

PREVAIL

M A G A Z I N E



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FREE!

THE 7 ATTRIBUTES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANS



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

The Lifeguard

Who have you rescued today?

Breaking the Chains of Depression

Biblical principles for positive thinking

One Wish and One Wish Only

What would you wish for?

Managing Editor: Bill Watson

Editor: Horane Smith

Layout & Design: Shey Smith

Contributing Writers: Horane Smith
Steve Agnew
Adrian Davis
Beverley Smith
Dan Alexander
Duane Nicol
Murray Johnson
Kara Nagy
Shakeel Balroop
Ken Allen
Patrick Bastien
Waine-Ann McLaughlin
Cordel Reid

Copy Editors: Jasmin Smith
Stephanie Chin
Louis Milovanovic

Production: Noel Scoburgh

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Our Canadian home office mailing address is:

Church of God International of Canada
1299 Oxford Street East, P.O. Box 33034
London, Ontario N5Y 5L4

Our U.S. home office mailing address is:

The Church of God, International
P.O. Box 2525
Tyler, Texas, 75710

Email us: info@cgi.org
Or visit our web site: <http://www.cgi.org>

PREVAIL

M A G A Z I N E



- 01** Borrowed Time
- 03** The Lifeguard
- 06** Till Death Do Us Part
- 08** Responsible Parents, Responsible Children
- 10** From the Fifth to the Tenth Degree
- 12** The 7 Attributes of Highly Effective Christians
- 15** Rahab
- 16** An Invitation for True Wisdom and Knowledge
- 18** One Wish and One Wish Only
- 20** Breaking the Chains of Depression
- 22** God's Plan of Supernatural Provision
- 24** Archaeology Corner
- 25** POEM: The Love of a Mother
- 25** Letters to the Editor

From the Editor: Horane Smith

BORROWED TIME



Time waits for no man. The time you spent reading the very first sentence of this article will never return. It's gone *forever!* The years you've lived since your birth are like a dream; they're also gone, *never to return.* The rest of time you have on the Earth is ticking away by the second and will be gone too. What will you do with your remaining time here which could be an hour, a week, a month, or a year?

When you've lived your life to the fullest—enjoyed most of the pleasures you've ever dreamed of and the number one enemy—death—passes your way, what truly matters? You didn't come to the Earth with anything; likewise, you won't take anything with you. Where will all your enjoyable time spent on the Earth place you? In the grave for sure—then what?

Humans live in a dimension that is governed by time and with time comes death. Every single thing we do in this life is controlled by time, whereas in the realm of the divine, the Godly dimension, *time is irrelevant.* 2 Peter 3:8 says, "*a day is with the Lord as a thousand years.*" Jesus Christ walked the Earth a little over two thousand years ago, but from God's reckoning, it's a mere two days.

The Bible speaks of the "end of the age," when human history will end and a new era will begin in the form of divine rule—the Kingdom of God. How? The answer is time will one day expire! Time will live out its time!

While this is yet future, the seconds are going by, so are the minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years. In the meantime, we go through the ritual of life—we sleep, eat, work, play, and so on. As this ritual is repeated daily, and the cycle of life is taken for granted, time is slipping by and with each second we draw nearer to *our end*, some sooner, some later. We know not the hour.

God has given us "three scores and ten," as our time to live on Earth. Fortunately, some live up to a century and beyond. Although medicine is trying to add more years, the reality remains that human beings are still "appointed to die," and will die simply because of *time.*

Ecclesiastes 9:11 says time and chance happens to us all. Some of us will die by accident at a young age because of our own carelessness or that of others. If we don't die by accident, there are the natural causes waiting for us. Simply put: we cannot

escape death. Our time will come one day underscoring the need for us to maximize our time while we are alive. We are all destined to go to the grave where "death cannot celebrate thee," because "there's no knowledge" in the grave.

It's *time* we face the fact that today we are here, tomorrow we may be gone. It's *time* we begin to think that Jesus, the Christ, the only true and living God, will return soon to redeem humanity, set up His Kingdom and put an end to time.

If you were able to see into your future and know when you will die, what would you do about it? Would you try to get closer to God? The truth is, for many, it wouldn't make a difference. *We live as if we are never going to die!* Yet we are living on *borrowed time!*

As you spend some time reading this issue of *Prevail Magazine* it's critical that you make use of this time. Use the *time* you spend reading these articles for your own good because if God Almighty is calling you to surrender your life to Him, *now is the time!*



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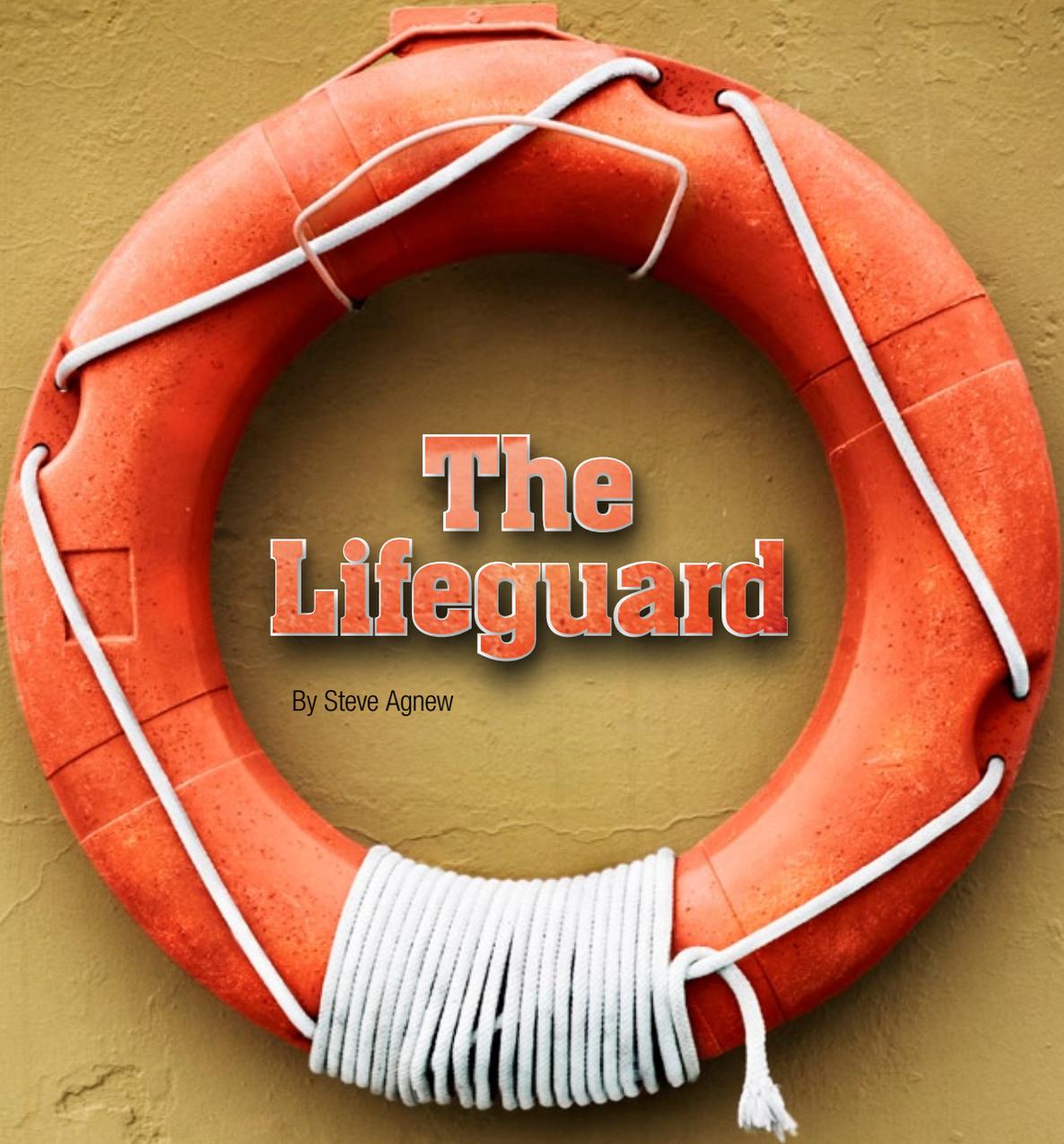
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The Lifeguard

By Steve Agnew

A WATCHFUL EYE

Some time ago, my oldest son, who is a qualified lifeguard and swim instructor, was able to save a young child from drowning. As he tells the story, a young boy who was autistic and didn't speak English was on a guided group tour of the pool. Most of the group were also unable to speak English and were unfamiliar with North American pools—facts unknown to the lifeguards...

The visitors mistook the pool's slide in the

deep end as the children's play area. The parents were lulled into a false sense of security and the boy was allowed to play in a dangerous part of the pool. When the boy went down the slide, he and his parents expected him to end up in shallow water. Instead, the non-swimmer now flailed desperately in about 14 feet of water crying frantically for help. At that point, my son jumped into the water from the guard's stand and put his training to use. The boy was saved and a potential tragedy was averted.

Lifeguards are obviously necessary in our physical world, which obliquely mirrors the spiritual realm (Col. 2:17, Heb. 10:1). Because of this knowledge, I know that just as the physical realm requires lifeguards, so too does the spiritual.

In the spiritual world, God may be calling some of you to be a lifeguard for someone else. Perhaps He is calling you to venture into the unknown waters of this life in search of the drowning.

But who are you to rescue?

THE TITANIC

The folly of modern man is that he is unable to adequately assess spiritual risk. He has lost his moral compass; his conscious has become seared (1 Tim 4:1-2). He both drifts from truth and trusts in himself, inviting first chaos and then loss by his pride and lack of knowledge.

What do I mean?

A long time ago, a friend asked me why she should bother sending her children to church. She had gone as a child. "Wasn't that enough?" she asked. My response was simple. I likened her situation to being in a rowboat just launched from an island in the middle of a large ocean. When the boat is first launched, the island is visible for a while. However, after a few hours, as the boat drifts further from the island it eventually disappears from sight due to the curvature of the Earth. Unless you have been paying attention and know how to use navigational tools to calculate your position, you may find it difficult to return to the island.

