

Glorious Gospel Publication



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Let God be pleased



Future Scene: “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, 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.” Rev. 4:10-11.

Present Course: “Let us go forth unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices **God is well pleased.**” Heb. 13:13-16.

Past Example: “By Faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony that he **pleased God**. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Heb. 11:5-6. God gave testimony of Enoch’s faith, and our Father’s *favor* by translating him.

Beloved, shall we not be greatly impressed how diligently aggressive our God has been to bring humanity into favor with Himself? Oh what an amazing undertaking has made it marvelously possible. Such an undeniable privilege He has made possible upon the basis of faith. We know that fallen humanity can find, realize or experience no favor with God whatsoever without faith. “Coming to God,” His person, total being is assessable, only approachable

by faith. Whatever progress we are to make ‘in him and with him’ is by faith. See Gen. 15:1 and Ps. 84:11-12. Thank God, that we by faith realize his *person, presence, power, and provision*. He would be our all in all. In scripture we are given to realize that *our favor with God* is or has been provided through the Sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom Our Father has said repeatedly, “This is my beloved son in whom, **I am well pleased.**”

A WORTHY WALK

Gen. 5:22-24; & Jude 14. Enoch *walked with God* while being a family man. The world was morally declining gradually in the days preceding the destroying flood. He prophesied with his feet, his life being a testimony of the pleasure and power of an overcoming life. His *walk illustrates* that it is absolutely possible at the end of this age, for us to **walk worthy** being filled with a knowledge of God’s will . Eph. 4:1 & Col. 1:9-10. It is blessedly important that we *walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing*, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. Paul is always encouraging us on in God’s will, purpose, and pleasure. See also 1 Thess. 4:1-10.

Enoch was not found here, but because he diligently sought God’s person he was found in his heavenly homeland. Paul counted all things loss to be *found in Christ*. He learned that it is God that works in us both the will and do of His good pleasure. Phil. 2:13. Our Father lets us know now, that one day we will be so glad that we have earnestly submitted to His good will, and yielded to His powerful working, and appropriated His good pleasure, and laid personal claim to His exceedingly great and precious promises.

WORKING WITH GOD

It is important to our God as to what we do with, to, and in our bodies. “We are *labourers* together with God:” If any man’s work

abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” 1 Cor. 3:9 & 14.

“I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom. 12:1,2. “Let not sin reign in your *mortal body*, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof. Neither yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.” Rom. 6:12, 13.

WARRING A GOOD WARFARE

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest *war a good warfare*: Holding faith and a good conscience...” 1 Tim. 1:18. Paul seems to encourage Timothy the way God had Moses urged Joshua on. “Thou therefore, my son, endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life: **that he may please him** that hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also striveth for masteries, yet he is not crowned except he strive lawfully.” 2 Tim.2:3-5. Paul seems to have the Lord’s witness to a successful race. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have *fought a good fight*, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them also that love his appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

WAITING AND WATCHING

THANK GOD! for giving us a **pleasing attitude in preparation** for our Lord's return! "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye appear with him in glory." Col. 3:1-4.

Beloved do we realize that God is working in us both the will and do of **His good pleasure**? Shall we wholeheartedly yield? As we occupy with him, here on this earth, even in "earthen vessels," ie bodies of humiliation, that in them we are to be glorifying God? Let us be thankful to have this God-given privilege. Even now he is changing us inwardly from glory, to glory. 2 Cor. 3:18. Shall our glorified bodies then manifest, even magnify what he has been doing in us now?

RESURRECTED AND TRANSLATED BODIES

Pleasing God will have glorious rewards! Shall our Glorified bodies then radiate how completely we have pleased the Lord today? 1 Cor. 15. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits: afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming. Vs. 22,23. "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" V. 35. "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead." Vs. 40,41. "But God giveth it a body as is hath **pleased him.**" V. 38.

