

Glorious Gospel

**Declared to be
the **Son of God**
with power, by
the resurrection
from the dead.**

Romans 1:4





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Contents:

God's Purpose

Gordon Crook 1

Mephibosheth – A Story of Grace

Vicky Moots 5

Poem: by Debra Isenbletter – I Shall Be Whole 8

Bible Study: Ephesians – Part 4

Gordon Crook 10

Sharing Testimonies 14

The Lamb

Sharon Townsend 16

The Bride Beautified Part 2

Jack Davis 20

Song: It Took A Miracle 24

The Encouraging Word 25

NEEDED

Ones that are willing to share a testimony to encourage others along the way in these last days. Jesus is coming soon.

God's Purpose

Gordon Crook, Pastor
Grace Assembly, Wichita, Kansas

I want to start this topic with a few concepts to level set our understanding.

1. God is eternal. He is not bound by time or space as we are. **"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" Isaiah 46:10**
2. Unlike us, God does not think of something and then wonder if He can pull it off. He accomplishes everything He thinks of. **"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:" Isa 14:24.**
3. God always acts in a righteous and perfect way. **"And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness." Psalm 9:8. "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." Isaiah 11:4-5**

As I considered the topic of God's purpose, I came to realize that God's purpose is eternal, just as He is eternal. When we look at all that we have given to us in God's Word, we must come to the conclusion that God's purpose has always revolved around His Son Jesus. Not just after the creation and fall of humanity, but since before the creation of humanity. Jesus is and always will be at the center of God's purpose.

We should start by understanding that God's purpose is unchangeable and cannot be stopped. **"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:" Isaiah 14:24. "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" Isaiah 46:10.**

God is not like us in needing to figure out if His plan is executable or not. He is not moved by things that happen that seem to undermine His plan. He knew them before they happened. He was not taken by surprise at the fall of Adam and Eve. It was already accounted for in His plan before He even created them. **"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you," 1Peter 1:20.** Nothing done by man is affecting God's plan. To the contrary, it is working right in line with God's purpose.

I started writing this before the war against Iran began, and I know some are very concerned about what will come of that. However, nothing that is happening today

is outside of God's purpose. He is putting everything into place where He needs it to finish His work with humanity.

I would not have enough room here to lay out every bit from the Old Testament, but I will point out that God chose Abraham to become His nation. He chose others throughout the OT to bring about the necessary people and conditions for Jesus to come. He chose and used imperfect people like Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon, and many others to bring about His purpose in Christ Jesus. Paul tells us that Jesus came at just the right time. **Galatians 4:4.**

I cannot tell you exactly why that was the **"right time"**, but God has an exact plan that is being worked out. What I can tell you is that God's purpose is wrapped up in Jesus, and that it includes you and me and anyone who will trust in Jesus. I can tell you God is choosing to work through people and nations to bring about His final purpose.

While we may not have every minute detail of God's plan, He has revealed to us what He intends to do. **"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" Ephesians 1:9-10.**

God will gather all things together in Jesus. Jesus came and gave His life to make it possible for us to be a part of this plan. It was always God's intent to bring humanity into His presence through the sacrifice of His Son. This

is God's work, and not one person can take any credit for it. **"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," 2Timothy 1:9.**

I find this revelation to be incredibly exciting. It is also very humbling to realize that God always intended for me to be able to spend eternity in His presence. I think sometimes we fail to comprehend the fulness of this plan. Maybe we have heard it before, and are keen to regurgitate the words, but do we really understand? Are we aware of the depth of God's grace? Paul prayed for the saints to have a deep understanding.

To put a "cherry on top", there is even more. God is taking from out of those who have believed and trusted in Jesus (the church), a group that will be the bride of Jesus. These will have a very close intimacy their Lord. It is still God's work, so we still cannot take any credit for it, but we can be a part of that company. All God is expecting from us is a desire and a willingness to yield to His working.

When we study God's Word with a true desire for a deeper revelation, God will honor that and reveal Himself more and more. As He does that, He is working in our life to change us from glory to glory. He is preparing us for a close intimate relation with Himself for eternity. Don't let the world rob you of this great opportunity.



