

**JESUS!
THE FRUITFUL
VINE
OR
WHERE HAVE ALL
THE PROPHETS
GONE?**

**BY
DAVID SLOANE**



A TESTIMONY



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Churning under the broiling sun, the river of human experience rushes at tremendous speed away from God. Overflowing its banks, it drags the spiritually dead along its treacherous path emptying into hell's infernal ocean. Only the living fish can fight their way up the carnal current.

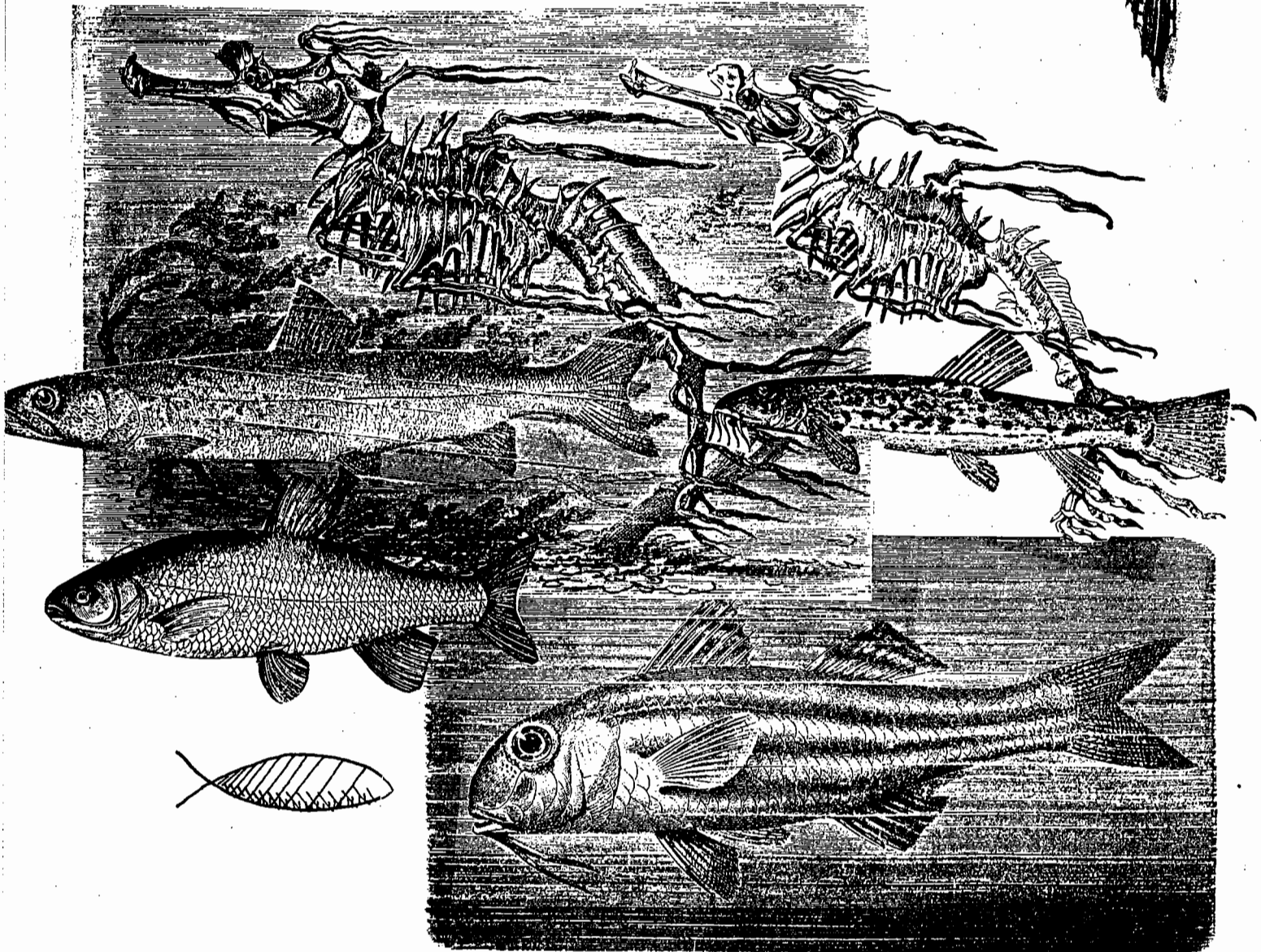
God calls people to fight the furious river. God's people have to apply themselves to the task with all that is within them. It takes sustained effort, it is, at times a lonely task; however, it is ordained by God.

Revelation 3:15+16+17+18+19.

DEDICATION

I have great respect for those who do not passively walk with the Lord. Those who fight for spiritual survival and continually seek Jesus will find Him.

I am dedicating this book to all who refuse to float downstream like dead fish. Romans 2:7



PREFACE

This book started out to be my testimony. But it has ended up quite differently than I had intended. The Holy Spirit prompted me to expound on many areas of the christian walk. Along with the story of my walk with God there has been included the words that stem from the usage of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Through the providence of God my walk has been influenced by my pastor, Brant Baker, Kathryn Kuhlman, Oden Fong, Pat Robertson, Jerry Fromling, Smith Wigglesworth, a host of other precious saints of God, and especially Lonnie Frisbee...who affected more youths for Christ in his short life time than anyone else I know. Their effect upon my life is of inestimable value to the writing of this book.

I wish to thank Donna Marie, Patricia and Alain Trottier and Devon for their help and support in the writing of this book. And I thank you Jesus for all you have done for me!

Many books appear on the christian shelves that feed the mind, I desired to write not so much for the mind as for the spiritual motivation part of our makeup. If people read this book and go away from it with a new zeal for the things of God then I will be satisfied and able to say of this work, "It is good".

David Sloane
May 1993



INTRODUCTION

What is a walk with God? Do all christians have a walk with God?

Many charismatic and Pentecostal Christians would answer that just by living our daily lives we are therefore walking with God. I would agree that they are partially right, and yet there is a dimension where a christian can actively walk with God through a conscious effort. The book deals with this issue through example and teaching. What is it like to walk with God? What happens when you walk with God? What are some of the results from walking with God? Is there an appropriate time to walk with God? Should everyone in the church walk with God? How can I know if I am walking with God?

This book is a collection of personal experiences, valuable as examples of a walk with God. It encourages people to step out and and walk with God to their own personal edification and new spiritual vitality.

I encourage christians to read this book with a bible close by and see therein the truth of a walk with God.

Ye shall walk in all the ways, which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and *that it may be* well with you, and *that ye* may prolong *your* days in the land which *ye* shall possess.

Deuteronomy 5:33



WHY THIS BOOK CAME TO BE WRITTEN

The original reason I started to write this book is not very noble. I was upset with the pastor of my church. He had written a book that told the testimonies of some men who came into a walk with God during the "Jesus people" days of the late 60s and early 70s. I thought my pastor was being very selective in a political sense as to whose story he would tell. For some reason he had only included ordained pastors of his organization. He failed to tell the story about the young man who was his youth pastor during the powerful beginning of the Jesus people movement that helped to form his church. He also did not include the story of the man who became the administrative assistant for all the churches that were affiliated with his church. He also made no mention of those of us who had come into his church at the same time as the pastors whose stories he tells. So I got the idea of putting my story down on paper.

As I began to write, I was aware of the Spirit of God looking over my shoulder. He told me that I would minister through the keyboard to thousands. During the long hours at the word processor keyboard God spoke to me many times. I began to realize that there was more going into this book than just my story. God wanted it to be written. He confirmed this by letting some of my story appear on Pat Robertson's program with my pastor on the same show. When my pastor's book was presented during the program, God spoke to my heart. He told me that He agreed with my feelings about my pastor's book and that as a result my story was on national television, the 700 club. It is also interesting that not one of the stories from my pastor's book appeared on this particular show.



Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Mark 5:19

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul.

Psalm 66:16

And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that He had spoken to me.

Nehemiah 2:16

And they overcame him by the blood of the *Lamb*, and by the word of *their* testimony.

Revelation 12:11



1

**Beat down
but not defeated!**

OR

**You may lose the battle but
You will win the war!**

As a human being often you face problems, defeat and depression just like everyone else. The demon winds can drive you down so low at times. You feel like you can't go on. Fear wells up and emotionally cripples you. The difficulties of our human existence seem set upon our destruction.

I can tell you that you will always face troubles and things will not always be fair while you walk this earth. Jesus said:

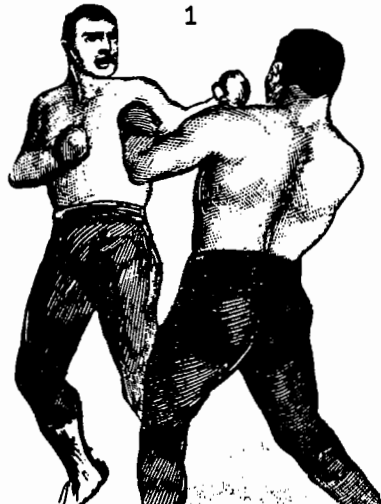
In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

But you can find help in times of need when you reach out to Jesus Christ. He can give you hope and strength to make it through. And He can give you peace in the midst of the storm because He is the Prince of peace. If you reach up to Him during your darkest and saddest moments you will find inner strength seeping into your innermost being. Without anything changing in your circumstances hope wells up within you. Jesus gives you hope and strength to make it through. The world can't give you hope or strength.

The day will come when you no longer react to the storm around you and you rest in Christ. Let the storm do its worst. Let the demon winds blow. You are in the shadow of the *Most high God. The Supreme in authority and command* has given you peace that is not dependent upon circumstance or environment. You have the ultimate victory in the midst of the storm. As you cease to fight the storm and surrender to God, the victory is given you by His peace within.

1



You may still be frightened but the hope and peace are yours. Jesus said:

My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

You know that you are going to make it through. You have a peace that the world can't give and the world can't take it away.

Paul the apostle had his storms and survived them. He said:

Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; and labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

1 Corinthians 4:11-13

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

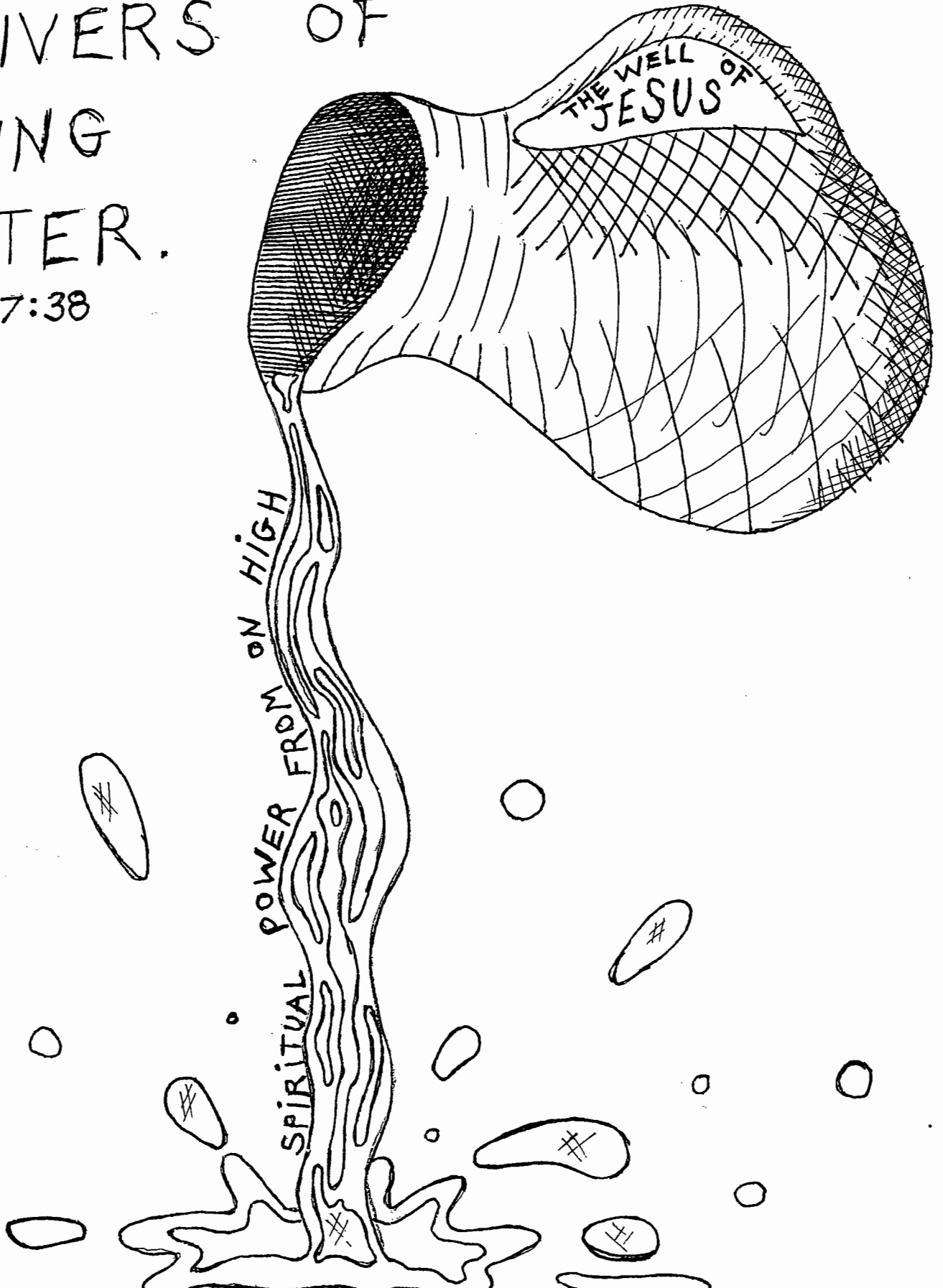
1 Corinthians 15:57

Why am I telling you these things? I want you to know that no matter how defeated you are by the everyday problems of life, cares, and hardships there is hope in Jesus. I still struggle with my own storms but I make it through them with Jesus.



OUT OF YOUR INNERMOST
BEING SHALL FLOW
RIVERS OF
LIVING
WATER.

JOHN 7:38



Get under the spout where the
glory comes out!

or

They that seek me, shall find
me!

There is power in our testimony. I want to share with you a little of my testimony. My goal in doing this is twofold. First I want to overcome the wicked one. Second I want to teach you by example what it is like to "Walk in the Spirit".

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit...

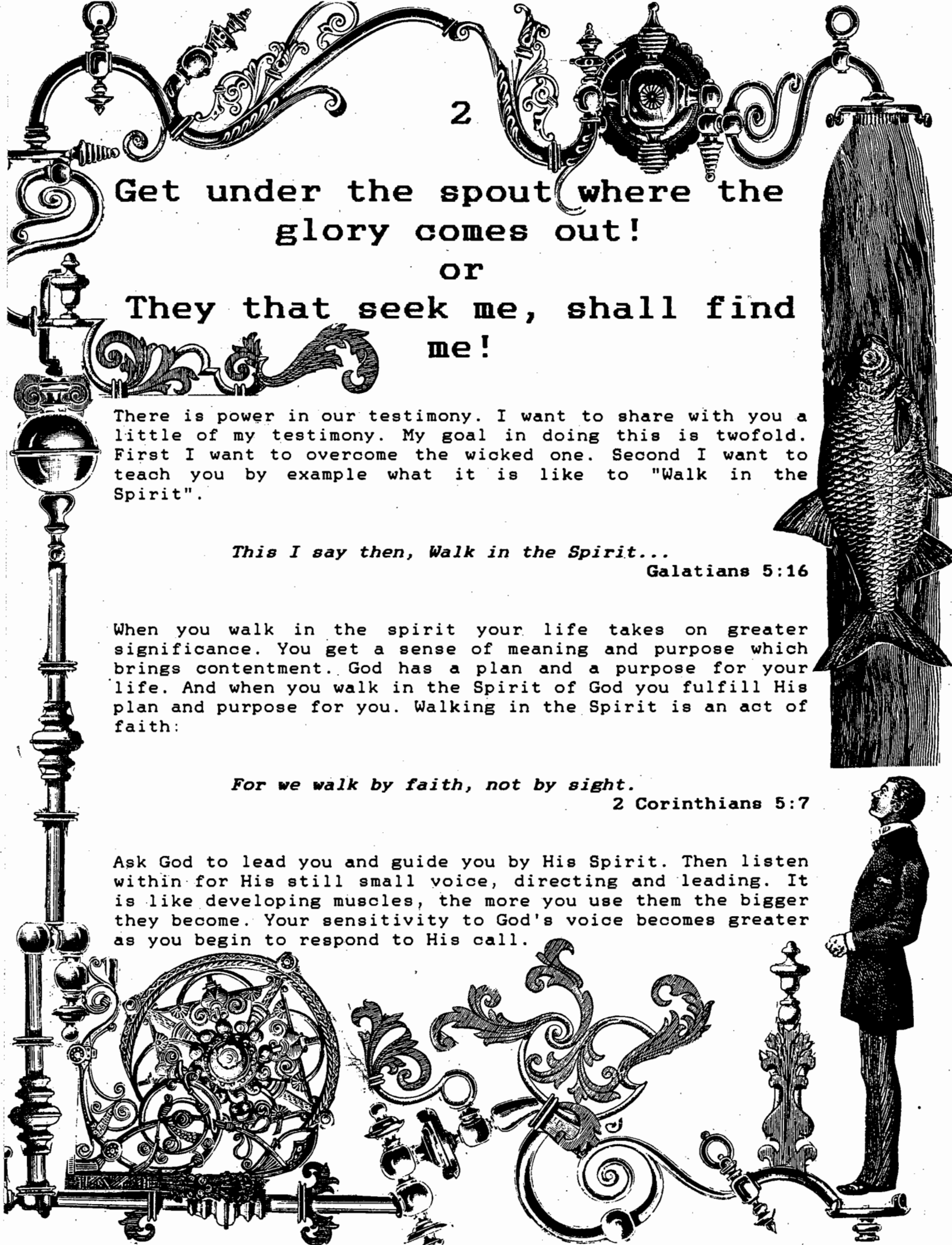
Galatians 5:16

When you walk in the spirit your life takes on greater significance. You get a sense of meaning and purpose which brings contentment. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. And when you walk in the Spirit of God you fulfill His plan and purpose for you. Walking in the Spirit is an act of faith:

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

Ask God to lead you and guide you by His Spirit. Then listen within for His still small voice, directing and leading. It is like developing muscles, the more you use them the bigger they become. Your sensitivity to God's voice becomes greater as you begin to respond to His call.



Let me start my testimony by telling you my name is David Sloane. I was born in Portsmouth Virginia in a navy hospital in 1951. My father was an alcoholic seaman. My parents divorced when I was seven. My mother raised and supported my three sisters and myself without my fathers help.

I got into drugs during my high school years. The "hippie" movement was just gaining momentum and the Vietnam war was in full swing. It was cool to grow your hair long and to experiment with all kinds of drugs.

My friends and I also experimented with the occult and ouji boards which started our search for spiritual things.

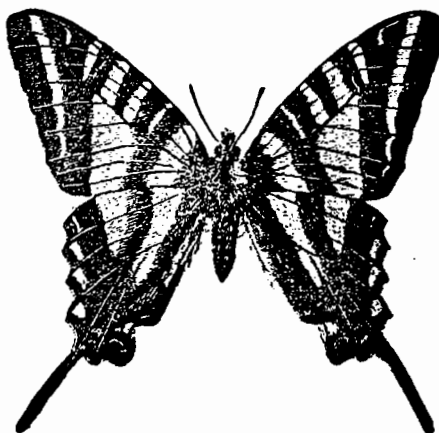
We began our search for God through the use of LSD. The problem that we encountered in our search was that if you were "on LSD" and the "acid trip" got out of control you could not stop what was happening to you. We called this a "bummer".

I began to get frightened when the acid trips started to get out of my control. Sometimes it was like going down a long tube with pricks all going in one direction. If I tried to stop what was happening to me they ripped at me. But if I went along with what was happening to me they didn't rip into me.

I continued my search for God through the use of drugs. I was sincere in my desire to find out what life was all about.

I got in with a group of guys who were on the same search as I was. We all made the same mistake of thinking that we were God and were one with everything. The oneness was nothing more then a realization that we have one thing in common, and that is this, *we and everything else were created by a creator* which makes us part of the creation. Today there are those who would rather worship the creature and the creation instead of the creator.

For since the creation of the world His invisible things about Him are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful but became futile in their thoughts, and their



foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools...

Romans 1:20-22

How foolish. Professing them selves to be wise they have become fools. There are those today who want to worship the creation in a paganistic fashion in the guise of ecology. Wise men still seek Him today.

The greatest moment of my life!

My friends and I were in a house talking one evening, when there was a knock at the door. Someone opened the door. There stood a hippie with two guys. We did not know them. The hippie said, "Hi I'm Lonnie Frisbie, we have come to tell you about Jesus Christ". Nobody said anything. They boldly walked into the room and sat down.

Lonnie had a big black bible with him and began to talk about God. My friends and I looked at each other and wondered what was going on.

I whispered to the friend seated next to me, "Hey let's go outside and smoke some pot". So we excused ourselves and left our friends to put up with these "Jesus freaks".

We smoked our pot and had a few good laughs at the expense of these Jesus freaks.

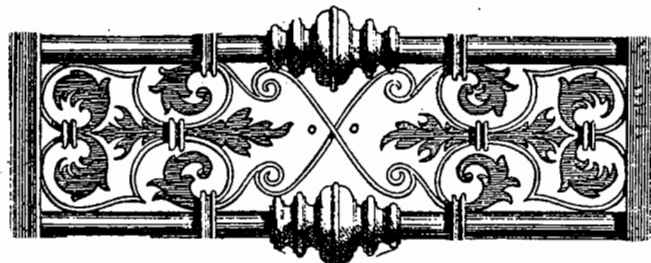
We decided to go back inside and see what these Jesus freaks were all about. We were saying, "It's to bad these guys don't know where it's at".

We walked into the house and right away noticed that there was an unseen presence in the house. I got frightened by the power of this presence and sat down on the floor where I was standing.

Lonnie was seated across from me. He laughed and said, "Man the Lord sure is present!". Then he did an odd thing. He bowed his head and closed his eyes and said, "Thus says the Lord".

Those words struck me deep inside where I live. I thought to myself that this was not the man seated in front of me speaking, it was someone else. Someone more powerful than any one I ever heard speak before.

I got very frightened and began to shake. Lonnie continued



to speak saying:

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:18

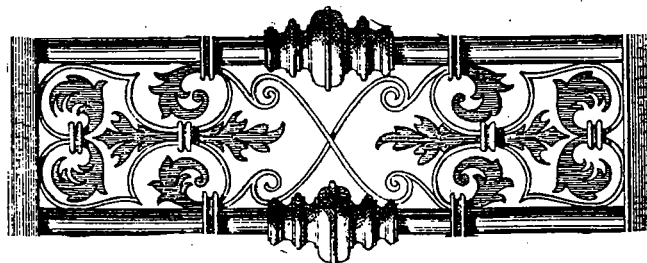
He said, " I will put your sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12) and will remember them no more. I will honor my word to you from the cross of the tee to the dot of the i".

It was at this point that Lonnie looked up and broke into laughter. He said God was present.

I knew I was in trouble. God had just spoken to me directly through this guy and I knew that I could not be like these christians. I felt so unclean inside. I felt like these guys were pure and holy.

I was scared like never before. Lonnie said, " does any one want to ask Jesus into their heart? There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverb 14:12) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6) For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:16-21)

Then Lonnie looked me straight in the eye and said, " does anyone want to accept Christ?". He boldly got up from his chair and walked over to me and placed his hand on my head



and said, "feel the peace Jesus has to offer you".

I felt the knots in my stomach untie instantly as the ton of bricks I had been feeling were lifted from my shoulders, peace permeated my entire being. My mind was saying, "you don't want to be one of those christian freako wierdos do you? What will your friends think?"

I looked over at my friends and saw that they were deep in thought. My heart ached to ask Jesus inside.

Lonnie said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door I will come in to him, ... (Revelation 3:20).

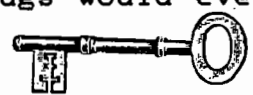
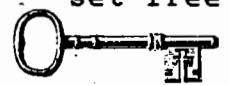
My hand shot up. I heard a voice inside me say, "hey you don't want to be a christian freako wierdo!". I said to my self, "ya but this is real, I want Jesus!". The voice then said, "what will your friends think?"

Lonnie said to me, "say this prayer after me".

Dear Jesus I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross for me. Come into my heart. Wash away my sins and write my name in the lambs book of the living".

Lonnie and his friends said, "Praise the Lord!". You are now born again".

I felt Jesus washing me clean inside. I felt brand new. I wondered why I had never asked Jesus inside before. I had a peace inside that no hippie on drugs would ever know. I was set free! The word of God says:



Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

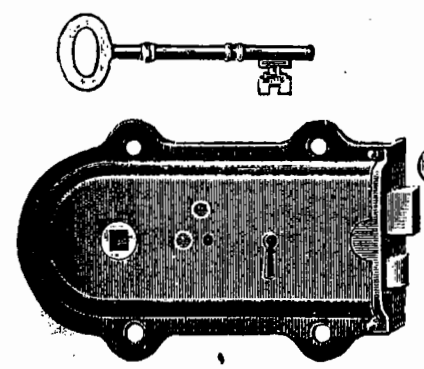
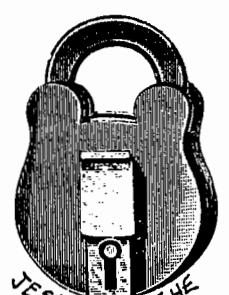
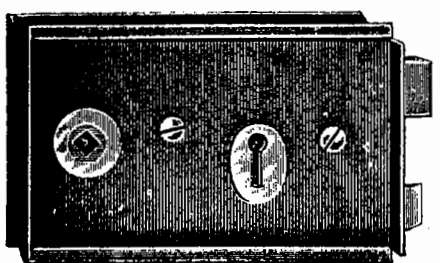


And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7



Lonnie told me that God wanted me to receive the baptism (Acts 11:16) of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13). He said the Holy Spirit was given for power (Acts 1:8) to be a witness



JESUS IS THE KEY!

for God and to live a life that was pleasing to God. (Luke 24:49).

He then placed his hand on my head (Acts 8:17) and said, "receive the Holy Spirit in Jesus name". (John 20:22). I was very aware of the presence of God within me. I became very happy and felt complete and whole and wanted to tell the whole world that Jesus was real.

Lonnie then said, " God wants to give you a gift called speaking in tongues. (Luke 16:17). Tongues is your prayer language for speaking to God (1 Corinthians 14:2) when you don't quite know how to pray. I will lay my hand on you and you step out in faith and receive this gift from God. At first it will be like when you go to get a drink of water from a garden hose that has been out on the front lawn on a hot summer day. First will come hot air bubbles then spurts of hot water, then some more air bubbles and then the fresh cool water will flow".

He laid his hand on my head and began to speak in a language I did not know. He spoke with authority. His friends also spoke in different languages.