Here I Am, Lord

by Anita Clark

Sermon given at Joy Haven Camp 2009

(The Last Days will return next issue)

In the Old Testament times, a person's name often had meaning. Some people make extensive studies into the meanings of names in the Bible. In John 10:3, Jesus says. "He calleth His own sheep by name and leadeth them out and the sheep follow Him for they know His voice." How can it be that the great Omnipotent God of the universe would speak to little insignificant man, and know his name? How could He give His Son to die for us? David says in Psalms 8:4, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him?"

There are a number of people in the Bible whom God called by name. We are going to read about four of these, but these will not be in consecutive order.

I. The Call to Leadership - Moses was called to leadership by God. In Exodus 3:1-6, we read God calling him, "Moses, Moses." He was out on the backside of the desert tending his father-in-law's sheep when God caused him to see a burning bush. When Moses turned aside to see this great sight, God call to him out of the bush. Moses answered with the right obedient response, "*Here am I.*" That is the appropriate response to answer God's call. Moses was the greatest leader in the Old Testament. When God calls someone by name, the appropriate response is, "*Here I am, Lord.*" Unless we are rebellious, and don't want to do what God is asking of us.

II. The Call to Salvation and the Call to Leadership as the Apostle of the Church Age- The next person we will look at is Saul of Tarsus, later known as Apostle Paul. Acts 9:1-6 records Saul,

who was going to Damascus to persecute and arrest the Christians. In verse 4 Jesus speaks to Saul from heaven, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Saul answered in verse 6, “*Lord, what will thou have me to do?*” After that, Saul was smitten with blindness and God told him to go into the city, and it would be told him what to do. He had to be humiliated by being led by the hand into town. In verse 15, The Lord said of Saul, “...He is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings and the Children of Israel. For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.” Saul obeyed the heavenly calling and followed Christ to become the great apostle God had called him to be. He was a great missionary who went to almost all the known world spreading the truth of the Word, the wondrous Gospel of Grace which God had revealed to him, establishing churches everywhere he went. His name was later changed to Paul.

III. Call to Obedience - Genesis 12:1-3. As we read this text it does not say God called him by name, but we know that He did. We find in Joshua 24:2, referring to Abraham and his family in Ur of the Chaldees, “...And they served other Gods.” God spoke to Abram (his first name) and gave him the wonderful promises of how He was going to bless him. In Genesis 12:4, Abram departed as the Lord had said., and began to have special communication with God. In Genesis 22:1 it is recorded, “And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt (test) Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, *Behold, here I am.*” He was ready to do whatever God wanted him to do. He gave the “obedient response.” God asked of Abraham to take his son, Isaac and offer him as a burnt sacrifice to the LORD. Verse 3 tells us, “He rose up early in morning...” He was perfectly willing to do anything that God asked him to do. It was a reproach not to have children, and who on earth anywhere would condone him slaying his son and offering him as a burnt offering? Yet, he was obedient. How? He trusted God.

Hebrews 11:18 states, “By faith Abraham offered up Isaac, and he that had received the promise offered up his only begotten son. Of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall they seed be called; Accounting that God was able to raise him from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” Since we know the rest of the story, we know that God stopped him as he was about to slay Isaac. Abram did not know that God was going to stop him. He was willing to do whatever God asked of him because of the great faith he had in God. He no doubt thought, “Had not God promised that through Isaac would come the promised seed. Okay, then, God will raise him from the dead..”