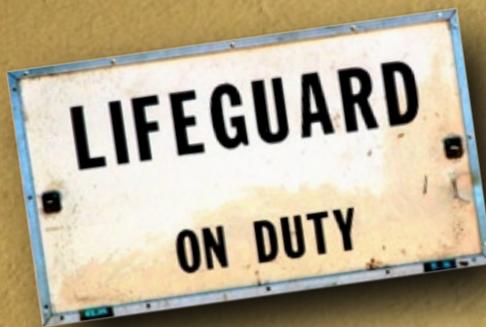
Figuratively speaking, in Christian spiritual terms, an army of people is currently lost at sea. They have drifted slowly from the truth little by little as the cares of this life consume them. Little thought has been given to God's word or will in their lives; therefore, they do not possess the knowledge or tools to return to their spiritual roots. However, because life has been good for most people in North America, why should they worry? (Rev 3:17).

In the case of my friend, her parents had been church attendees as adults, but she had been a church attendee only as a child. Her own children had almost never participated in 'church life.' I asked her if she thought her children knew much about church, God, etc. She conceded they probably didn't. I hinted that her children might not understand God's view of right

and wrong and that like many, her children might become 'lost at sea.'

When she asked what I meant, I explained my analogy. Eventually, she understood and even nodded her head in agreement at one point.

Who is the Christian lifeguard to save? We must act as beacons pointing the way home. If we don't, spiritual chaos will result. Many have already



"The Christian is like a lifeguard who must venture out into the many waters saving many from the coming destruction before they drown."

commented on the social chaos we see unfolding in North America today which is due in part to a lack of spiritual knowledge.

Earlier I mentioned that men both drift from truth and pridefully trust in themselves. So, what about those who pridefully trust in themselves?

The story of the Titanic comes to mind. This story of the 'unsinkable' ship that sunk has always interested me. I've often wondered whether the Titanic would have sunk on April 15, 1912 if events had not played out as they had. One interesting fact is that while the Titanic was sinking another ship, the Californian, stood nearby, able but unwilling to get involved. Could the

Californian have actually saved everyone if its crew had properly understood what was going on? Would so many have had to die such a horrible death? The thought of a cold watery grave rightly frightens everyone.

I remember a certain pastor once used the story of the Titanic to demonstrate the folly of pride. In particular, he pointed out that the mistake of the Titanic's builders was their belief that the ship was unsinkable.

From my reading of this story I know that the builders believed their system of watertight doors would keep the ship afloat under all circumstances. For those familiar with the story, we now know this was not true. Men trusted *themselves* and their own knowledge, only later to pay the price. Some people were openly boastful of their ship's construction. We are told to do neither (Prov. 3:5-6, 6:16-17).

Many people died that night who perhaps need not have. It is one pastor's suggestion that the pride of the Titanic and everyone involved tempted God to act against them specifically. I don't believe this to be true since God cannot be

tempted by and does not tempt anyone with, evil (Jas 1:13). Time and chance happen to everyone (Luke 13:2-4). The Titanic sank not only because of design flaws, but also due to an uncontrollable confluence of events. People trusted themselves and their system—not God. Their system failed as earthly systems often do and people died. The Bible tells us,

"Pride goeth before destruction." (Prov. 16:18)

Many in today's world are like the passengers on the Titanic. They have signed up for a cruise that promises much pleasure and prestige, but in effect may deliver heartache and possibly death. In our modern world, we, like the designers and passengers of the Titanic, boast of our accomplishments and

revel in our pleasure while danger lurks nearby.

The crew and passengers of the Titanic did not perceive the danger of wandering icebergs colliding with a lone ship in the middle of the cold, dark Atlantic. In fact, the passengers and some of the crew celebrated as danger drew ever closer.

Likewise, we also do not seem to truly perceive the dangers of this modern world in which we operate. We have our systems: the computers work, the food arrives at the store, and our money is good. What could harm this way of life? I can think of many things that without God's protection would eventually disappear in our carefree way of life.

Again I ask, who is the Christian lifeguard to save? Those operating without God and those who are prideful come to mind. We must teach people by word and action to trust God and put His ways before their own so that loss is avoided. In a like manner, we must also teach people the benefits of humility.

Are there others who need to be rescued?

A third group of people in need of our help are the fearful and the spiritually weak. Whether these people are in the boat and unable to calm the storm (Matt. 8:23-27) or fearful to venture into the unknown, such as Peter walking on water (Matt. 14:28-33), we should consider helping these as well. The Christian lifeguard must *act to calm the storm* or reach out to the sinking.

THE LIFEGUARD

In a sense, everyone who follows Jesus Christ has a basic mission. Our mission is to go and save the lost (1 Tim 2:1-8). We

are to save them from the fire by various means (Jude 1:22-23).

How do we do this?

“Many in today’s world are like the passengers on the Titanic. They have signed up for a cruise that promises much pleasure and prestige, but in effect may deliver heartache and possibly death.”

I am reminded by James 5:19-20, which says that if someone departs from the truth but another brings him back, then that soul is saved and a multitude of sins will be covered. In particular, we are told that we are to love each other so that sins will be covered (1 Pet. 4:8). Our love does not atone for sins but rather does not stir up the effect of them past or present. We are to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

Interestingly, The Book of Revelation tells us there is an end time “harlot” church

“In a sense, everyone who follows Jesus Christ has a basic mission. Our mission is to go and save the lost.”
(1 Tim 2:1-8)

system, which “sits on many waters” (Rev. 17:1). The waters, of course, are analogous for a multitude of peoples (Rev. 17:15). This end time religious system is destined for destruction (Rev. 17:15-18, 18:1-3). The Bible tells *God’s* people to come out of this end time religious system so that they do not share in her troubles (Rev. 18:4). Like the Titanic, this religious system believes that it is unsinkable but will discover

otherwise.

The Christian is like a lifeguard who must venture out into the many waters saving many from the coming destruction before they drown.

Earlier, I started with a story about my son the lifeguard, but what I didn’t explain was the additional lesson learned from this experience

The autistic child whom he saved was

not the only one rescued. One of my son’s greatest fears as a lifeguard was that he would ultimately face this day of testing and fail. He worried occasionally that some child or adult would need to be saved from drowning and that he would not be able to help.

On this day, *my son was rescued* from his own fears of inadequacy and doubt because you see, he never really wanted to finish the lifeguard/instructor program and become a ‘lifeguard.’ It was I who had pushed him to soldier on.

There are many of you who God is pushing to ‘soldier on.’ At some point in the future, your spiritual skills will be needed. I do not know your fears or doubts, but I know this: if God is calling you at this time, you will never feel fulfilled until you accomplish the spiritual mission that He has set before you. Do not resist it. Come into agreement with God, submit to His will, and

perform the duties of a lifeguard because that is your calling. Those who follow this path will experience many blessings from God (Psa. 37).

Who have you rescued today?

Teenagers today are immersed in a world that glamorizes violence, sexuality, and the hedonistic lifestyle. Homicide and suicide remain amongst the leading causes of death for the 15-24 year old age group. This discouraging trend shows no indication of decline and only scratches the surface of the turmoil young people face today—most of which is hidden from public scrutiny.

In 1999, PBS' *Frontline* aired a disturbing documentary entitled *The Lost Children of Rockdale County*. Apart from the depravity of teen behaviour, what was most shocking was the fact that Rockdale County is an upscale, privileged neighbourhood. Further investigation revealed these teens were craving the positive attention of their parents, who were more focused on the acquisition of material things. Parents did not value their relationships with their children or with each other. Experts observed that Rockdale County is indicative of what is happening right across America. A similar phenomenon is sweeping countries around the world.

Another crisis sweeping American families is fatherless homes. Children who grow up without their father in the home are more likely to suffer:

- » lower grades in school
- » higher drop-out rates
- » an increase in violent behaviour
- » higher rates of depression
- » lower self-esteem¹

It is no stretch of our imagination to link the pain our young people are experiencing to the failure of marriage.

BUILD A GODLY MARRIAGE

Parents are the initial socializers of children. When our homes are stable, loving, and nurturing, our children have the highest probability of adopting such codes of conduct into adulthood. Our homes can only achieve these principles if our marriages are stable, loving, and nurturing.

Building a godly marriage is like gardening—it's hard work! And just like gardening, hard work produces abundance. By nature, women are designed to be the nurturers of the family. Unfortunately, we live in a society that degrades homemakers and elevates career-seeking women. Clearly,

many women are forced to work outside the home.

Undeniably, as a society, we need to show greater respect for those women who choose to work in the home. The result of disrespecting homemakers and only admiring career women is the phenomenon witnessed in *The Lost Children of Rockdale County*. This documentary vividly illustrates what happens to children when the home becomes nothing more than a hotel inhabited by strangers.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." (Prov. 14:1)

By nature men are designed to be the providers of the family.

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1 Tim. 5:8)

Unfortunately, we have built a society that measures value based on material possessions. Consequently, it forces both parents to work. This compromises the value of a mother as nurturer, and the impact of a father, as provider. Building a successful family requires clear roles and teamwork between husband and a wife.

Here are three simple steps we can all consider in order to build stronger marriages and happier, more stable children:

1. SHOW LOVE.

Every human being desires to be loved. Women, in particular, want to be appreciated for their beauty and grace. If you're a husband, how well do you show your wife loving affection? Ephesians 5:25 says,

By Adrian Davis

Till Death

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

Love is something that grows over time. Decisions we make today impact our capacity for love tomorrow. No matter how satisfied or unsatisfied we are in our marriages, we can make them happier and more fulfilling starting right now. Husbands look at your wives and reflect on them as gifts from God.

The Proverbs tell us whoever finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from God (Prov. 18:22). They also tell us to be consumed with the love of our wives (Prov. 5:19). A great example of the expression of the love of a husband for his wife and spiritual sister is found in the Song of Solomon chapter 4:

"Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck. How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices! Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon. A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a

Do Us Part

Is your marriage
killing your children?

fountain sealed.” (v. 9-12)

Notice, Solomon understands that his wife is a garden enclosed, a spring shut up. Women have enormous potential. Love unlocks their potential. If your wife is not happy and infusing your home with love, begin analyzing how well you express love to her. Increase your expression of love and appreciation and watch, like a garden enclosed, how she will bloom; or like a spring shut up, how she will open and flood your home with her love.