Lonnie prompted me to step out in faith and start to talk to God. I did, and sure enough a few words that sounded foreign flowed out from me.

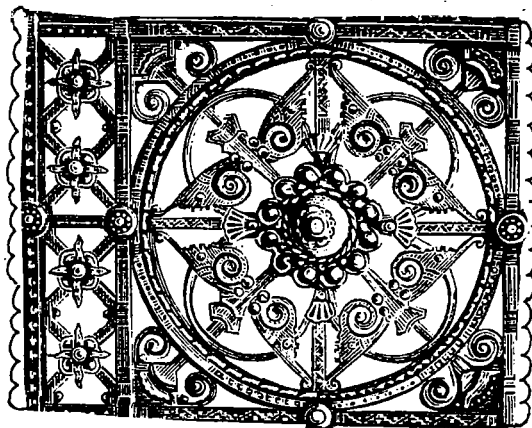
Lonnie said, " faster, faster, let it flow out, you have the gift". And he laughed with joy. I didn't want to stop, so I didn't.

I began to cry as I spoke to God in my new prayer language. I did not know the interpretation but I knew the content of what I was saying. I was asking for forgiveness for all I had done in my life to offend God. I then was praising and thanking Him for that forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

This went on for about thirty minutes. I had truly gotten under the cleansing flood of God. And my sins were washed away. By the price that Jesus paid when He died for you and for me. Shedding His blood on Calvary's tree.

Lonnie and his friends said that they had to leave and said, " God bless you", and went outside. I did not stop speaking in tongues. I didn't want to. I had so much to say to God who had just reached out to me and saved me from a path that was leading to death's door.

My friends sat silently watching as I talked to God in my



new prayer language. Then it was as though Jesus said to me you are brand new, because I began to laugh and bubble with joy in a way I never knew before. I had a kind of false joy from drugs at times, but nothing that even came close to this joy. Out of my innermost being flowed rivers of living water. (John 7:38 Jeremiah 2:13)

When I went home, my mother was standing at the stove stirring a pot of spaghetti. I yelled, "Hey mom guess what just happened to me, I asked Jesus into my life and He is real!". She said, "that's nice, go wash your hands dinner will be ready in ten minutes".

I was expecting her to see Jesus and experience Him the way I did. But she acted as though I was just on another weird trip as usual. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

At this point I did not realize that spiritual things were not obvious to everyone around me. I expected everyone to understand what had just happened in my life. I was very surprised to find out that this was not the case.

I learned that until you come under the cleansing flood of Jesus you can't understand these things that I am speaking about. You have to experience it to understand it. All anyone who doesn't understand these things has to do is pray the simple prayer that I prayed and mean it in their heart and they will also experience the cleansing flood of Jesus.

I don't know how or when my friends accepted Jesus, but we started to attend a church called Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa in California where I lived. I was seventeen at this time and still in high school.

My friend Mike Grasso would borrow his dad's car and we would all pile into it, and we would drive out to the country where the church was.

We sang songs and shared scriptures from the bible as we drove the thirty minute drive to church. We would get so blessed fellowshiping with each other and sharing what God was doing in our lives.

It was very exciting watching God at work in our lives and in the lives of others at church.

I had come to this church once before I had given my life to Jesus. I was on LSD as I walked into the meeting of about two hundred people.

I stood in the foyer and listened to the singing. There was a mixture of people from all backgrounds, hippies,



surfers, motorcycle gang members, and men in coats and ties, young people and old people. They were all gathered together to worship God.

I began to feel that I was amongst angels and I became aware that I was not like them and felt dirty. I had wanted to get out of there because these people were so beautiful and I was so wretched.

A man (Pastor Chuck Smith) got up and smiled the biggest smile of love I had ever seen. He said, "Kids Jesus Christ loves you".

That settled it, I wanted to run out of there as fast as I could and I did. I did not know that what I was looking for I had found. (Perhaps you are now finding what it is that you are looking for and do not yet realize that this is it.)

But God in His great love and kindness did not let me get away, He sent Lonnie after me. Now I am a member of God's great family called the, "Body of Christ".

The first time that I went to this church as a christian it was a lot different then my first vist on LSD. I was *right* with God.

We sang worship songs, as Lonnie, (Who turned out to be the youth pastor) led us. Then the man I had seen the first time I came to this church began to speak. He smiled that smile of his and looked up at the ceiling as though he could see God sitting on His throne. Then he told us about the unconditional love of God.

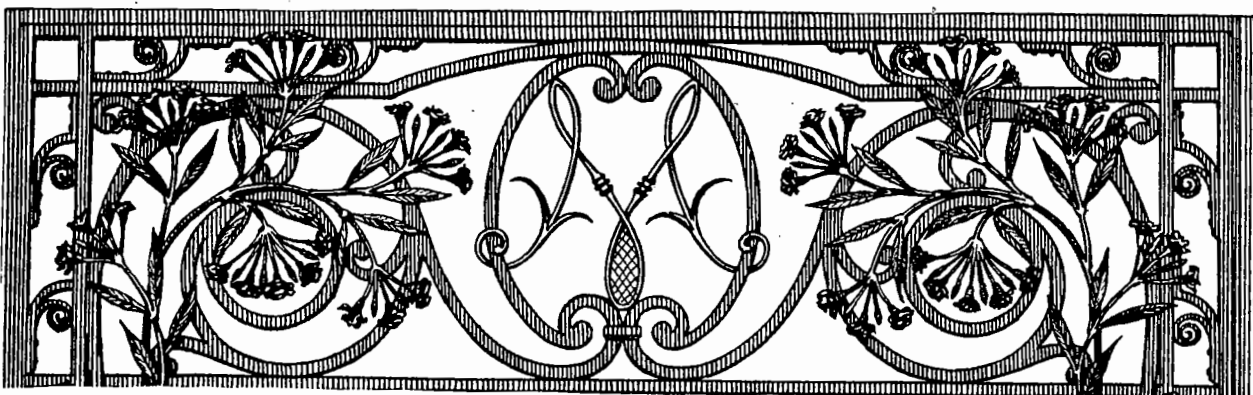
He said that God loved us knowing our good points as well as our bad points. He said God's love was constant and that nothing could ever change it. He also told us more about Jesus Christ.

I remembered being raised as a Catholic and hearing a little about Jesus but never that He loved me and cared about me personally.

I also could feel the power of God flowing from this man's life like I had never experienced before.

After the meeting an older man in a coat and tie put his arm around me and said, "I love you" and I knew inside that He was sincere. Many others told me they loved me. It was one big loving family.

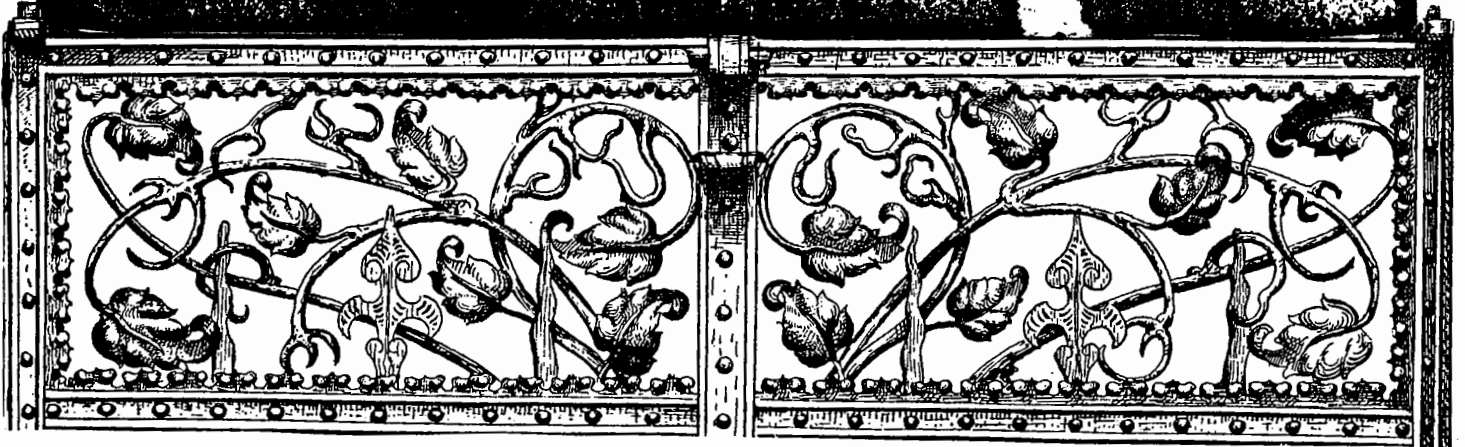
Now I knew that it was the beginning of what was being called "The Jesus People movement". I can remember news reporters coming into our meetings with their bright lights





"Jesus freak" baptism on a California beach

COURTESY KQED-TV, SAN FRANCISCO



and cameras.

Such a thing as this had not been known before around here. It was awesome! The pastor Chuck Smith was not like any pastor around. He let us come into the church with our dirty blue jeans and long hair and bare feet.

I would sit in the pew and get my big toe stuck in the rubber grommet intended for the communion cup. He just loved us into the Kingdom of God.

Some of us could play music and wrote songs which were played during the service. Music played a big part during those early days of Calvary Chapel.

More and more folks were being added to our happy family daily. We began to out grow our home. People soon could not get inside, it was so packed they had to stand outside looking in. Benches were added outside so people could look in through the windows and still there was not enough room.

God was on the move and something had to be done. So a parcel of farmland was purchased around the corner and a big tent was set up.

Those days were great but the close family atmosphere we had known in the beginning was slowly dissipating.

A new building was built which fit us all in, almost. Chuck had to still do three services on Sundays.

Lonnie had a practice of inviting anyone who had something to share to come up and tell everyone what the Lord was doing in their lives.

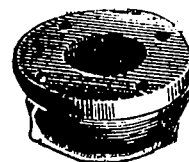
One time a sister in one of the music groups got up and shared how God had set her free from smoking pot and could do the same for anyone else if they would give Him a chance.

Smoking pot was a way of life for the hippie. We had never considered that it could be wrong. We would get stoned and read our bibles. We got nicknamed "Smoke It" christians.

The Bible had some scriptures which covered this area. Since I wanted to please God and be filled with His Spirit and not the influence of some drug. I made the decision to dump my stash of pot down the toilet.

As I started to throw the pot I heard a voice in my head say "Don't do it! You will regret it if you do". I had been taught to expect satan to resist any thing that would be pleasing to God my Father.

I flushed the pot and went to church. That night at church I got so filled with God's Spirit that I knew God was well



pleased with me.

God never forced me to give up anything. He is always a gentleman and infinitely patient with me.

I gave things up to God and received riches for rags. I began to be sensitive to His Holy Spirit leading me in the paths of righteousness. Sometimes it was hard to yield areas of my life to Him. But I found Him faithful and kind as He worked in my life to make of me the man He wanted me to be.

When I first got saved my family began to hate me. It was because I was so enthusiastic in trying to get them to see that Jesus is real. I knew that they needed to be born again.

I took every opportunity I could to tell them that they were sinners in need of Jesus. I couldn't understand why they would not respond. They only got more and more distant.

My mother got so mad at me one day that she took the picture of Jesus that I hung on my wall and destroyed it. She threw it across the room and cried as she stormed out. I was devastated.

Why Lord? Why was I a curse to my family and not a blessing? Well He told me that I was trying to do His work and that I should let Him do it. Jesus told me to just love my family in any and every way that I could.

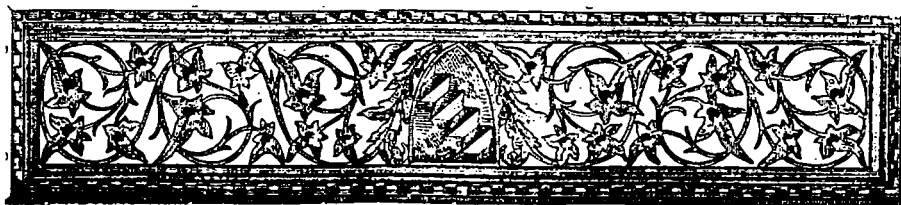
I read Acts 16:31, "And they said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, *and thy house*". I told God that I was standing upon the promise of His word. I would love them while He saved them.

God told me that the world has heard the talk and wanted to see the walk. So I began taking out the trash without being told to do so. I vacumed the apartment, I made the beds, and I washed the dishes. I did anything I could find to demonstrate the love of God to my family.

I no longer tried to tell them about Jesus. I tried to show them by my life. The word of God says "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord (Zechariah 4:6). Having begun in the Spirit are you now made perfect by the flesh?" (Galations 3:3)

Changes were beginning to take place. Before I would try to save my family in the energy of my flesh, but now I was trusting God to do it. My family was no longer avoiding me. They were now tolerating me.

One day as I was passing by my mothers room she called out

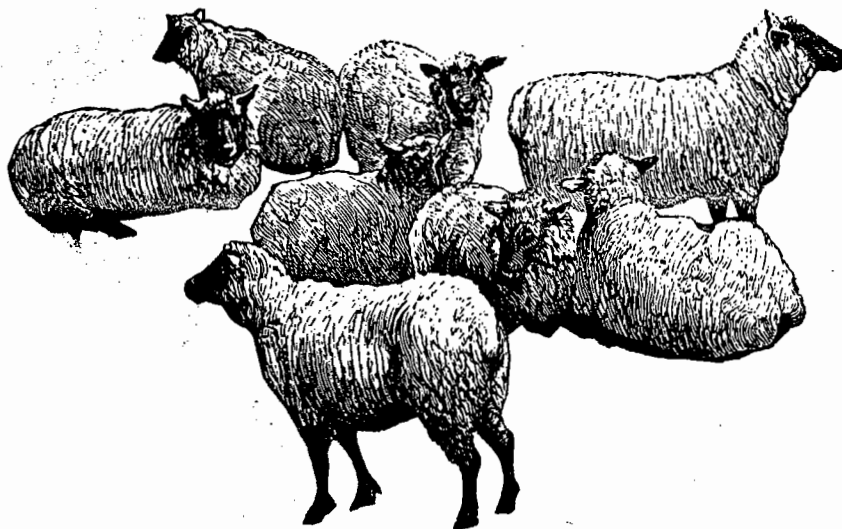


to me. I went into her room where she was reading in bed. She said, "Son I want what you and your friends have. You all seem so happy all the time. How can I have what you have? I then led her in the "Sinners prayer". God had honored His word to me. I found Him faithful. I got to bring mom to Jesus!

Another time I road my bike over to my sister Ann's house, where she was living with her boyfriend. I invited her to a bible study. She put down her knitting or embroidery that she was doing and came with me.

The pastor stopped in the middle of his study and bowed his head. He then said , "There is someone here who was doing something with knitting just before coming tonight. Jesus wants you to know that He brought you here to hear of Him". That was the Lord showing me once again that He could be trusted.

After the meeting the pastors daughter came up to my sister and said that she knew that her dad was speaking about her. She then led my sister Ann to the Lord. I got to lead my sister Debbie to the Lord. And Pastor Chuck Smith got to lead my sister Donna to the Lord. I can truly say, trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, (Proverbs 3:5) Jesus saved my family.



John 10



Drink deeply from the living fountain of the Lord.
It is yours.

Come, all who are thirsty, and drink,
and rest by the fountain of the Lord.

How beautiful and pure.
It rests the soul.

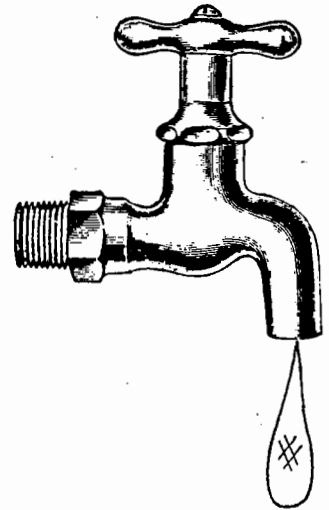
That water is sweeter than honey.
The combs of bees are nothing beside it.

It flows from the lips of the Lord.
Its name is from the Lord's heart.

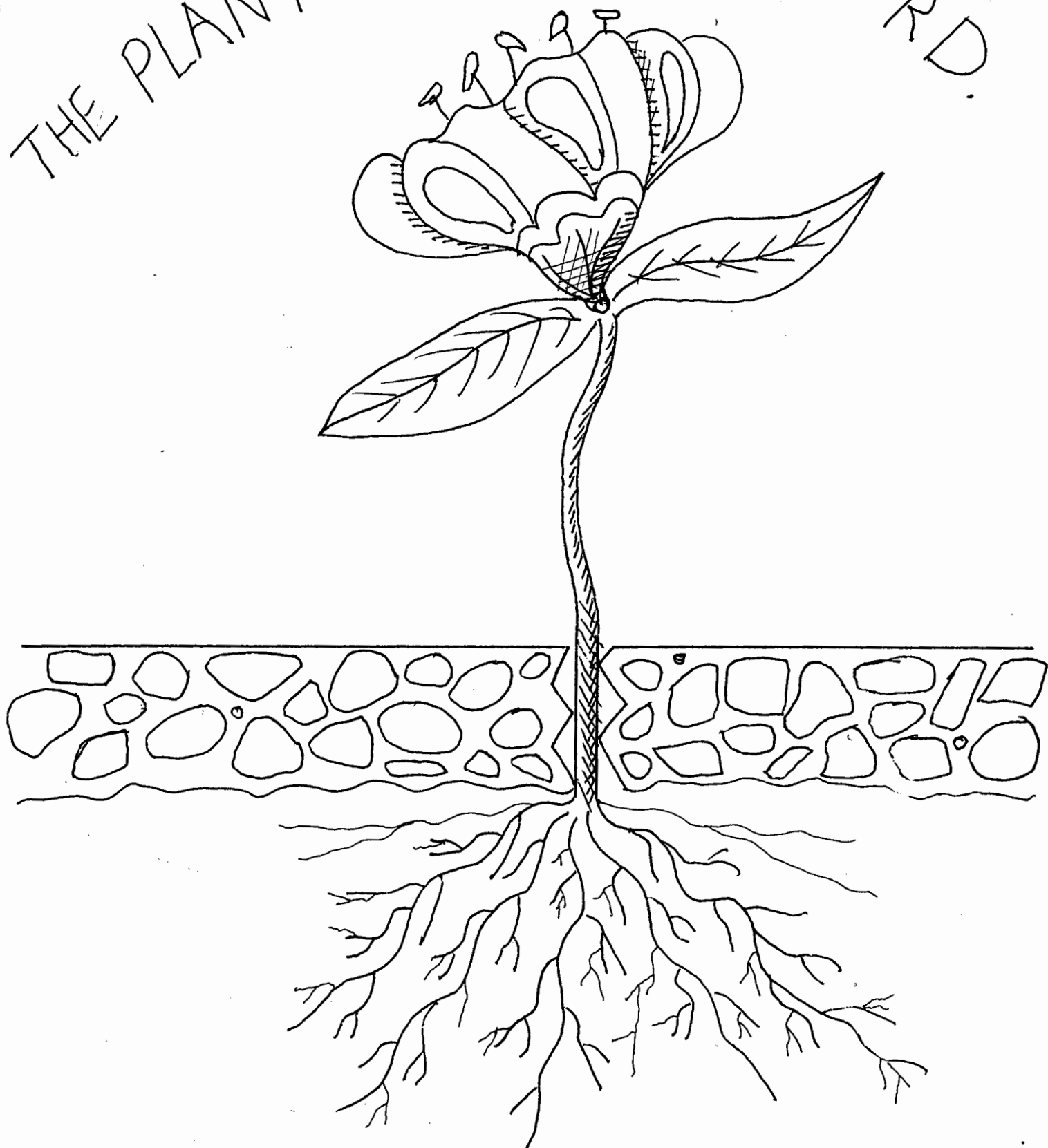
It is invisible but has no borders
and was unknown until it was set in our midst.

They who drink are blessed
and they rest.

(The Odes of Solomon, Ode 30, from the *Pista Sophia* Gnostic text).



THE PLANTING OF THE LORD



ISAIAH 61:3

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE
PLANTED!

3

**BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED
OR
WHEN GOD GUIDES HE PROVIDES**

When I was in high school we used to gather in a circle on the front school lawn at lunch time. We would praise the Lord together. It was so satisfying and fulfilling to worship God while He ministered to us by His Spirit.

My old school friends quickly rejected me. But my new christian friends made it easy to face rejection. King Solomon said in the Book of Proverbs, "Hang around with a fool and become as a fool, hang around a wise man and become as a wise man".

My old friends did not love God and were a bad influence. You will become like those kind of friends that you hang around with. I began to choose my friends more carefully. I surrounded myself with friends who loved God and wanted to grow spiritually.

Sometimes students would gather around us sitting on the lawn in a circle to see what was going on. Lonnie would then stand up in the middle of the circle and preach the gospel message.

He would conclude his message by inviting the students to make a commitment for Jesus Christ. He would ask those responding to come into the circle and pray with him.

This is how a North American evangelist got saved. He followed one of the christian sisters to our circle at lunch time and heard the gospel message. He went to his knees while resisting God and fighting against the move of the Holy Spirit. He came up born again and speaking in tongues.

I can remember walking in the door of a "pep rally" at school and having the teacher at the door take my bible from me and check it for drugs.

The teacher said that he wasn't believing that anything could change me, and that the bible was a new way of hiding drugs.



I told him about Jesus Christ and what He had done for me. The teacher was not convinced.

Five years later I saw this same teacher talking to pastor Chuck. I went up to him and said, "now do you believe me?". He had become a christian.

In the early days of my christian walk, we were daily experiencing God with actual physical feelings.

It seemed that every time I turned my heart towards heaven, I would get all bathed in a warm glow that would start at the top of my head and migrate to my feet until my whole being was vibrating in the love of God.

I started to rely on these feelings to let me know that I was in God's presence.

This went on for two years. Then suddenly the feelings stopped.

I said, "God you left me!". And He replied, "No, I will never leave you or forsake you. Who told you that I left you?".

I realized my mistake of relying on feelings instead of what the Word of God says. You may get feelings and you may not. God will never leave you or forsake you. He said that He would abide with you even to the ends of the earth.

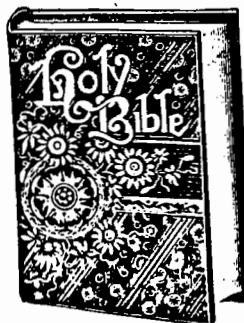
There is nothing that could ever separate you from the love of God. You might think that God doesn't care about you. Scripture says, "Casting all care upon Him for He careth for you. Jesus says, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest unto your souls". Jesus cares so much for you that He gave up His life for you.

Some of my christian brothers and I opened up a store at the Newport Beach pier in 1970. We had an old bible and read the word "Maranatha" in it. We thought that would be a good name for the store. It means "The Lord cometh".

We were very young christians and somehow misunderstood pastor Chuck when he held up a news paper headline about the "six day war" in Isreal. Chuck said, "Any day now Jesus could return for His church". (The rapture). We thought Jesus was coming back that summer.

We wanted to get the Gospel out so we went to a bible and tract society in Los angeles. We told them what we were doing. They responded by giving a lot of tracts and books at no cost to us.

We also went to see a man called brother Michael in Costa



Mesa. He gave us a lot of bibles and tracts at no cost.

We had the first christian book store in the area. Unlike the christian book stores of today we were very blessed by God in that it wasn't necessary for us to charge anything for our books or tracts.

Pastor Chuck always said that when God guides He provides, and he also would say that the calling of God is the enabling of God. We believed him. And just as he told us, God was faithful.

Every single month that we remained open God provided the rent. Sometimes we would open the door on the day that the rent was due and not have it.

We would not let anyone but God know our need. And someone would come up to us and say "God told me to share this with you", and hand us an envelope. We would find the exact amount needed for the rent.

Other times we would find someone had slipped money under the door at night, and it would be just the right amount at just the right time.

We would pray in the back of the store for hours and worship Jesus. Then we would go out on the beaches and share the Lord with others.

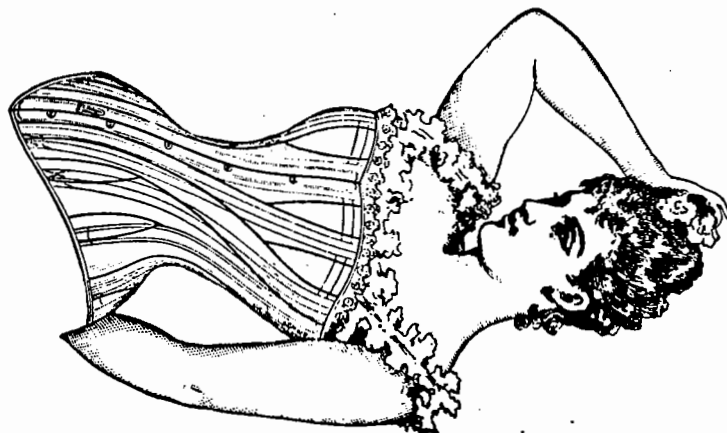
Afterwards, we would meet back at the store for a time of sharing and fellowship. We always invited the new christians to our meetings.

It was an exciting time. We were very concerned with pleasing the Lord with our lives. We wanted to be obedient in every single thing that God showed us. Some of the brothers had a real hard time with all the girls at the beach with their swim suits. We wanted to serve the Lord and not ourselves. So we made a pact with each other to always look in their eyes and not at their bodies when sharing Jesus with them. And we would try hard to avert our eyes when we would see them walking by.

Well we were very sincere and God knew our hearts were in the right place. So he blessed us with a great harvest.