Mephibosheth – A Story of Grace

Vicky Moots

In II Samuel chapter 9, we find the story of Mephibosheth, which is a spiritual picture of salvation by grace. Mephibosheth was King Saul's grandson through his son Jonathan. According to I Sam. 31 King Saul and Jonathan had both been killed in battle against the Philistines. After Saul's death, David became king of Israel. David had loved Jonathan as he would a brother and had made a love covenant with him when they were younger.

II Sam. 9:1: "And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" In v.3 David asks Ziba, one of Saul's servants, "...Is there not yet of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet."

In these verses, we see that David is seeking for someone to show kindness to in order to honor his covenant of love to Jonathan. He sought and found Jonathan's son who was lame on both his feet, and therefore unable to stand or walk. We learn from II Sam. 4:4 that Mephibosheth had become crippled when he was injured in a fall at age 5.

II Sam. 9:4-5: "And the king [David] said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir...in Lo-debar. Then king David sent and fetched him out of the house of Machir...from Lo-debar."

In this story, David is a spiritual type of Christ who came to seek and to save that which was lost because of a love covenant that He had made with His Father. It was love that brought Jesus to this world to die on the cross to save sinners. Mephibosheth represents the sinner who is lame on both his feet and has no standing before a holy God. When Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, he lost his standing with God. Mephibosheth also lost his ability to stand when he fell.

Where was Mephibosheth found dwelling? He was found in the house of Machir, which means "to perish," in Lodebar, which means "barren wasteland." This is where we are found as sinners before Christ rescues us. We are perishing in a barren wasteland of sin and unforgiveness. But Christ loved us enough to seek for us and to "fetch" us out of our hopeless condition and bring us unto himself.

Mephibosheth's name means "shame out of his mouth." We read in Rom. 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." All of us are in a shameful and helpless condition apart from the grace of God.

II Sam. 9:6-8: "Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence...And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake...and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?" Mephibosheth humbled himself before king David and acknowledged that there was nothing good in himself to merit the king's favor. This is exactly what we must do in order to receive salvation.

Salvation is by grace alone. None of us are worthy to receive it. We must accept it by faith.

In v.10 David tells Ziba, "...Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table." And in v.11 he states, "...As for Mephibosheth...he shall eat at my table, as one of the King's sons." Mephibosheth was raised up from being a "dead dog" to the same status as one of the king's sons. When we are born again we also become one of the king's sons, not just servants. Oh, what grace, oh, what love that He has shown to us, as declared in I John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..."

II Sam. 9:13: "So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet." Jerusalem means "foundations of peace." He was brought out of the house of Machir ("to perish") in Lo-debar ("barren wasteland") to a place of peace and rest. This is the place where we are brought spiritually by God's grace, and we are made to dwell in the king's house and eat continually at His table as His sons, as David said in Ps. 23:6: "...I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Mephibosheth never regained strength in his legs. He remained weak and dependent on the king's grace. Spiritually, this means that we have no strength in ourselves or any of our own ability to earn salvation or to keep ourselves saved by our works. But God's grace is sufficient for us, as Paul was told by God Himself in II Cor. 12:9: "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."



I SHALL BE WHOLE

***A woman sick for twelve long years,
heard that Jesus came.
If she could only touch His robe,
she'd never be the same.***

***"I shall be whole" she cried with faith,
as Jesus closer came,
"I am unclean but just one touch,
I'll never be the same."***

***The crowd pressed close around the man,
they'd heard about His fame.
With desperate courage she moved in close,
yet hung her head in shame.***

***I cannot speak, I am unclean,
but just one touch I'll steal,
The hem of His dear garment,
is all that I will feel.***

***I shall be whole, I know I will,
her heart cried out with faith.
And as she touched that dusty robe
a miracle took place.***

*Jesus turned and looked around,
for virtue He felt leave,
A hand of faith had touched His robe,
a heart that did believe.*

*"Who touched me?" He asked aloud
but knowing it was she.
He looked at her who touched His robe,
and knew she was set free.*