2. SHOW RESPECT

A woman does not realize her full potential until she is in a loving relationship. Similarly, a man does not realize his full potential until he is respected for his achievements. Through love, a man *discovers* his wife. Through respect, a wife *develops* her husband. Wives, how much respect are you showing your husband? Ephesians 5:33 says,

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

The English word reverence is translated from the Greek word, *phobeo* from which we derive our word phobia. *Phobeo*, however, doesn't mean fear or panic. It means reverence and awe; in other words, deep respect. In the same sense we hold the Lord in the highest esteem, wives ought to show deep respect to their husbands. This level of respect and admiration brings out the best in men. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy. As wives revere their husbands, their husbands strive to live up to the reverence being shown to them. The example of Sarah, in her role as wife to the great patriarch Abraham, underscores the wise saying, “behind every great man is a great woman.”

“Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” (1 Pet. 3:6)



“A happy and healthy marriage gives our children hope.”

3. MAKE YOUR HOME A SAFE PLACE

By making our homes happier, we make our children feel safer and more secure. A truly happy home provides a safe environ-

ment for children. When children feel safe and secure, they don't desire to belong to gangs or engage in dangerous behaviour. We can reverse the tragic trend our young people are following.

Rather than point a collective, accusing finger at our children, let's point that accusing finger at ourselves. Underscoring our marriages is the question: are they killing our children ?

As the womb is to the fetus, so is the home to the child. A happy and healthy marriage gives our children hope. They see how a happy and fulfilling marriage is, then formulate a vision for themselves of the married life they hope to experience on day.

By observing your marriage, your children should learn to respect others and to respect themselves. They should learn healthy patterns of conflict resolution to take with them as they interact with people beyond their home.

After many years and many experiences, the wise King Solomon, summed up his advice for us in Ecclesiastes 9:9 as follows,

“Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun”.

Husbands and wives, be warm, loving and respectful to each other. Start with the little things: smile often; dress attractively; hug each other in the mornings and throughout the day; touch each other often; get up and greet your spouse at the door when he or she returns home. Do these little things well and the big things will begin to take care of themselves. Not only will you save your marriage, you will save your children. Start now. Your marriage is the foundation upon which our future society depends.

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Responsible Parents, Responsible Children



By Beverley Smith

In this Age of the Internet, electronic gadgets, wireless technology, and an ever-changing media, children are in no way short of options to shape their thinking. Over the years, repeated studies have shown that television has considerable influence over our children, not to mention the often-reported cases of children being lured online by unscrupulous individuals into sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse.

With this in mind, it is crucial that we train our children according to God's will as instructed by the Holy Bible. Children are the future leaders of our churches and our world; thus, we must prepare them to fulfill God's calling. Children can learn to obey God at an early age. For example, King Josiah of Israel obeyed God completely. He started to reign when he was 8 years old. 2 Kings 22:2 tells us that Josiah walked in all the ways of David his father.

Sin should not be treated casually. Many times we see people of all ages, suffering and wonder what went wrong. The commandments of God should be in the hearts of the parents; yet, when parents have not been obeying and teaching their children about God, is it possible that God will forget their children? (Hosea 4:6).

The Ten Commandments were given to us to teach our children and grandchildren. David, although God had forgiven him,

had to pay the penalty for his sins. God told David that his family would suffer because of his transgressions; and sure enough his son Absalom, ultimately killed his brother. David made a half-hearted effort to correct his children, but he did not punish Absalom.

A child has every right to disobey his or her parents when the instructions are against God's law. For example, Asa removed his mother from being queen because she made an idol in a grove. Asa cut down the idol, stamped it and finally burned it. Another biblical example of a child righteously disobeying his parent is in 1 Samuel 19:1-3 when Saul told his son Jonathan and his servants to kill David. Saul was jealous of David. Jonathan disobeyed Saul and instead warned David about Saul's vendetta against him.

Jesus warns children to honour their parents and have respect for them. While honouring parents, children must remember that maintaining loyalty to God is an even higher priority. If you have unbelieving parents, you should respect and honour them, but not allow them to alter your devotion to God. On the other hand, it is the parents' responsibility to care gently for their children and instruct them, even if they are disobedient.

We are commanded in Deuteronomy 6:6 that these words should be in our hearts

and we should teach them diligently to our children in every aspect of life.

"You shall bind them as a sign on your hand." (Deut. 6:8)

This is telling us that we should love God, think constantly about His commandments and teach them to our children morning, noon, and night. Most importantly, we are to live our daily lives by the guidelines in His Word. God emphasized over and over the importance of parents teaching their children His ways. God-fearing parents instruct their children in faith and devotions, while teaching them to pray and read the Bible.

From time to time, you will come into contact with children who are not focused on Christ in their lives whether at home, school, church, or in the neighbourhood. We should steer them towards God by our examples and our words. We should never allow our children to follow the world's standards. We have to set godly standards at home for them to take to school, on the playground, or wherever they go in life.

We have to *coach them* on how to dress, the language they speak, their behaviour, and friends they keep.—This means we need to know who their friends are. Many times we allow our children to attend sleepovers without giving thought to the character of their friends, or more importantly, the

parents. This is a very negligent and possibly dangerous action for a parent to take, concerning their children.

The first Commandment with promise is for children to honour their mother and father that they may live a long life (Exod. 20:12). We need to encourage our children to become wise, instructing them as David taught Solomon, his son, to seek after wisdom (Prov. 4). This encouragement may have prompted Solomon to ask God for wisdom. All wisdom comes from God and can be passed on from parents to children, *if* we take the time to teach them.

should never lead us to compromise and encourage our children to break the Sabbath by taking them to sporting activities, or parties held by families and friends, school events, and other such functions due to peer pressure or some need we feel to make our children 'fit-in' with social expectations to please others. God should be pleased *first* because He is our priority.

From an early age, we as parents, must set the example and say *no* to our families and friends when their events prevent us or our children from obeying the commandments of God. If we allow ourselves or our chil-

losing them, so we back off on instruction, leaving them on their own, living and dressing as the world. They pierce and tag their bodies in every possible place, which leads them to forgetting church and the Sabbath. These children are now thinking that going to church is their parents' choice, which they don't have to follow. We hope that we will not lose them to the world forever, and pray for God to save them before it is too late.

We are told in Proverbs 13:24 to discipline our children. As loving parents, it's not easy to discipline our children; however, lack of

"When children get older and begin to really listen to sermons at church, when they hear the teaching that the Sabbath Day is a holy day of rest, but see conflicting behaviour at home, they may begin to think there are double standards and become confused."

We can expect conflict as believing Christians who keep God's commandments and worship on the 7th Day Sabbath (Saturday). However, this

dren to participate in such activities on the Sabbath, or annual Holy Days, our children will want to take advantage of this 'exception to the commandments' from time to time and may continue this disobedience into their adulthood.

When children get older and begin to really listen to sermons at church, when they hear the teaching that the Sabbath Day is a holy day of rest, but see conflicting behaviour at home, they may begin to think there are double standards and become confused.

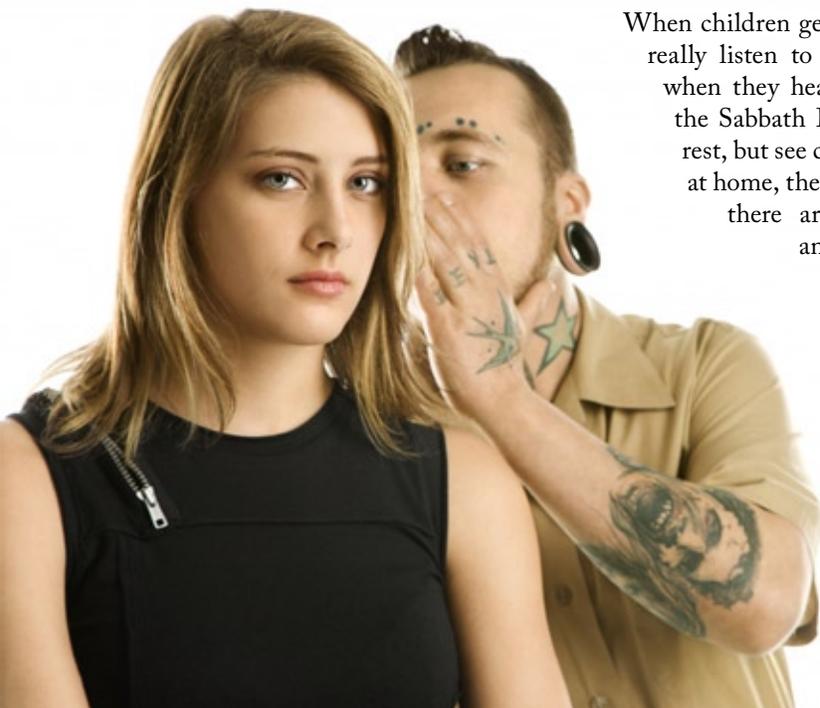
This may contribute to them losing interest because the world out there is an easier choice.

Also, as parents we don't want to pressure them, for fear of

discipline puts a parent's love in question, because it shows a lack of concern for our children's character development. If we don't discipline our children starting from a young age, they will grow up without a clear understanding of right and wrong—with no direction to their lives. *Discipline is an act of love.*

Children trust adults and through that trust their capacity to have faith in God grows. God holds parents and adults who influence young children accountable for how they affect the little ones ability to trust. Three ways which we could cause these little ones to lose faith: tempting them, neglecting or demeaning them, and teaching them false doctrine.

Let's be responsible parents and realize that if we want to have children who are responsible and put God first in their lives, as parents, we must put God first in our lives.