This was all a test. It is said of Abraham in Romans 4:20, “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God.” Although this scripture applies to the promise that God gave of Isaac’s birth, we know that was Abraham’s attitude all his life, as he walked with God. God said of Abraham in Genesis 22:12, “Now, I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.” Know this, God wants your everything. Paul says in Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice to God a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

IV. Reward of Perfect Obedience - Samuel - I Samuel 3. Hannah prayed for a son, She told the Lord that if He would give her a child she would lend him back to the Lord. She called his name “Samuel,” which means “asked of God” (Chapter 1:20). She brought him back to the Tabernacle (I Samuel 1:28.) He was barely weaned, probably about 3 years old. She bought as a sacrifice a burnt offering, a bullock. This was the highest type of offering of the burnt sacrifices, which was offered morning and evening every day, and was a voluntary offering. The bullock represents Jesus Christ,

Who willingly offered Himself to God in complete subjection to His Father's will. The tabernacle was a vile place to take a small child, because the sons of High Priest Eli were sinful and unbelieving. Hannah must have had real faith in God and knew it was God's will to leave her little son there. In Chapter 2:18 we find that little Samuel ministered to the Lord. No doubt he helped bring in wood and to trim the lamps and fill them with oil. Perhaps he helped with the offerings. His mother brought him a little coat each year that she had made. What an amazing true story!

Chapter 3:1 tells us, "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli." Eli and his sons had grown cold to the Lord, and God did not reveal Himself to them. Verse 1 says, "And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision." The word "precious" means "costly, or rare." It was unusual for the Lord to speak to anyone, or reveal Himself to anyone. This sets the stage for a wonderful event. Little Samuel was about to have a great experience with God. As Eli and Samuel had laid down in their beds for the night, and the Lamp of the Temple had gone out (this was never supposed to happen and shows the carelessness of these priests), Samuel heard a voice calling him, "Samuel." He immediately said, "*Here I am..*" Then, this little boy thought to himself that Eli had called him. He ran unto Eli and said, "Here I am." Eli recognizing that God was communicating with Samuel, instructed him to go back and lie down, and when he heard the voice again, to respond, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." How precious that God spoke to Samuel and revealed a startling prophecy of His judgment upon Eli and his sons. Think of it! God used this small child in such a mighty way. He didn't reveal it to Eli the high priest because Eli was not yielded to the Lord. God saw in Samuel a pure heart, yielded to Him. Later, Samuel became the Prophet and Priest of the Lord. What a mighty man he was! God can use us even if we are young. As children and young people

yielded to the Lord they can become spiritual grown ups in the Lord.

In closing I want to mention another man to whom God spoke, and called by name. And that is Adam (Gen.3) After Adam and Eve listened to Satan and sinned they hid themselves. Verse 9 tells us “And the Lord called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?” Verse 10, Adam answered, “ I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Adam did not give the proper response. He did not say, “Here I am.” He had lost close fellowship with God.

I want to tell you today, if you hear the Lord speaking to you, don’t try to hide from God, but speak to the Lord and say, “*Here I am, Lord, use me.*” You can begin to minister to the Lord while you are young. He will use you if you yield to Him. Christ is coming very soon. You can be an overcomer in that bridal company which will be caught away to be with the Lord before the tribulation begins. It doesn’t require you to have walked with God for 50 or 60 years. It requires a yieldedness and surrender to the Lord, desiring Him to work in your lives. He will do the work in you. That’s His job. Your job is to let Him.



***The secret of an unsettled life lies
too often in an unsundered will.***

***Don’t make the mistake of taking
your will for God’s will.***

***Surrendering one’s will to the divine will
may seem to be a negative procedure,
but it gives positive dividends***

JESUS IS BETTER

A TOPICAL STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS A Better Priesthood Providing A Better Hope -Part 4

By Carolyn Brown

Heb.. 7:7 “And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the **better**.” The “less” spoken of here is the Levitical priesthood, the **better** is the priesthood of Melchisedec. Now the connection between Abraham and the Levitical priesthood and its lesser place before the order of Melchisedec is that Levi was a great-grandson of Abraham. When Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec, who is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, he was prefiguring the Levites paying tithes to the Lord.