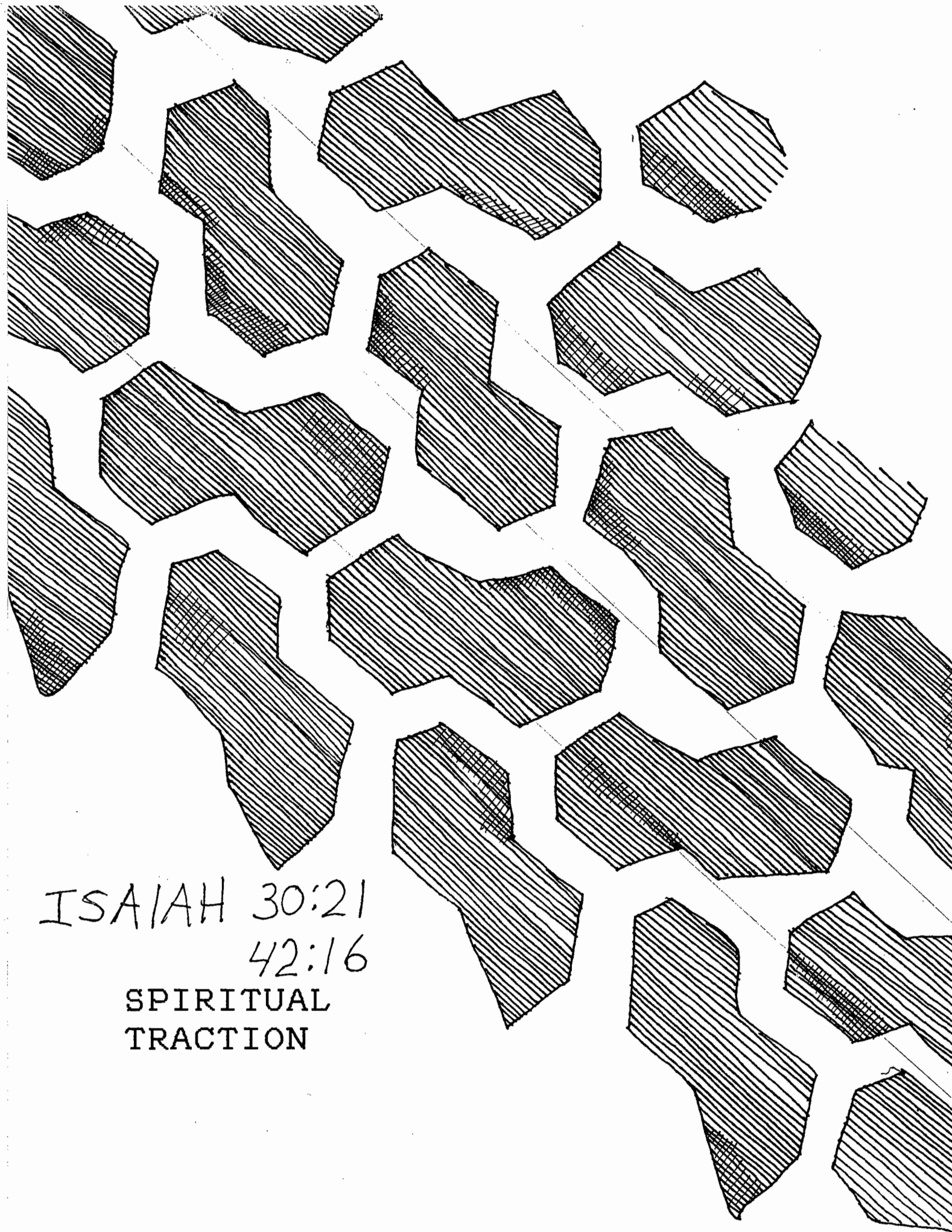
Lust can be very crippling spiritually. If you have a fire and keep throwing logs on it the fire will never go out. But if you stop putting logs on it the fire eventually goes out.

The times of fellowship that we had at this bookstore were the finest christian fellowship that I have ever experienced. I have not come across such dedicated



individuals who sought to live an authentic christianity in any fellowship since. I can honestly say that these young men and women had hearts that were 100% sold out for God. A well known Pastor of a large church came out of this fellowship. I have listened to him on the radio as he also reflected on the genuine sincerity of his early days at our bible bookstore. I am convinced that when everyone is in one accord to serve the Lord, great things take place in their midst.





ISAIAH 30:21

42:16

SPIRITUAL
TRACTION

4

SPIRITUAL TRACTION

Or

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

I can remember going over to the home of some old friends with the intent of sharing the Lord with them. It was a very hot summer day.

Steve and Dave were still into drugs. So I began to tell them about Jesus when I got very thirsty. I asked them for a drink. They said there was some Kool-Aid in the refrigerator.

As I reached for the Kool-Aid the Lord spoke to my heart. He said, "David there is LSD in the Kool-Aid, I want you to go ahead and drink it anyway because it will not have any effect on you".

So I drank it, and continued to talk about Jesus. About an hour later when the drug should have been affecting me, I noticed Steve and Dave looking at each other. I saw the amazed looks on their faces when I showed no signs of being drug influenced. I at this point told them that my God was greater than any drug. I know they believed me.

I left that house praising God for this miracle. It was not the first time He had done this for me.

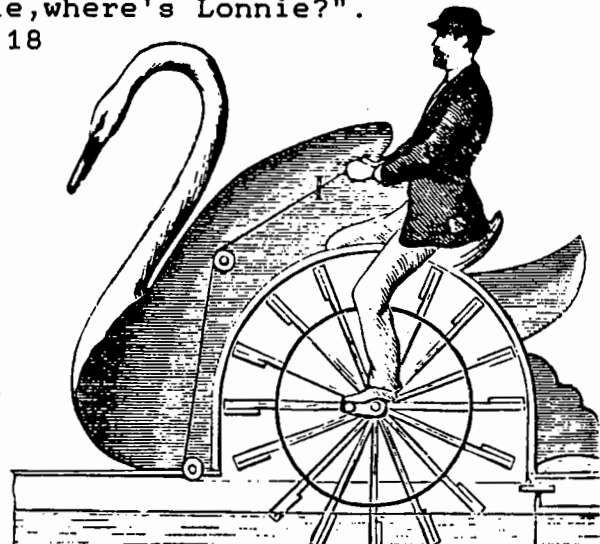
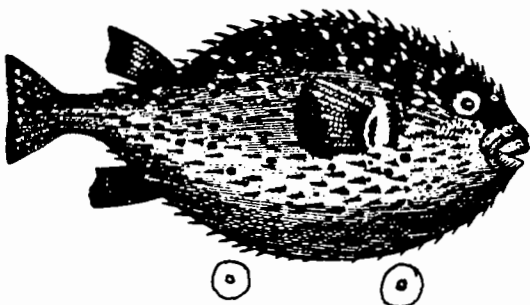
When I first encountered Jesus, Lonnie had placed his hand on my head and said "Feel the peace of Jesus". I was aware of every bit of drug in my system leave me.

The third time that I saw this type of miracle take place was at the Costa Mesa Fish Fry.

In the early seventies Lonnie would stand in the center of the park and gather Christians around him to worship the Lord.

We would sit or stand in a large circle and sing songs as people gathered around to see what was happening. Then Lonnie would preach the Gospel and invite anyone who wanted the Lord in their life to come into the center of the circle. We would pray while Lonnie led them to the Lord.

One night after we had all gone our separate ways, I heard someone saying, "Where's Lonnie, where's Lonnie?".



what we are. Not we our selves. We are but bits of clay in the masters hands. So please understand that when I talk of these things, they were done under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

It is Jesus who heals. It is Jesus who helps those who are in trouble. It is Jesus who waits for you to turn to Him in your hour of need. He will always be there for you when you feel like giving it all up. He will be there for you when you are lonely and think that no one cares. He will be there for you when your heart aches and you don't know where to turn.

Jesus says:

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Jesus is the healer of our souls. The bible says:

Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

1 Peter 5:7

My life was messed up. Jesus gave me stability. He will do the same for you.



No erudition, no purity of diction, no width of mental outlook, no flowers of eloquence, no grace of person can atone for lack of fire. Prayer ascends by fire. Flame gives prayer access as well as wings, acceptance as well as energy. There is no incense without fire; no prayer without flame.

-E.M. Bounds

5
GOSPEL TO GO
OR
THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM

I liked to "hitch-hike" between Laguna Beach and Newport Beach sharing my faith in Jesus with others.

One morning I got up and asked the Lord to please let only those drivers pick me up who needed to hear about Him. Then I made a decision that I was going to determine in my heart that God heard my request and would do it.

I went down to the corner on Coast Hiway and put out my thumb. Immediately a man in a suit who was driving a new station wagon picked me up.

I heard a voice of doubt inside my head say *the Lord must not have heard you because this man obviously does not need the Lord*. I ignored the voice and said to the man, "Hi I am a christian and I prayed to the Lord that only those who needed to hear about Him would pick me up today, would you mind if I read you some scriptures?". He looked at me with a funny look on his face and said he did not mind. I started by reading:

*Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceedeth
out of the mouth of God.*

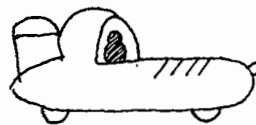
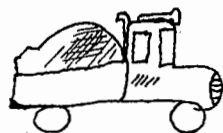
Matthew 4:4

*From a child thou hast known the Holy
scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto
salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 3:15

I read some more scriptures to him and looked over at him. He seemed to be unaffected by them. The voice of doubt in my head said *see I told you so*. I got disappointed and filled with unbelief.

I told the man he could pull over and let me out on the next corner. I looked over at him, as I reached out to shake his his hand to thank him for the ride, and I saw tears



streaming down his face. He said, "Thanks I needed that". I was so encouraged.

I put my thumb out and waited for my next ride. This time an old VW bug pulled over. The voice in my head said *this guy doesn't need the Lord, he has an old car*. I entertained the thought that maybe the voice was right.

I introduced myself as a christian who prayed to be picked up only by those who needed the Lord. I read some scriptures to him. As I continued to read scriptures to him I looked over at him and saw that they were having no effect upon him. So I asked to be let out on the next corner.

As I went to shake his hand I noticed that tears were streaming down his face. He said *thanks man I needed that, I was leaving the old lady (he was a hippie) and never returning*.

Then I noticed a baby in the back seat. He said he was going to turn around and go home and make it work out. I was elated to see God's hand at work.

Events like these strenthened my faith in prayer and the power of God's word. Our God is a good God who is more willing to use you then you are to be used. Make yourself available for the masters usage.

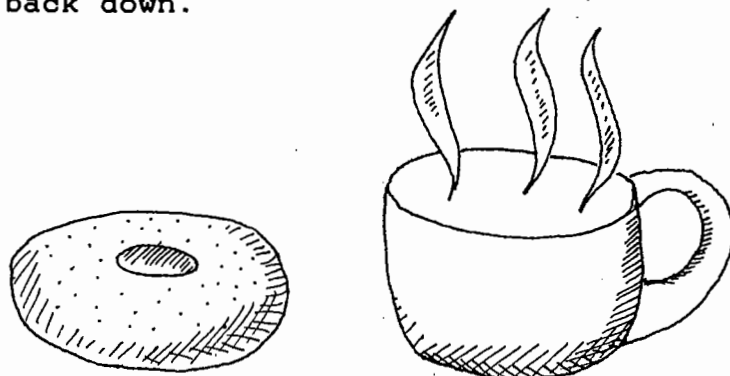
God is still on the throne and will use *you* as you yield yourself up to Him. But when He does use you, don't think for a minute that you have anything to do with what **HE** is doing through you. Many times christians will make the mistake of taking *His* glory to themselves and then wonder why they end up in Ezekiel's spiritual bone yard.

There was a time in my early christian walk with God when I got discouraged about witnessing to others. No one that I encountered seemed to respond to the Gospel message during this period of time.

God had the best way of letting me know the truth. It was on a cold winter night when I was coming back from a fellowship in Long Beach. It was about 2:30 in the morning and I stopped at a donut shop.

As I sat in my old truck with no heater, God began to speak to my spirit. He said *see that man leaning against the building over there, I want you to go talk to him about my Son Jesus*.

I was cold and tired. I thought *Lord do I have to?* I was a brat. *It's freezing and it's cold out there*. The Lord did not back down.



I knew the principle that if I did not obey in every single thing that He required of me, I would eventually stop hearing His voice.

So I jumped out of my truck and went over to the man. I said *Hi I'm a christian. As I was sitting in my truck, the Lord told me to tell you about Jesus Christ.* I then told him about Jesus. He told me that he had peace through meditation. I told him that he could have no peace, because Jesus is the Prince of peace. And if he did not have Jesus in his heart he could have not have true peace. I then said *for me to get out of my truck in this cold and talk to you, somebody somewhere must be praying for you.* And I left.

This was during that period of my christian walk when I was having no results witnessing to others.

Two months later I was returning from a late night fellowship in San Diego when I stopped at a restaurant for a snack.

As I was leaving a man sitting near the exit said *hey do you remember me?* I said that I didn't. He said *I'm the guy you talked to in the parking lot of the donut shop in Long Beach!*

I couldn't have recognized him. He had a major difference in his face. It was his eyes. They had darkness in them when I first talked to him. Now they were full of light from Jesus.

He said that the words that I spoke to him cut him to the heart like a knife. He knew he had no peace. And that his girl friend and her mother were praying for him at the exact time that I spoke to him about Jesus. Praise the Lord!

I needed to be encouraged at that particular point in my walk with God. When I talked to this man the first time about Jesus, it seemed to me as though I were trying to knock over a wall with a rubber band. My words seemed to bounce off him with no effect.

I was wrong in my perception. We have no idea what God is doing when we share His life with others. God used me as an instrument in His hand, even though I served Him reluctantly. I was a brat and He still used me. I had nothing to do with this man getting born again. Jesus did it all.

During this same period of time I had it happen again. I had just come out of my home on Woodland drive, when I

***Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer;
support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting
and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein,
and mercy will come down.***

-John Wesley

spotted a car parked down the drive way.

I could sense the Spirit of God drawing me to this car. I followed His leading and found a lady sitting in the drivers seat deep in thought.

I walked up to her open window and said *Hi, I would like to tell you about Jesus Christ.* Then I told her a little about what Jesus had done for me.

She didn't seem to be receptive, she said that she wished her son could hear what I was saying. And that it would do him a lot of good.

Well after a few minutes of trying to get through to her with the gospel, I gave up. It seemed like it was having no effect on her. So I figured that I was lead to her for planting seed. I said God bless you and walked away.

A few weeks later I was a passenger in someone's car. The driver said *do you mind if I make a quick stop?* We pulled off the Hiway into a trailer park. We got out and went into one of the trailers.

He met a girl who he hadn't seen in a long time. She had just returned from up north. We were in her mothers trailer.

As we were talking a woman came in the door. She stopped and looked at me in disbelief. She walked over and touched me. Then she said that she thought that I was an angel. I asked how she thought that? She said that when she was sitting in her car depressed, she spoke to God and I suddenly appeared at her window. I told her about Jesus and then disappeared.

Now I know that I told her what Jesus had done for me. But somehow she did not remember. She said that what I had said to her was just what she needed to hear. And that I may have saved her life. From my point of view I thought that nothing much was happening. But from her's I was speaking a message of life.

We just do not always know what the Lord is up to. Our part is to respond to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit and make no restrictions upon who is and who isn't hearing the message.

The Lord will move through you inspite of yourself if you yield to Him. We are to be clear channels through which He might flow out to those around us. Be open to His call at any time. Be instant in season and out of season. Jesus will use you.

No man is greater than his prayer life.

-Leonard Ravenhill

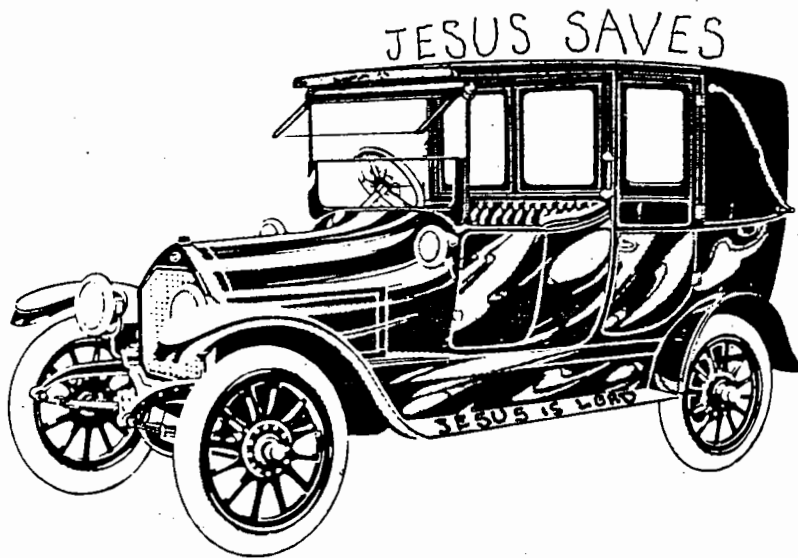
He called you to Himself knowing your good points as well as your bad points, and He still called you. If anything good flows out of our lives it is because of His grace and mercy.

Give God the opportunity to use you. He is just waiting for you to make yourself available. He wants to do through you what He has done through me.

I believe that if you would take time just now to let God know that you are ready to be a tool in His hand. He will use you as He sees fit.

Remember the two twins, *faith and works*. Faith with out works is dead and vise versa. You have to step out and act upon your faith. Bob Mumford in his book *15 Steps Out* says *You can't steer a parked car*. You can't guide a missile if it is not in the air. Faith is not feeling, faith is acting. Acting upon the word of God.

Know that you are called of God. I know if anybody has been called of God, you have been called. Rise up. Rise up in the name of Jesus and preach the gospel and heal the sick.



Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

Luke 9:6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and *healing every where.*

Luke 9:11 And the people, when they knew [it], followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and *healed them that had need of healing.*

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and *healing all that were oppressed of the devil;* for God was with him.

I Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the *gifts of healing* by the same Spirit;

I Corinthians 12:30 Have all the *gifts of healing?* do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

This world hits the trail for hell with a speed that makes our fastest plane look like a tortoise; yet alas few of us can remember the last time we missed our bed for a night of waiting upon God for a world-shaking revival. Our compassions are not moved.

-Leonard Ravenhill

He who fears God fears no man. He who kneels before God will stand in any situation.

-Leonard Ravenhill

6
THE LORD WHO HEALS
Exodus 15:26
OR
DOCTOR JESUS
Luke 4:40

I was in the habit of going to the miracle services that Kathryn Kuhlman held once a month at the Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles. I was drawn by the power of God that manifested during those great meetings.

Most people talked "God talk" but rarely demonstrated any power behind their word's. I find a lot of the church of today is without power.

Kathryn would speak of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a way that was intimate. You could tell she loved Jesus. She would look up and smile as though she were looking at the Lord on His throne. You dared not say one word, lest you disturb them.

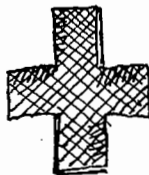
After the teaching of the word, she would start calling out healings that were taking place all over the auditorium. I would see people reacting to the move of God in our midst. I witnessed all kinds of physical healings. There were also other kinds of healings taking place. Broken lives were repaired. We were in a heavenly atmosphere with a cloud of glory flowing through the room.

Kathryn believed that there is healing in the atonement of Christ. (Have you ever noticed that when Jesus says *preach* He usually adds *and heal*?)

You knew that God was almighty. He got your attention real fast. Once you taste of the real thing you are never satisfied with anything less.

I hear many men of God come up with reasons why God is not moving in their midst. Most reasons are just rationalization which they themselves don't really believe.

God wants to confirm His word with signs and wonders following. (*Romans 15:19*) Healings bring attention to Himself. But most of all it is within the very nature of God to heal. Jesus has never turned away anyone who came to Him



for healing. Jesus said:

I must work the works of Him that sent me.
John 9:4

Jesus said that the works you see Him doing you see the Father doing. Jesus also said that the Father and I are one.

Healing is an ignored christian function. Only in one place did Jesus go where He could not do many works because of "their unbelief". It was His home town of Bethlehem. Are our gatherings together going to be like Bethlehem? Are we going to limit God by our unbelief? Let's believe God is here and He wants to walk among us and do miracles and work wonders.

Let the people live! Stop teaching unbelief! Its interesting that those who knew Jesus so well in the town where He was born were the ones whose hearts were full of unbelief.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face and soon the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

People who sit in the presence of artificial tanning booth lights get a yellowy kind of tan. People who sit in the presence of the sun get a brownish tan. People can tell what kind of light you sit under. If you sit in the presence of the Lord you get a heavenly glow that people can tell. Spend time in the Lord's presence just sitting at His feet adoring Him.

The bible is a book about healings. God's nature is to heal. (Psalm 103:2-3) Jehovah-Rapha is a Hebrew word meaning *The Lord Healer* which can be found in Exodus 15:26. This same title is translated *Physican* in Jeremiah 8:22. Healing is the will and the desire of Doctor Jesus. (Matthew 12:15, 14:14). Are you in need of healing just now? Go to Jesus, He will Heal you.

I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES
BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN GOD.

Kathryn Kuhlman

When we go to God by prayer, the devil knows we go to fetch strength against him, and therefore he opposeth us all he can.

-R. Sibbs

The **PEOPLE** of the **NEW TESTAMENT** lived in an age which **EXPECTED MIRACLES**.

There is a kind of rationalism which kills miracles. When miracles are dead, miraculous things cease to happen.

We would receive more miracles, if we stopped insisting that miracles do not happen, and began **EXPECTING THEM TO HAPPEN**.

Our world has become materialistic; we are skeptical of any experience that cannot be measured, weighed and verified by everyone else. We often assume that only the rational exists. We feel that things need to be understood in order to be real. Our assumptions and preconceived notions about miracles need to be set aside.

Recall one of the saddest text of the bible:

"And He (Jesus) did not many miracles there *because of their* unbelief. (Matthew 13:58).

The root word for unbelief in this verse is "apistia", meaning literally; distrust.

Mark says in his gospel 6:6:

"And He (Jesus) marvelled because of their unbelief (apistia).

Jesus used this same word when His disciples asked why they could not cast out demons:

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief...". Matthew 17:20.

Paul the Apostle used the same word in Hebrews 3:12: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an *evil heart of unbelief...*".

Paul says the Children of Israel could not enter in to God's rest because of their unbelief (apistia). Hebrews 3:19.

As you can see, lack of faith and distrust robs us of God moving in our lives with His miracles and is regarded as evil by Him (Remember Hebrews 3:12).

Perhaps we are not seeing New Testament miracles in this our day and age because of our apistia. We should turn off our cultural limits and biases and be open to the greatness and power of the Supreme in all power and authority.

Kathryn Kuhlman always opened up her TV and radio program with the statement, "I believe in miracles". Lets do the same and like Oral Roberts says, "expect a miracle".

The bible is telling the truth when we read about all the miracles that Jesus performed in the Gospels and in the book of Acts. But you would not know that by looking at the church today. We do not seem to allow Jesus to heal and perform miracles in our midst.

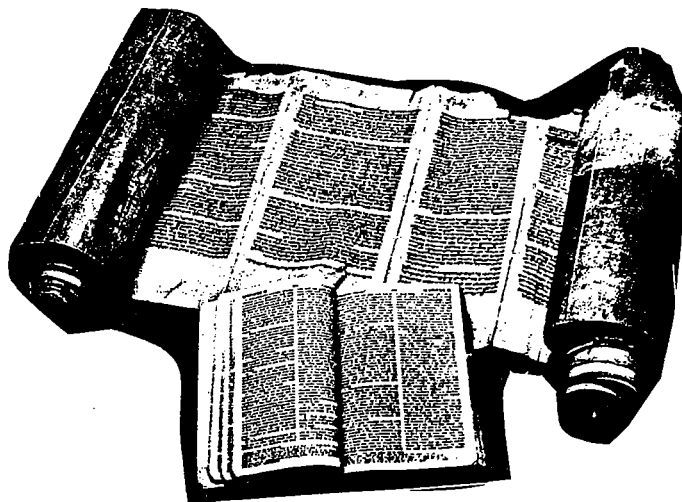
Jesus has not changed any since the writing of the bible. He is the same today, yesterday and forever. Then why is He not doing the same today as He did in the bible days? It has got to be us that are preventing Him.

Why do we not expect miracles? What is preventing us from believing?

Start to trust Jesus and believe Him for miracles in your life today. You can start by saying:

Dear Jesus I give you permission to work miracles in my life today. I believe in miracles and I expect them because every where you go you work them. And I do trust in you.

Amen.



God Himself became a man, to give mankind a concrete, definite, tangible idea of what kind of Person to think of when we think of God. God is like Jesus. Jesus was God incarnate in human form.

As a Man, He lived the most strangely Beautiful Life ever known. He was the Kindest, Tenderest, Gentlest, most Patient, most Sympathetic man that ever lived. He loved people. He hated to see people in trouble. He loved to Forgive. He loved to Help. He wrought marvelous miracles to feed hungry people. For relieving the suffering He forgot to take food for himself. Multitudes, weary, planarians, and heart-sick, came to Him, and found healing and relief. It is said of Him, and no other, that if all the deeds of Kindness that He did were written, the world would not contain the books. That is the kind of man Jesus was. That is the Kind of Person God is.

Go out of the way to please others. Be determined to be kind and helpful to everyone.

Be truthful.

Be optimistic, no matter what comes.

Make a great effort always to give somebody a lift whenever possible.

Radiate sunshine, hope, good will.

Scatter flowers as you go along.

Enjoy each day. Live the present to its utmost, and do not wait for tomorrow before you begin to enjoy these things. This is what opens wide the door to happiness.

You must believe in the religion of love.

Love for everybody, everywhere, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, the well and the afflicted. That's the religion of love. It satisfies the heart. It's deep enough for the soul, and broad enough for the whole world and everybody.

The religion of love is the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You pass through this world but once. Any kindness you can show any human being, don't defer from it. Be thankful for each day. Get out of it all the good that you can, and give as much good as you can.

THATS THE RELIGION OF LOVE.

KATHRYN KUHLMANS PERSONAL BELIEF IN HER OWN WORDS.

I sought for a man.

-Ezekiel 22:30

Elias was a man.

-James 5:17

7

FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

Jeremiah 17:13-14

Or

THE NAKED MAN

John 21:7

We were nailing the roof sheeting down on the main chapel at Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa when I heard the Lord talking to my spiritual man. He told me to go to Palm Springs. I told some of the guys who were working along side of me. We decided to leave at 3:00 in the morning for some reason.

We arrived when it was still dark out. We were at a place called the "Devils punch bowl". This is part of the Cleveland National Forest where there is a series of waterfalls called the "Three Sisters" and many cool pools of water. This area has high sheer cliffs that drop 1000 feet to the bottom. The trail up the falls is not easy to find and many people have been seriously injured trying to climb it. This place earned its name because of its dangerous trails. The local Indians say that it is haunted with spirits.

Starting from the bottom fall we found a narrow trail leading upward. Day was breaking as we followed this trail. I was frightened as I looked down to the bottom from my narrow perch.

As the heat of the day came (It was in the summer at about 116 degrees) we stopped by a pool of water. I took all my clothes off and jumped in. After I got out I sat on a log.