From the Fifth to the Tenth Degree

By Dan Alexander

I'm an advocate of the 'old school.' I like being old fashioned in more ways than I can count. One of the most important items considered old fashion today is the Bible. It's pretty old, but by no means is it 'old fashion.' The Bible may be old, but the more we read it, the newer and more relevant it gets. It always seems to be changing, yet it remains the same as we change.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Prov. 1:7)

Too many have abandoned the Bible's precepts and wisdom—even those who claim to adhere to it. Have you ever considered that God only created two perfect people? Adam and Eve were perfect until they chose to become imperfect after being deceived by Satan. They were wrong. They should have followed the way of God. *"For the wages of sin is death"* (Rom. 6:23), yet Satan told them, *"Ye shall not surely die"* (Gen. 3:4). Guess what—wrong again! Of course they died. Death has



followed every one of their descendants ever since they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. To this very day, we continue to pay the price for not listening to the Word of God.

“My son, bear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”
(Prov. 1:8)

God dwelled with them in the Garden. Can you imagine God coming to your garden to meet you and your mate? On that ill-fated day when they heard His voice in the cool of the day, they hid themselves from Him because they had disobeyed the Word of God and were ashamed. God would never hide Himself from us—He loves those who diligently seek Him. Proverbs 20:11 states,

“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”

These perfect children of God disobeyed their Father. He wanted them to be perfect, right? However, as their Father, God had to discipline these first children. He presented guidelines and boundaries, but sadly, they disobeyed. Like God, parents want their children to be good as well. That’s why earthly parents must give their children guidelines too. We cannot successfully raise our children without rules.

Rules that are constantly bent or broken are not rules. It’s just wishful thinking on our part; it’s in fact a weakness in us! The children see our weakness and this leads them to disobey. They’ll take advantage of our inability to be firm, and they will continue as long as we allow it. Is that what God does—not make up His mind? No, not at all! Instead our Bible tell us,

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6)

God laid down the law and stuck to it. Proverbs 13:24 reminds us,

“He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”

“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”
(Prov. 29:17)

Genesis 3:16 states:

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

How things have changed. We disobeyed God again in our structure of the family. Children control their mothers and fathers, while mothers control the fathers in many families these days. There are many television programs depicting this reality.

Adam and Eve’s son, Cain, sinned by killing his brother Abel. And this tragic sin continues to this very day. Brother killing brother. Why?

Because we fail to do as we were instructed. However, praise God, for He has given us another chance through Jesus Christ, by repentance and baptism. And afterward, if we commit to His way of life, He expects us to do the following,

“If you love me keep my commandments.”
(John 14:15)

Do you remember the fifth? It says, to honour your father and mother.

How are you doing with the fifth commandment? As adults, we need to recognize that this commandment applies to us as well. The importance of the fifth is very evident. God placed it before killing, adultery, stealing, lying, and coveting. Why? Because we have created through birth the possible future saints in God’s coming Kingdom. That’s a lot of responsibility for imperfect humans.

How are you doing with your little future rulers?

“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.”
(Prov. 10:1)

Are you ruling over your children, or is it the other way around? And you older adults, do you remember ever ruling the house when you were young? Right! Just like your parents did in your grandparents’ house, correct? Not hardly! In the ‘old days’ the parents ruled the home.

God is not a God of confusion. He doesn’t

talk to hear Himself speak. When He commands something to be done, we better do it—or there will be consequences. The Bible is replete with examples of the consequences of disobeying God. Lessons should be learned, not debated; simply obeyed, period.

Parents, we have a huge responsibility to God and society at large. What kind of children are we raising in this world today? Are we raising fifth commandment children or are we raising Cains and Cainettes, Judas’ and Jezebels? *Because the fact is:* we are to be raising future kings and queens for the glory of God Almighty! Many today are not following God’s plan for parenthood. They have every excuse in the book for not fulfilling the awesome responsibility they have been given.

When my girls were small, I would tell them, *“When you grow up, you’re going to rock this world. It’s going to shake a little because you’re in it.”* They would ask *“Why Dad?”* And I would answer, *“Because you’re a child of God, and with that comes responsibility.”* Obviously, as parents it’s up to us, with God’s help, to make sure they’re up to it.

In the same breath I’d say, *“Remember excuses are nothing but candy coated lies.”* You know how much kids love sugar, not to mention their parents. We’re guilty too often, at slacking off at the most *important* and *rewarding* job in the world—*parenthood*. But there’s a catch; as you sow, so also shall you reap! And to complicate matters there is someone lurking, ready to reap a harvest. He is known as Satan the devil. Notice,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Pet. 5:8)

When a lion seeks out its prey, he’s looking for the *sweet meat* of the innocent little ones. They’re easier for him to take out, especially when they’re unattended, unprotected, undisciplined, and unloved by a parent’s *neglect of duty*.

continued on page 17

By Duane Nicol



THE 7 ATTRIBUTES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANS

Several years ago, while waiting for my flight in a Southern airport, I purchased a book by Stephen R. Covey entitled, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. My curiosity piqued by the title, I wondered if I possessed those traits of success. During the wait time for my flight, I read the entire book. A few years later, I was able to attend a seminar presented by Mr. Covey, where over 1000 attendees learned about these key traits of success. The formula presented to the audience during this seminar can also help many of us become more effective Christians. Are you on the path to becoming a “Highly Effective Christian?” If not, perhaps achieving that effectiveness can start now, by opening your mind and applying these guidelines.

#1: WISDOM

On the surface, God’s *called out ones* may appear to have a disadvantage when they come into the knowledge of the truth. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 that not many wise men after the flesh or noble men are called. God has chosen the weak of this world to confound the things that are mighty. The Father purposely makes this choice to confound the (would be) mighty.

Does that mean the chosen weak ones are locked into a disadvantaged position purposely, so God can get the glory? We should not let our lack of wisdom continue to our detriment despite being new to the faith.

2 Peter 3:18, tells us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 2:6, not to seek true wisdom from the world or from the princes of this world. Through advanced educational degrees we can be an accountant, lawyer, teacher, or physician. Education however, does not preclude wisdom. If this were true, why does God specifically tell us the educated, by worldly standards, will destroy all life on Earth if He were not to intervene? Even the most educated among men cannot provide what God expects us to understand.

Our wisdom is received from God through the power of His Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ tells us in Matthew 10:28 to “fear him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell [the grave].” Our admonition is to rightly fear doing wrong and realize there is One to whom we must give an account.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Psa. 111:10)

Through biblical knowledge we learn God’s way and of the *wisdom* that leads to life eternal. True wisdom understands Jesus Christ holds the power of the reward of eternal life. Wisdom does have a reward. We, who have been elected, need to understand this.

For instance, do you realize that by supporting the preaching of the gospel and baptizing of people, you are going to shine as the firmament? (Dan. 12:3). Revelation says: with God there will be no need of a sun. His brightness will replace the sun (Rev. 21:23-26). God is righteous and wants to save all of mankind. Yet, many today do not partake nor support the *advancement* of this wonderful Good News. This may be a part of Daniel’s prophetic admonition when he said,

“Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” (Dan. 12:10)

The wise will also be tried. They should not lose faith or despair, as they know God’s will and have the *wisdom* to allow God to shape and mould them into His beloved image of brightness. The wise will truly

be rewarded according to their continued works of righteousness.

In 1 John 2:15-17, we read an important concept that takes wisdom to understand and a test of our will to comprehend. John writes,

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.”

Many of God’s people are ensnared by this world. Monetary attractions cause many to miss Sabbath services. Many are not tithing in obedience to God’s command and therefore the Work suffers. Funds for the Feast of Tabernacles are not saved. Many engage in personal diatribes with fellow members, causing strife and contention leading others to refrain from worship and fellowship. Some Christians work diligently to excess, while others are lax and complacent.

This world will destroy the *Godly fruit* we produce in our lives if we fall prey to the attractions of pleasure, money, prestige, and pride. This world, if we allow it, with its alluring carnal attractions, can erode our Christian foundation which is built on the prophets, apostles, and Jesus Christ the Chief Cornerstone.

Paul sternly writes in 2 Timothy 2:25-26:

“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

Satan will continue to tempt and entice us with the wonders of this world. Remember, we are being trained to become kings and priests for a glorious Kingdom. This training requires work, dedication, and the exercise of *wise* choices. We in the 21st century are without excuse as we are reminded by the admonition, *“To whom much has been given much is also required.”*

Without a doubt, Satan will continue to hurl his fiery darts at us. We need to know both his plans and tactics and exercise wisdom in rejecting his alluring advances. God is not going to stop Satan! He leaves that up to us, so we can develop character! We have to exercise wisdom and discretion, always willing to say **NO** to his fiery,

clever, enticing advances.

Remember, Satan always uses our carnality against us, showing us the supposed glory of this world. Satan tried with all his might to tempt Jesus and get Him to fall down and worship him. And how did Jesus response to this situation? He said, *“It is written...!”* We must consider what is written and *wisely* choose the applicable Biblical admonitions as our Lord did. Satan is going to be locked up very soon and he is intent on taking down as many of us as he can while he is still free to roam and seek whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). If we act on the *wisdom* from God’s Word, we will be as Daniel prophesied, *“for the wise shine as the brightness of the firmament”* (Dan. 12:3).

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 7:4:

“Say unto wisdom, thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman.”

#2: UNDERSTANDING

Solomon says this in the context of sexual immorality of God’s “called out” ones who would no doubt agree that adultery is akin to moral turpitude. Many loathe the idea of anyone being adulterous, especially for those in the ministry. However, what many don’t understand is that staying at home on the Sabbath Day, or missing a Holy Day service, or the Feast of Tabernacles can be considered just as bad, depending on the circumstances. We can’t forget that if we offend the law in one area we are guilty of breaking all the laws (Jas. 2:10). Violating the fourth commandment is as bad as violating the seventh or for that matter any other. This is called *understanding*.

This understanding of our relationship to God’s overall plan and laws for mankind is essential to our ability to make wise decisions concerning what God wants when considering our *desire to be obedient*.