7:19 “For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a **better hope** did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.” The law made nothing perfect. That is, it was unable to bring a final conclusion to the sin issue. It could never provide that perfect sacrifice for sin that was required. It could only point forward to the “Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” (Jn. 1:29) We have in the Lord Jesus a **better hope** by which we can draw nigh to God. He brought in upon an inconclusive condition a hope that provides for us an anchor within the veil which is both sure and steadfast. 6:19 That is, a standing in the very presence of God, an acceptance through His Beloved Son.

We know that the law made nothing perfect because there would not have been need for another priest to arise after the order of Melchisedec had its priests been able to

remove the guilt and penalty of sin. Vs. 11 The Levitical priesthood was replaced by one Man who was made priest not according to a commandment that demanded certain physical requirements be met, but according to an endless life—a life that could not be dissolved or disunited. Vs 16 He became us, that is, He was perfectly suited for what we needed, being holy harmless, undefiled and separate from us who were born sinners. He is removed far away from sinners into the Holy of Holies in heaven. He did not have to repeatedly make atonement for His sin and that of the people as did the Aaronic priests. Once was sufficient for all men for all time. He was not encumbered with spiritual, physical, and moral weakness. The law made men high priests which had infirmity. But the word of an oath from God made the Son Priest for evermore. (Vs 26-28)

“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a **better testament.**” Vs. 22 The oath is the “so much” that made Jesus a surety of a **better testament.** It was by a oath that God confirmed the immutability or unchangeableness of His Word concerning Jesus’ high priestly office. That oath is found in verse 21. “The Lord sware and will not repent, **Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.**” Our **better hope** is based upon a **better Priest**, whose blood sealed a **better covenant** that is backed up by the oath of God, who can sware by no greater than Himself. He wanted to show more abundantly unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel. Hence He “confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things (His Word and His oath), in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:” Heb. 6:19

So the **better Priesthood** of the Lord Jesus was typified by Melchisedec, who was King of righteousness, King of Salem or Peace. He was without father and without mother...(assuredly the man Christ Jesus had an earthly mother but only so that He could take on Himself the body God had prepared for Him in order to become the sacrifice for our sin. His High Priestly ministry began with His entrance into heaven after His resurrection.)...without descent or genealogy, he had neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but was made like unto the Son of God. He abided a priest continually. Vs. 2-3 His order was a sovereign appointment of God. It predated the law. Is there anything here that does not describe our great High Priest? The priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled the law's just requirements but was initiated by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God of eternity past. It didn't follow the mold of the Levitical priesthood. Jesus was not even of the Levitical tribe but that of Judah which had no place of attendance at the altar. Vs. 13-14

“But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Vs 24-25

Thank God for the **better Priesthood** of the Lord Jesus Christ that provides for all men a **better hope!** We will next consider the **better testament** of which the Lord Jesus was made surety.

to be continued



Adorning The Gospel

In the second chapter of the book of Titus, the Apostle Paul gives counsel to different ages and classes. We find the purpose for this in verse 10. “...that they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things**. Webster’s dictionary gives this meaning to the word “adorn” - adding beauty to something by gracing it with its own beauty, to render attractive, to enhance or heighten the beauty of... It is God’s will that we *adorn the Gospel* by the life we live. Let us consider the context of this chapter.

V. 1, “...speak thou the things which *become* sound doctrine.” If we speak the truth in love it will be beneficial to others. It will build up believers so they will be scripturally and spiritually healthy.

V. 2, “That the aged men be sober (or vigilant), grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.” If these things are evident in the spiritually mature man, it shows him to be sound in faith,, having **heeded sound doctrine**.

V. 3, “The aged women **likewise**, that they be in behaviour as *becometh holiness*, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;” *Likewise* the aged women should by their actions make them teachers of good things. Our lives speak louder than our words. Who are we teaching by our ways? those younger than ourselves.

V. 4, “That they may *teach* the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,” Our behavior is

passed on to following generations, the aged to the younger and the younger to their children. What do they learn?