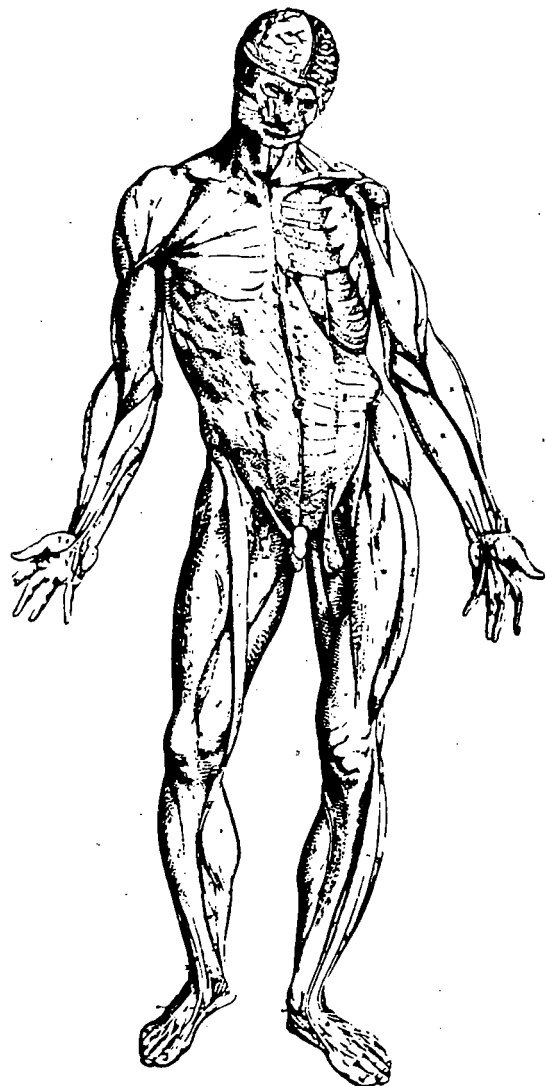
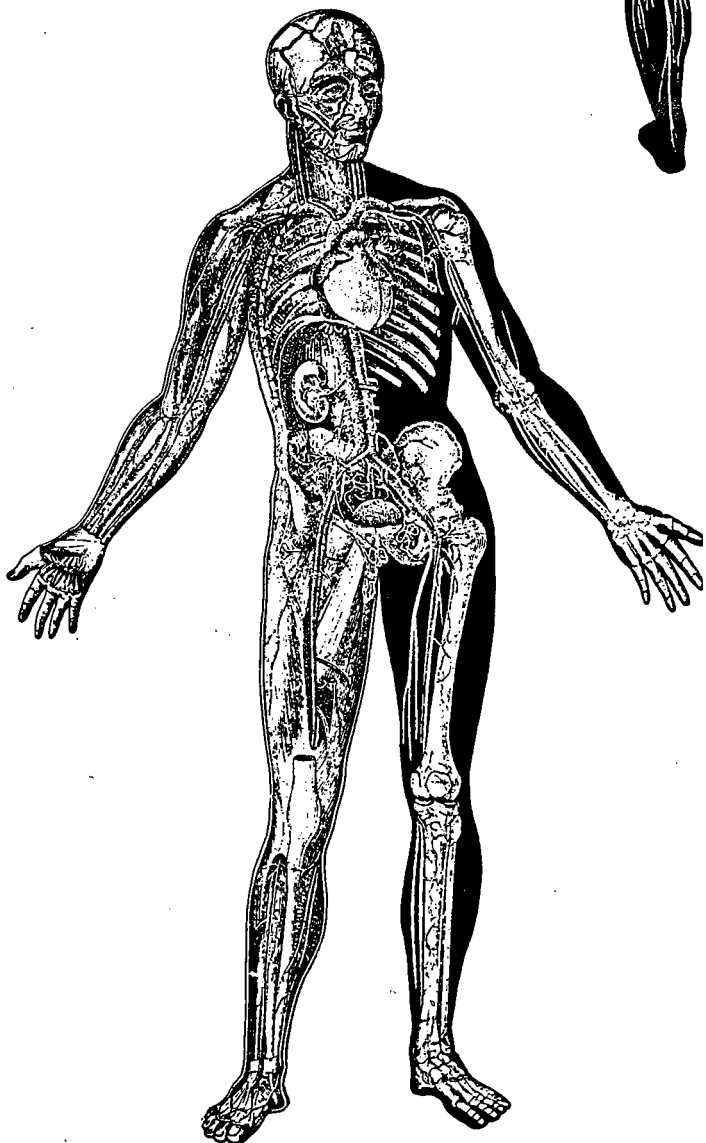
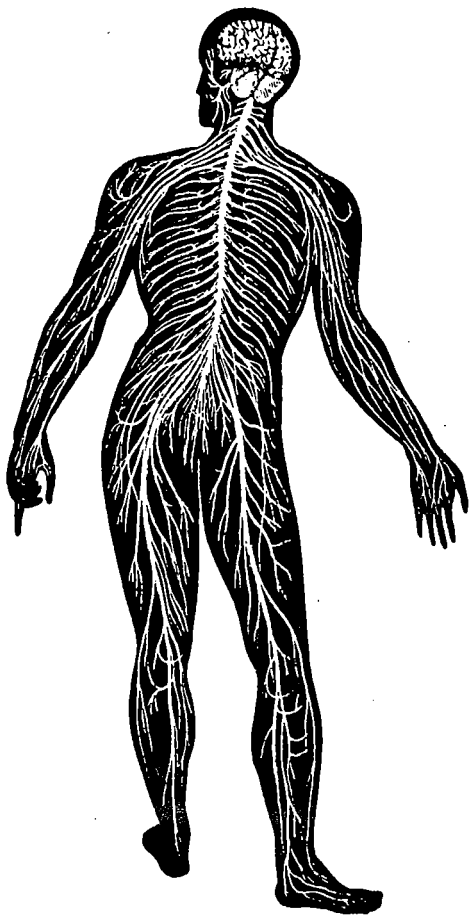
Two hikers were coming up the trail. When they got to me they also sat on the log to rest. You have to understand that this was one of the favorite hang outs of the hippies. So these men had already passed hundreds of nude hippies on the way up. One more nude hippie was not going to stumble them.

One of the men started talking to me about how there was something strange going on and he didn't know what it was. I told him that was funny he should say that, because these were the last days. And I began to tell him all about the prophecies concerning the last days.

28

One praying man stands as a majority with God! Today God is bypassing men-not because they are too ignorant, but because they are too self-sufficient. Brethren, our abilities are our handicaps, and our talents our stumbling blocks!

-Leonard Ravenhill



Then I asked him if he was ready to accept the Lord into his life. The other man said *hey what about me?! I didn't realize that the Lord was working on him also.* I lead both of them in the sinners prayer. Then I baptized them in the pool of water. Then I told them about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and laid my hands on them and they began to speak in tongues.

The Lord did all of this through a naked man. If He can use a naked man He can use you with your clothes on. I had nothing to stand behind, only the Lord. And He was all I needed. You know once a blind man came to Jesus naked and He healed him. (Mark 10:50).

Be instant in season and out of season. There is never a better time to share the Lord then the present moment. You might say to yourself that the conditions are not right. That does not matter. What matters is that you trust in the Lord to work all things out for the good of those who love the Lord.

Those two went on their way born again and singing in tongues. All because God cared enough to take some one off a roof and cause all parties involved to meet beside a cool pool of water. That He might share His rivers of living water.

God spoke to me on a Sunday morning. He said:

Behold I will do a new thing. Will you not be aware of it? I will make streams in the desert and rivers in the wilderness and a people whom I have formed shall praise me

Isaiah 43:18-21

This scripture fits what happened to these two men out in a wilderness place.

There is no waiting for the Spirit. The Spirit of God is already here. He wants you to believe and act on your belief. God can be trusted to fulfill His word. Humankind are formed by the Lord and they will praise Him when His living water streams from out of your innermost being on to them. Give God the glory, great things He has done!

True prayer is a time-eater. In the elementary stages, the clock seems to drag; later, as the soul gets used to the holy exercise, time flies when we pray.

-Leonard Ravenhill

8
**WORKERS TOGETHER
WITH HIM
OR
PICK THE WEEDS!**

I was invited by a christian couple to go to a company Christmas party given by the wife's employer.

The party was in a wealthy neighborhood on the waterfront in Huntington Harbor.

Before leaving we prayed that the Lord would use us as He saw fit. When we arrived the party was in full swing. The adults were standing around with drinks in their hands and talking to one another.

I noticed that the young people were coming and going from one of the rooms. So I went into that room. Seated inside in a big circle were young people smoking pot.

I sat down and waited to see what the Lord was going to do. One of the kids started talking about how bad it was that the adults did not smoke pot. Another said that he meditated and they should also.

Then in walked an older man who sat down with his drink in his hand. He started to talk about music and meditation.

I saw my opening and started to share a christian song with them. I don't remember the song but they learned it and we sang it together. I do remember that it was a song of praise to God.

As we were singing the Spirit of God fell upon everyone in the room. The adults started coming into the room to see what was happening as they were drawn by the Lord. The lord was moving on hearts. The christian couple and I lead most of those people to Jesus Christ that evening.

God will always use any vessel who is available. There is never a situation where He can not get through. Every situation is an exciting opportunity to see how Jesus will get the victory.

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my
Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.*

Zechariah 4:6

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God is not looking for vessels of silver. He is not looking for vessels of gold. He is looking for yielded vessels.

-Aimeee Semple McPherson

Yes the Lord did it by His Spirit. But this scripture doesn't mean that He wants you to sit and do nothing.

For so many years I thought this scripture expected me to be passive. Nothing ever happened. It's like two farmers who sat on their front porch and lamented to the Lord that weeds were growing up with their crops, and would He please do something about it. God sent an angelic messenger to tell them that He had given them each two good hands and strong backs and He expected them to pull the weeds.

The "boiling hot" effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16

The prayer is an activity on our part.

Paul the Apostle told Timothy to:

"Stir up the gift of God" that was in him...

2 Timothy 1:16

The "stirring ups" are an activity on our part. We have a human responsibility. Remember you can't steer a parked car.

let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.

Romans 12:6

We can step out in faith and we should.

Far to long the people of God have sat and waited for God to "pick the weeds".

I have found that God will always meet you when you rise up and set out by faith. Faith without "activity" is dead, it accomplishes nothing. When you got saved you were "active".

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13

You had to "call". Don't just sit and expect God to do everything. If you do, nothing will happen and you will wonder why your walk with God has become so dry and dusty.

Some would teach that you have to be still and wait. Well I waited for ten years before I realized that God does not want any robots or cookie cutter Christianity. He wants co-workers.

We then, as workers together with Him...
2 Corinthians 6:1

CO-WORKERS

I was painting in a home and praying in tongues for the family who lived there. Each day I would pray, "Come Holy Spirit, come and greet everyone at the property line. Save the family who lives here".

About the third day of painting in this home the woman of the home came up to me and said, "I want you to tell me the prayer that you pray?". I was stunned, there was no way that she could know that I was praying for her and her family. In fact I was praying silently in tongues.

As I was pondering what to answer, she asked me again. I was thinking to myself *This woman is very sensitive, to even know that I was praying.* Then she asked *Tell me how to ask Jesus Christ into my heart?*

So I started to tell her about salvation when I was told by the Lord to just lead her in the "sinners prayer". After she prayed she looked like a new person. She said thank you and left to pick up her kids from school.

I asked the Lord what just happened because nothing like this ever happened to me before. He replied, *You asked me to come and I came. You asked me to save and I saved. We are co-workers.* I would encourage you to taste and see that the Lord is good.

May young men and women here consecrate their lives and be trained for missionary work, then sail the seven seas bearing the message of Jesus of Nazareth to the ends of the earth. -Prayer by Aimee Semple McPherson at the dedication of Angelus Temple in 1923

One friend reported that Kathryn (Kuhlman) attended night classes at Aimee Semple McPherson's Bible school, Lighthouse of International Foursquare Evangelism (L.I.F.E.). And Rolph McPherson remembered her attending services to hear Aimee preach-something Kathryn would never admit, just as she would never admit going to Simpson Bible Institute or L.I.F.E.-Wayne E. Warner

9

DESERT MINISTRY OR WEATHER SHOCKER OF THE SUMMER

I longed to gather with some good brothers in the Lord and worship God outdoors. Outside and away from any control other than the Holy Spirit.

I found a brother who also wanted to do the same. We found a third brother who also wanted to join us. We went out into the desert far away from the distractions and works of man.

We spent the first day away from each other waiting on the Lord. When we gathered together that night around the camp fire the Spirit of God came and blessed us with prophecy and personal ministry.

I know this sounds strange but we became aware of two ten foot tall angels in our midst. I want to try and describe what I was experiencing. Have you ever had your eyes closed and felt someone come up along side you and without opening your eyes you could feel them near you. And then you open your eyes and see that you were right about someone standing near you.

That is what I was experiencing when I became aware of two tall people standing near me. I opened my eyes and saw no one there but I still could feel their presence. I sensed that we were in the presence of ministering spirits from God.

We got down on our knees and repented with tears, for not being more the men God would have us to be.

When we stood up we received from God a fresh infilling of His Spirit and started to laugh. We broke through all barriers and loved one another with true *agape* unconditional love of God.

We sang in tongues, we sang in English and we shouted with joy. For the pitch black darkness of the "wilderness" place was lighted up with the light and life of God. It was out here that God ministered and touched dry and dusty soil of our lives with living water in great abundance.

We started to do this once a month for about three and a half years. Sometimes we would have a large group and

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That Sunday morning was my first introduction to the Holy Spirit. I knew nothing about the third person of the Trinity, but He came with great conviction upon me. And standing there, holding that Methodist hymnal in my hands, I began to shake with great conviction. I was only fourteen years old-so I did the only thing I knew to do. I stepped out from where I was standing and went to the front pew, sat down in the corner, and wept. Not out of sorrow, but because of the great feeling that came upon me...I knew that in that exact moment, I had been born again...In that moment, Jesus Christ became very real to my heart.

-Kathryn Kuhlman

sometimes only us.

We have seen God bring to us men who thought they knew all about God only to see Him shake them into a true relationship with Himself.

A lot of the time men came who were knowledgeable in the Logos (word of God) but lacking in a close personal relationship with God. Jesus would manifest Himself through the power of His Spirit to these men.

Not everyone who came out to the desert would have a spiritual experience. Some were afraid to be away from civilization for the first time in their lives. And satan would use their fear of snakes and scorpions to rob them of God's blessings.

Yes some men should have stayed at home because they would "quench" the Holy Spirit with their unbelief. Jesus was a "man's man". Being out in the wilderness is not for everybody, but yet we have seen some men change into "mighty" men of God out in the desert.

We discovered that some of us had gotten into *textualism* in our relationship and lost the zeal for God we once had when we first came to Him. Sometimes we think that we know all about the things of God and think that there can be no new thing. But there can and will be!

We have found that the freedom of being out in the desert and shouting out to God can set us free. Not that the shouting has anything to do with setting us free but we do enjoy doing it now and then.

God is good and kind. He will speak to us and minister to us when we look to Him with a sincere look of faith. (Psalms 121:1-2, 123:1-2).

When we get home from these outings we find that we have a renewed sense of God's presence and an anointing on our lives.

People can tell when you spend time with Jesus. There is a fire burning within every believer.

He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with FIRE...

Matthew 3:11

When we gather together we fan to a flame that which is inside of us for Jesus.

But, Oh, the Call of God was on my soul and I could not get away from it. For this cause I had been brought into the world! With each throbe of my heart I could hear a voice saying: Preach the Word! Preach the Word! Will you go? Will you go? and I would throw myself on my knees, tearfully sobbing.

-Amiee Semple McPherson

When we fail to meet together that flame slowly goes out until only a small pilot light remains. Perhaps you are experiencing this today. Maybe your spiritual fire has been extinguished from neglect of the things of God. It is a very dangerous place to be. Remember Jesus says:

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

You want to be excited for God but feel cold inside. Be of good cheer. It only takes a spark to get a fire going. Jesus turns up the heat.

When water sits with no outflow or inflow it always gets stagnant. Give out what you do have, share the love of God. Then you will be restored, it's that simple.

Don't be a needy christian all the time. Start to look around you to the needs of others and meet them if you can. Give and it will be given unto you. As you try to help others draw close to the Lord and He will draw close to you. And when you get close to Jesus you will feel the heat.

I have had my cold moments in my walk with God. All through out my christian walk I have gotten promises from God for my life. The same promises have come at different times and through many servants of God.

God has told me that the first shall be last and the last shall be first. I will use you in the latter days. The latter rain shall be greater than the former rain.

I have always been aware of the call of God upon my life. I was ordained by God the minute I came to Him. My official ordination is from God and not man. My ministry has taken place outside the "camp". Not within.

A Pastor prophesied over me on 9-16-89 out in the desert. This is the prophecy:

David. Yes I have called you! Yes I have gifted you! Yes I have anointed you! You will soon walk in the office of Prophet, for I have ordained it. Your gifts will increase and you will walk (function) in your calling! For I have ordained it. And it will come to pass soon. You are a chosen



vessel, my anointed one, my beloved, saith the Father.

It is good to receive from God. I have been getting prophecy of this nature from God all my christian walk. But at times it is hard to be patient waiting for the coming to pass of these things.

It was just such a time when I was complaining to God out in the desert one day. It was in the summer of 1988, July 16 to be exact. It was hot. The temperature was 116 degrees.

I was sitting out on a dry cracked lake bed. I was upset and asking God why I wasn't being used like I felt in my heart. I yearned for greater service for Him.

This went on for some time. Then God spoke to me. He said *David, see the dry cracked ground. Your life is like that with me and without me.* Then He said *David, see that dried out porous bone, pick it up. I did. Now throw it down. I did and it shattered into pieces. That is your life with me and without me.*

Jesus was letting me know that if any good thing came from my life it was all because of Him. Jesus will not share His glory with another. We are only channels through which the life of God can flow. If we dare touch the glory of God our anointing will cease.

Jesus said:

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

When a branch is cut from the vine and laid along side of the vine it can not and will not bear fruit. It has to remain a part of the vine to remain fruitful. Touching the glory of God is the same as cutting yourself off from the life of God.

I don't want to end up in Ezekiel's "bone yard" the spiritual junk yard for cut branches. I want to be used of God. I want to set people on fire in their hearts for Jesus Christ.

If there is any good thing coming from my life, it is only because of Jesus Christ. I give Him all the glory because



all the glory is His.

The day on July 17, I was still feeling upset because I had all these promises and no fulfillment. I got up at 4:30 AM and walked out on the dry lake bed. I lifted my heart up to God and yearned to be used more.

We broke camp and drove to a place called the monument. When we got there the Spirit of God fell on me. I began to cry deeply. As the anointing of God came on me I found myself running up to the top of the monument (a small mountain of granite) shouting out in a loud voice, "**Father cause it to rain in the drought stricken bread basket of America, (at this time there was a severe drought) and let it be a sign to these men that they are called of God to be Prophets, and that their prayers are effective and powerful to the pulling down of the strongholds of the enemy. I ask in Jesus mighty name!**".

As I was prophesying I remember thinking to my self *now you have gone too far. You are being way to specific. You are out on a limb.* Because of this I was troubled within as we drove home.

A few days later, as I was reading the Los Angeles Times of July 19, I came across an article in the commodities section. It said:

Unexpectedly heavy weekend rains in the drought stricken Midwest sent grain and soybean futures plummeting Monday...The weekend showers in the farm belt should help stressed soybean plants recover and halt the deterioration of the corn crop...the steepest one-day soybean price declines in the exchange's history...A train wreck and the biggest weather shocker of the summer.

Needless to say I was stunned as I read this. God had made it to rain in accordance with the prayer that was offered up. It was a wonderful response of a loving God who hears us and answers our prayers.

He not only made it to rain as a sign to the men present at the offering up of the prayer, that they were called to be prophets. He also brought down the strong hold of the commodities market. It was the steepest one day drop in soybean price in the exchanges history!

God wanted these men to know that they are prophets. I believe God wants the office of the prophet to be restored.





GETTING OUR HEARTS RIGHT BEFORE THE LORD AT "REPENTANCE POINT".



PRAYER CIRCLE IN THE WINTER DESERT ON A SUNDAY MORNING.

Faith refuses to see (as reason for doubting) anything contrary to the word of God. It sees the health and strength bequeathed to us as already belonging to us because of the death of the testator. By His death the will is in force. Jesus says to us, "As thou hast believed (past tense), so be it unto thee."...

The farmer has to get the sowing of his seed into the past tense before it is possible to reap a harvest; and the permanent receiving of God's Word-the "imperishable seed" into the "good ground" of our heart, thus getting it into the past tense, is necessary before the seed can begin its work...

Believing that God has already heard our prayer before the blessing is manifested, is the soil in which the "imperishable seed"-(His Word) grows and bears fruit. Believing that God has heard our prayer gets the seed into the ground, and then, (and not before) it goes to work...

Jesus, at the grave of Lazarus, said, while Lazarus was still dead, "I thank thee that thou hast heard me." The sick who pray for healing are to say before the healing materializes, "Father, I thank Thee that thou hast heard me." The prayer of faith is believing our prayer is heard before the answer materializes-before the answer is manifested. "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petition that we desire of Him"...

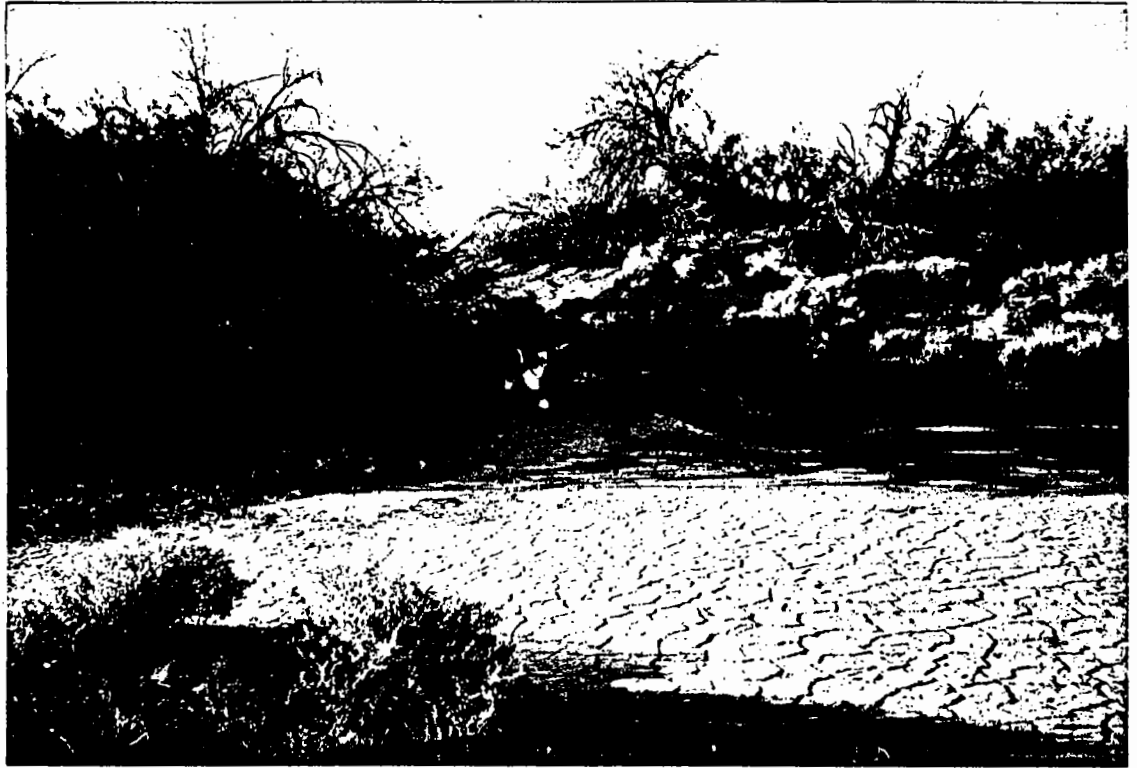
-F.F. Bosworth

The Bible says that in the last days when wicked men do wickedly, "the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." Not those who sing about God, not those who write or preach about God, but they that know their God shall be strong and do exploits.

-Leonard Ravenhill

"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit". Right here we have the secret of the astonishing "success story" of those first Christians. Such power from heaven was released in Jerusalem, that, like a boulder dropped into a pond, it was to set in motion waves of blessing which would ultimately break on earth's farthest shores.

-Arthur Wallis



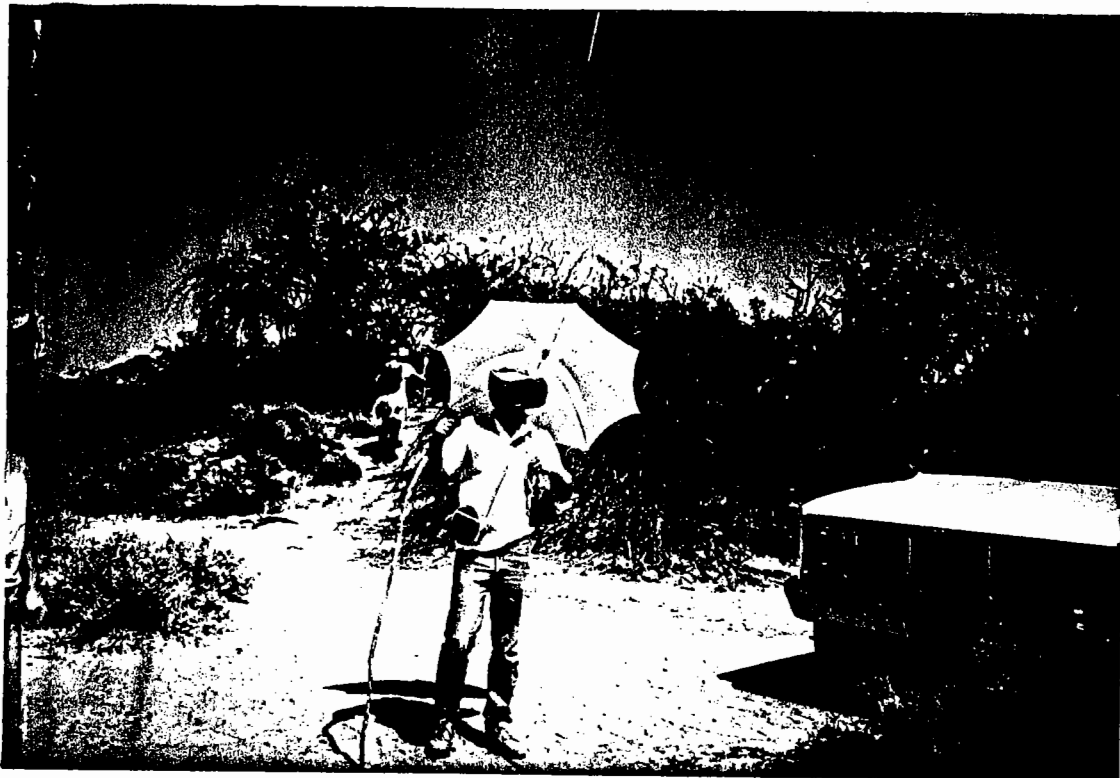
THE DRY PARCHED GROUND OF THE DESERT WITH ITS CRACKED SURFACE.