*The woman fell down at His feet,
pouring out her soul.
And Jesus spoke with tenderness,
"Thy faith hath made thee whole."*

**Debbie Isenbletter
Springfield, Missouri**



Ephesians

Part 4

Pastor Gordon Crook

First, an apology for last month's article that had Ephesians 1:7-10 which should have been Ephesians 1:7-12.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13-14

So, verse 12 tells us that God's purpose in our life is that we might be to the praise of His Glory. All of this is His purpose for those that put their trust in Jesus. It is the Gospel that brings us directly to Jesus. When we hear and understand the Gospel, we realize that the only way to salvation is to put our trust in Jesus, and that brings us directly into God's eternal purpose.

He has given us the Holy Spirit as the earnest of our inheritance. An earnest is something valuable given as a pledge to some future value that will be given. While we are in this world, awaiting our final inheritance, we have God's Holy Spirit. More than just something to show God's promise, the Holy Spirit also works in us to make us into those that will certainly bring praise and glory to Him.

Verses 15 and 16 lead us into one of Paul's prayers for the saints. I have always loved studying these prayers. It helps us understand what Paul thought was important for the saints, and since the Holy Spirit inspired him to write these down, they have important instruction for us.

First, note in verse 16 that Paul starts by giving thanks for all the saints. **"ALL"** the saints. And he is praying for all saints.

**"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,"
Ephesians 1:15-18.**

Praying for wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. I want to point out that none of this prayer is for worldly anything. Not even for healing (which Paul could use). It reminds us that what matters most is the spiritual. We often get too focused on the things in this life that bother us or that we think we need

Paul's desire for the saints was that they would have a deeper knowledge of God. Nothing is more important or more valuable than knowing God. So many Christians have a very shallow knowledge of their Lord. The enemy can get us so focused on the world and our place in it and the things we think we need, that we fail to take the time to truly spend in fellowship with our Lord.

Many do not have any understanding of the hope that is in our calling. That is that God, in His amazing grace, has given us something that should make the things of this world pale by comparison. Our hope is that we will spend eternity in His presence, reigning with Jesus, which is also His inheritance. He considers us (His children) to be of extreme value to Himself. We have in us the life of His Son.

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 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: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Ephesians 1:19-23

The next part of Paul's prayer is for the saints to have a deep knowledge of God's power. As a reminder of how great this power is, he tells us that it is the power that raised Christ from the dead. We probably have a good idea about power. We might know that there are powerful machines that can do serious work and it might impress us. However, we do not know of anyone that has power to raise the dead, except our God.

I realize that this kind of power is difficult for us to comprehend. This is why we live by faith. I believe that

God raised Christ from the dead. However, do I really have a deep understanding of that power and it's impact on me? Do I want to truly know God in that way? Paul prays for us that we would.

Something the Holy Spirit reveals here through Paul, is that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, and has been given dominion over all things. This is part of God's eternal purpose that will gather all things in Christ Jesus. The fulness of this purpose will come when God brings an end to the time of the Gentiles and Jesus returns to take His place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

In the meantime, we, the church, all believers are already under His headship and He is Lord over His church. Not all "churches" acknowledge this as they attempt to put a man as head of the "church," but that does not change God's purpose in any way. It is our privilege today to acknowledge and yield to the headship of Christ in our lives and in our churches. We are privileged to realize that we, as His church, are the fulness of Him that fills all in all. I think we should be amazed and excited by all of this.

We have come to understand that God has a purpose for us, and that it is in His Son Jesus Christ. We now know that it is all of Him; all His work, and all for His Glory. Paul's prayer reminds us of how we should pray for each other, and even for ourselves. Asking God to reveal more of Himself to us, and to increase our knowledge of Him and of His power to work in our lives. This is a great request for us today.