V. 5, “To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” May our children never be able to say, ‘My parents are not what they seem.’ We don’t want to be a reproach (especially to our children), but that our lives **adorn the Gospel**. So that it is manifest outwardly what has been worked *in us* by the Holy Spirit (God’s Word on display as it were).

Vs. 6-8, “Young men **likewise** exhort to be sober minded (or discreet). In *all things* shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.” *Likewise* the young men are to be a good example. Our life of good works can shut the mouths of unbelievers. Notice the progression here, sound doctrine makes sound faith, sound faith makes sound speech and sound speech makes good works. God has ordained good works for His people and He expects us to *walk in them* by the power of the Holy Spirit.

V. 9, “Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in *all things*; not answering again;” What is said here to servants, can be taken to heart by employees. Bad conduct on our jobs could make the Gospel appear repulsive. But doing our duties as unto the Lord, we can be an *adornment* so that others are drawn to the Lord. Mt. 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in

heaven.” Phil. 1:27, “...let your conversation (or manner of life) be as it *becometh the gospel of Christ...*”

Vs. 11-15, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.” Just think, the *God of all grace* takes such hopeless material and makes a people for Himself, purchasing us at infinite cost; a people over and above man’s expectations which *makes the gospel appealing*.

Costly attire and beautifiers do not transform us, but neither do defacements or feigned religious piety. None of these adorn the Gospel. Consider: I Tim. 2:9-10; 4:12-13; I Pet. 3:3-6. If the outward appearance savors of worldiness, so is the heart. God by His Spirit does not work from the outside in, but does an inward work as we yield to His Word and let the Holy Spirit work that Word in us and it becomes manifest in our lives.

Phil. 4:1, “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.” The manner of these saints lives after receiving Paul’s teaching were a real “joy and crown” an *adornment* to Paul. He simply admonished them to “stand fast,” not in their own wisdom and strength but “in the Lord,” just as they had been doing. They were running with Paul for “the **Prize** of the high calling.” They were the *fruit*

of his labor in the Gospel. He also said to the Thessalonian saints that they will be his joy and crown of rejoicing when the Lord comes. I Thess. 2:19-20. May we also add to Paul's rejoicing in that day by *adorning the gospel* he preached..

Paul's life *adorned the Gospel* - I Thess. 1:5; II Thess. 3:7. May we follow Paul as he followed Christ.

In Proverbs 12:4 we read "a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband." If we *adorn* the gospel, we shall *adorn* Christ as His bride (His crown and glory). Revelation 10:1 describes Christ descending out of heaven in grandeur and power to assume control of things on earth. He is seen *clothed* with a cloud and the rainbow of the cloud is upon His head. It is the saints, associated with Him (His *adornment*).

In Revelation 21:2, John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride *adorned* for her husband. The Greek means "marshaled, decked, embellished, honored, ornamented. Also in Rev. 19:7 we read the Lamb's wife hath made herself ready. How? She has hearkened to the voice of the Father, inclined her ears to His Word, putting Christ first in her devotion. Psalm 45 tells us her clothing is of wrought gold. For she will be adorned by a company of saints, just as she is a company of saints (a bride adorned).

E. J. Davis

***The man who lives for Christ does not
conform to his environment. He is
drawn into a new one.***

GET UP!

by Craig Crook

Ex. 8:20 - the LORD said to Moses, Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the water and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

We must start at verses 16-19. V. 18 - The “magicians” of Pharaoh could not reproduce the miracle that Aaron had done. V. 19 - They then acknowledged that a creative power was at work which they could not imitate. If up to this point they had the help of demons now the Lord had restrained them from acting. Interesting that this power was ascribed to just the “*finger*” of God. What if he had used his whole hand? So now, even though they (his magicians) acknowledged the power of God, Pharaoh still hardened his heart and refused to acknowledge the sovereignty of Jehovah. It is then that we have this wonderful verse.

I would like to look in detail at the different phrases we find in this verse.