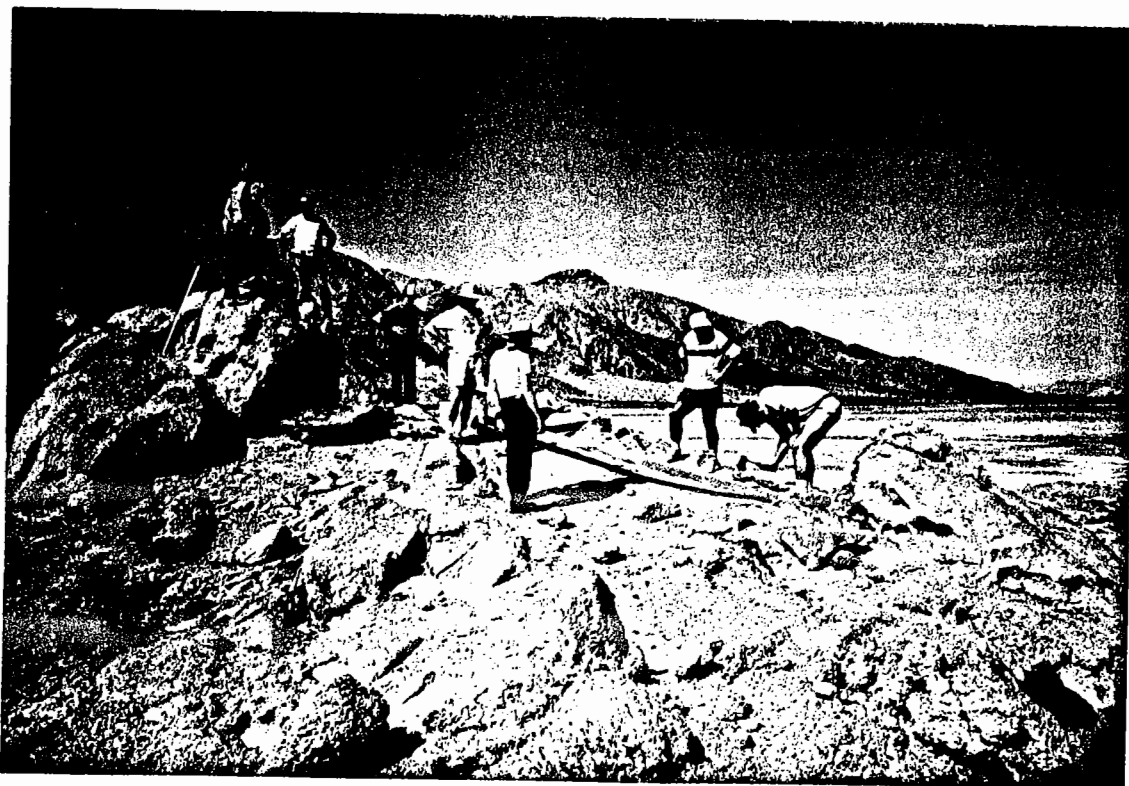


IN THE DESERT YOU HAVE A SENSE OF BEING ALONE WITH GOD.

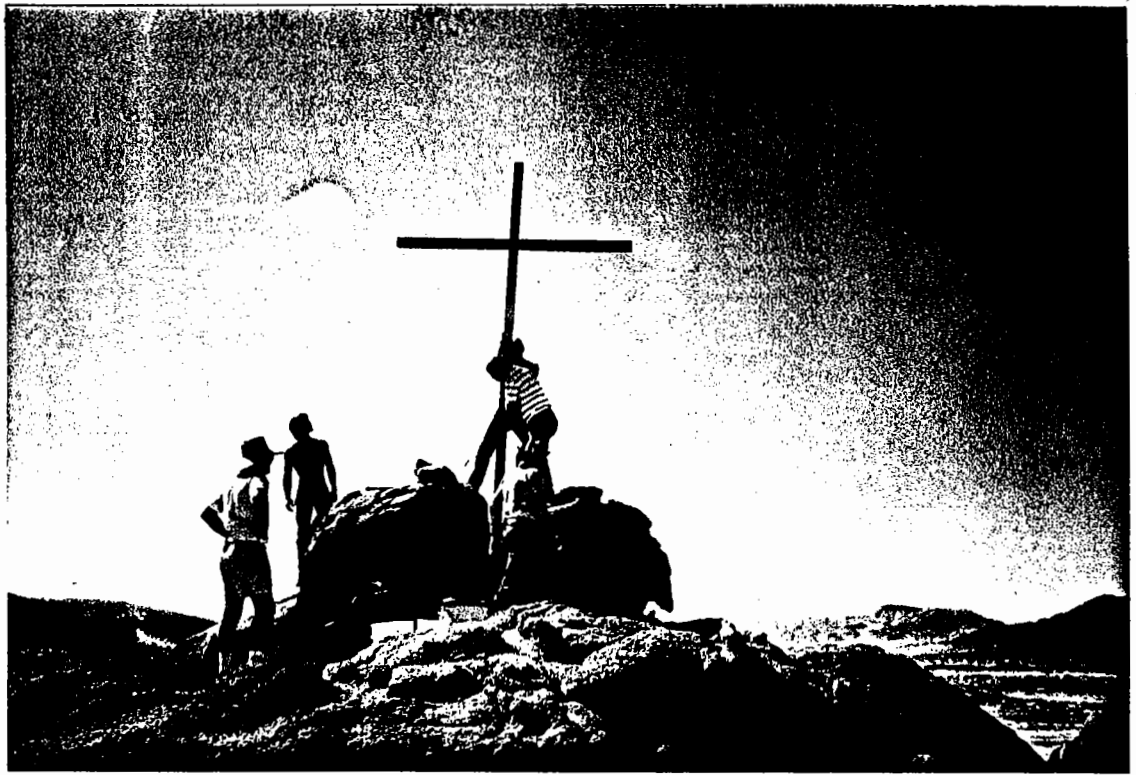




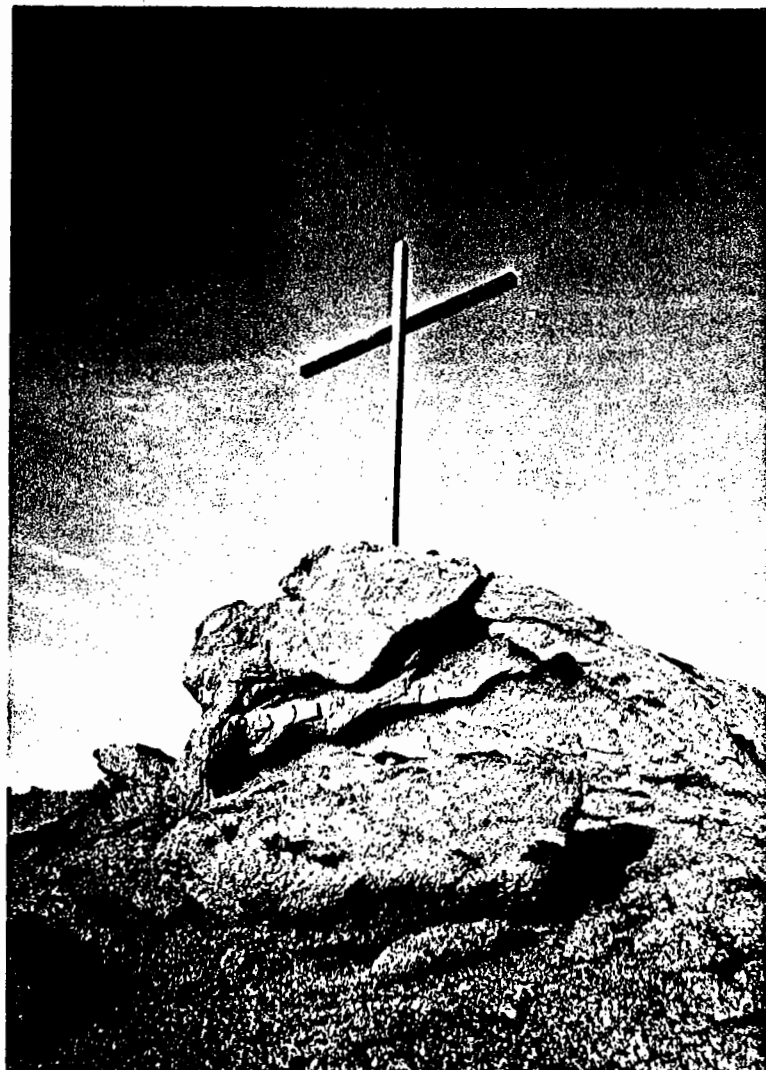
THIS IS A PICTURE OF ME IN 116 DEGREE HEAT WITH MY "DESERT KIT".



SOME OF THE MEN OF GOD ABOUT TO ERECT A CROSS IN THE DESERT.



THE CROSS WE ERECTED AT SODA DRY LAKE COULD BE SEEN FOR MILES.



10

COLD HEARTS

OR

GOD MOVES ON RUSSIA

A remodel contractor told me about a castle that Hitler had used in Austria to house his SS troops. Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa was sending tradesmen over to Austria to help Hans Sandstrom of Alpenland Ministries restore and renovate the castle for a move of God that was beginning in Yugoslavia. This was in April and May of 1989. I did not want to go. But Jesus told me to go. He said that He would use me if I went.

Upon our arrival in Millstatt Austria, I was overwhelmed by the peace of God that abided in this place. You just wanted to sit down and enjoy this peace. How could a place that had such evil men (Hitler and his troops) in it be so peaceful?

Our group set to work right away. I am a licensed painting contractor so I was in charge of the painting.

Hans told us that the Lord had given him a vision of the barriers around communist Yugoslavia coming down. He wanted this place to be made ready to instruct those who would come out of Yugoslavia about the Lord Jesus.

We got to minister to brothers and sisters, who had come from all over north America to help in the work. I had not seen the Holy Spirit moving like this since the early seventies. We were like one big family. Some young brothers from Yugoslavia had come to help also. They were very much on fire for the Lord.

One Sunday morning we had a worship service in the dining room. A brother, who traveled around sharing the gospel in Communist countries like Paul the Apostle, taught from the word about the love of God. The Spirit of God fell upon our meeting. I began to weep within. Soon I could not hold back the tears no matter how hard I tried. The Spirit of the Lord was crying within me. (John 11:35). I tried not to cry, but then I realized that I was trying to quench the Spirit.

I let Him have free course through my yielded life. He sobbed without reservation for a few minutes. Then I got a prophetic word, "*The hearts of my people in America have grown so cold*". Then the Holy Spirit wept some more.

Afterwards there was a quite stillness as the impact of the Lord touched hearts. Some thought that I was just being emotional. Some thought that the Lord had manifested Himself. Others did not know what to think.

I knew that it was the Holy Spirit. I could never have thought up such a thing, much less cry in front of this gathering, and drawing attention to myself. I would always deflect any attention to myself back to the Lord. The last thing I would want is to touch the Glory of the Lord and lose my anointing.

I was troubled by those who thought that it was me and that I was just being emotional. But the Lord was gracious and kind to me by showing me that when ever He spoke publicly there were always several reactions to what He spoke. Some believed that He was the Son of God, others that He had a demon, and still others that He was just a good man. When He moved through me He got mixed reactions from those who heard.

While in Austria we had a day off from work. Everyone had gone to Spittal to go shopping. I stayed behind and went up to the top of the castle turret which is called the "Prayer tower".

I began to worship the Lord in spiritual songs. Since I thought that there was no one around I sang freely and loudly. The Holy Spirit came upon me. I then began to prophecy.

The Lord addressed the surrounding countries through me, Austria is pretty much in the heart of the communist countries.

He proclaimed who He is and challenged anyone to stop Him from what He was about to do. He said to let my people that I have created go! He also said that this place that was once known for evil (The castle) would now be known for good. He said that He was going to break down the walls that held His people captive. He was proclaiming His intent to set His people free.

I enjoyed this time with the Lord, then I went downstairs.

I passed one of the plumbers as I was leaving. He asked me if that was me singing upstairs. I said yes and walked away. I thought that I was alone, but was not. I imagine he got quite a jolt. It was a powerful time of prayer and worship.

Later I had forgotten about the prophesying in the prayer tower until I read in the papers about how Yugoslavia had removed its barbed wires from its borders. Then like dominos countries started to lose their grips upon their people. They wanted freedom and were getting it.

I was overwhelmed when I read about the iron curtain coming down, and Russia falling apart.

I am totally convinced that God has His people in the right places at the right time to proclaim His present truth.

God spoke His intent through me in the prayer tower and then He performed it and no one could stop Him.

There are many who God uses in this manner. I have spoken to a prophet who God directed to prophesy about the "Desert Storm" war before it took place. God had him dip American flags in tea and prophesy. Then the war took place.

I know that some who are reading this now are in the process of being called to the office of Prophet.

God is raising up this office within the Body of Christ and there will be some who will be like old dry cracked wine skins that cannot contain this new wine truth.

Past moves of God usually resist new moves of God. That is seen through out the history of the church.

LETS DETERMINE TO KEEP OUR HEARTS OPEN AND RECEPTIVE TO WHAT EVER THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DOING IN THIS OUR TIME. LETS ASK GOD TO ALLOW US TO REMAIN ON THE "CUTTING EDGE " OF WHAT EVER IT IS THAT HE IS DOING NOW.

On one of our desert trips I received a prophecy for Pat Robertson of the 700 Club. Part of the prophecy said, "*I want to move through the open door I have for you in Russia. Call my people out from her midst. The wind of my Spirit is blowing there*". This came on 3-3-90 at 8:00 PM before Russia began to go through changes. After waiting a few weeks I sent the prophecy to Pat. He responded by sending me a polite thank you letter for being concerned with the ministry of the 700 club and sent a crew to interview me. I never saw the interview and to this day do not know what became of it.

**The
Christian
Broadcasting
Network
Inc.**



Pat Robertson
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 11, 1990

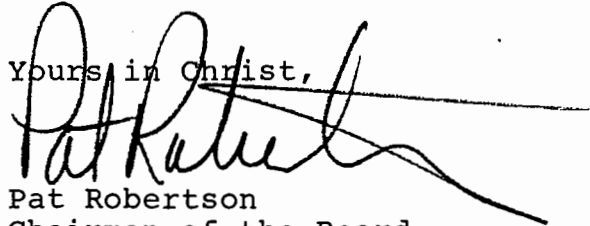
David Sloane
177 Riverside Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Dear Mr. Sloane:

I have received the prophecy that you sent on
March 19.

Thank you for your interest in this ministry
and taking time to write. May God bless you.
I am

Yours in Christ,



Pat Robertson
Chairman of the Board
Chief Executive Officer

PR:bm

I think that it never appeared on the 700 club because the men that produced it were offended by myself and the men that I go to the desert with.

The producer Rick Settoon, the sound man Mike Pearson, and the videographer John Woodland had asked me to pray for them with the guys out in the desert and see if we got a word for them.

So we stepped out in faith and recorded some things to mail to them. I never heard from them again until I called Rick about a year later, he informed me that we were "off the wall" and that they had passed the tape around his office and had a pretty good laugh from it. In his defence he did say that he thought we had good intentions.

After my conversation with Rick I felt bad. But when you set out to be used of God you will make mistakes and will not always be right on. Everything that we do is an act of faith. We can not let discouragement get us down.

One of the items they had requested us to pray about was a Pastor named Don Bradley from Liberty New Testament Church. He had cancer in the brain and was given two months to live. A brother in the desert ministry named Tom English had said that Don would be healed and live. Well as it turned out Pastor Bradley died. When we fail we fail big time.

As evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson used to say, "*God does not ask for vessels of gold or silver, He asks for yielded vessels.* Paul the Apostle said:

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellency of the power may be of God,
and not of us.*

2 Corinthians 4:7

The vessels that we are were pretty leaky when we sent our ministry tape to the 700 Club crew. Some of the personal ministry we sent was also rejected as not valid. I personally don't know how much off we were as a whole.

The reason I mention this incident is to let you know that mistakes do happen to me in a big way. But I will not stop seeking to be used of God. I have got to be used of God! When we fall we get up and brush the dust off our pants and keep on walking with God.

Incidentally a secretary from Pat Robertson's office told

me that after he received the prophecy I sent him, Russia contacted him and wanted to air the 700 Club on their airwaves using Russian equipment.

While we are on the subject, I also received a prophecy for Pastor Jack Hayford of Church on the Way. I mailed it to him and got no response. I feel that God would not mind if I share his prophecy with you.

3-31-91 4:00 PM

Pastor Jack Hayford

The Lord would say to you:

I have known you from before your inception. There has been not one moment when your heart has been out of my presence. You have obeyed the greatest commandment. You have said that the greatest thing in all your life is loving me. Therefore I have given you the keys that unlock the doors to my wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. I have given you great sensitivity to the move of my Spirit. It is my desire to open up the gifts of power in your midst. There are those who are prepared to receive the supernatural power of my Holy Spirit. I desire to heal my people. The time has come for this. I want to increase the anointing that I have given you. Worship brings down the strongholds of doubt and releases the flow of my Spirit. Worship and receive that which is yours.

You have continually desired for my people to be stirred within and set on fire for my Son Jesus. Your yearning has stirred my heart. Expand the boundaries of your tent. For I will put you in a great place. You have been waiting for this for a long time with great expectation. Even now you are aware of my fresh anointing coming upon you. Believe and receive without measure.

I now break every stronghold that has been erected against your face. Go forth and be mighty. I am with you. My presence will go with you and I will give you rest. As I have said to my servant Moses, I say to you. I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.

Once while out in the desert after dinner one of the brothers came up to me. He told me that his wife has dreams from the Lord and that 99% of them come to pass. He said that she had a dream of Pat Robertson coming out to us in the desert with some others around him. Also she dreamed of Jack Hayford coming out to us in the desert with some others around him, but at a separate time. We do not have an interpretation of this dream as of yet.

The Lord is at work here. He is making ready a great work. Many shall be moved by it. A revival of great proportions is about to break loose in America. God is calling His sheep to Himself. There will be nothing to stand in the way. He Himself will call His own. He is now uniting His workers to be as one. The prophecy of Joel is coming to pass.

And it shall come to pass afterwards, that I will pour My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.

Joel 2:28-31.

PROPHETS OR HOW DID THEY KNOW THAT?

Prophecy has a powerful affect upon people. I once walked into a church service already in progress when the Lord directed my attention to a man who was sitting in the back by himself.

God impressed upon me that I should go and "*spark up*" the man. So I and another brother asked the man if he wanted to pray. He said no. I then asked him if it was alright if I prayed for him and he said yes. I prayed a prayer that I believe the Holy Spirit directed. Then I did what I call "*going to the well of Jesus*".

When God chooses to speak some portion of His word to us it is referred to as *Rhema* in the Greek. Whereas the Bible is called the *Logos* in the Greek.

The *Rhema* is a word from the *Logos* spoken in a timely fashion. King David said a word spoken in it's season is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver.

Rhema can be spoken by God to you through someone else or directly by the Holy Spirit within or through your reading of the *Logos*, the word of God.

Think of the *well of Jesus* being filled with the water of *Logos* and I take my bucket of faith and lower it and bring up *Rhema* to pour upon what ever need is in front of me.

So I by faith went to the well and began to prophesy over the man. As soon as I sensed that what ever God wanted to do was done I left.

Three months later I walked into a cafe and noticed a man reading his Bible. I commented that I thought it was good that he was feeding on the word of God while eating. Then I realized that he was the man that I had ministered to in the back of the church.

He told me that it had helped to lift him from depression and strengthen his walk with God. He said that he had counseled with the pastor and the assistant pastor before I

had prayed with him.

He said that he had just finished telling God that man was not helping him and that he needed to hear from Him direct. It was at that very same moment that I came up to him and asked if he wanted to pray.

The word rightly applied to us when we need it at the very point of our need is what Rhema is all about. Prophets deliver Rhema from God.

Rhema produces results.

Rhema is Logos applied to us individually as needed. This is one of the purposes for Prophets in the church. God communicates to us through *His* Prophets.

The devil counterfeits, he does not create. In these last days there are those who are known as channelers. There are those who are known as psychics. There are those who are fortune tellers and palm readers. There are those who are known as witches. And there are those known for powers beyond the natural world but do not glorify Jesus Christ the Lord.

The devil is revealing his counterfeits in these last days in order to lead humankind from the Lord God Almighty. I know that the Lord has the genuine item, *His* Prophets!

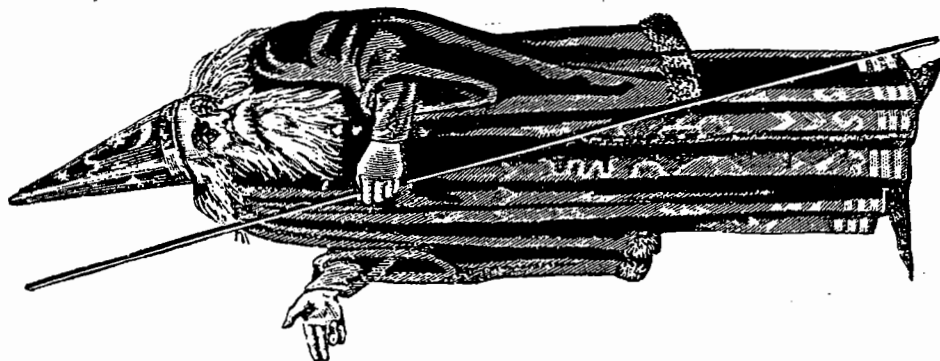
And the devil is only confirming that Prophets are now in existence in these days in which you and I live. Prophets are leading people towards the Lord Jesus Christ and glorifying His Holy name!

The time of the Prophet is come! You will begin to see and hear more and more of the fruits of the Prophet's ministry in the earth today. They are here and you will know them by their fruit.

There is resistance against their ministry. But they operate just the same. They don't need to have a title. They move in and out of the Body of Christ. They operate in the camp and out of the camp. They are following the Great Shepherd Jesus where ever He leads them.

They effect world events like prophets of old. They effect world leaders like prophets of old. And they bring healing like prophets of old.

They draw lives to Jesus and they do not bring attention to themselves. They are not Kingdom builders. They care not for gold or things or position. He is their life. He is their love.



This way to hell.

When you come in contact with prophets of the Lord you are drawn to Jesus Christ because their ministry is inspirational.

[Side note]

(Today the Church leaders seem to be worshipping at the alters of the intellect and rule out most inspirational type of ministries.

Its no wonder that the church is lacking in enthusiasm. The word enthusiasm in the Greek is *enthousiasmos* which means "lively interest", "extravagant religious emotion", "possession by a god", "having a god within", "god possessing", eagerness, warmth, fervor, zeal, ardor, passion, and devotion.

Some of today's church leaders think that anything which is not intellectual is not spiritual. They are wrong!

A balance between teaching for the mind and inspiration for the soul is a must for a healthy church. A flash light needs batteries. A car needs gas.

God makes "His ministers a flame of fire,"
Hebrews 1:7

We can still be logical and have fervor fueled by the Holy Spirit's fire.

I want to be on fire about the things of God!
I want to light fire within everyone about the things of God. I want Holy Spirit fire to flow through you like blood through your veins.

Gospel fire! Fire that burns you without consuming you.
Contagious fire! Spiritual fire! Jesus is the Holy Ghost baptizer with the baptism of fire of enthusiasm.)

Prophets speak by direct, divine inspiration and revelation.

You notice that when ever you come in contact with them they are always ministering. They seem to have an effect on you that leaves you edified and strengthened in your own relationship with Jesus.

Often they touch upon those areas that you are currently going through in your life. You walk away from their ministry feeling as if God planned your encounter with them, which He did.



I like to call these meetings "Divine encounters", because I always feel the impact God has upon these individuals after such a meeting takes place.

Often God draws me to someone. I begin to speak out in faith and I just seem to know what to say.

The more that I talk to them the clearer it becomes to me what the move of the Holy Spirit is in their particular situation. And I get more focused on what God is wanting to convey through me to them. We are to be channels through which the love of God and the ministry of God should flow.

When I was a baby christian I would enjoy these encounters so much that when the anointing would stop I wouldn't want to. I would keep on talking. We call this "over-stepping" the anointing.

Needless to say, my words were not worth much without God's anointing on them.

You have to remain sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit and don't try to add to His work. When He is finished you are finished!

I want to make this very clear. You have got to follow where He leads. You have got to do what He says. You have got to stop when He stops.

Do not try to go on if He has with-drawn your awareness of His presence. Otherwise you become that pipe that flavors the water flowing through it.

Trust me , you don't want to taint the work that God wants to do through your life. By the way, the word "Taint" means:

To effect with something undesirable.
to make poisonous or rotten; infect or spoil.
An infecting touch, influence, or tinge.
From the Latin word "Tingere", to dip in dye.

As you can see, when you try to help God out after He is finished, it can get pretty ugly. So remember to back off when you perceive that God has done what He intended to do through you.

You will get blessed if you learn to do this every time God use's you. There is little difference between "useful" and "useless".

So don't cross that line where God draws it. He wants men and women that He can trust and use as He sees fit.

We are not our own for we have been bought with a price. Servants of the Most High God. Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I have seen too many brothers and sisters function in the office and ministry of prophet to deny this ministry.

There have been teachers and evangelist who would teach that this office and ministry of prophet does not exist today.

From what I can observe, they have made it so that the Body of Christ, the church, is not receptive to the prophet or his ministry.

One reason I am writing this is to get others open to the idea that this ministry is in operation today, just as God intended it to be.

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers"

Ephesians 4:11

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets..."

1 Corinthians 12:28

Nowhere in scripture do you see God take back from the church the ministries that He "gave and set" in the church.

It is my belief that the list of ministries stands or falls together. If you want to remove one of them then you must remove all of them.

God is a God of balance. He gave exactly the combinations of ministries that were needed to the church. If the church chooses to ignore some of the ministries then an imbalance will be the result.

In these days in which we are living the church is going to need all of the ministries given to her to survive. ***The period of favor towards Christianity is about to close as Islam takes a bigger role in world affairs.*** Be warned, Jesus said:

Yes the time is coming, that whoever kills you will think that he does God service.

John 16:2

Right now in Nasser Egypt, Islamic Fundamentalist are murdering Christians. They have burned and ransacked 70 Christian shops. Christian Doctors and shopkeepers were murdered. A Christian was shot then hacked up with butcher knives in nearby Sanabu. In Cairo a prominent journalist who had attacked Islamic Fundamentalists in his writings was assassinated. (LA Times 7-12-92 Second Front Page)

The rapid spread of Islam across many borders including England (Where many once thriving churches have been turned into Islamic temples.) poses a major threat to Christians and Jews alike. These things could happen here in America if Christians become complacent and neutral. Muslims have a goal of global conquest and Christians and Jews stand in their way.

We as the Body of Christ are going to need every ministry and every gift given to us by Christ to survive in these last days.

We are seeing gays and lesbians marching in our streets boldly as they become powerful politically.

satanism has grown rapidly in America. With Wisconsin being the main center of such activity in mount Sinai.

The Church can not afford to shun what God has given to her to insure her survival.

The people of God are plowing the fields of the world with hand tools and implements, when God has the Holy Spirit ware house full of tractors and powertools available for the asking.

The Church leaders need to access this ware-house and began to teach on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Teach the full counsel of God by balancing intellectual teaching from the word with inspirational teaching from the word.

Prophets are lone men: they walk alone, pray alone, and God makes them alone. For them there is no mold; their patent rights are with God, for the principle of devine selection is "past finding out." But let no man despair; let none of us say, however we may have been or have not been used, that we are to old. Moses was eighty when he took command of an enslaved and broken people. After George Mueller was seventy, he went around the world several times, and without the aid of radio preached to millions of people.

Leonard Ravenhill

SEED SOWING IN JERUSALEM OR I DROPPED FROM THE SKY

The Lord provided for me to visit Israel in 1977. I had determined to stand on the very place of the cross where Christ had given His life for me.

As I was standing in the garden tomb area. I noticed a very high wall. At the top of this wall was the "Place of the skull", Calvary. I knew that some how I had to get up this wall. As I was pondering how to accomplish this, I spotted a rusty spike driven into the wall near the top. I jumped up and grabbed the spike and was able to get up.