Continued

SHARING TESTIMONIES

Deborah Moore

Dearest Earlene, Thank You for reaching out to me. Just so You know my son Shaun passed 2/18/2026. Losing both my children 9 months apart, it is the hardest thing I have ever gone through. My only peace is knowing that they are with our Lord and Savior. I have always Loved the Lord, when I was saved and then Baptisted by Jack Davis. My life was changed, a true blessing. As life goes on somewhere along the way, life got in my way. Still believing in Jesus Christ, other things were always there, some good, some not so good. Trying to do things on my own without asking God what I should, I just did. Drifting further and further way from what I believed and knew the one and only person who could save me, I did not reach out to. God's not supposed to let bad things happen to good people right?? Little did I realize that He used the adversities in my life to remember that He was there all along, but I just didn't reach out to Him. Struggling in life with life, and the loss of loved ones, I knew I was broken and not walking in God's good grace, but still tried on my own, living life on my own just wasn't working. When I was taking care of my Dad before he passed, we were talking about God and the Bible. So I picked the Bible up and started looking through it and began reading and studying it more and more. Asking myself when and why did I stop relying on God?? I was lost without Him and just didn't realize how complicated I made my own life. One of the hardest lessons that He taught me "I will never leave nor forsake You" Again I surrendered everything to Him, leaving me

with a life filled with His word and goodness. I have ALL that I need, my life is full, again trust and believe ALL things through our Lord and Savior. My Daughter was always a child of God and loved him and trusted Him and put her life in His hands. My son was a different story, not until He moved back home with me due to his illness did he give his life to the Lord. He always questioned me why I read and studied the Bible daily. He thought God would never forgive him for the things that he had done in life, but I never gave up reading him scripture and having him read scripture. One day I saw him praying!!!! What a wonderful sight to me. I know He gave His life to the Lord, and that is a true blessing! Always know no matter what. GOD is always there to guide, protect and love Us, for our lives are in His hands and I thank Him for that, and loving and forgiving a Sinner like Me.



'Tis So Sweet

***'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."***

***I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.***

L. M. F. Stead

The Lamb

Pastor Sharon Townsend
Chesterfield, Michigan

Genesis 22 tells of the time God told Abraham to “take his son, His only son Isaac that he loved, and to offer him up as a burnt offering.” As Isaac and Abraham headed toward the place that Abraham was told to go, Isaac asked his father “where is a Lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham replied **“God will provide Himself a Lamb for a burnt offering.”** We will look at 5 places where the Lamb provided is seen.

#1. In the New Testament, at the right time, we see that Lamb in a manger. The shepherds, being directed by the angels, found that Lamb in Bethlehem. Shepherds were the first to see the Lamb that God had provided Himself. Why shepherds? Why a Manger? Why Bethlehem? The shepherds were probably temple shepherds. They took care of sheep and lambs that would be used in the daily sacrifices. The lambs born were examined, they had to be perfect, and put somewhere safe, so they could not be hurt, like a feeding trough which is what a manger is. When they saw Jesus wrapped and lying in a manger **they saw God’s perfect Lamb, that God provided for Himself.** Why Bethlehem? In Isaiah 9:6 A promise was given, **“For into us a child is born”** In Micah 5:2 the place of His birth was given **“But though Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come that shall come forth unto Me...”** The Lamb’s birth was prophesy fulfilled.

2. 30 years later Jesus is presented to Israel and the world. John the Baptist says of Jesus that there was one coming who was greater than John himself. These are his words **"He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me..."** The word "preferred" not only means greater than John, it also means He was before John. One time Jesus said **"Before Abraham was, I Am."** This shows that **Jesus is not only Man He is God.** John cries out to the world then and now **"Behold, (look, see) the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).** Jesus is introduced to the world as The Lamb that God Provided for Himself to take away the sin of the world.

3. Let's look at the Lamb at the cross. Not only do we see Him as the Lamb at the cross in the Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we see Him at the cross in Isaiah 53, in the Old Testament. It says **"He is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter."** In verses 4-6 are the reasons why. **"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."** This **Lamb** identified himself with us **sheep.** God became man and took upon Himself the penalty of sin, the death due all of us. This death goes beyond this natural body. This is the second death we see in Rev. 20:14. It is a death of separation from God, death of darkness, of sorrow, of being alone, a death of regrets. But now, because of Jesus we have access, even now the very presence of God. We have life and light and peace and joy, and fellowship, we are free to call God Abba, Father. We have a home and an inheritance. We are blessed because of the Lamb. We will enjoy all the above in it's completeness when we see Jesus. Also, do you know God is for "party's"? We have an example – when the son

came home to his father in Luke 15. His father was so happy he threw a party for His lost son. We are told there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents? Yes, God likes party's. There will be no partying in hell with friends. That is a lie of Satan.