The Lord said: This statement is the most important; it gives authority to all that follows. It is not man, others or even ourselves, that commands this but Jehovah, the God of covenant, the One who had *promised* and would *fulfill all* to those to whom He had promised. Paul would declare many times that he was the apostle of Christ not man. Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1

To Moses: To a certain individual. Not to others but to you! The Lord would speak to you; the commandment is for you. What will you do? As Jesus would later say to Peter; “What does it matter about the others, you follow me!” We find this same exhortation given to Gideon in Judges 6:12-14. Notice the ‘you’ & ‘us’ in this

portion! Gideon tried to make it about 'us' but God said, 'do not I send you?'

Get up: This is a requirement. You must get up! Have you been cast down? Get up! Have you fallen down? Get up! Your enemy would have you down, but God orders you to get up! Jdg. 6:11, can you picture Gideon there hiding, crouching down so not to be seen? Jdg. 7:9; Do you want to be able to encourage others? Then you must *get up* first. Jdg. 7:15. Solomon always gives us very practical advice for our natural lives. Pro. 6:9-11; I believe we can see the spiritual application here. Are you spiritually poor? Maybe you need to Get Up! Paul says, 'I have fought the good fight; I have run the race; I have toiled.' Nowhere do we read; 'I have rested,' 'I have folded my hands.' Look at this well known portion in John 5:1-9 Do you want to get well? Then GET UP!! No one to help you? Then GET UP! The Lord commands you and He never gives a command He doesn't enable you to carry out! '38 years!' How long have you been spiritually paralyzed? How long have you been unable to get up? Maybe the Lord is saying to you: Get up! Pick up your mat and walk out to confront Pharaoh. Phil. 2:13; Col. 1:10-14 Have you read these verses? Read them again!

Early: This is also an important truth in our spiritual lives. The proper meaning of this phrase is 'to incline the shoulder to a burden;' that is, so to start early in the morning. Do what needs to be done early. Early in the morning (before anything else), early in life (while you are young; before a life of sin), early in your trial (praise God, before anything else Job 1:20-22). It speaks of being quick to obey God, doing his will, his work. Procrastination is one of the enemy's best tools and robs many. Early is the victory! Look at the lives of Samuel, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, Jesus, Timothy, etc. This phrase is used three times in the story of Abraham: Gen. 19:27; 21:14; and 22:3 They show us his obedience. In many of the instances where we find this phrase, it is used to indicate their response to the word of the Lord. When did the man in John 5:1-9 receive his healing? Did Jesus heal him and then he got up? Or

did he get up and then was healed? Maybe we could say it this way: hearing + faith + obedience = healing!

confront Pharaoh: And now we come to the heart of the verse, the reason why we must get up and do it quickly; the battle, the warfare that Paul speaks of so often! How few realize this truth or how quickly we forget! There is a war going on and we are to confront the enemy! This word means: ‘to place anything so as to stay, to station, offer, continue, stand fast.’ Not hide or run, nor surrender! We are commanded to fight, to “go out” to meet him! Are you ready to do this? [offer] Rom. 12:1; Rom. 6:13; [stand] Eph. 6:10-13; [stand firm] 1 Cor. 16:13; [continue] 2 Thes. 3:4; 2 Tim. 3:14; 2 Jn. 1:9;

As he goes to the water: This is powerful! In any war what is one of the most important aspects of a successful campaign? Intelligence! Our Captain knows where the enemy will be! Is this not half the battle? To know your enemy, his strengths, weaknesses, where he will attack? This assures you of victory! Notice: he devours 1 Pet. 5:8; he deceives 2 Cor. 11:3; 2 Thes. 2:3,9-12; he opposes 2 Thes. 2:4; he tempts 1 Thes. 3:5; he blinds 2 Cor. 4:4; he robs Mt. 13:19; he trips Mt. 16:23; he sows Mt. 13:38-39; he sins 1 Jn. 3:8; he accuses Rev. 12:10; he lies and kills Jn. 8:44.