I walked through a small graveyard to the edge of the "place of the skull". I noticed that someone had made three circles by placing small stones on the ground. They seemed to indicate where the cross of Christ and the two thieves could have been located.

I stepped into the middle circle. I knew that I was standing on the very spot where the blood of the Lamb was poured out upon the earth for sinner's sake.

As I looked around I could see most of the city below me. (including a noisy bus station). My mind went over the scriptures concerning what had taken place here.

It got to be more then I could handle. I knew that I was experiencing something that very few people would ever experience in their life times.

You don't have to stand in this geographical location to experience Christ.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He was no longer on earth as a physical man. So He sent His Holy Spirit to bring His spiritual presence on earth.

While on earth Jesus could be in one place at one time. But through the Holy Spirit Jesus spiritual presence is every where.

Perhaps as you are reading this you are aware of the

presence of the Spirit of God. He is a person. You can talk to Him. You can get to know Him. He will always lead you to Jesus. He brings the spiritual presence of Jesus to you wherever you are right this moment. You don't have to travel to Israel and stand in a special spot to experience Jesus. The Holy Spirit also gives you *power* to live a life that is pleasing to God. He will lead you and guide you. He stands by you and dwells within you if you ask Jesus into your heart.

As I looked down from where I was standing I saw Pastor Chuck Smith and the tour group looking up at me from a viewing platform.

I turned and walked back to where I had gotten up. I jumped down from the wall and landed next to a young couple sitting on a bench.

I was so fired up and elated with what I had just experienced that I began to tell them about Jesus with much enthusiasm.

I pointed to the place of the cross and told them what happened there. Then I pointed to the garden tomb where Jesus body had been and where He rose from the dead. Witnessing for Jesus on location, what a unique opportunity.

The couple was from Denmark and didn't know why they had come to Israel. They thought that I had dropped out of the sky and were frightened. I quickly assured them that I had only jumped from the top of the wall and that I was not an angel.

They wanted to think about what I had said to them about Jesus before accepting Him.

Sometimes you plant the seed and it needs time to be watered and to grow. Being in this garden that had events that affected all of mankind didn't change the process of sowing seed.

I would like to pray for you right now. You have read this far by the leading of the Holy Ghost. It is He that caused you to read through this testimony. And for good reason. He desires to use you in the same way!

Dear Jesus,

Let the anointing of your Holy Spirit fall upon this reader right now. May the heart of this one be stirred up to serve you. May the masquerade of spirituality come to an end and may the truth be manifested. Let a hunger for righteousness arise deep within. Let this one not be satisfied until a true walk with God and service for God become a daily reality. In Jesus name.

Thou hast ascended on high,
 thou hast led captivity
 captive: thou hast received
gifts for men..

PSALM 68:18

OR

For *the Kingdom of heaven is*
 as a man travelling into a far
 country, who called his own
 servants, and delivered unto
 them *his goods.*

MATTHEW 25:14

God gives *gifts* to mankind. It is my belief that even those who do not believe in God are recipients of His gifting.

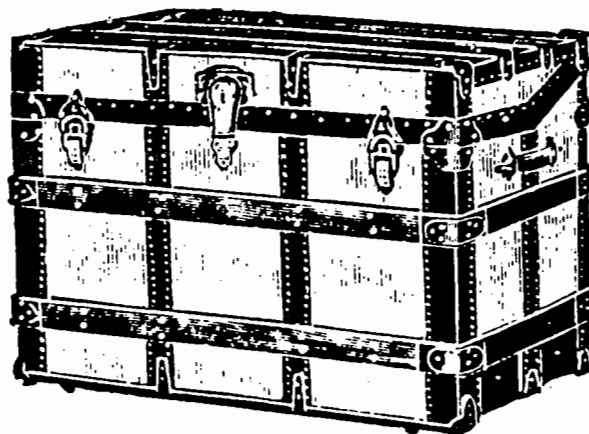
They have talents and abilities that come to them naturally.

Some are gifted mathematicians, physicist, architects, Ichthyologist, athletes, Tradesmen, Artists and so on.

All natural abilities are gifts from God to mankind.

What is a gift?

A gift can be defined as something given by free will *without cost* to the recipient; a present. A gift can mean a special ability or capacity; a natural endowment; a talent; a faculty; an aptitude, a capability, genius



The greatest gift ever given to us.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him give us all things?

Romans 8:32

Paul the Apostle said:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 12:1

There is a classification of gifts that are spiritual.

God does not want "cookie cutter" Christianity and has not taken away our individuality. Therefore God has given each Christian different spiritual gifts that are unique. They may operate in ways that can be categorized with a title but still function differently through each individual.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Every Christian has gifts from God. It is God's desire and design that we use these gifts to build up our Christian family. (See Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4:10,11 for examples.)

Remember that the gifts are free. A gift is no longer a gift the second there is a price put on it.

Anyone who says that they paid a price for their gifting is in error.

Some of us feel that we have to work for every thing from God. But freely you have received so freely give. (1 Peter 4:10).

How do I get these spiritual gifts?

The Holy Spirit makes the decision as to what gifts we have. (1 Corinthians 12:11). But that does not mean we can not ask for certain gifts. Jesus said:

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Whatsoever* ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:23-24

Paul the Apostle says:

But covet earnestly the best gifts...

1 Corinthians 12:31

So even though the Holy Spirit gives you the gifts He wants to give to you, you can seek to receive other gifts. (1 Cor. 14:1). You may not get the gifts that you desire. But you will get the gifts needed by you to fulfil God's plan and purpose for your life. God does not want robots so He allows you the freedom of coveting earnestly the best gifts.

We are responsible for bringing forth and activating our gifts.

Paul told Timothy not to neglect the gift that was in him. (1 Timothy 4:14-15). Paul told Timothy to fan to a flame and keep burning the gift of God that was in him. (2 Timothy 1:6).

It is our human responsibility to sharpen and keep our gifts fine tuned. We do this by using them as much as possible, as if we were running a race in the Olympics.

We need to become mature spiritually. Most christians are expecting God to do for us what He is expecting us to do. So we remain neutral when there is an exciting walk in the Spirit with God that we are missing out on.

God gave you your muscles and if you don't use them they atrophy. But when you work out they grow and become strong and evident to all. Spiritual gifts are the same as muscles, you have to give them a work out daily in order for them to grow and remain healthy.

How do I know what Spiritual gifts I have?

There are gifts that are listed in the bible. It is my belief that there are also gifts that are not listed in the bible. You may have some that are listed and some that are not.

People around you give you clues to what your gifting is if you listen to their unsolicited comments.

For instance they may say that you are always an encouragement when ever they talk to you. So then you might consider that perhaps the gift of encouragement is in operation in your ministering.

Or they may say that they learn about scripture when they talk to you. Perhaps you have the gift of teaching scripture.

Or perhaps they say that you are always so helpful. So you could conclude that the gift of helps is operating.

Do a little detective work and observation.

Watch those around you and see if you can figure out what their gifts might be.

It is fun to watch for the gifts of the Holy Spirit in other believers lives.

You will be blessed when you realize how much God has given to those around you.

They may not even know that they are functioning in a gift. But you will as you become aware of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Often times God places a desire for ministry on your heart in such a way that you think that it is your own desire. You think to your self "Gee if I could only do this or that I sure would like it". Recognize that it is God at work in your life and step out and try what is on your heart. You will know soon enough if it is God at work.

Open yourself up to Christ. Forget about man's traditions. As right as men may seem they often quench the move of the Spirit of God in their midst. Jesus said:

This people constantly honor Me with their lips, but their heart holds itself off and is far distant from me...You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions. And He said to them, How ingeniously you get around the commandment of God in order to preserve your own

traditions!...you make God's word null and void for the sake of your tradition which you have handed down. And you do many other things like this.

Mark 7:6,8,9,13.

Some churches adhere to the tradition of practices and customs handed down to them by their forefathers and will not allow the Spirit of God to move among them. They would rather hang on to their own human regulations!

I know of a church where the Spirit of God began to move in a mighty way. People from all walks of life responded to their ministry. There were many dynamic healing miracles taking place. Then the senior pastor made a proclamation that "This church is not going to be a Pentecostal church". From that day on the Spirit of God was shoved into a corner and not allowed to govern the church.

Gone were the miracles, gone were the men like Stephen (Acts 7). All that remained was a shadow of its former glory.

This church became nothing more than a bible school. All talk and no walk. They quenched the Spirit when ever He revealed Himself. And made limits on what He could do and what He could not do around them.

Outwardly they were prosperous and had donations coming in. And were able to replicate themselves across the land, creating more churches where the Spirit was limited in what they allowed Him to do.

I even think that if it were possible for God to die and He did, these churches would continue to function as always. After all they had their human traditions and did not need the Spirit of God to govern them.

These churches set themselves against any church that was HOT and on fire with Holy Ghost power.

Beware of these churches. Where in scripture do you see their spiritual kingdoms with the big buildings and schools and radio stations and television stations and lands and farms.

They have become like the church of Laodicea. (Rev. 3:14-22). Saying of themselves "I am rich, I have prospered and grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing". Their thinking about themselves is all wrong. Jesus says that they are really wretched, poor, blind and naked.

Don't let them tell you not to let God's Spirit move in your life any way He wants to.

They control modern day Christianity from their radio stations and pulpits just the way they think it ought to be. While the Holy Spirit is saying to them "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and fellowship with him and he with me. (Rev. 3:20).

Rebel against their control and head towards Christ and seek the infilling of God the Holy Spirit. (Rev.3:21). These men have controlled Christianity for to long, it is time for people to rise up and demand the government of the Spirit of God.

Don't look for anointed men, look for Jesus the anointed one of God. The Christ of God. Christ means "anointed one of God".

I don't care how good of a bible teacher they may be. If they will not let the Spirit of God move then it is time we the church move!

We are going to see Gods Spirit moving outside of their spiritual kingdoms, in public parks and in stadiums.

Nameless and faceless people will began to lead the true body of Christ led by the Spirit of God.

Revival outside of the traditions of men is now beginning to happen in public parks. The Jesus People are back and they are not going to quench the Spirit of God!

14

The close

or

Maybe the
beginning?

Some older pastors will remember the "Healing and Charismatic Revivals" of the 20's, 30's, 40's, and 50's.

Individuals with charisma started evangelistic associations that traveled here and there praying for the sick under tents. These independent ministries won the religious loyalty and support of millions of Americans. While most main stream denominations distanced themselves from these traveling evangelists.

The stories of greed, exploitation, and showmanship were true of the charlatans who took full advantage of this colorful period of christian history. And yet underlining all the bizarre world of faith healers there were the true believers who had successful and respectable meetings.

The tent healers main message was divine healing and the presence of the Holy Spirit. They always had at the core of every meeting a moment where miracles actually took place or supposedly were taking place.

These flamboyant preachers all had their own way of doing things. These meetings were a virtual smorgasbord of methods, claims, successes, and failures. Caricatures developed as they were rejected by the press, the medical profession, and churches. These preachers were considered extremists with unbelievable claims.

Most Pastors and churches distanced them selves as far as possible from these independent charismatic revivalists, for fear of being equated with them. As a result they quenched any work of the Holy Spirit in their midst. They stood in opposition to new and unusual works of the Holy Spirit. For good reason they were cautious. Many false prophets and charlatans abounded along with the genuine ministries.

Conservative Christians in an attempt to bring balance and sanity made sure that their meetings were controlled and predictable. And of course these meetings could not allow for the wind of the Holy Spirit to invade their planned patterns. Spiritual experience was the emphasis in word only. I want to quote Jerry Horner, TH.D., Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I think God must prefer an overexuberant

faith that He must hold in rein somewhat to a pallid orthodoxy that rigidly intones the words but really does not believe them. It surely must be easier to restrain a fanatic than resurrect a corpse.

Conservative Christians have done much good in grounding Christians in sound biblical doctrines and teachings. But they must allow for the moving of the Holy Spirit in the area of miracles and physical healing's. "Signs and wonders" are authentic Christian experiences. The saints of God actually asked God to perform Them in the book of Acts.

Will you be open and pliable to the move of the Spirit? Or will you rigidly adhere to your own pet concepts and rules and regulations at the expense of a living vital experience in Christ? Are you available to "walk in the Spirit" today? You can if you want to. Try to tear down the walls of resistance to the Holy Spirit. Began to yearn for Holy Ghost power.

Kathryn Kuhlman said:

"The last words He (Jesus) said before He went away were, 'And ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, ' God the Father had given Him the gift. Now He was passing it on to the church. **Every church should be seeing the healings of the Book of Acts. The gift is for all of us.**"

Pastor Jack Hayford says:

Jesus wants to anoint us because:

1. However sincere we may be, We cannot, on our own, *worship* God as freely and fully as He deserves;
2. However zealous we may be, we cannot, on our own, *witness* for Christ as effectively as He desires; and
3. However capable we may be, we cannot, on our own, do *warfare* for Christ as penetratingly as He directs.

1. An *expansion* of our capacity for worshiping;
2. An *extension* of our dynamic for witnessing; And
3. An *Expulsion* of the adversary through our spiritual warfare.

Little children...you have an anointing from the Holy one, and...The anointing which you have received from Him abides in you. (1 John 2:18-27)

Dwight L. Moody said, 102 years ago:

"If we work...to some definite purpose, we must have this power from on high. Without this power, our work will be drudgery. With it, it becomes a joyful task, a refreshing service."

"The Holy Spirit in His work in the soul declares His own presence. Through His agency we are born again, and through His indwelling we possess superhuman power."

"The Holy Spirit in us is one thing, and the Holy Spirit on us is another. We are leaky vessels, and we have to keep right under the spout where the glory comes out all the time to keep full of the Spirit and so have a fresh supply."

Kenneth Hagin says:

"...I like one translation better than any of them.(concerning Romans 12:11) It says ,*"Maintain the spiritual glow"* (Moffatt). **Maintain the glow!** God wants us to maintain the glow of the spirit. You could not very well maintain the glow of the Spirit unless you were filled up to overflowing with the Spirit, could you? In other words, God wants us to *stay* filled with the Spirit so we can maintain the spiritual glow of the Spirit.

If God wants us to maintain the glow, then it must be *His will* that we stay *filled* with the Spirit at all times. And the Bible teaches that."

Charles Finney believed that just as one meal did not forever satisfy human physical needs, so one baptism of the Holy Ghost was not sufficient for the spiritual necessities of life. Consequently, new baptisms of the Holy Spirit were needed in order to both maintain and deepen the believer's life of holiness. Since Finney's adoption of the phrase baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1840 he allowed for more than one experience of being baptized in the Spirit just as he earlier allowed for more than one experience of being filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17,18

17. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.**

18. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.**

There is a play on words in this passage in the Greek. It literally says, "Be *being* filled with the Spirit. Paul is encouraging Christians to "Maintain a constant experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. From page 136 of the Full Life Study Bible:

JESUS MINISTRY.

When Jesus preached for the first time in His hometown of Nazareth, He read from the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach..., to proclaim freedom..., to release..." (Luke 4:16-19) He went on to assert that He personally fulfilled that prophecy spoken so many years before (Isa. 61:1). Here Jesus was reaffirming the meaning and purpose of His baptism when He was anointed in the Spirit:

1. It was to empower Him for His mission and ministry. Jesus was God (Jn.1:1), **BUT HE WAS ALSO HUMAN** (1 Tim. 2:5). As a human being he had to rely on the Spirit's help and power to fulfill His responsibilities before God (MT. 12:28; LK 4:1; RO 8:11; Heb 9:14).

2. It was only as a Spirit-anointed man that Jesus could live, serve and proclaim the Gospel (Acts 10:38). In this He is a perfect example for the Christian; each believer should receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Are you bored with going to church and sitting down and going through the routine motions of *spectator Christianity* year after year.

No matter how many bible studies you attend you still feel the same. No matter how much you know the bible you still feel the same. Even though you could quote from memory the bible cover to cover you still feel the same.

Do you want some value back in your Christian experience? Then give up the predictability and safety of your rigid preprogrammed church type walk and live by faith, walking in the Spirit! You will never know what God will accomplish through you until you yield to His Holy Spirit. Become a powerfully equipped tool in the hand of God to effect others around you. Impact your world for Christ instead of hiding out and biding your time waiting for the rapture. **Get off the bench and back into the game!**

I admit that some of what I have written may appear to be extreme. Please ignore that and realize that I am doing battle against *apathy, complacency, and shallowness*
Translation: Lukewarm.

Rev 3:15-17

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

(KJV)

Use the mind God gave you and your spiritual eyes and see what it is that God would say to you personally through this book.

Rev 3:19-22

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

(KJV)

En Agape'
David Sloane

EPILOGUE

Since the writing of this book, my testimony has appeared on the 700 Club. I would like to thank the producer Rick Settoon, the sound man Mike Pearson, and the videographer John Woodland for their grace and kindness. May Jesus bless you brothers in your highly valued work for Him.

I visted Lonnie Frisbee several times at his home in Newport Beach where he was fighting a lengthy illness. We conversed about many things pertaining to men of God and ministry. With his extensive ministry in Europe, South Africa, Brazil, and America he had much to draw upon. Also Lon had the privilege of meeting men and women of God who shared personal views about ministry. He felt that those of us who participated in the Jesus People movement and had experienced the great outpouring of God's Agape love and were witnesses to His power were cursed. The reason was because as far as he could tell we could not be content with what we see around us today even if we tried. Something inside of us will not let us compromise with less than the real item. And finding the real item has been like finding a needle in a haystack. We search and search looking and longing for what we know it can be like and never seem to find it. But we will return to our first love soon!

Lonnie has been laid to rest at the Crystal Cathedral after 29 years of ministry. During the funeral services, several speakers referred to Frisbee as a preacher who marched to a different drummer. They said Frisbee's unorthodox ways enabled him to reach out to many who otherwise would not have been receptive to christian preaching.

May Lonnie's bold and active ministry inspire christians to walk with God. Just as God said of King David, may He say of Lonnie Frisbee...He was a man after God's own heart.

This book could be considered an extension of Lonnie's ministry and presence here on earth. I am his spiritual son in the Lord.

Many a man of God can trace his spiritual birth to God using Lonnie Frisbee sharing the Gospel. Most of them went into ministry. Others quietly slipped into the background performing their service to God unnoticed.

I visited Lonnie several times at his home in Newport Beach where he was fighting a lengthy illness. We conversed about many things pertaining to men of God and ministry. With his extensive ministry in Europe, South Africa, Brazil, and America he had much to draw upon. Also Lonnie had the privilege of meeting men and women of God who shared personal views about ministry. He felt that those of us who participated in the Jesus People movement and had experienced the great outpouring of God's agape love and were witnesses to His power were cursed. The reason was because as far as he could tell we would not be content with what we see around us today even if we tried. Something inside of us will not let us compromise with less than the real item. Finding the real item has been like finding a needle in a haystack. We search and search looking and longing for what we know it can be like and never seem to find it. But we will return to our first love soon!

Those of us who were Lonnie's personal friends would call him "Fearless Frisbee". He would tell me "David the man of God dares to be wrong". I once asked him if he was stepping out in faith or if he was following a definite unction of the Holy Ghost when he does the things that he does. He replied by telling me a story. Someone at a gathering of Hippies in northern California had asked him the same question. They were standing on a rope bridge that spanned the canyon. Underneath them on all sides of the canyon were the Hippies. Lonnie walked to the middle of the bridge and began to shout, jumping up and down while flailing his arms. All of the hippies gave him their attention. He then preached the Gospel and extended an invitation for all those who wanted to accept Christ to stand under the bridge. A large portion of the hippies responded. Afterwards Lonnie told the questioner that what had just taken place was an act of his will and stepping out in faith that God would back him up.

During the meetings at Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, Lonnie would be like a loose cannon on deck. He would sometimes get up from his seat while teaching and go out into the congregation and lay his hands on someone and rebuke the devil from them, and then go back to teaching as though nothing had happened. The fruit of his ministry was there. People would get healed at his meetings without him saying anything about healing. There was one case where a woman just stood up and declared in an excited voice that she could breathe. Lonnie stopped his teaching and flowed with what God was doing by inviting the woman to come forward and testify of what was happening to her. Lonnie's meetings were unpredictable. You never knew what to expect.

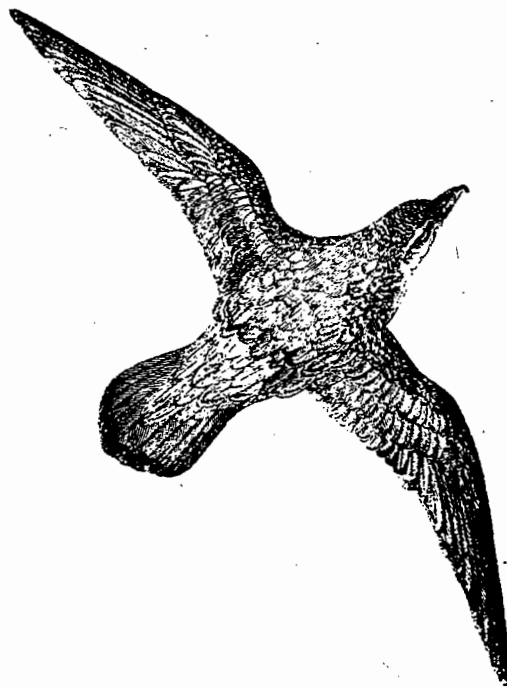
AND NOW...

Go forth in the great christian adventure of walking in the Spirit. Be excited with anticipation as the Supreme in all authority and power walks with you through life. Make an impact on your world for Jesus Christ. Do not be afraid to step out in faith. Lonnie told me that the man of God dares to be wrong. If you should make a mistake, do not mentally beat your self up over it, the accuser of the brethren does a good enough job at that. satan loves to defeat us over our failures and faults. Do not let him neutralize you over your attempts at walking in the Spirit. If you fail, do not stop there. Know what you did wrong and try to get beyond it. The key is to keep on trying and not give up. Persistence will succeed over time. God bless you!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus. You see the heart and mind of the one who has read this book and is now reading this prayer. May your fire ignite their heart with passion for you and your work here on earth. I ask that you would loose the chains that bind them now. When they turn toward you, may all bondage let go. May the eyes of their understanding be opened. May they have an encounter with the living Christ of God that would impact the rest of their days here on earth. Pour out your blessings of who you are upon them now. In your precious and mighty name I pray. Amen.

Dear reader. If your life has been luke warm, remember that God has loved you with an everlasting love. Turn toward Him and receive His love for you now. He can and will restore you if you allow Him to. **JESUS LOVES YOU!**



God is drawing a people up who will worship Him and serve Him. He in these last days desires to display His power and glory through them, that the world may see and know that Jesus is alive! Are you available for the Masters use? Will you heed the call to obedience? God urgently desires to use those who choose to be obedient to His call. Today if you hear His voice, respond to the voice of the Lord. He is waiting for you and loves you so much. He loves you so much that He gave you the best He had to offer you, His only begotten Son Jesus. Now give to Him the best you have to offer, your obedience.

**DAVID SLOANE
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NEWPORT BEACH CA 92663-4032**

Please pass this book on to others for the sake of the harvest and pray for more workers to enter into the harvest.

*Beware of reasoning about God's word-obey it.
-Oswald Chambers*

Letter to Brother Mike

(This story is told by Howard Carter the prophet)

In this old lady's apartment he saw on the wall a piece of paper with some writing. Mr. Spurgeon asked the old lady, "What is this that you have framed?". She said, "Sir, that reminds me of an old man that I nursed years ago. He was a patient old man, and when he was dying he said, 'What can I give you to show my appreciation of all that you've done for me?' And, Sir, he wrote his name on that piece of paper and that's why I put it in the frame; it reminds me of the old man." Mr. Spurgeon said, "Could I borrow this? I will take very great care of it." She said, "Oh, but that's very dear to me; I would not like to lose that slip of paper with the old man's name on." But finally he persuaded her to let him have it. He removed it from the frame and took it to the bank. Maybe you have already guessed that this dear old lady had framed a check!

Charles Spurgeon said to the bank manager, "Do you know anything about this money?" and the bank manager said, "It has been lying here for a long time and nobody has claimed it." Spurgeon said, "I have come to claim it for an old lady who lives in the almshouses connected with the tabernacle."

He went back to the old lady and asked, "Why are you living in poverty here?" She said, "I have no money, Sir." He said, "Lady, you are mistaken; you are ignorant of what you possess; you have been worth money—hundreds of pounds—for a long time. That piece of paper is a check assigning you a lot of money." So he set her up in a comfortable little home of her own with her own money.

Is it not the same with spiritual things? If we are ignorant we lose the benefits God intended us to receive from the gifts that have been left us.

The *Resurrection fellowship* has been a very rare place where the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been taught and exercised. Just about all of the nine listed gifts have been manifested there.

The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

God gives his gifts for the general good of everybody. The Spirit of God is not given for personal enrichment alone, but for the general blessing of the community and of the church.

I have had my "Ear to the ground" and can not find anywhere as mature and balanced in the manifestation of the gifts as at *Resurrection fellowship*. I believe it is because most fellowships feel that if we have love then we do not have to deal with those messy gifts. But Paul does want us to know them and exercise them. This you have done and a very fine job of it at that. The enemy would like to make you feel as if you had not achieved nor accomplished such a difficult task as allowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit to move with balance in a fellowship. (Run on sentences are fun). This you have done and you did it well. I know of no church that I can say the same thing about.

What I am trying to say is that God wants to establish in your heart the fact that you have been called to exemplify the proper usage of spiritual gifts in a fellowship setting. And from this setting He will be able to teach many how it is done. And then from your example there will be an out break and release of raw spiritual power from heaven. We thank you Lord.

When you examine your heart you will find that there is a flow from heaven for the gifts of Jesus Christ. You are blessed with God's presence. Moses said, "If your **Presence** does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us?" (Exod. 33:14-16) God's presence is His anointing! You have His anointing.

How can you tell if you have His anointing? Let me ask you this, are you fulfilled in what you are currently doing. Does it satisfy your inner man? Or is your inner man crying out to serve God in that which He has called you to do. If so, then you have God's anointing. If you did not have His anointing then you would be completely happy in what you are currently doing with your life. Some are happy to just frame the check and hang it on the wall as a memorial to times gone by. Others have got to cash the check and use the proceeds for the work of the Lord. What will it be?

Josh 24:15

... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
(KJV)

Josh 24:16

16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;
(KJV)

Josh 24:24

24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.
(KJV)

Obedience.

1 Sam 15:22

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to hearken than the fat of rams.
(KJV)

You have been called. You can make a difference in the spiritual landscape of this our time in which we live. The Lord says to you:

I will be with you as you attempt to serve me. I know that you have longed to hear my voice. I am now speaking to you in this present moment. Can you hear me? Do not compare your ways with the ways of others. I commanded Moses to work with a rod. I said, "Take thy rod," and he took his rod into Egypt; and I said, "Pass thy rod over the land," and the plagues began. When the sea was to be devided I said, "Pass thy rod over the sea," and the sea opened. When they needed water in the wilderness I said, "Smite the rock." He struck the rock and water gushed out. It was the rod I used in Moses' case; the working of miracles was associated with the rod.