Many Christian Sabbath groups today have decided to become independent and excuse themselves from preaching the Gospel, foregoing many of the doctrinal tenets of the Christian Sabbath keeping culture and in some extreme cases, reverting to former Christian organizations/denominations that are more ‘main-stream’ and ‘traditional.’ These actions serve only to dilute

the understanding of God’s Truth and often lead to abandoning the way of life that God intends for His called out ones to follow. Sadly, Christians who allow this to happen are akin to figuratively ‘returning to Egypt,’ or more specifically, going back into the world’ as John so aptly described. Jesus Himself said that He had to overcome the world. Let’s take a look at the plan of God, so we can truly understand the larger picture of what God has in store for all of mankind. Our new understanding may help us decide differently about God and our adherence to His plan.

God purposely chose those who may be lacking in wisdom because His intent is to confound or castigate worldly wisdom. His church (the called out ones) is the object of His affection. He will teach, correct, rebuke, and encourage all who have accepted His calling. His intent is to have them become Kings in His Kingdom. At that time, the Earth will no longer have any *mortal* human beings in a *role of leadership*. Every key leader will be in their resurrected *immortal Spirit composition*, guiding the human population in the way of God’s Law, which will result in global happiness and prosperity.

We are going to be office holders. We will have what every politician on Earth wants, *perpetuity of office!* We need to understand the awesome magnitude of our calling. We will be in a position to make lasting decisions and make a difference in society. Jesus Christ will be our King of kings and will be the overall supervisor of teaching the human population. So, our understanding of the objective of God is for us to change our behaviour patterns *now*, in this life, so we will be able to work in harmony with our fellow Kings/Priests in a sinless environment to come (Rev. 5:10).

Pride, self-serving attitudes, rebellion, hypocrisy, and a plethora of other negative attitudes cannot and will not be tolerated in this cooperative, unified, perfect, forever-lasting Kingdom. Those who have *forgotten*, or *refuse* to accept this concept upon understanding it will simply forfeit their opportunity to enter into the Kingdom of God (Rom. 6:23, Psa. 104:35).

It belies human comprehension to think that out of all the skilled, educated people on this planet, God would choose *us* to be His co-leaders and co-heirs for all eternity.

However, that is exactly what is happening (Rom. 8:15-23). There will be no more political campaigns, no fighting in the streets to boycott an elected official, no red or blue states, and no more heinous rule by dictators, tyrants, and hypocrites. So the question that is begged: "Does the correction, rebuke, instruction in righteousness, and rejection of selfishness have a payoff for us who are called of God?" Jesus once asked Peter in the context of His disciples leaving Him, "Will you go too?" Peter's answer to Jesus was,

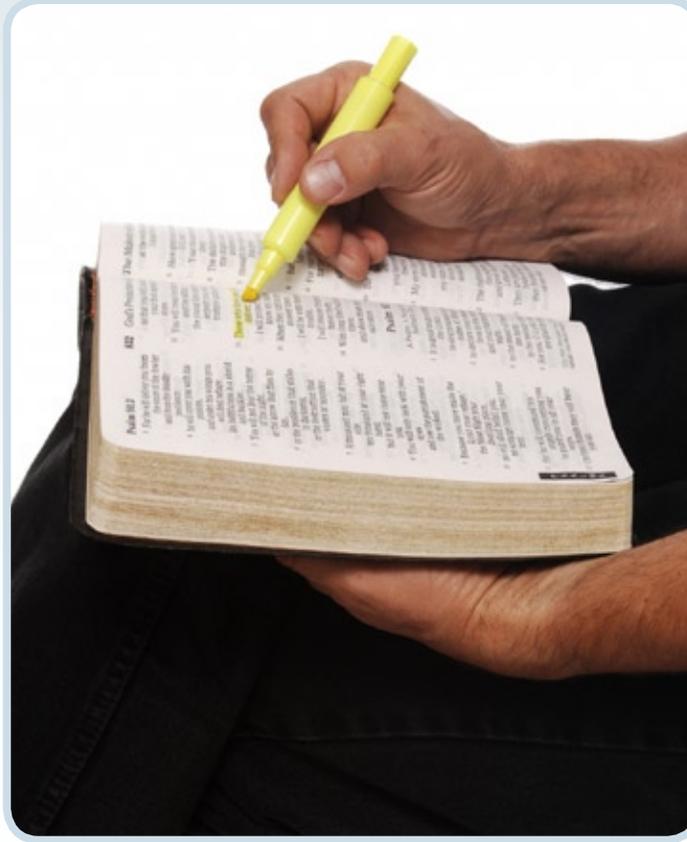
*"Where are we going to go, you have the words of eternal life."
(John 6:67-69)*

Understandably, this same statement should also reflect our personal *commitment* to God's plan.

We must be willing to undergo chastening and correction as needed to be future kings. Our *understanding* should encourage us to see what is wrong in today's world. Do we have full worldwide employment, financial security, safety for all citizens, and equal opportunity for housing, employment, and monetary reward? We should cry and sigh over the abominations that exist worldwide, as Ezekiel admonished those in his day (Ezek. 9:1-11). Many have cried to God saying, "How long O Lord." If we sigh and cry over all the abominations and are sincerely distressed by the obvious corruption, it will cause us to cry out as well and hopefully motivate us to change internally, causing us to become more God-like in the process. We will also be rewarded the ultimate *rest* that is referred to in Hebrews, chapter 7.

Every four years we witness candidates

lobbying for real change in Washington. But we know *real change* will only come upon the return of Jesus Christ. With His chosen saints, Jesus Christ will institute *everlasting change*. Isaiah 11:4-5 is an indication of Christ's rule. We should fall on



"Presently, our true understanding should propel us to greater achievements in ensuring we are active in helping others see the reality of God's awesome plan for mankind."

our knees in thanksgiving to our beloved Father who has called us and provided the true understanding of heaven, hell, sainthood, the trinity, and best of all how we will become members of the God family *for all eternity*.

Sadly, this world is so steeped in ignorance and non-Christian traditions, that their real destiny, potential, and ultimate reward concerning eternal life is misunderstood. Admittedly, in most traditional Christians churches today, no one can really explain *how* eternity will be spent, or *why* they think heaven is the reward of the saved. Thankfully, God's True Church, knows a new government is promised and that those who "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 14:12) will be co-rulers in that government with Jesus Christ for all eternity *on this Earth* (Zech. 14:9). This is an important distinction to consider!

With that said, you wonder what all the princes of this world will say when they realize they put their trust in unprofitable works, selfish endeavours, and false traditions and rewards? (Matt. 7:21-27). Assuredly however, they will be given their opportunity, *after* the 1000 years of Christ's rule is finished, when the rest of the dead are raised in the White Throne Resurrection (Rev. 20:5 & 12-13).

Presently, our *true understanding* should propel us to greater achievements in ensuring we are active in helping others see the reality of God's awesome plan for mankind. Let me remind you as we close this continuing article of what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:7,

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

To be continued...



Rahab

By Murray Johnson

The story of Rahab is one of change, hope, and redemption. Her story is that no matter who you are or what your situation, you can still come into the Lord's presence and do what is right.

When we come upon her narrative in scripture we know Moses dies on Mount Nebo and Joshua is in charge to take the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. At this time, the Israelites are camped on the east side of the Jordan across from the city of Jericho. Joshua sends two spies out from the camp with orders to search out Canaan, especially Jericho.

The two men enter the city and spend the night at Rahab's place. It is very important that we understand what the text really says about Rahab. It says Rahab was a *harlot*. What better place for the spies to hide out than at Rahab's house? With all the comings and goings of a whorehouse, they could blend in easily. However, these men were on a righteous mission.

Rahab gave the spies two things. First, she hid them from the King of Jericho. She saved their lives so they could complete their mission. Second, she told them what their report to Joshua would be.

"And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." (Josh. 2:9-11)

From Rahab, the spies found out about the situation. Surely, they now knew the Lord had given them the victory. They would take the city. When they replied to Rahab's request that she and her family might be saved, they told her that the request would be honoured "when the LORD hath given us the land" (Josh 2:14). Not *if*, but *when*.

In the whole of Jericho, the only person we know by name is the woman Rahab. We don't know the names of the King or the spies. Rahab has her parents, and siblings along with their respective spouses and children. They are the ones who are saved. We can conclude from this that Rahab had great regard for her parents. But how could a harlot in a pagan country realize things were about to change in a big way?

She lived in a great walled city that had stood for hundreds of years. They had an ancient culture as a way of life, and worshipped many gods. How could all this come to such a violent end in just a matter of days? Rahab had heard what happened when the Hebrews left Egypt and how they fought against nearby nations, Sihon and Og—And she believed!

This is the whole story:

"I know that the LORD hath given you the land... for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." (Josh 2:9, 11)

At this point in time, her faith was greater than most of the Israelites. She had moved beyond the pagan gods of Jericho and embraced the Eternal, the *real* God of the Universe.

Rahab had courage. Rahab stood up to her whole city and culture, at great peril to herself by hiding the spies. She told her king they were gone by the other way. You can just imagine what would've happened

to Rahab if the king had found out she was lying to him. However, her faith was greater than her fear.

"By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." (Heb. 11:31)

By this one act of faith, she joined the spiritual nation of Israel and lived. The Bible states that Rahab showed her faith through the "works" that she did. Faith must be shown through action.

"Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?" (Jas. 2:23-25)

After Jericho was surrounded and fell, Joshua 6:25 says of Rahab, "she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day."

Rahab lived the rest of her life in Israel, married and became an ancestor of Jesus Christ. She married Salmon, and her son was Boaz (Booz), who in time married Ruth (Matt. 1:4-6). Doesn't it seem fitting that a former harlot should be related to Christ? But, keep in mind, Rahab was a harlot who changed her ways and came before the living God in repentance. In like manner, have we not all played the harlot before God? We've all gone whoring after false gods. We're all sinners at some time in our lives, and if sinners deserve one thing, it's God's judgment.

Let us all have the faith of Rahab. Let us all learn from her example. She *changed her ways* and stood before the Lord in total faith and was saved. If *we* change our ways and have faith, we too can stand before God and obtain salvation (Eph. 2:8).