4. Now, lets look at the "**Lamb risen.**" In Philippians 2 we see the downward steps the Son of God took. He who had been equal with God because He was God, left that place. "**But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men: and being in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**" (verses 6-8). Then we come to V. 9, "**Wherefore (because of the preceding verses) God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**" Between the words "**the Death of the cross**" and the words "**God hath highly exalted Him**" we see the **resurrection of the Lamb**. For there can be no exaltation, if there is no resurrection. On that first day of the week, on resurrection morning, Jesus rose and appeared to those He loved. Their sorrow was turned to joy. Like the song says "Death could not hold in prisons greed the Fathers only Son – **He Arose.**"

5. The last place I want us to see the Lamb that God provided Himself" is yet future, the Lamb on His throne. In Revelation 4, we see Jesus taking His throne in heaven. We see 24 elders and 4 Living ones with Him.

This group represents a full overcoming group of people who will be with Jesus when He takes His throne. In chapter 5, we see a book sealed with 7 seals in the right hand of the One seated on His throne. This is a book of judgment. No one was found **worthy** to open this book. The writer of Revelation, the disciple, John, began to cry. He knew this was an important book, But there was no one to open it. So he wept. Then one of the 24 elders told John not to weep; that the **“Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David** had prevailed to open the book and loose the seals thereof.” Oh, this must have made John so happy. He knew that this Lion was Jesus Himself. So John looks at the throne but he does not see a Lion. He sees **“A Lamb as it had been slain...”** This is no ordinary meek Lamb. This LAMB has 7 horns. “Horns in scripture speak of power and authority. This LAMB has the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit, represented by 7 eyes. This LAMB is empowered like a Lion to pour out judgment on a Christ rejecting world. **This is the LAMB God has for Himself prepared.**

We have seen the LAMB in Genesis 22 promised.
We have seen the LAMB in the manger.
We have see the LAMB in His ministry.
We have seen the LAMB at the cross.
We have seen the Resurrected LAMB

And soon to come, we will see the LAMB on His throne, ready to return as KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS.

Even so come, Lord Jesus. AMEN.



THE BRIDE BEAUTIFIED

Part 2

Jack Davis

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” – Psalm 29:2. Faith in the Lord and all His name represents makes us partakers of His holiness; saints, holy ones, being born again of the Holy Spirit. We are made fit to glorify His name. Let us give Him all the glory due unto Him. We have been bought and brought into the realm of true worshipers, wherein we are to worship Him in spirit and truth. As we adore Him, He **adorns** us.

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and inquire in His temple” – Psalm 27:4. There seems to be several things involved in the “one thing.” I think here of one being singularly, centrally, focused with desire upon the lover of our soul. Considering Him in intimate acquaintance, knowing Him in the depths of our being as He is revealed to our hearts is most transforming – II Cor. 3:18. Paul urged that we not be conformed to this world, but be transformed, and he prayed to have Christ formed in us – Gal. 4:19. He encouraged that as we receive the truth spoken in love, grow up into Christ in all things – Eph. 4:15. He also spoke of God’s purpose that we be conformed to the image of His dear Son – Rom. 8:29. Now that’s beautification!

A very real aspect of the beauty of Holiness is that effectual working of the Word in those that

believe – I Thess. 2:13. Thus He makes our lives productive for His glory. These traits are wonderfully expressed in the fruit of the Spirit. I appreciate the way the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives to graciously reproduce the beautiful characteristics of the life of Jesus Christ within the believing. Yielding child of God.

Hallelujah!!