Elijah had no rod; he had a mantle. When the mantle was upon him he was mighty; he could pray and fire would flash from heaven, and he could pray again with the mantle upon him and the rain would come. When he came to the Jordan river and wished to cross over, he wrapped the mantle together and smote the waters hither and thither; and with every smiting he put his foot down, step by step; he smote the waters out of the way, and they kept out until he and his servant Elisha had passed over Jordan. Samson who didn't have a mantle, neither did he have a rod; but he found my power coming into his very physique. It came through his body, through his body, through his muscles, and when he laid hold of things, it was a laying hold! He laid hold of the gates of Gaza and carried them on his back. He picked up the jawbone of an ass and slew a thousand men. Here is the difference: one man finds the working of miracles functioning through his being, another through a mantle, another through a rod. I have infinite variety. So do not compare your ministry with that of another. I have made you with a unique ability to do that for which I have called you. As you step out on my behalf I will be with you to back you up. Be bold and courageous. This time let nothing stop you. You know your call. I am coming quickly. Will I find you about my Father's business?

May our Father bless you and keep you. May you find joy in obeying His call. May there be a quickening of your spirit at these words. May God confirm what you have always known. You are a man of God. A priest unto our God. An anointed one. May your wife and your sons be blessed. As long as you have breath God will use you no matter what. Rise up and stand and be counted as one who serves the Lord. Be victorious over the snares of the enemy.

I am sorry if I did not get personal in this letter but we felt God had other plans for this writing.

Jer 29:11-14

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

14 And **I will be found of you**, saith the LORD: **and I will turn away your captivity**, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

(KJV)



Jesus is the fruitful vine

Unleashing supernatural spiritual dunamis power

From the desk of Pastor David Sloane

Opening Prayer :

Dear Father, may the word of God speak to this heart and start a spiritual firestorm of comprehension in the principles taught herein. May your Spirit stir the hearts of man into doing your word, and not just hearing it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Questions:

Does Jesus expect us to do the things He tells us to do in His word, or does He only want us to be entertained by them?

Matt 7:26

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

(KJV)

Is it possible to understand and receive the truth of God's word and obtain the promises it contains?

HEB. 6:11-15

And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

(KJV)

Title scripture:

Zech. 4:7

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel (who was in the process of rebuilding the temple, before him) thou shalt become a plain: (level ground!) and he shall bring forth the headstone (of the new temple) thereof with loud shoutings of the people, shouting, Grace, grace unto it!

(Any alterations to scriptures such as italics, underlining etc. are added by me for the sake of emphasis)

Bible Study:

Obstacles that we encounter in our lives can seem as though they are mountains, solid and unmovable in front of us with a sense of permanence. Satan wants us to be defeated by the mountains in front of us.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

(KJV)

Illness, marriage relationships, financial debt etc. start out as flat plains and can grow until you have a mountain. The mountain becomes a barrier that hinders forward motion. You feel as if you are on hold. You need the mountain to be moved so that you can advance in your life.

A mountain delineates any encumbrance to your advancement.

Some mountains are built by us. If we do not get exercise and eat properly a mountain of sickness will grow. If we over use credit a mountain of debt grows. These type of mountains do not stop growing until we alter our actions that made them. We have authority over all mountains in our lives. So if we make mountains we can also move mountains. Mountains start out as flat plains and grow unless we do something about them.

There are some mountains that Satan puts in our paths. These are also under our authority. Without knowing how to move mountains we can not exercise our authority over them and they will continue to hinder us.

Zerubbabel and the people dealt with the mountain of rebuilding the temple against impossible odds by:

A. Not acknowledging its power over them.

Who art thou, O great mountain?

B. By shouting grace to it and releasing themselves from its power.

Loud shoutings of the people, shouting, Grace, grace unto it!

Zerubbabel and the people shouted "Grace" to their mountain. The word grace means Godly benefit. What an appropriate word. Joy over their release from the mountain. Joy over their God given authority over mountains.

Shout grace to your hindrance!

Other mountain moving instructions:

Jesus Christ our great teacher taught on this subject:

Mark 11:22-24

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

(KJV)

1. Jesus is making no mention of prayer when He says have faith in God, even though mountains affect us so powerfully.

The king James says have faith in God, but the word faith in the Greek is Pistis. Pistis has the meaning of truth. More correctly this sentence conveys the thought "have the truth of God or the system of spiritual (Gospel) truth itself. In plain english Jesus is saying here have God's Gospel truth about mountain moving, or *here are the instructions for moving mountains guys.*

2. Jesus is not asking us to believe and await God to move the mountain. The truth is that we are to believe and expect the mountain to move **BECAUSE WE BELIEVE**. The mountain moves when **WE** believe and expect it to. If we can make mountains we can move mountains!

3. Jesus is telling us to "say". Mountain moving words can come through our mouths with authority. The words we speak are important. The book of James talks about our words. Jesus says we will be judged for every idle word that we speak.

Matt 12:36-37

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

(KJV)

Knowing this, we should be more careful about the words that we put forth.

In our mountain moving instructions Jesus says:

Mark 11:23

For verily (truly) I say unto you, That whosoever shall **say** unto this mountain...

The word say in the english language means to utter or pronounce and speak. A vocal action.

In this portion of scripture the first "say" in the greek is Lego, which means I tell you or I set forth to you.

The second "say" in this portion of scripture is the greek word epo. Which is a verb of strength with a past tense emphasis, meaning "you have said" or you have been saying". This word is telling us to speak unto the mountain with a strong commanding firm voice of authority. We are to say firmly and powerfully to the mountain "And throw yourself into the sea" as a command and as a deed that has already been accomplished! We are to be so certain that it will happen that we are to say it like it already has.

You are saying it now.

You have been saying it.

You will continue to say it.

So it becomes a fact of life, not a one time solution.

4. This is not praying, This is action by you a God ordained mountain mover. Jesus says "whosoever", in the greek "hos", meaning anyone male or female. Anyone who wants to can become a mountain mover.

5. This is not the teaching of some television "name and claim it faith teacher." This is the clear teaching from the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

He is instructing us to believe that our words are powerful.

He is instructing us to speak our words believing we will have what we say.

He is instructing us to act in faith, believing and moving our mountains with our own words.

He is instructing us to speak directly to our mountains. Say, "You mountain of (name of your particular hindrance) I command you to move! Throw yourself into the sea. And then if you would like, shout with a loud voice of authority, shout, "grace to you."

Something that is cast into the sea sinks and is removed from sight. The mountain is gone.

Jesus says:

...and shall not doubt (apistia) in his heart, but shall believe...

He is saying that there can be no uncertainty or wavering of confidence in our hearts for this promise to work. James says that the man who is tossed to and fro like the waves of the sea will not get anything from God. If you think that Jesus did not mean what He is telling us to do with mountains and that it is impossible to remove them just by speaking to them, then nothing will happen. Unbelief robs us!

You must believe that your words can and do remove mountains. This is the principle that Jesus is teaching. Do you believe Jesus or do you not believe Jesus. This is His teaching, not mine.

Conclusion:

So let go of your doubts and practice what the Word of God teaches about mountain removal. There is a release of supernatural dunamis power when we speak to the mountain in faith and obedience to His word.

Matt 7:26

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

(KJV)

Be wise and do exactly as Jesus instructs us to do. Anyone who teaches contrary to what Jesus tells us to do is in error.

Closing prayer:

Dear Jesus, please help us to allow the power of God to flow through our mouths. We want to be people of faith who move mountains. Open our eyes to see the truth of your Word and to apply it to our lives. Let religious dead traditions drop away as we determine to look closely at what it is that you are teaching us. In your name we pray.

Scriptures to consider:

1 John 4:4

Luke 10:19

Matthew 18:18

BIBLE STUDY NOTES FOR JUNE 25, 1994

PASTOR DAVID SLOANE

TOPIC: **GOD's POWER** or **LORD REVIVE US!**

A man had occasion to go for the first time to a certain town on business. He arrived at the railroad station on a blustering December day. There was a cold wind and a flurry of snow. As he walked along the street he saw women dressed in costly furs and gentlemen in fur coats, but all having bare feet. The population seemed respectable and well to do, but no one wore shoes. They limped along, were afflicted with blisters and bruises and suffered great pain.

When he went to the hotel he found the clerk at the desk, the bellboys and other attendants all barefoot. At the dinner table he sat next to a prosperous looking old gentleman and fell into conversation. As this new acquaintance seemed so kindly and open-minded, our traveler said to him:

"Pardon me if I seem intrusive, but I notice that nobody in this town seems to wear shoes, yet everyone appears to suffer from cold and bruised feet. Would you mind telling me why?"

"Ah!" said the old gentleman, raising his eyes piously, "why indeed!"

He talked further with his companion, but could never get past that point. The old gentleman was perfectly willing to admit that shoes were desirable above all things, and that everybody ought to wear them, but he could not tell why they did not do so.

The traveler took a walk through the town and found that here and there were beautiful buildings, more elaborate and larger than the ordinary. Seeing the janitor sweeping the steps of one of these structures, he stopped and talked to him.

"What is this building? I am a stranger in the town and notice there are many buildings like this."

"This is a shoe factory," said the janitor.

"Oh! Then they make shoes here."

"Oh not at all," was the reply. "They just talk about making shoes, and sing about shoes and pray about them."

Pointing to a sign by the door he saw an announcement that the chief official of the factory was going to give a lecture every seventh day on shoes. The subjects listed included "The origin of shoes," "The History of shoe making," "Varieties of leather," etc. He was informed by the janitor that once every seven days every other business in town was required by law to close, that nothing was allowed to be open but the shoe factories and the people all gathered in them to sing and pray and hear lectures about shoes. But no shoes were produced and nobody wore them.

Finally in a little side street he found a small shop inside of which was an old German cobbler making a pair of shoes. He bought a pair and took it back to his hotel to present to the gentleman with whom he had become acquainted.

To his surprise the old gentleman declined the gift, assuring him that none of the best people ever wore shoes, and in fact it was considered a sign of fanaticism and hypocrisy ever to wear them.

Taken from "Why I am a Christian". Written in 1928 by Frank Crane.

Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the scriptures or the **power** of God? MARK 12:24

POWER: dunamis, force, miraculous power, ability.

Power belongeth unto God. PSALMS 62:11

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
2 Tim 3:5

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

ACTS 10:38

We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but we are also to be anointed with the power of God; these are two separate things. The Holy Spirit is a person; power is a force.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1 COR 2:4,5

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

1 COR 4:19,20

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

1 THESS 1:5

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 TIM 1:7

But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

ACTS 6:8

And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned about in the press and said who touched my clothes?

MARK 12:24

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Gallilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Luke 5 :17

THINGS THAT HAMPER GOD'S POWER

The people of the New Testament lived in an age which expected God's power to flow through them.

There is a kind of rationalism which kills miracles. When miracles are dead, miraculous things cease to happen.

We would receive more miracles, if we stopped insisting that miracles do not happen, and began expecting them to happen.

Our world has become materialistic; we are skeptical of any experience that cannot be measured, weighed and verified by everyone else. We often assume that only the rational exist. We feel that things need to be understood in order to be real. Our assumptions and preconceived notions about miracles need to be set aside.

Recall one of the saddest text of the bible:

"And He (Jesus) did not many miracles there because of their unbelief.

MATTHEW 13:58

The root word for unbelief in this verse is "Apistia" meaning literally ; distrust.

"And He (Jesus) marvelled because of their unbelief. (Apistia)

MARK 6:6

Jesus used the same word when disciples asked why they could not cast out demons:

"And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief...(Apistia)

MATTHEW 17:20

Paul the apostle used the same word in Hebrews 3:12: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief..."

Paul says the children of Israel could not enter in to God's rest because of their unbelief (Apistia).

HEBREWS 3:19

Lack of faith and distrust robs us of God moving in our lives with his power and is regarded as evil by Him.

When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, He said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep. "But they laughed at Him. After the crowd had been put outside He went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.

MATTHEW 9:23,24

1. The hand of the Supreme in all power and authority , the self existent eternal God was laid upon me and He carried me out by the exhalation of the Lord, and set me down in the middle of a wide level valley between mountains, and it was full of human bones.
2. And He caused me to pass by them all around on every side, in a circuit of the compass,, And behold, there were vast quantities of bones on the ground the whole length of the open valley; and they were utterly dry and porous.
3. And He said to me, Adam, builder of the family name of humankind can such bones revive? And I answered, O my Master you know.
4. And then He told me to sing by inspiration to these bones, and sing to them, O you dry bones, regard attentively with obedience the language of the self existent eternal God.
5. Thus says the Master Creator to these bones; Behold, I will cause breath and Spirit to enter you and you will live.
6. And I will place tendons upon you and make a body of a person upon you and cover you with skin, and put breath and Spirit in you, and you shall live and be whole, and you shall know that I am the Master Creator.
7. So I sang with inspiration as I was commanded; and as I sang, there was a thundering noise, and suddenly a shaking and trembling and a rattling, and the dry bones came together bone to its bone.
8. Indeed, as I looked, the tendons and the bodies of people came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath or Spirit in them.
9. Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath and Spirit, "Thus says the Master Creator: Come from the four winds, O breath and Spirit, and breath upon these slaughtered, that they may live".
10. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath and Spirit came into them, and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.
11. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel, they indeed say, Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are completely cut off.
12. Therefore prophesy and say to them; Thus says the Master Creator: "Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back home to the land of Israel.
13. And you shall know that I am the Master your Sovereign Ruler when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O my people.
14. And I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I shall place you in your own land. Then you shall know That I, the Master have spoken it and performed it," says the Createoe.

God will see to it that you continue to live spiritually when you trust in Him, no matter how great a miracle is required. He can and will do whatever it takes to help you.

This is an illustration of complete powerlessness. Bones indicate where there once was life and activity, but now they are still and silent.

We may feel spiritually like these bones in our own walk with God. We may have drifted away from God in our hearts.

There is hope, let the power of God rain on you. Receive restoration!

God's Dunamis Power

From the desk of Pastor David Sloane

Opening Prayer:

Dear Father God I ask that you cover this one who reads this just now in your precious blood. May this one have spiritual eyes to behold the truths of your word. May any and all religious traditions be destroyed by your word. May your power flow this word. I bind the destroyer from any interference as this one attends to the truth contained within your word. In the name of Jesus the Christ I pray.

Questions:

Why do some Christians walk around defeated and wounded, without experiencing victory in their daily walks with Jesus Christ?

What would keep the church of this day and age from obtaining supernatural miracles and events from God as the church in the book of acts had take place in their generation?

Title Scriptures:

Mark 12:24

Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God? Power belongeth unto God.

Psalms 62:11

(Any alterations to scriptures such as italics, underlining etc. are added by me for the sake of emphasis.)

Bible Study:

The word POWER in the above scriptures is translated from the original manuscript word "dunamis". Dunamis means force, miraculous power, and ability.

We can see the same word dunamis translated "power" in this next scripture:

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Stephen allowed this supernatural dunamis power to flow through his yielded life and as a result did great wonders and miracles among the people

Jesus said that we would receive this dunamis after that the Holy Spirit is come upon us

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive Power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus does not want us going out until we be endued with dunamis from on high.

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Jesus knows that anything we undertake with out the anointing of his power will be unfruitful. We must have his power in order to accomplish the things he has for us .

We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but we are also to be anointed with the power of God. These are separate from one another. The Holy Spirit is a person, (The third person of the Trinity) and power is a force. Just as electricity is a force and you are a person.

Do you think God wants to make this distinction clear in this next scripture?

Acts 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit *and* with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

Paul the Apostle makes a clear distinction between the person of the Holy Spirit *and* the dunamis power in this scripture:

1 Corinthians 2:4,5.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit *and* of power. That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Paul makes the same distinction in this next scripture:

1 Thessalonians 1:5

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, *and* in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Notice that Paul says *and* in the Holy Ghost. It is like me saying to you that I will give you my gloves *and* my shoes. These are separate from one another.

It is my personal belief that we see the word power linked in the same verses with the Holy Spirit because we can receive this dunamis power just for the asking. In the same free manner that the Holy Spirit is given.

Luke 11:9-13

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

I believe we do not have to work for dunamis power to flow through our lives. I think that just as Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a gift, dunamis power is a gift also. A gift is no longer a gift if we have to work for it. We receive gifts, not work for them.

I believe the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of dunamis, and that is why we see Him linked to the dunamis in scripture so often.

We need this dunamis power to do the works of God in our midst.

Luke 5:17

And it came to pass on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of gallilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power (dunamis) of the Lord was present to heal them.

Paul used dunamis as a criteria for judging spirituality:

1 Corinthians 4:19,20.

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power (dunamis). For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power (dunamis).

Christians are people of power. They ask for supernatural events.

Acts 4:29-30

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and **grant unto thy servants**, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that **signs and wonders** may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Christians have an effect on the world around them. I am not talking about people who call themselves Christians. I am talking about Christians from God's reference point, genuine Spirit filled Christians.

Do you have God's power flowing through your life in actuality? It is one thing to say "Of course I have God's power flowing through my life", and another to actually have God's power flowing through your life.

The Christians of the New Testament expected God's power to flow through them.

We would receive more power from God, if we stopped insisting that power does not flow through us, and began expecting it to happen.

Sometimes we feel that things need to be understood in order to be real or from God who is incomprehensible. We seem to be skeptical of any experience that cannot be measured, weighed and analyzed. We often make the assumption that only the things that can be intellectually comprehended exist.

There is the problem of our intellect. When we worship at the alters of our intellect we want everything to be rational and therefore kill the flow of Gods power through us because we do not understand it. And when God's power stops flowing through us, miraculous things cease to happen.

1 Thess. 5:19

Quench not the Spirit.

Eph 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,...

Recall one of most heavy hearted text of the bible:

Matthew 13:58

"And He (Jesus) did not many miracles (dunamis) there because of **their unbelief**.

The root word for unbelief in this verse is "apistia" meaning literally; distrust.

Mark 6:6

And He (Jesus) marvelled because of **their unbelief**. (apistia)

Jesus used the same word when the disciples asked why they could not cast out demons:

Matthew 17:20

"And He (Jesus) said unto them, because of **your unbelief...**" (apistia)

Paul the Apostle calls apistia evil:

Hebrews 3:12

"Take heed, brethren, lest there *be in* any of you an **evil heart** of *unbelief...*" (apistia)

Lack of faith and distrust robs us of God moving in our lives with His power and is regarded as evil by Him!

Romans 8:6-7

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is emity (in hostile opposition) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither can be.

Jesus removed from His presence those who had evil hearts of apistia, so that dunamis power could flow and bring back from the dead a little girl. The carnal mind is in hostile opposition to the things of God.

Take notice how those with apistia in their hearts laughed at God in opposition to Him:

Matthew 9:23,24

When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, He said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep". But they (Those with apistia hearts) laughed at Him. After the crowd had been put outside He went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.

The King James version says, "And they laughed Him to scorn". Which means to ridicule; deride; and regard with disdain and contempt.

Those with apistia hearts would have caused the girl to remain dead, but Jesus knowing their evil hearts put them outside and away from what God was doing. So that the dunamis power of God could flow without hinderance from their evil hearts of unbelief. How is your heart just now? Do you think your heart would allow God to move in power in your presence, or would He have to physically remove you from what He wants to do? Are you intellectually preventing God from doing His will where ever you are present?

The condition of our hearts could cause us to be put out and away from what God is doing in this our time. If we want to be included in what God is doing, then we must watch over our hearts and be spiritually open minded towards the things of God. Lets trust Him! May we say "Yes Lord"!

Paul says the children of Israel could not enter into his rest because of their unbelief. (apistia)

Hebrews 3:18,19

And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of *unbelief*. (apistia)

So you can see that apistia hampers God's power from flowing through your life. It can and does keep you from receiving anything from God.

Ask God for His gift of dunamis to flow through you to be a witness for Jesus Christ and expect it to flow through you.

Jesus said to believe that you receive and you will have it!

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when you pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

After Peter walked on water and sank, Jesus said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt"?

Doubt means to be uncertain; hesitant to believe; be apprehensive about; to distrust or apistia.

To doubt is to be double minded; uncertain in opinion; undecided.

James the brother of Jesus had something to say concerning doubt:

James 1-5-7

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all of his ways.

Our eyes can only see in one direction at a time. Our eyes of faith can only look in one direction at a time, we can look at faith and obtain the promises of God, or we can look at doubt and get nothing and suffer lack in our walks with God. Where have you been looking lately?

Isaiah 43:18-19

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.
Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?...

God is saying you cannot look backward and obtain the promise. You have to look forward and behold the promise with a steadfast look of faith.

Conclusion:

HEB. 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

So set your mind on Him (Jesus) and do not doubt, but be expectant and receptive to the flow of God's power moving through your life. Power is to be used or it is worthless. God wants us to have His power to do His will. Let it come to you and through you. It is given freely, purchased for you by the blood of Jesus. It is a part of your salvation and inheritance as a child of God.

Revelations 5:12

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power (dunamis)...

You need it to work the works of God. A flashlight does not work without the power of batteries. Computers do not work without the power of electricity. Christianity needs God's dunamis power. Will you open your heart to this truth from God's word or will you adhere to the religious

traditions of man and miss out on what God wants to do through you? No one can make this choice for you.

Closing prayer:

Oh, Master Creator, my heart has been full of religious attitudes and dead works. Father God, I am desirous to know your truths. I will trust you as you speak to me with your voice. Forgive me for my heart of unbelief. Restore to your church the double portion and fullness of your power. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptures to consider:

Hebrews 2:3-4

Romans 15:19

Acts 14:3

Acts 4:29-30

Spiritual longing

From the desk of Pastor David Sloane

Opening Prayer:

Dear Jesus, I ask you to put a longing for you within our hearts. Amen.

Question:

Why do some christian gatherings seem lacking in spritual dynamics at times?

Title Scriptures:

Luke 2:42-49

Bible Study:

As christians arrive at church for a meeting, they will fellowship with one another. They will laugh and joke and vist with each other and pray. Then the pastor comes out and the meeting begans. The meeting goes along as it always does and comes to an end. Everybody would then resume visiting and go home until the next meeting.

Have you ever felt as if maybe you were not getting the spiritual benefit from your church meetings that you used to get? Has it ever seemed as if the meetings were lacking in the conscious Presence of the Lord? Perhaps Jesus is missing from the meetings. Maybe we need to search for Him, and tell Him that we need Him and desire Him in our meetings.

As a boy, Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem after the Passover celebration. "And Joseph and His mother knew not of it. But they, supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance and...found Him not". (Luke 43-45).

Their mistake was in taking it for granted that Jesus was in the company. Our assumptions can negatively affect our meetings. Joseph knew Jesus was not with him, and Mary knew Jesus was not with her, and the kinsfolks and acquaintances knew He was not with them, and yet each took it for granted that He was in the company with someone else.

Don't presume that Jesus is present in your meeting with the power of the Holy Ghost. Poor Joseph and Mary lost five days and had no one knows how much anxiety and heartach, all because they supposed Jesus was in the company, but did not make sure. But after much searching they found Him.

Is Jesus in your meetings?

Long for Him.

Ps 42:1

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
(KJV)

Closing thoughts:

Have a longing for the Lord in your soul. Desire after Him. Develop a healthy thirst for God. Let Him know that you want Him in your meeting, don't take it for granted that He will be there.

Scriptures to consider:

Ps 73:28

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.
(KJV)

Heb 10:22

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
(KJV)

James 4:8

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...

Prov 8:17

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.
(KJV)

Hosea 5:15

15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.
(KJV)

Closing Prayer:

Father may we seek after you with all of our heart. Amen.

A CALL TO PRAYER

I am desirous of an awakening of spiritual power for life to burn bright within my soul. I want to walk in the beauty of God's presence.

I would like for my life to be a catalyst that brings change into the lives of others. I want others to get excited about Jesus Christ, not in a religious way, but in a very real from the heart way.

Lord bring change.

Let your rain pour forth upon America. Stop those in power who know you not. Release your people into a spirit of intercession for America. Let the freedom bell ring. Cause the family of God to get concerned for America. Let a spirit of unity be upon your people.

Open up the windows of mercy and grace above America and let the conviction of sin be upon her. May we be ashamed of the sin in our lives. Cause us to weep and moan over our evil deeds. Let a spirit of repentance prevail over the entire country where money says "In God we trust".

Awaken and call forth your spokesmen. And let them proclaim your Gospel to the nation with signs and wonders following. Burn bright across the hearts of all Americans.

May Christians answer the call to prayer for America. Inspire them to press in to the enemy camp and to possess his gates. There is no demon big enough to stop the people of the Lord when they gather together in prayer.

May the prophetic anointing stir up the people of the Lord to do battle against your enemies. May they repossess the land!

Paraphrase and Commentary
of
The Gospel According to John
Semitranslated and commented upon by Pastor David Sloane

Introduction

As I studied the first few verses of John's gospel , I became aware of the complexity of meaning hidden beneath the surface of its words. I felt like a miner digging deeper and finding more rich gold veins. I was transported through time to its incipient stage as I read verse one from a new perspective. I saw a fantastic love relationship hidden in verse one between Jesus and God the Father. No particular version seemed to convey this depth to its readers.

So it made good sense to see if the richness of John's gospel could be brought to the surface. This is the results of digging through a lot of information and processing it with the help of the Holy Spirit. Questions such as, What is he trying to say?, What is he wanting us to know?, and what do we already know about the information that could enlighten our understanding of a particular passage of scripture?, were asked and addressed. This is not to say that this work is exhaustive in uncovering all that there is to be mined in the gospel of John. But it should ignite a desire in any reader to want to go deeper into the wonderful Word of God. May you be blessed and better informed as you bathe in the water of God's word.

Eph 5:25-26

25 ... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might *sanctify and cleanse it* with the **washing of water by the word,**

(KJV)

A few words before we begin

John the " beloved " writes his gospel after the other apostles had written theirs. He had the benefit of hindsight and could therefore fill in the gap in areas where the others may have been sketchy. John lived the longest of all the twelve apostles. As a result his writing tends to be more spiritually oriented than the other gospels. (I say this because God had more time to mold and shape John into the man He wanted him to be. Remember Jesus called John a son of thunder in Mark 3:17. John would require some christian growth which takes time.) His writing gives us a more mystical viewpoint of Jesus. The opening Prologue of this gospel is one of the deepest passages in religious literature . And indeed it does seem to be mysterious and flat planed, until we go deep beneath the surface where those who know Jesus will find large nuggets of enlightenment. The first verses of John's gospel are worthy to be written in letters of gold.. John loved Jesus dearly and knew him in a very close relationship. He is the only person in the bible who leaned upon Jesus breast, reminiscent of a father son relationship which suggest to us a tight bond between John and Jesus. John 13:23 says, *Now there was leaning on Jesus bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.* John 19:26; 20:2; 21:20, refer to John as the one whom Jesus loved. John is an apostle of love. So we should pay close attention to John when he speaks of Jesus, for he knows whereof he speaks. He was in on the inner circle of disciples and spent much time with Jesus.

