of Zacharias, and ____ Elizabeth." 36. "Meekness, ____: against such there is no law."



DOWN

1. " ____ to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." 2. "If men strive, and hurt a woman with ____, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine" 3 "For by ____ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" 4. "Not that I speak in ____ of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" 5. " ____ my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." 6. "And if ye be Christ's, ____ are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." 7. "There is ____ Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." 10. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other ____ than themselves" 12. "Who, being in the ____ of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." 13. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this ____ When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." 16. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for ____ great love wherewith he loved us." 18 "Let this mind be in you, ____ was also in Christ Jesus." 20. "It is sown a ____ body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." 22. "Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public ____, was minded to put her away privily" 24. "And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, ____ am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord." 25. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk ____ of the vocation wherewith ye are called," 26. "And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give ____ for life," 27. "And above all these things put ____ charity, which is the bond of perfectness." 30. But on therefore, as the ____ of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering;" 31. "Even when we were ____ in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;) 34. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any ____ have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Facing Problems by Praying

by Bro. Brian Jackson
Moultrie, Georgia

It was a bleak and rainy day as we were driving home from my grandfather's funeral. We decided that we would stop by his house and walk through it one last time. I walked across the porch to the front door, hearing all the familiar squeaks from the old weather weary boards. The door made the usual groan as I slowly opened it. The rooms seemed void and empty, begging someone to walk through them and bring life again. The last room that I visited was always my favorite when I was a young boy. This room grandfather called his study. One wall was completely covered with books from baseboard to ceiling. It was where he came to do all of his thinking, conversing, and meditating. Everything seemed to be in order. One particular sculpture caught my eye. It had always been there, but this time it seemed to jump out at me. It was a sculpture of two worn hands clasped together in prayer. It was then that I ful-

ly realized the backbone of my grandfather's life: faith in God and prayer.

This sculpture has had a tremendous influence on my life. When my grandfather was fourteen, his father left his mother and six sisters. He was forced to quit school and farm to support his family. All he had when he started out was a wooden beam plow, stock, buggy cart, and one old stubborn mule. The only thing that his family had to lean on was prayer. His farm eventually came to be one of the most prolific and renown farms in middle Georgia. It was featured in the "Progressive Farmer" magazine.

In everyone's life, there will be a time when nothing will seem to go right. People handle difficult times in different ways. Some people may resort to drugs or alcohol to make themselves forget about their problems. Sadly, others even commit suicide. These avenues do not help the problem or make it go away. It usually just aug-

ments the problem. It has been my experience that prayer is the best way to deal with the low blows that life will dish out. There are not many things that can be counted on to always be there. One of those sure things is faith in Jesus Christ. If it was not for His help, I would not be the person that I am today. With men some things are impossible, but with God all things are possible.

As I left my grandfather's study that day, I left knowing more about him than I ever had before. He left me more that day than any amount of money that could have been left in a will. There have been many circumstances since that day in which all I had left was prayer, and it was all I needed.

Brian's Grandfather died in 1994 when Brian was 14. This was written before he graduated from high school.

Brian is the grandson of the late Elder Emory Jackson, to whom he refers in the article.

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

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| When in sorrowRead John 14 | If down and out Read Romans 8:35-39 |
| When men fail youRead Psalm 27 | When you need courage Read Joshua 1 |
| When you have sinnedRead Psalm 51 | When the world seems
bigger than God..... Read Psalm 90 |
| When you worryRead Matthew 6:19-34 | In need of rest and peace..... Read Matthew 11:25-30 |
| When in danger.....Read Psalm 91 | Are you bitter or critical?Read 1 Corinthians 13 |
| If you are blueRead Psalm 34 | When leaving home Read Psalm 121 |
| When God seems far away.....Read Psalm 139 | Labor or travel.....Psalm 107:23-31 |
| When discouraged..... Read Isaiah 40 | For a great opportunityRead Isaiah 55 |
| When lonely or fearfulRead Psalm 23 | |

A hypocrite is a fellow who is not himself on Sunday.