“Thou art beautiful oh my love...How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince’s daughter...” –

S.O.S. 6:4, 7:1. The King’s description of His great love is as one that is bright, shining, pleasant, well pleasing, and well shod, (with the preparation of the Gospel of peace). There is a saying that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The fact is that our dear Lord is able to see where no other can. The thought and intents of our heart’s are clearly defined unto Him. Preparation for being made most desirable in the sight of Him who shall reign as King of kings, is to be realized as we come to know him experimentally, intimately as our Lord. We are just absolutely ugly without His holiness. This unique beauty is not on old, dried up, harsh, demanding, unrelenting trait that many consider holiness, at all.

“The King’s daughters were among thy honorable women; upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir...the king’s daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework...” – Psalm 45:9,13,14a.

Shall we expect to stand,
One day at the right hand,
Of Him who provided redemption’s plan?
Shall we be brought,
In the golden glory he wrought,
All glorious within, and in raiment of needlework,
Adorned just for Him? WHY NOT ??

MORE BEAUTY TIPS. **“Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear: forget also thine own people, and thy father’s house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him” – Psalm 45:10-11.**

+ Hearken: He would have us give the more earnest heed to His wonderful Word, which calls for an open ear, a receptive mind, and a responsive heart. The Hebrew seems to indicate to me, a listening attentively, hearing intelligently, and understanding with consent to obey.

+ Consider: The gist here, I cause to perceive with the eyes of the heart, gaze, and experience. Meditate, it greatly transforms our thinking As we think on the things given for our consideration in His word, our spiritual food for thought. The Old Testament symbol, ‘Chew the cud,’ ruminates, turn it over and over in your mind. It is one of the ways we come into the awareness of the near presence of the God of peace – Phil. 4:8-9.

+ Incline thine ear: The Hebrew expresses a trait most becoming to Him; stretch out, bend forth, cause to yield, expend. He would produce from our life faithful feet. Thus we submit to, and honor the Word’s authority in our everyday living.

+ Forget also thine own people: We do well to forget in a sense, where we came from in the old creation, being fully aware that we are in Christ a new creation. But this doesn’t teach us to neglect to pray for our loved ones. Forgetting them with a spiritual concern is not a Christ like attitude. We do well to encourage them on toward God’s highest and best. Yet He would have us hold Him as our first love, that is love preeminently for Him. Let us forget in the sense of not being distracted or detoured from going on into deeper

relations with Him. Rebecca was asked "Will you go?" We either go on or draw back. We choose whether we will allow natural relations, family ties, and loyalties to hinder us from a closer walk with our dear Lord, and leading of the Holy Spirit on into God's best. When the bridal message catches us, capturing our hearts, we cry out to Him to draw us. When we go on whole-heartedly with Him, our families can also be drawn. When we are half-hearted, insincere this is not as apt to happen.

Our soon coming Bridegroom would present us holy, unblameable, unreprouvable in His sight. He sanctifies wholly in order to preserve us blameless (spirit, soul and body) in view of His coming. Faithful is He that has called us who will do it. In the beauty of His holiness He sanctifies and cleanses us with the washing of the Word, in order to present us glorious, without spot, wrinkle or blemish. **ARE YOU AVAILABLE ?**

Has He ever begun a good work in us? Is our confidence in Him? Do we expect Him to complete it in time? Are we telling Him things even while it hurts? Are we appropriating it by faith? Is He able to accomplish that work He has begun on time? He is doing a work that is exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think according to the power that is at work in us.

Let Him work, don't get in the way, then it will be done in both the will and do of His good pleasure. When it is finished he will give us a glorified body that will radiate the beautification work that he has been doing in us during our earthly so-journ.



It Took A Miracle

**My Father is omnipotent,
And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles,
'Tis written in the sky.**

**Though here His glory has been shown,
We still can't fully see
The wonders of His might— His throne,
Twill take eternity**

**The Bible tells us of His power
And wisdom all way through;
And every little bird and flower
Are testimonies, too.**

**It took a miracle to put the stars in place,
It took a miracle to hang the world in space
But when He saved my soul,
Cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle of love and grace!**

**—John W. Peterson
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The Encouraging Word

“And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isaiah 58:11

“For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.” Isaiah 25:4

“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.” Proverbs 16:24

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15:13

“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.” I Samuel 2:2

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Romans 13:14

“The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.” Psalms 103:19

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