An Invitation for True Knowledge and Wisdom

By Kara Nagy

My in-laws told a story set in the not-too-distant past where people they knew used to brag about the drinking competitions they engaged in during lunch, at work. The ‘competitors’ were quite proud of their ability to guzzle down as much alcohol as they could; however, that was not the end of the story. Many of them received warnings by their managers about this practice; some lost their jobs; and sadly, a few others even lost their families.

I marvelled at the self-inflicted tragedies, although the story was supposed to be funny. At the end of the tale, I couldn’t help but remark, “There’s only one word to describe a person who would consider joining such a game.”

The storyteller looked at me intently and asked, “And what’s that?”

“Fool!” I responded.

“Wise people think before they act; fools don’t—and even brag about their foolishness.” (Prov. 13:16, NLT)

Many of us desire successful lives. We are hungry to know more, to make better decisions. But what exactly are we really asking

for? What is knowledge or wisdom? Where does it come from?

MANY VOICES

Wisdom is the ability to know what, where, when, how, why, and with whom to engage in any crucial decision-making activity. We as human beings, look high and low for knowledge and wisdom in order to make better choices. We look anywhere and *everywhere*—to philosophers, psychologists, family members, friends, magazines—the list goes on.

Some of the answers are similar—some contradictory—others are research-based, and still others (we suspect) are old superstitions. *All* competing for our attention and declaring to have ‘the secret’ for making the life-fulfilling decisions we seek. Unfortunately, they all have one thing in common: relying on *yourself* to determine if what you’ve been told is actually wise.

But if our own personal decision-making abilities are part of our problem, how can we rely on ourselves to be the solution, or source of determination?

Herein lies our predicament, as it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.” (1 Cor. 1:19, NLT)

How to navigate through the maze of many voices is indeed a mystery, but there is one voice that shines like a diamond in the rough—that sheds a light in this area.

THE CLEAREST VOICE OF THEM ALL

The book of Proverbs personifies wisdom, presenting her as a woman with whom a relationship should be sought. Wisdom is not hidden in a dark corner; she raises her voice openly (Prov. 1:21, 8:3).

“She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her.” (Prov. 3:18)

Since wisdom is readily available how can we engage her? What are the benefits of a relationship with her?

THE KEY

We are told that if we want to know, perceive, receive, or understand wisdom and desire instructions for making good decisions, there is only one way to begin. The key to this is to fear (or revere) the Lord. This is the beginning of true knowledge

(Prov. 1:2-7). To fear the Lord is described as *bating* evil, pride, arrogance, and perversity (Prov. 8:13). In this way, you put yourself in a position where you become teachable. You are now humble and *open-minded* enough to receive wise instruction.

A DELICATE DANCE

The relationship with wisdom is like a dance that unlocks your heart and your mind, and enables you to take the necessary steps in the right direction. Fuelled by the reverence and attentiveness that you offer the Lord, true wisdom empowers you to avoid the pitfalls that lurk at every turn in life.

If your motivation does not come from honouring the Lord, it's possible to ignore wisdom's benefits. The steps in the dance look very much like this: wisdom calls; you search for her; the Lord gives her away; she enters your heart; her ways secure your path. She calls out to everyone to turn

themselves towards her—for she will pour her spirit out and make her words known (Prov. 1:23).

If you take up her offer by seeking her with all your heart, then you will find the knowledge of God; because the Lord Himself gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. He is the Source (Prov. 2:4-6). When wisdom enters your heart, the understanding she gives you preserves you (Prov. 2:10-11). Isn't this what we're looking for: the ability to make life-fulfilling decisions? (Prov. 2:12-22). Fortunately, we are shown an even better way...

WISDOM PERSONIFIED

God has made known the way to wisdom through Jesus, the Messiah. In His first letter to the Corinthian church, Paul says, for anyone who accepts Christ, He is the power and wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24). Elsewhere Paul states,

"I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ Himself. In Him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col. 2:2-3, NLT)

FINAL APPEAL

Undeniably, we arrive at God's ultimate wisdom, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our answer to repairing the damaged relationships, destructive habits, missed opportunities, and any regrets we may have. Your life in His hands is the most moving dance of all. He calls; you answer Him; the Lord gives you His Spirit; He enters your heart; His ways secure your path. As Jesus said,

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Give your life to Jesus Christ, and by His wisdom, be truly empowered.



From the Fifth to the Tenth Degree

continued from page 11

So many parents fail. The streets, courts, jails, and graves are full of our youth. Regrettably, babies are having babies. What attracts them to a life of disobedience, breaking all the rules, from a tender age? The attraction occurs when a *void* of strict and disciplined love is present. People should learn that raising a child is a 100% full-time job. It takes all of you all the time. Until they leave the nest, you can't rest.

What contributes to this failure is parents who are simply afraid of their children's disapproval, so they give in, instead of disciplining them. Now the tables have turned. In order for you to stay friends with them, they call the shots. I've seen it too many times. I call it 'The Mommy-Daddy Boss Syndrome.' Parents have enabled and tolerated bad behaviour for too long. It can only lead children down a slippery slope of disrespect for authority.

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." (Prov. 22:15)

What we do today and everyday with our children will mirror and mould who they'll

become tomorrow. We need to stop calling bad good and good bad. Society needs to return to the old fashioned ways of rearing our children in this immoral world of today. Child psychologists say, children's personalities are formed by the time they are six years old. So to that, the question we need to ask is, "formed" on whose terms, theirs or yours?

It's easy to raise a child, if you start at the beginning of their life. But if you need to start over, so be it. Children of all ages need their parents to invest their time and love in them. Hug them, kiss them, and hear them, in order to properly guide them. Believe it or not, your children really want you to be in charge. It's a test. If you fail, it's like being trapped in prison. Too many parents are at the mercy of their own children. The consequences are far too long to list. That's why the phrase, "*Do you know where your children are?*" was mentioned at the beginning of every newscast on a local television station. The world needs to change. God's people should be the example for that change.

One Sabbath our minister stated that our children should not be a distraction to others especially on that day because it's a day of rest, not stress. And this is just one

example that illustrates the *need* for training our children to properly behave in different situations. It's so embarrassing when other adult onlookers publicly scrutinize parents because their children are sadly misbehaving in a restaurant, or at a friend's home, at a funeral, or a wedding, in an airport, etc. Untrained and unruly neglected children usually cause stress for all of us and unfortunately, in extreme cases, become liabilities to society because of their rebellious choices and mistakes. Unfortunately, we all end up paying for parental neglect their duty.

Our children should be shining examples of light. God expects us to lead by example—His example. Unfortunately, this article may leave a bad taste in some people's mouths. Sometimes medicine does that. You've heard that commercial, "*Buckley's. It tastes awful, but it works!*"

Your doctor doesn't tell you to stop in the middle of your prescription because obviously, the problem won't go away if you do that. If we expect progress with our children, stay the course, follow the instructions from the fifth to the tenth degree, and you will be immediately blessed of God with children who will glorify Him and your family.





One Wish and One Wish Only

By Shakeel Balroop

Imagine you are stranded on the most desolate island tired, hungry, and thirsty. Beyond the horizon, you see a bright shining light; you start walking towards it hoping for some sort of survival equipment. Upon your amazement all you see is a lamp; you rub this lamp and up pops a genie who says you may have anything you want, but you only have *One Wish and One Wish Only*.

What would you ask your master or genie for if all you had was *one wish and one wish only*? Would it be to bring world peace? Just picture how good it would be to turn on the news and not be depressed after watching all that goes on, especially when considering the danger of terrorism. Or would you wish to bring an end to poverty, sickness, or find a cure for cancer and other diseases? Would you ask for financial blessing—how about not paying taxes? How about a new car or a new house?

As you ponder this question, join me in

Matthew 20:20-21 where we read of an example of a mother who was faced with some choices about a most important matter.

“Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him [Jesus] with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, ‘What do you wish?’ She said to Him, ‘Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.’”

At first glance, we may be quite surprised by such a bold request of Jesus. However, as we look closer at these two verses what we really see is every parent’s wish. Let me explain.

There are two aspects of this scripture to consider as we ponder the question of making a wish. The first is that of a parent’s submission to God. Looking again at verse 20 of Matthew 20, we find the Mother of Zebedee’s sons coming to Jesus. This

mother is not named in the account, but later we learn her name is *Salome*.

In Hebrew, the word *Salome* is translated *shalom* or *peace*. Her sons, as described in Mark 3:17 are the disciples James and John, the “*sons of Thunder*.” Many Bible commentators suggest that Salome was also the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus (Mark 16:1) thus making James and John first cousins of Jesus, and Salome Jesus’ aunt. We see in other scriptures that there is a close family connection to Jesus between this nameless mother who was at the scene when Christ died on the stake (Mark 15:40).

Looking back to Matthew 20:20, we read that Salome “*came... with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.*” We see here through Salome how body language plays an integral role in a parent’s submission to God. She came to Jesus kneeling or bowing down. Notice she did not come with a pompous attitude, but she came humbly bowing before the presence

of the Almighty God.

Can you imagine the impact Salome had on her children seeing their mother kneel, giving praise to Jesus and asking a favour for their own benefit and not hers?

Here is one lesson parents and even young adults in the church can learn from this account: children respond to the actions of their elders. We all live by watching the examples of others. If Salome came to Jesus without showing any reverence towards Him, do you think that James and John would be more receptive to follow God's way after witnessing any disrespect their mother had for Jesus the Messiah?

Once again, we see that a parent's submission to God can, and will play, a significant role in the life of others.

Secondly, we find in this account that parents want what is best for their children. Returning to Matthew 20:20, we see that Salome came to Jesus *with her sons*. Picture for a second how embarrassing this would have been for James and John, who some Bible commentators suggest were between 25-30 years of age. These were grown men, who were followers of Jesus; yet they had their 'mommy' drag them in front of the rest of the disciples who must have heard her ask Jesus this favour.

We see here that parents are the biggest supporters of their children, no matter how old, how mature, how much trouble one gets into; parents, like God our Father, want what is the best for us.