Say to him: We need to learn this! To speak to our enemy, command him, because we have the authority over him. Mk. 1:23-26; 9:17-27; Acts 16:16-18.

This is what the Lord says: And here is our weapon! Not our words or ideas, but “thus saith the Lord.” (Used 430 x’s in O. T.) The Word of God! (48 x’s in N. T., 14 x’s in Acts!) the same “weapon” our Lord used so effectively against Satan. We must know this weapon and be able to use it! The Word and prayer are the only weapons that will defeat your enemy. Make sure it is not what you say, but what God says! 1 Thes. 2:13.

Notice that in Ex. 7:15 & 8:1 God had already told Moses to go to Pharaoh and he had gone. So in v. 20 what we see is more

intensity in the warfare that is being waged, therein the words that Jehovah speaks to Moses. He would speak the same to us today I believe. The battle is getting more intense and we must step up to the occasion! Jer. 1:17-19; 15:19-21; Maybe you would say: 'I have, I have confronted Pharaoh!' Amen! What would God say to you? Perhaps the same thing He said to Moses? Do it again! Ex. 9:1 & again! Ex. 9:13 (Jam. 1:2) & again! Until the battle is over! Glory to God!

Conclusion? Heb. 11:24-27 Heard God + believed God + obeyed God = Victory. Try it!

Tomorrow

God is in every tomorrow,
Therefore I live for today,
Certain of finding at sunrise
Guidance and strength for the way;
Power for each moment of weakness,
Hope for each moment of pain,
Comfort for every sorrow,
Sunshine and joy after rain.

God is in every tomorrow,
Life with its changes may come;
He is behind and before me;
While in the distance shines Home!
Home - where no thought of tomorrow
Ever can shadow my brow;
Home - in the presence of Jesus
Through all eternity - now.

Selected

God's Marvelous Works

by Bob Briner

“Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and his **wonderful works** to the children of men.” Psalms 107:8,15,21,31. This Psalm speaks of man in his transgressions, his iniquities, and his afflictions. And then we read, “They cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.” Verses 6,13,19,28. Hannah describes God's *marvelous works* in I Samuel 2:1-8. David agrees. “Many, O Lord my God, are the *wonderful works* which thou hast done. Psalm 40:1-5.

The people cry and the Lord delivers. This is a theme that runs through the Bible. See Psalm 34:15, “The eyes of the Lord are open upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.” Also Psalm 34:17, “The Righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivered them out of all their troubles.” God tells Moses in Exodus 3:7,8, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt and have heard their cry. And I am come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians.”

We call Jeremiah 33:3 God's phone number. “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” He earnestly wants you to call Him! The next move is His. The Trinity alone will answer your call. There are no Trinity helpers. See Ephesians 1:11, He “worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.” Vines says counsel is “a piece of advice.” Knox translates this, “carries out the design of His own will.” My translation: “He seeks advice from no one. Isaiah 40:13-14; Isaiah 46:9-10; Daniel 4:35.

“Call upon me in the day of trouble.” Eliphaz to Job: “Yet men is born into trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” Job 5:7. Man has many needs of God’s *marvelous works* to be done in his life. David says in Psalm 40:17, “But I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinketh upon me, thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.” He repeats this request in Psalm 70. David says in Psalm 86:1, “Bow down thine ear O Lord, hear me, for I am poor and needy.”

Jesus tells Nicodemus, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus didn’t get it. Jesus was talking about a spiritual rebirth. God tells Adam and Eve if they eat of the tree in the midst of the garden, they will die. Satan tells them they won’t die. They eat and they die, but not physical death. They are still alive physically and moving about and talking and doing all the things that live people do. But they died spiritually. Spiritual death is reparation from God. To have no part in Him.