I Jn 1:1-3

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, **which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled**, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 **That which we have seen and heard** declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

(KJV)

John was present when Jesus performed miracles and taught. John was also present at the last supper, he was present at Gethsemane. He was the only apostle present at the cross. He saw the empty tomb, was in the upper room. John was on the beach when Jesus appeared and at Jesus Ascension. I am sure that what John writes, Jesus discussed with him in depth. For us it is like inside information from someone close to the source when we read John's gospel. If John were alive today and was the pastor of a church, you can be sure many would seek him out to learn of Jesus. The primary point that predominates this gospel is that God loves us deeply and has done everything to convey this love to us. John explains why he wrote his gospel:

John 20:31

**31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.
(KJV)**

That we might have life through His name.

Will we respond to our redeemer? Will we receive His love? God's word says:

Jer 31:3

**3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.
(KJV)**

As we study together lets watch for the drawing power of God's love towards us. The love of God is very therapeutic. The Fathers love can heal us. If you need a touch from God, I am firmly convinced that as we study together God will meet you right where you are at. You don't have to do anything, just let God minister to you in the abundance of His love towards you. Daddy says, "come into my arms, crawl up into my lap and let me make it all better. I have always loved you and will continue to draw you to my self. I would heal you for I am the Lord your God that

healeth thee." As we study, go ahead and lay your head upon the breast of Jesus. Develop a closeness with Him.

Peter advises us:

1 Pet 5:7

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (KJV)

I believe Jesus would say to you at this point in time:

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

**30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
(KJV)**

So let's respond to Jesus and learn of Him, while He gives us rest from our hectic world. Take a moment just now and enter into the presence of God and relax. And when you have timed your self with His timing and feel your self slowing down, we can begin our study of God's word.

Heb 4:1

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of **entering into his rest**, any of you should seem to come short of it.

(KJV)

Heb 4:3

3 For we which have **believed do enter into rest**, as he said...

(KJV)

Heb 4:9-11

9 **There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.**

10 For he that is entered into his rest, *he also hath ceased from his own works*, as God did from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to **enter into that rest**, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (Apostasia = lack of trust in God.)

(KJV)

So rest and trust God to take care of everything that concerns you as you study His word.

The Good News According to

John

John 1:1

En arche en ho logos, In the beginning was the Word... (Pretend that these are gold embossed letters, OK?)

John starts out in the location of Alpha beginning. This is a beginning before the creation of all.

This is the central point of everything,, the place where all that lives comes from. There is no way that anyone could completely describe what is at Alpha beginning. We know that glory is there by reading:

Ps 104:2

2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: (KJV)

John 17:5

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self *with the glory* which I had with thee before the world was.
(KJV)

Mark 9:2-3

2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

(KJV)

Notice that Mark is using natural examples to describe supernatural white light. It does not do justice to what Mark witnessed. He has not the ability to convey to us what he saw other than by things that are known. As a baby christian I saw a man's shirt glow white with light as he walked forward in response to an alter call. I have never seen light such as that and can not began to describe what I actually saw. The God of light is the Father of lights:

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
(KJV)

Rev 21:23

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.
(KJV)

Isa 60:19

19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.
(KJV)

In this day of high technology movies with computer enhancement we have not even come close to depicting what is in the heavenly realms. Special effects are nothing compared to reality.

1 Cor 2:9-10

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
(KJV)

Even if the Spirit of God reveals the heavenly realm to us, how can we use earthly language to describe heavenly things? The best we could do is equate what we see with something on earth.

And we would still not be able to get across what we truly experienced. For example check out the way Ezekiel writes about heavenly things in his book, or the way John writes in the book of Revelations. There is so much at Alpha beginning that we currently can not comprehend in our present earthly bodies. God does not even try to let us know what Alpha beginning looks like.

When we look to the beginning of everything in our minds eye, notice that God would have us to

see Jesus. That is sufficient information from God's point of view. Our faith should rest in Jesus and not in spiritual experiences. Jesus says of himself in the book of Revelation:

Rev 1:8

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was (the Word), and which is to come, the Almighty (Supreme Divinity). (KJV)

(Any underlining or bracketed words are added to scripture quotes by me for the sake of emphasis.)

Jesus is in front of all things and behind all things all at once. Our limited minds have not the ability to grasp this fact of the Infinite One. But by faith we do know and accept the fact that Jesus is everywhere at once. He is at the start of our lives and in the middle of our lives and at the end of our lives all at once.

Eph 1:22-23

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him (Jesus) to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. (KJV)

Jesus is the Creator and the sustainer of all.

Paul the apostle says that we live our lives in Him and have existence in Him.

Acts 17:28

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (KJV)

In the greek, "In the beginning", could be translated, "Before times eternal", or, "First at the first".

In eternity the Word existed...

I prefer to say: *At the border of the first place of time and position there existed the Divine Expression.*

In agreement the opening scripture of Genesis says:

Gen 1:1

1 **(In the beginning God)** created the heaven and the earth.
(KJV)

Notice that in the beginning God already existed because He has no beginning. He is already there and has always been there. In the beginning was the Word. *Was* is a durative imperfect, meaning continued action. He was before any beginning that we could imagine. God would always have us to see Jesus whenever our minds wander to the beginning of things. He is central to all. He is the pivotal point from where everything comes and to where everything is going.

2 Cor 5:10

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**
(KJV)

THE WORD

ho logos-the Word.

We have a dual meaning here. John's usage of the Word can mean a person's thoughts or a person's speech.

A. *logos endiathetos*-word conceived. Words are conceived and thought in the mind.

B. *logos prophorikos*-word uttered. Words are spoken or expressed.

Intelligence and utterance-*ho eso* and *ho ratio*. We know someones mind by their speech as they express themselves. We have a word "dialogue" which comes from the Greek word *dia-logos* which means "flow of meaning or flow of expression". We know that **Christ is the Word**, for by Him God makes His mind known by acting and speaking through Him. Thus Jesus is God's expression. God the Father dialogues with us through Jesus. Jesus as the *Logos* reveals God's mind to us. In a dialogue all parties involved have conversation between themselves. They exchange ideas and opinions with a view to reaching agreement.

Heb 1:2

**2 (God) Hath in these last days *spoken unto us by his Son*, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
(KJV)**

He has directed us to hear Him:

Matt 17:5

**5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
(KJV)**

Heb 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the **express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.**

(KJV)

Christ is the Divine Expression of God. God expresses Himself through Christ the Word.

John 1:1
1... and the Word was with God,...
(KJV)

Now this is where there has been some controversy and some tampering with the text by many translators. This portion of scripture does not say *pros ton theon*, "with God". It plainly says "going" towards God. *Pros* with the accusative case (*theon*) after the verb "to be" always means "to go towards." It would seem that the translators did not know how to deal with this from a doctrinal stand point. If you leave the original rendering than you have some issues of doctrinal correctness that arise. For example, how can there be motion, division, advancement within God as the creator of the universe? Instead of saying "and the Word was going towards God" like the original text, they chose to say "and the Word was with God", which is not untrue in a technical sense. In keeping with this distortion of what the true text says, I will also bow down for the sake of good doctrine, and resultant poor literary translating. Although I personally do not have a problem with, "the Word going towards God". Therefore let our rendering say:

...and the Divine Expression was consistently with the Supreme Divinity...

I read one translation of this verse that said the Word and God were face to face. I like it. John is basically saying the Father and the Son are having a close relationship in the beginning.

John 1:1

...and the Word was God. (Kai theos een o logos)

Or

...and the Divine Expression was the Supreme Divinity.

John 5:18

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.
(KJV)

John does not say that the Word was a God. If he had then that would mean that Jesus was a created being who worked his way into divinity. And that would mean everybody could become divine. He states that the Word was God.

Our complete text of verse one says:

"At the border of the first place of time and position there existed the unchanging Divine Expression, and the Divine Expression was consistently with the Supreme Divinity, and the Divine Expression was the Supreme Divinity".

At the beginning of time before anything was made we find Christ the Word. The Word was from the beginning and the Word was in the beginning. The Word is eternal. The Word in regard to essence and substance was God. God was what the Word was. John wants us to see this greatest of all mysteries that cannot be adequately described. It is truly a Divine mystery beyond the grasp of intellect, we know and accept the information in our spirits by faith. But we can know the beauty of unity that we see in John 1:1 that exist between the Word and God.

John 1:2
The same was in the beginning with God.
(KJV)

Christ the Son enjoyed eternity with God the Father and was Himself from eternity with God. The Word coexisted with the Father from the beginning, coeternal. Some cults teach that the Father created the Son, making Jesus not eternal. John refutes this notion by this verse. God paid for our salvation so that we might enter into eternity and be with Him in this same loving relationship.

In reference to this relationship Jesus prayed:

John 17:22-24

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; *that they may be one, even as we are one:*

23 *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, *be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

(KJV)

The Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world.

I Jn 4:16

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

(KJV)

It is an incredible love relationship that God desires to have with us for all eternity. For God is love. Scripture says:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

This we can and do understand with our minds and hearts. In loving response we invite Christ the Son of God into our hearts and enter into this fantastic love relationship that has always existed and will always exist. This is a foundational fact of why we exist. It is to have fellowship and relationship with God the creator. And the only way to do that is through the living word of God, Jesus Christ. He loves us desperately. He went through great agony to make the way for us to enter into a loving relationship with Him. *Jesus Christ died for you. He suffered all things He did for the joy that was set before Him. What was that joy? The joy was that He knew one day we*

would be able to come to God through Him, and come in the righteousness of Jesus Christ- not the righteousness of man, not the righteousness of the law, but righteousness of the Son of the Living God risen from the dead. I can come and appear before the throne of grace, the throne of unmerited favor, and stand there because Jesus Christ has made me whole.

John 1:3

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

(KJV)

The bible is its own commentary. So we will let the bible unfold this topic of Christ making all things and being involved in making all things.

Ps 33:6

6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

(KJV)

Ps 102:25

25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

(KJV)

Col 1:16-17

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

(KJV)

Heb 1:1-3

1 God...

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds;**

(KJV)

John 5:17

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, **and I work.**

(KJV)

John 5:18-19

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, *The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

(KJV)

JESUS IS THE LORD. Jesus and God are one and the same. And thus the next verse is correct.

Isa 44:24

24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth **by myself;**

(KJV)

Isa 45:12

12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

(KJV)

God is still on His throne and He is still in command.

1 Cor 8:6

6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, **by whom are all things,** and we by him.

(KJV)

Eph 3:9

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, **who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

(KJV)

Mystery hid in God, but we are made to see through Jesus Christ.

Isa 45:18

18 **For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited:** I am the LORD; and there is none else.

(KJV)

God is talking to Christ:

Gen 1:26

26 And God said, (" Let us") make man in **our image**, after **our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

(KJV)

Isa 66:2

2 **For all those things hath mine hand made**, and all those things have been, saith the LORD :(Self existent, Eternal One) but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

(KJV)

Heb 10:12

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

(KJV)

Heb 2:10

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

(KJV)

Heb 3:3-4

3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

4 For every house is builded by some man; but **he that built all things is God**.

(KJV)

Rev 4:10-11

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: **for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created**.

(KJV)

John is letting us know in 1:3 of his gospel that Jesus is none other than God the Creator. God created you and I for His good pleasure. He has and is doing everything possible to bring us into

darkened world. We are the only lights that they will see in this world if we have Jesus in our hearts.

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light of life**.

(KJV)

John 3:16

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

(KJV)

John 4:14

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into **everlasting life**.

(KJV)

John 5:21

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the **Son quickeneth** whom he will.

(KJV)

John 5:26

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have **life** in himself;

(KJV)

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have it more abundantly.

(KJV)

John 10:28

28 And I give unto them **eternal life**; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

(KJV)

John 11:25

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the **life**: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

(KJV)

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the **life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(KJV)

John 17:2

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give **eternal life** to as many as thou hast given him.

(KJV)

Jesus is the source of all life. The name of God given to the Israelites is Yahweh which is translated Jehovah or Lord in our bibles, means literally "He who causes to be". He who gives life. We serve a God of life. The Jewish people have a saying, "To life".

The second part of verse four: **...and the life was the light of men.** Have you ever looked at someone and seen the vitality of life in their eyes and looked at someone else and seen a dullness with no life expressed. One is spiritually dead towards God, and the other is alive towards God. Only God can ignite a heart on fire for Jesus Christ until light shines forth. Men are supposed to shine with the light of God. We were designed to glow with light. Jesus is our light. We are not to hide our light. We are to shine.

Phil 2:15-16

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Matt 5:16

16 Let your *light so shine* before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

(KJV)

It has been my observation that when Christians backslide their light from God seems to dim. But when they get their hearts right with God they glow again. I have also observed that those who glow the brightest are the ones who stay in fellowship with God and one another.

I Jn 1:6-7

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

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

(KJV)

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

(KJV)

The Lord does make a distinction between light and darkness in people. You are a christian and you do not have anything in common with an unbeliever. If you are truly walking in the light then you will have fellowship with one another. We are in the world but we are not of the world.

I Jn 1:6-7

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

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

(KJV)

You are a light holder. God places us around this spiritually dark world to illuminate the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Is your light shining? There are basically three types of christians in most churches.

The first one comes to church and does not really care about the things of God. They are not really interested in learning about God. (They would not have read this far in this study.) It is

enough that they have come to church. When God pours out His Spirit upon them their hearts are like an upside down cup. The Spirit flows over and past them. They are not even aware of the Holy Spirit's presence or His moving in their midst.

The second type believes in the things of God. They believe in God's miracles. They believe that God's Word is true. But they are not expecting anything from God. There is no anticipation for what God might do. When God pours out His Spirit upon them their hearts are like a cup laying on its side. The Spirit flows over and past them. And they are aware of Him but do not respond. The third type of Christian is expecting God to move. They have a hunger and a burning desire for God. They believe and are waiting to receive. They are anticipating miracles in their midst and know that they want to see God's hand in their lives. They are like King David:

Ps 42:1-2

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?
(KJV)

When God pours out His Spirit upon them their hearts are like a cup that is up right. It gets filled to overflowing. They are the ones who are glowing and filled with the Spirit.

Eph 5:18-19

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
(KJV)

Verse 19 of the above scripture tells us how to get filled and how to stay filled.

Which type of Christian have you been lately?

John 1:5

**5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
(KJV)**

Continuously the light radiates in darkness; and the darkness does not have the ability to take it in. Before you invited Christ into your heart you were in darkness. You could not see or understand the good news of the gospel. And you were not able to have the benefits of Christ in you. Not one person outside Christ is capable of shining God's light through their life. Many falsely claim that they have light outside of Christ. They shine with a false light that deceives many. But the darkness does not and can not ever have the light of God outside of Christ.

I Jn 1:7

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

Spiritual light is only revealed to us by God. We do not have the capacity to see and understand it outside of God. We are unreceptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ until God opens our spiritual eyes. When we walk in darkness we do not hold the light.

The apostle John now transports us away from Alpha Beginning Point through time and space to tell us about a man. This is no ordinary man for he has been sent from God. And yet he is only a man. A man who has no record of performing any signs or wonders and speaks not of visions or dreams. He is I am sure a man who loves God and has strong passion for God. This is where we have the entrance of John the baptist and his witness to the true light.

John 1:6

**6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
(KJV)**

There was a (anthropos) human being set apart (apostello) and sent out on a mission from the Supreme Divinity, whose name was John. This man is an apostle in that he is sent out on a mission. A man on a mission from God to speak to other men. A Divine appointment. His mission is to direct people to Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. We also are sent out to do the same. We are not to self assign our own mission. Our mission must come from God alone.

2 Tim 4:2-5

2 **Preach the word**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist**, make full proof of thy ministry.

(KJV)

Johns authority lies in the fact that the Supreme Divinity has sent him. He needs no other recommendation than that. On that basis alone we will hear him and pay attention to his testimony.

John 1:7

**7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men
through him might believe.
(KJV)**

This man has the incredible honor of being the first person to actually lead others to Jesus Christ!

Jesus says of him:

Luke 7:28

28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

(KJV)

In the above scripture the word prophet means a foreteller and an inspired speaker. John spoke under the inspiration of God. His assignment is to bear witness of the light and not himself. Men were to pass through John to Jesus and believe. I was told a story by a carpenter who was invited to a black tie party. The host had invited everyone who had anything to do with the building of their new home. The host had also invited their personal friends. This was a very expensive party costing \$35,000.00 Dollars. One of their guest was a television religious person. When he showed up he seemed to draw all the attention to himself. A woman was telling a story about trying to give away pencils in a foreign country, they had " Jesus loves you " printed on them. The police of that country would not let her give out the pencils. They would arrest her if she did. The religious person had his program showing in the movie theaters in Austria. Some one asked him how he was able to accomplish this in that foreign country. He replied " When you have accomplished as much as I have and when you are established and your name is known and you have been around as long as I have it is not hard". His attitude was that of a very important person as he said this. The superintendents wife remarked "I thought Jesus had accomplished a lot and was established and had been around a long time". The essence of this story is that we as christians are not to bear witness of ourselves. We are to bear witness of the light so that men might believe through us and not to us. Which brings us to our next verse

John 1:8

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

(KJV)

This verse needs to be said and reflected upon. So many servants of God start out well but gradually start to act as though they were the light. We are not sent to build grand buildings. We are not sent to wear long flowing religious garments. We are not the light. Jesus is the light. We are to bear witness of that light. If we are not doing that than what in the world are we doing? If you want to really be used of God with an anointing on your ministry you have to bear witness of Christ. Let the candle of your life burn with the fire of Christ. A candle with out fire in a darkened room is of no use.

John 1:9

**9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
(KJV)**

Christ was the true light. Not John. Not us. Christ is the source of light. There are many around today who claim that they are the light. Meditators, chanters, channeled spirits, and a host of others will claim to be the light. But they are not the light. Christ makes our hearts pump not us.

John 1:10

**10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
(KJV)**

The ultimate tragedy is spiritual blindness. It can rob us of salvation through Jesus Christ. The maker of the world shows up, the light of the world, and this sinning polluted world can't even see Him. Even a dog knows his master. The creator of the earth walked in the midst of the people that He created and they could not see Him. They were not aware that He created them.

John 1:11
11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
(KJV)

The people around Jesus Christ in these scripture verses were not aware that He was actually God the Master Creator walking in their midst. They missed out on a walk with God. They were essentially blinded to reality. They had no awareness of the truth of what was real around them. You could say that their focus was off.

We who are the people of the Lord are to be aware of His presence and His hand at work in our lives. We have got to get our focus on the Lord and magnify Him. (Psalms 34:3) Develop an awareness of The Lord in your life.

There are many things competing for your focus, trying to draw you away from the Lord. Are you aware of them or are you aware of the Lord? Are you determined to keep your eyes on Him? Do you know Him? Do you really know Him? When you bow the knees of your heart in prayer do you have an encounter with the Risen Living Christ? Some well intentioned churches are seeking after the " blessing" of God and not fully after the one who blesses.

John 12:21

21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.
(KJV)

Song 2:9

9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice. (KJV)

We look through the lattice for Jesus, not at the lattice, or we will miss Him.

These men wanted to see Jesus, they were not going to miss Him in their midst.

There has to be an absolute resolve within your heart that says: "I would see Jesus. I want to know your presence Lord? I want to really know you. I do not want to miss out on what you are doing around me. Open my eyes that I might see. I am determined to keep my focus on the Lord and the things of God. I will turn away from those things that draw me away from the Lord. I will walk with God".

John 1:12

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

(KJV)

Here we have the ones who are aware that Jesus is Lord. They welcome Him with open and accepting hearts, The result is that He gives them the authority to be God's children.

It is not enough to say I know His name. We have to believe on His name. Which means trusting in Him and relying on Him. Looking to Him in all things and for all things.

Standing next to a ladder and saying I know that this is a ladder is not the same as standing on that ladder and committing your entire weight to it and having it hold you up. Saying that bungee jumping is safe is one thing. And actually jumping out into the air, trusting the large rubber band to hold your weight is another. Is Christ holding you up? Are you trusting Him, are you resting in Him?

You are a child of God not because of the church you go to, not because of the organization you belong to, not because of your traditions, not because of the religious things that you do. Only by receiving and believing in Jesus can we become the children of God. We on our own accept

Christ, we on our own walk with Christ and we on our own will stand before Christ at the end of this life. We alone are responsible for what we do with Christ. Let Christ be your savior. Let Christ be your redeemer. Let Christ be the Lord of your life. Trust Christ fully and you will find Him faithful in all things.

John 1:13

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(KJV)

We are in the family of God as a free gift from God. He sought after us when we knew Him not. He sent His messengers after us with the gospel. He never gives up on us. We are ultimately His fruit. He gets all the glory and all the credit. It is God's will for us to be in His family. He has adopted us. And we now have many brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers in this vast family of God. We are born again.

The *personal kingdom builders* (of which there are many that you would not even suspect) do not want you to go to other churches. They want you to stay within the confines of their belief structure in "their" church. They are fearful that you might go and stay somewhere else. Which would mean possibly a loss of tithe income for their kingdom. But if they were truly serving God.

Then there would be no reason to keep you from exploring our wonderful family the Body of Christ .

I like to visit other churches to see how that part of my family worships and conducts itself. I like to meet other brothers and sisters in Christ. We are one Body, no matter where we meet together. To often, where a christian fellowships is over emphasized. And there seems to be an unspoken message that if you do not fellowship where I fellowship then somehow we can not fellowship together. But there is only one family of believers, and many meeting places. We have to remember that each and everyone of the meeting places got their start from some doctrinal viewpoint and will reflect that viewpoint. We must be open to one another as the body of Christ.

It is not what we know about Jesus that brings us together: **It is THAT we know Jesus that brings us together.**

Rom 12:4-5

4 For as we have many members in **one body**, and all members have not the same office:
5 So we, being many, **are one body** in Christ, and every one members one of another.
(KJV)

1 Cor 6:17

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is **one spirit**.
(KJV)

1 Cor 10:17

17 For we being many are **one bread**, and **one body**: for we are all partakers of that **one bread**.
(KJV)

1 Cor 12:12-27

12 For as the body is **one**, and hath many members, and all the members of that **one body**, being many, are **one body**: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into **one Spirit**.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 **But now are they many members, yet but one body.**

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 **Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

(KJV)

Eph 2:16-22

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God **in one body** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by **one Spirit** unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and **of the household of God;**

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are **builded together** for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

(KJV)

Col 3:15

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also **ye are called in one body;** and be ye thankful.

(KJV)

I Jn 1:7

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

Jesus is the light. Are you walking in Him? Then you can have fellowship with anyone in the body of Christ no matter where they fellowship. I believe that you will fellowship where you are getting spiritually fed. I know that I will not stay where I am not getting fed spiritually. We are a part of the greatest family of all time. Act like it and visit your family openly and freely. Enjoy each other for you will be together for all eternity. Some would discourage visiting the other members of the body of Christ by calling you a "lone ranger", or a "spiritual nomad", ignore them. I believe that it is very healthy for you to explore the body of Christ. You can still fellowship where you are getting fed. And you should give your tithe and support where you are getting fed. I am not saying that God wants you to not belong to one particular church. What I am saying is that it is acceptable to celebrate our diverse family while attending our church of choice.

I pray that God would tear down all churches that would capture portions of the body of Christ and deliberately keep them from interacting and dialoguing with the full family of God. One of the main signs of a cult is that you are made to think that you are superior and separate from the rest of the body of Christ. Watch out for this. It is a party spirit.

Do not allow it to happen to you. Visit your christian family. Always have an open heart for all believers in Christ Jesus!

This next scripture says it like it is. The churches of Christ salute you the reader, a member of God's great family. And beware of personal kingdom builders who would seek to separate you from the rest of the Body of Christ.

Rom 16:16-18

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The *churches* of Christ salute you.

17 Now **I beseech you**, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions** and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

(KJV)

1 Cor 3:4-9

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth **are one:** and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For **we are** labourers **together** with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

(KJV)

John 1:14

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(KJV)

John is saying "we" because he was not alone when he saw the glory. The apostle Peter was there as well. Commenting on this event Peter says:

2 Pet 1:16-18

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

17 For he received from God the Father honour and **glory**, when there came such a voice to him from the **excellent glory**, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven ***we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.***

(KJV)

(See Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36).

This glory is often referred to as the "Shekinah", which is the visible symbol of the presence of God.

This scripture is about the Shekinah glory:

1 King 8:11

11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the **glory** of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

(KJV)

Here the visible symbol of God's presence is a cloud. In the original language structure it could mean that the priests could not stand to minister because of the "weight" of God, His **glory**. This is a clear reference to the Holy Spirit overpowering the priest in some way so that they could not stand in His presence. The **glory** of the Lord filled the temple, and thus the presence of God was made known. Today this same **glory** is dwelling within every Spirit filled believer.

1 Cor 3:16

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the **Spirit of God** dwelleth in you? (KJV)

1 Cor 6:19

19 What? know ye not that your body is the **temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (KJV)

This is why we see the glory of God in the face of true believers. He makes His presence known in them by the Holy Spirit. Believers are today's temple where the Spirit of God dwells.

If you are born again then you can be filled with the Spirit. You have only to ask.

Acts 2:38-39

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

(KJV)

Jesus Christ says:

Luke 11:9-13

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to them that ask him?

(KJV)

...full of grace and truth. (John 1:14) It is God's good grace to share His glory with you. This next verse is the key verse for me to the book of John.

John 17:22

22 And the **glory** which thou gavest me I have given them; **that they may be one**, even as we are one:

(KJV)

The glory is the Holy Spirit, and of a truth He will give to you the fullness of His Holy Spirit.

The Spirit indwelling you will enable you to be a witness for Jesus Christ and He will reveal the

Shekinah glory of God through you. You are the bride of Christ clothed in His glory. And that is

the Spirit of truth:

John 16:13-15

13 Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, he **will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(KJV)

John 1:15

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

(KJV)

Here we are told what John the Baptist shouted out to those who had gathered around him. He is acting in accord with the prediction that he should be the voice of one crying out in the desert. He is saying this is the one that I have been speaking about. He is giving preference to Him to whom it belongs. For He was before me, *pr`otos mou`en* - He was my first, or, first to me; He was my

first cause, my original. The first is one of God's names. (Isa. 44:6). In respect to seniority; He was before me. And being God with eternal existence, how could He be otherwise?

John 1:16

16 And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Eph 1:19-23

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, **the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

(KJV)

There is not one christian who can boast, all who come to Christ receive of His fulness. We have nothing that we have not received. And *kai charin*, for grace. A most precious gift, the good will of God towards us and the good work of God in us. Grace for grace- *charin anti charitos*. Grace for grace' sake.

Rom 12:6

6 Having then gifts differing **according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

(KJV)

Think of it as grace (favor) being poured out in abundance, grace upon grace, till there is no longer room to receive it. It is the fulness of God. It is God's good pleasure towards us in Christ!

John 1:17

17 For the law was given by Moses , but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Dear student of the bible, I regret that this is as far as I have gotten in the current study of Johns Gospel. Please pray for God's blessings upon the completion of this task.

I trust that what you have been able to read thus far will enrich your understanding of this portion of God's word.

It truly has been my joy in providing this insight from my perspective of John's Gospel. God bless you and may your bible speak to you in new revelation from the Word of God!