In Matthew 20:21, Jesus responds to this mother and her two grown children by saying, "What do you wish?" Without any hesitation or doubt, in the blink of an eye Salome asked her Lord, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your

right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

This is the perfect example: that the heart and core of any parent's wish is for their child is to become part of the Kingdom of God. Jesus essentially asked Salome, 'One wish and one wish only.' Salome asked that her children become part of the Kingdom of God, and nothing in return for herself.

him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him.' (1 Kgs 3:26)

Here is an example of a parent's earnest care for her child's physical life; we see the emotions, attitude, and willingness to give up her role as a mother to preserve the physical life of her child. It's inconceivable to see how much more a parent would be willing to give up anything and everything for the *eternal* life of their child.

In conclusion from the account in Matthew 20:20-21 we find that:

"If you were given the opportunity for a wish to be granted by your master would it not be that your children, your every being, be part of the greatest event that will ever take place at the return of our Master Jesus Christ?"

I Parents' submission to God is a vital role that children look up to; parents must practice what they preach at home as they are their children's biggest and most important influence.

2 Parents want what is best for their children at all times and at any cost. On reflection, we see that Salome only had one wish—that Jesus grant her children to be part of the Kingdom of God.

If you were given the opportunity for a wish to be granted by your Master would it not be that your children be part of the greatest event that will ever take place at the return of our Master Jesus Christ?

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Matt. 25:21)

Salome did not ask that her children bring home the right mate, get the greatest education, or earn the best paying job. Yet, as important as these things are, if the truth were known, most parents' ultimate wish would be for their children to be part of the Family of God.

In 1 Kings 3:16-28, we read of the wise judgment of Solomon. Summarizing this account, there is one baby and two supposed mothers. One mother has just lost her child and lays claim to the other mother's child. These two mothers approached King Solomon asking for a righteous judgment.

"Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, 'O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!' But the other said, 'Let

At that time when God will echo those words, then we will know without a shadow of doubt, that God has granted the one wish that most parents would hope for: to be allowed entrance into the Kingdom of God!

By Ken Allen



Treatments for depression range from the extreme electroconvulsivetherapy, to less traumatic options such as antidepressant medication and various forms of psychotherapy and self-help measures. All of these have different levels of efficacy and come at different costs.

Many factors contribute to depression; however, the *basic* cause is that the individual is *reacting* to some situation or circumstance. We have the power to take control of our circumstances. The truth is, it is neither the situation nor circumstance that cause us to become depressed, but rather our *reaction* to the situation or circumstance. Understanding this fact is the *key* to overcoming depression.

The apostle Paul understood this principle. That's why he was able to maintain a positive, godly attitude even while chained in a disease and vermin infested jail with his life hanging in the balance. Paul boldly asserted,

"I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:11, 13)

We can see how the principle of reacting or focusing negatively on our circumstances works by looking at a few examples. Marcus is sad because he lacks an intimate relationship. His envy and bitterness is compounded whenever he sees his happily married friends. The more he thinks about it, the lonelier he feels and the further he sinks into depression. He is overcome by a morbid fear that he is destined to live out his years as a lonely, miserable bachelor. He notices, however, that when he forgets his single status and becomes engrossed in other activities, he enjoys his singleness and depression seem to disappear.

Another example: Imagine you are up to your neck with increasing debt.

It's weighing heavily on you, the more you think about it. The anxiety that comes with the problem is sinking you into a bottomless pit of depression. But, when you focus positively you don't feel as depressed, at least for a while. The secret is to take your mind off that which is depressing you and focus on more positive things that make you feel good to raise your self-esteem and confidence. The solution is changing your *mindset* and refocusing your attention away from the negative circumstances.

"As you remove your attention from negative external circumstances and refocus it on positive imaginary thoughts, you will spend a lot more time feeling good than bad, so your depression will soon lift." (Steve Pavlina, Overcoming Depression)

Refocusing our minds on the positive is a biblical principle. Philippians 4:6-8 says,

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus... whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report... meditate on these things."

Our mind is very powerful, but we only use a fraction of it. Our thinking shapes who we are and how we feel. In the words of the ancient proverb, *"As [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he"* (Prov. 23:7). Our minds are like magnets; they draw us towards what we think about, whether good or evil, joy or sorrow. Popular psychology calls this the *Law of Attraction*. When you focus on what you desire and feel good about it, you *attract those desired effects* into your life.

Many people today are tuning into this 'new' philosophy and reaping success. But for Christians, the promise of success and overcoming depression are infinitely greater. When we make Christ our first priority and keep our focus on His Word, we can deal with anything the devil throws at us. We can do *all* things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). Meditating

Many people experience feelings of depression—ranging from just feeling blue to an ongoing major depressive disorder. The World Health Organization reports that over 121 million people worldwide are affected by depression, most of them in North America and Europe.

Depression, a disorder that affects both the mind and body, is characterized by a variety of feelings like sadness, low self-esteem, fear, anxiety, apprehension, hopelessness, and much more. These feelings can and often do lead to a loss of interest in many activities and social interaction in general. In addition, the depressed person may also exhibit a range of somatic symptoms such as loss of appetite or excessive eating, weight loss or gain, fatigue, excessive sleeping or insomnia, poor concentration, and in extreme cases, suicidal tendencies. It's not uncommon for people to suffer from depression for years without others knowing what they are going through.

The causes of depression include genetic predisposition, chemical imbalances, psychological makeup, serious losses and setbacks, difficult relationships, stress, chronic illness, side effects from medications, drug addiction, financial problems, environmental causes, and many other factors.

on the Word while filling our minds with God's laws and His promises is the surest way to beat depression.

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Josh. 1:8)

Living with depression is like being in a prison without bars. You want to get out. There are no visible barriers holding you in, but somehow you can't seem to break free. I know just what that feels like.

I lived with depression for over seven years. Virtually no one, except my wife, knew of my challenges. I was still able to function, wearing a mask which outwardly gave the appearance that all was well. However, deep down inside I was dying—a mere shell of a man, looking sound on the outside but slowly rotting away on the inside.

There were times when I dreaded going to work because of fear and when it became overpowering, my muscles would just tighten up leaving me almost immobile. The physical symptoms were bad but the mental agony and confusion were far worse.

I felt helpless and hopeless.

I was totally consumed with myself and my circumstances. Ironically, I was able to deliver some good sermons which encouraged others but somehow couldn't help myself. I suffered, mostly in silence.

I often cried out "Lord, help me." But God seemed far away. Then one morning, I rose early around 4am and went into the study to pray. I was praying and praising God when somewhere in the midst of my prayer something strange happened. It felt like a light flicked on in the darkness of the room and something opened up in my mind.

It was as if a voice was saying to me, "I am the Jesus whom you know about. Now I want you to know me." I broke down weeping uncontrollably. They were not tears of sorrow but of inexpressible joy. It's an experience I find difficult to explain but it

has been indelibly imprinted in my mind. Since that day my life has never been the same. I believe I understand what Job meant when he declared at the end of his awful trial,



"I often cried out
"Lord, help me."
But God seemed
far away. Then
one morning..."

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You." (Job 42:5)

Depression imprisons its victims by robbing them of hope while drowning them in a sea of melancholy, self-pity, and fear. Jesus is the answer and has the answer. At the start of His ministry, He boldly proclaimed that part of His mission was to heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty

to the captives, and set at liberty those who are oppressed (Luke 4:18).

When we allow His perfect love to flood our hearts, fear and other negative, depressive thoughts won't find a place to stay in us (1 John 4:18). When we draw near to God, He draws near to us through the Holy Spirit (Jas 4:7-8). We are confident that He will not leave or forsake us (Heb .13:5), so that even though we may go through the valley of depression, He is with us. Paul brings us more powerful words from his arsenal of encouragement in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9,

"We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

Depression is no trivial matter. It is a mental/spiritual disease. It may manifest itself in physical symptoms but the root cause is spiritual. We can take physical measures to treat it, but ultimate and lasting success will come only when we attack this problem at its root, on the spiritual level.

Like any other pernicious, bad habit, it will only be rooted out with heartfelt prayer and fasting. Our adversary is bent on using this problem to destroy us by stealing our joy and our hope. Hope deferred or taken away does make the heart sick, but when our desires are fulfilled it brings life (Prov. 13:12).

Every person who has ever suffered from depression, or who may face it in the future, should know that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love, power, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). Jesus said that we shall know the truth and it will set us free (John 8:32).

Knowing is not just having knowledge, but putting it into practice. If depression comes knocking at your door, you can put on the helmet of the hope of salvation, rise up, and confidently tell the enemy the promise that God has given you in Jeremiah 29:11,

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."



GOD'S PLAN OF SUPERNATURAL PROVISION

By Patrick Bastien

The time has come for God's people to break free from financial bondage. Our Father enables us to be free of every financial problem. He wants us to remove the challenges of making ends meet, a lack of steady employment, and excessive debt. God wants us to enjoy a purpose-filled life (Deut. 28:1-8, 11). God's Word is filled cover-to-cover with promises of blessings and supernatural provisions that He has planned for us to enjoy.

God doesn't want us to be limited by our current financial circumstances. You may be deep in debt, not knowing whether you will ever be completely debt free. You may also be struggling with some longstanding financial problems and not know what to do. Or you may be free of debt but not understand God's Master Plan for you to prosper. He does desire that we be successful and prosper both physically and spiritually (3 John 1:2).

The purpose of this article is to enable you to understand the relationship we should have with God and our money. From here, you can develop a financial plan for you and your family, based upon fulfilling God's purpose for you. What we do with our money can reflect our level of obedience towards God.

In the very beginning of His dealings with His chosen people, God entered into a covenant with Israel, and promised to bless

and prosper them above all other nations.

Today, we who are in the Christian Church are *spiritual* Israel, and these same promises belong to us. As the seed of Abraham, we have inherited these promises and they are part of our covenant with God.

In Deuteronomy 28, we see that God's purpose for blessing and prospering His people is clearly revealed. Verse one states that God desires to set His people above all other people. He promises to pour out His blessings to such a degree for our obedience that through our example the world will see how good life can be when we obey Him and acknowledge that He is the only true and living God.