We are all born dead. We inherit Adam’s nature. Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Mans only hope is for God’s *marvelous works* to be done in his life. He is destitute. See Col. 1:21, “And you that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.” The word “alienated” means “to be considered an alien.” It means to be away from God. See Eph. 4:17-19. In Eph. 2 we see our condition and the work of God in reconciling us to Himself. We see the great need that we have and God’s *work marvelously performed* in us. We emphasize a portion of V. 10 that says, “for we are His workman ship.” “O that man would praise the Lord for His *wondrous works* to the children of men.”

We are alienated from God and the remedy is to be reconciled. Reconcile means “to change from one condition to another.” It means to leave no impediment to unity or peace. In Eph. 2:16 Paul uses the word reconcile concerning Jews and Gentiles. Another thought on reconciliation is given in Col. 1:20. See 2 Cor. 5:17-20. Note V. 20, “Now we are ambassadors for Christ.” An ambassador is a representative. We are Christ’s representative to bring together those to Him who are alienated from Him. This is a marvelous work that He has given unto us.

We know that the *work that He does* in our life is sometimes grievous. Heb. 12:11. The *work* that he did in the lives of the children of Israel in Judges 6 was not joyous. We read there that they were greatly impoverished. Didn’t sound like a good thing but it produced the reaction that God wanted. They “cried” unto Him. Paul probably didn’t like life in a prison cell but it gave him opportunity to write the letters that we might not have had other wise. He might not have thought of the thorn in the flesh as good except it gave the Lord opportunity to tell him that His “grace was sufficient.” Paul would probably rather be somewhere else than in that boat when the storm came up. He wouldn’t have been able to say, “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer, for I believe God.”

The Psalmist understands the purpose of afflictions: Psa. 119:71. Joni Erickson would not have her ministry otherwise. This is one of her favorite verses. She is a paraplegic. Paul in 2 Cor. 4:17 says he knows there is a much greater purpose for our afflictions than we might think, “for our light affliction, which is but for a moment.”

This affliction we may suffer for a lifetime is but for a moment when we see it in the light of eternity. We are to keep our eyes on the unseen things for they are eternal. V. 18. God's *wonderful work*!

Paul knows that our tribulations has a far greater purpose than we first believe. Read Rom. 5. Look at all the good things that occur because we suffer affliction. We gain patience, experience, and hope. V. 9 is the Father's great gift unto us. "We shall be saved from wrath thru Him. V. 10, We are reconciled to God. We are saved by His life. If Jesus had stayed in the grave, we would have also. Because He lives, we live. We are saved by His life. Jn. 14:19, "Because I live, ye shall live also."

Our redemption is a *wonderful work* that only God can accomplish. In Acts 4:12 we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus *work* was and is incomparable! In John 15:24 we read, "If I had not done among them the *works* which no other one had done, they would not have had sin: but now they have even seen them and yet have hated both me and my Father." Only He made a difference.

Phil. 1:6, Paul recognizes the *Lord's work* in the Philippians. Most of the time we don't see *His work* in those around us. Oftentimes to believe that the Lord is at work in a life is either nonsense or a wonderful truth. 2 Cor. 4:10, "that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal body." Whenever the Lord did any work it is *wonderful*. He surely has not changed. Paul states here that if the Lord starts something, He will finish it. When the

Lord comes into a life He wants to finish it. And so He will.
We can be confident of that.



If



*If man could fling a trillion stars
Beyond the sun and moon and Mars,
Far out in vast sidereal space,
And keep them spinning in their place;*

*If man could made a tiny flower
and made it grow by his own power;
If he the ocean could command
And measure it within his hand;
If man could make a living soul
That should endure while ages roll;
Would I be than by man so awed
That I'd acclaim him e'en as God?*

*Ah, no! for had he all this might,
He could not guide his life aright;
He could not cleanse his own lost soul,
Nor make a sin-sick sinner whole.*

*Though man-made spheres may come and go,
There's only one true God, I know,
Who holds the worlds within His hand,
And on that Rock secure I'll stand.*

—Margaret Fraser