In verses 3-7, God's blessings are outlined, covering many areas of our lives. The listing illustrates that He intends for His blessings to be upon us wherever we go, for our children and grandchildren—and even blessings on the job. Everything we set our hands to do will be blessed, if only we obey Him. He promises that all these blessing will overtake us (verse 2). In other words, we can expect them to come running after us. In verse 11, again we see God's promise of prosperity. God did not plan for us to barely survive, or to worry about how we will pay the bills barely making it from one paycheck to the next. He did not plan for us and our families to suffer from the lack of necessities of life. Quite the contrary, He wants us to live an abundant life.

God's process of supernatural provision looks like this:

You give to God as best as you can through tithes and offerings, then you will receive more blessings (or increase) from God's supernatural provision. You then give tithes and offerings to God *from the increase* and you will receive even more blessings from God (Mal. 3:10-12). God does not lie. If He promises increase in your life, you will receive it.

In the cycle of giving and receiving God will meet both your spiritual and physical needs. He will give you an increase in what you have given so there will be additional funds to spend for both you and your family. This will also help you to contribute more to do the work of God which will result in allowing the work to "freely give" to those seeking the Truth of God. This cycle is set in motion when we have God involved in our finances.

It's difficult to live a life free of financial woes. It sometimes feels like every step we make in the right direction, Satan the devil pulls us in the opposite direction. To experience financial deliverance and increase in God's blessings during times of financial crisis, here are six major steps you can incorporate into your life:

1 Remove the spirit of fear, worry and unbelief from your heart and mind.

2 Take your eyes off your financial problems and focus on God.

3 Stop depending upon yourself and rely on God as your source of total supply.

4 Do not hold from God your tithes and offerings; give liberally, expecting God to multiply it back into your life. (Mal. 3:8)

5 Walk in faith. We must realign our thinking and walk in obedience to God. (Phil. 4:13)

6 Ask in faith without doubting God (Hab. 2:4; Heb. 11:6).

God's promise to you today is that in the midst of your financial need you can come to Him and draw whatever you need from His storehouse. God promises that in times of famine you will be satisfied. The Lord will bless you abundantly (Prov. 3:9-10).

Satan will try to attack our circumstances; therefore, it is very important for us to understand that our warfare is not with natural forces—it is a *spiritual* warfare. Satan attempts to discourage us in many ways. He is going to attack us with negative emotions such as stress, fear, worry, doubt, weariness, discouragement, depression, and so on. Let us not be ignorant of his devices because our battle is against spiritual forces in high places (Eph. 6:12-13).

Satan can be violent, so we have to prepare for him. We must have the faith to tell the devil to get his hands out of our finances. Draw near to God and the devil will flee from you (Jas. 4:7-8).

The worst thing we can do when in financial difficulty is to dwell on our circumstances and stop paying our tithes. Satan's strategy is to try to get us to forget God's tithes and offerings. But God is always there to help us break the cycle of financial defeat. One of the strategies we should use to defeat the devil and our own fears and doubt is to remember the promises and actions of God (Deut. 8:18).

To maintain continuous financial prosper-

ity, we must continue holding on to Jesus Christ and never let go of Him. When things are not going well, He is our ultimate strength in times of difficulty. We must turn to Him for continuous support and guidance.

The Bible says,

“When we are in control of our finances we can use God's blessings for His glory.”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)

In order to prosper, we must realign our thinking to God because everything that God has given to us is a resource. We just have to come to the Father and ask Him how to utilize such resources.

“But remember the LORD your God is the one who makes you wealthy. He's confirming the promise which he swore to your ancestors. It's still in effect today.” (Deut. 8:18)

Let us hear this word today. Let us heed it for as long as we live. We should always remember it is the Lord who gives the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding to attain wealth. Sometimes we interchange the term wealth with *prosperity*. Prosperity is not limited to monetary blessings (Deut. 28:1-14). Clearly, our Lord reminds us to seek the Kingdom first, and then all those things will be added to us (Matt. 6:33-34). This perspective will help us to live balanced lives centered on God and His priorities in our lives; that's what real prosperity is all about!

Sometimes Christians will use unethical means to achieve material riches, but we must remember that the *love* of money will lead us down an evil pathway (1 Tim. 6:10). Prosperity does not just mean money. Do not limit God! When we limit the term, “God's prosperity” to our financial blessings, we are limiting God (Deut. 28:13).

When people do their financial planning, they often plan according to their current financial conditions. But God wants to take us beyond these limitations to a new spiritual dimension whereby we believe Him for those things that may seem impossible to us. He wants to open our spiritual eyes to see His unlimited resources that He has in store for us. As God's plan of supernatural provision is revealed to you through His Word, you will have a better understanding of the new relationship with God. You will no longer depend upon your own skills, abilities, limitations, or personal resources; instead you will begin to see God's provisions for you.

Like anything else in our Christian life, we must be willing to manage our finances effectively. We must also allow God to bless and guide us in controlling our resources. When we are in control of our finances we can use God's blessings for His glory. Do not let anything have control over you (Psa. 119:133). We should involve God in all aspects of our life. Anything that has dominion over us will limit us from doing God's work. Yet sadly, many of us have allowed our debt to bleed off revenues, tithes, and offerings from God's Work (Deut. 28:44; Prov. 11:15, 22:26).

We cannot prosper without God (Deut. 8:18; John 10:10). Make use of God's management system and techniques. Don't be afraid to use them (Josh.1:7-9). Fear is a barrier to being prosperous. We should not be afraid of prosperity. Just stay in the Word. Think it, read it, say it.

Finally it is God's will for us to prosper in every area of life (3 John 1:2). That's something we should never forget, especially when we are faced with financial difficulties.



Archaeology Corner

By Waine-Ann McLaughlin

PHARAOH'S CHARIOT WHEELS FOUND?

Divers have found chariot wheels, bones of men and horses in Nuweiba, a large beach in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The chariot wheels found are four-spoke gilded, dated to the time of the Pharaohs and are preserved because coral does not grow on gold from which they were made. As a result, the shape remained very distinct, but the wood on the inside has disintegrated. The chariot wheels match those found in Tutankhamen's tomb (King Tut).

Archeologist, Ron Wyatt, made a similar find in 1978. Repeated dives in depths ranging from 18m to 60m deep (60 to 200 feet), over a stretch of almost 2.5 km, have shown that the chariot parts are scattered across the seabed of the gulf. Included in the finds are wheels, chariot bodies, human remains, and horse bones. Similar finds have been located on the Saudi coastline opposite Nuweiba as well.

The Bible tells us that the miraculous event of the Exodus by the Israelites coming out of Egypt from their bondage of slavery happened approximately 3500 years ago. Many skeptics have dismissed this historical event by implying that it either did not happen or, if it did, the water was very shallow and the Israelites easily walked across the Red Sea—hence negating the miracle of the parting of a very deep body of water.

The Gulf of Agaba is approximately 1600m deep and archeologists have discovered that if the water was removed, there is an area, at the bottom with an easy descent for people and animals to walk. This area is the line between Nuweiba and the shore in Saudi Arabia. A similar description of this is found in the book of Isaiah. It reads:

"Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick." (Isa. 43:16-17)

On his first visit to Nuweiba in 1978, Mr. Wyatt found a Phoenician style column lying in the water. The column had inscriptions that were hard to read because of erosion. In 1984, another column was found on the opposite of the Nuweiba, the Saudi coastline that is identical to the first column found. The second column turned out to be a much better find because it too had inscriptions on it that were legible. The inscriptions are Phoenician letters, ancient Hebrew, containing words such as: Mizriam (Egypt), Solomon, Edom, death, Pharaoh, Moses, and Yahweh.

These finds are significant because they play a pivotal role in verifying the biblical accounts of The Exodus.



The Love of a Mother

Nine months I had spent
inside my mother's womb,
born so beautiful like flowers in bloom.

She didn't have an abortion
because she cares;
she had shown me love,
compassion without fear.

Tears ran from her eyes as she cried,
the nurse slapped me on my bottom,
made sure I was alive.

When I uttered a cry she was full of joy.
The nurse then said to her,
"Here, you can hold your
beautiful baby boy."

Several years had gone by and as I grew;
she nurtured and cherished me
and a lot of love she shew.

The pain she felt was excruciating,
no father like a mother
will feel the same thing.

All mothers are a blessing sent from God.
A lot of children are hoping and praying
for a mother to make them glad.

Show your mother that you care.
Thank your mother for all those years.

A mother is a friend at all times.
She knows when you are hurt
or when something is on your mind.

A mother is someone you can rely on
even when you are in sinking sand.

She will always be there for you,
to pull your hand.

Remember to love your parents,
it is the fifth commandment,
so don't show any indifferent.



By Cordel Reid

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the December issue of *Prevail Magazine* that my daughter sent. If possible, would you please send it to me on a regular basis? It truly is inspired of God, easy for anyone to read/understand and puts forth the light of God's truth. May you all remain faithful and very blessed of the Lord. Thanks.

J. Fink, Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much my friends. I'm happy because this week I received my first issue of *Prevail*, your marvelous magazine. Please continue your labour to favour for many thirsty souls. I was baptized in the WCG thirty years ago. Thanks a lot.

M. Serrano, Cuenca, Ecuador

Email your letters to:
info@previlmagazine.org

Or mail to:
The Church of God, International of Canada
1299 Oxford Street East, P.O. Box 33034
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8:30 am Mountain
10.30 am Eastern
9.30 am Central
3:30 pm Central - Lincoln, Nebraska,

Channel 13
Tuesday, 12:30 pm Central

Uplift TV
Saturday, 9:30 am Eastern

Philippines

Studio 23
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

Canada

VISION (National Cable)
Sunday, 12:30 am Eastern
Friday, 3:30 am Eastern

Christian Channel
Sunday, 12:30 pm Central

CIIT Channel 11
Sunday, 10:30 pm Central - Winnipeg

CHNU Channel 10
Sunday, 10:30 pm Pacific - Vancouver

Australia

Briz 31
Sunday, 7:00 am - Brisbane

Radio

Jamaica

Radio Jamaica
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Change is coming...

