



# Morning Glory

*“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — James 5:8*

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • May 2020

## Heaven or Hell?

**The choice is yours!**

**H**oly Spirit, I pray you will make your word living to our hearts as I quote them in this article. “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”(1) Thank you for revealing the truth to us!

Many people don’t mind using the word Hell when they curse or swear, but they don’t like to think of Hell as a possible place where they might spend an eternity when they die. The Bible speaks very clearly about this subject. I will quote a few warnings. “But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill people and then throw them into hell.”(2) We read in the Old Testament as well, about Heaven and Hell where God distinguishes between the two places. God will separate the believers, those who take God’s word to heart. He speaks also of those who will not obey Him. Notice how the Lord describes Heaven and Hell in the next passage of Scripture. “...when I called, you did not answer, when I spoke, you did not listen, but you did what was evil in my eyes, and chose what I did not delight in. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; behold my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart, and shall wail for anguish of spirit.”(3)

These scriptures have to do with eternity, our future, after we die. It will be either eternal life in Heaven together with God and all the saints, or it will be in Hell together

with Satan and all his followers. We all know that life here on earth is not a very long time. Even if you live to be 100 years old, that’s not a long time when you think of eternity that never ends. Think about this; “And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment.”(4)

Everything regarding Heaven or Hell has to do with the choice you and I make. “He who believes in the Son (Jesus) has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son does not have life, but the wrath of God rests (or abides) upon him.”(5) Therefore, many warnings are given to us in God’s Word, for example; “Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”(6)

Have you had an encounter with God who created you? Are your sins forgiven? Do you know for sure you are going to Heaven? Here’s how God spoke to people years ago. His words are just as timely today. “Listen to me, all you who are left in Israel. I created you and have cared for you since before you were born. I will be your God throughout your life time until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.”(7)

Jesus calls us to repentance. This is the only way to get right with God. Confess our sin in thought, word and deed before Him. Acknowledge before Jesus that you need forgiveness, because you do. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”(8) That’s when conversion takes

# Morning Glory

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place! When we call upon His name, asking Him to save and change us, then He moves into our heart and life, and leads us. “And those who know thy name put their trust in thee, for thou, O LORD, hast not forsaken those who seek thee.”(9) “May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”(10)

I also want to mention future events that will soon happen. This relates to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have read that the second coming of Christ is spoken of 318 times in the New Testament. First He comes to catch His bride away. This is called the first resurrection. Over 1000 years later you have the second resurrection. The Lord does not want us to be ignorant of these things. Let God’s Word convince you of these future events that will soon take place.

“But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, (meaning those who have died) that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of

God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”(11)

Following this we read in Revelation. “Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.”(12) “And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’”(12)

After the 7 years of tribulation, here on earth, have taken place, Christ will come and capture the beast and the false prophet and throw them alive into the lake of fire or Hell itself. “And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had worked the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with brimstone.”(13)

God will also deal with Satan. “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...”(14)

During the tribulation period, there are those who will not take the mark of the beast and will be “beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They came to life, and reigned with Christ a thousand years. The rest of the dead (the unsaved) did not come to life until the thousand years had ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years.”(15) What a future God has in store for us! “Satan will be loosed from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations.” Under Satan’s deception Armageddon will take place. “And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”(16)

Following this there is another resurrection of the dead. They were not part of the first resurrection. This is when all the unsaved people will stand before God to receive their reward for what they did while they were alive. “... And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them and all were judged by what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and if any one’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”(17)

Mentioned first on God’s list of those who will go to hell, are the cowardly. They were not willing to respond and ask Christ for forgiveness of their sins. Maybe they said to themselves; “what would my friends say if I accept Christ” or “I will respond at another time.” Do you know Jesus? If you don’t, you have the worst awaiting you. “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolater, and all liars, the lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”(18)

Further description about heaven is found in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. You will be greatly blessed by reading those chapters.

One of His servants,  
Rev. Willmore Gundersen

(1) Hebrews 4:12. (2) Luke 12:5. (3) Isaiah 65:12b-14. (4) Hebrews 9:27. (5) John 3:36. (6) Hebrews 3:12-13. (7) Isaiah 46:3-4. (8) 1 John 1:9. (9) Psalm 9:10. (10) 1 Thessalonians 5:23. (11) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. (12) Revelation 19:7 and 9. (13) Revelation 19:20. (14) Revelation 20:1-2. (15) Revelation 20:4b-6. (16) Revelation 20:10. (17) Revelation 20:13-14. (18) Revelation 21:8. Most verses are from the Revised Standard Version.

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### **Freed from the Bondage of Islam:**

#### ***(One Former Muslim Shares His Conversion Story)***

Because of the war in Aleppo, I left Syria and came to Lebanon. My fear drove me to be a fanatic for the god of Islam. He had limit and commands which made me feel safe.

But something in my heart told me I needed something more. My search started by reading the Gospel. I was so scared because Muslims say that whoever reads the Bible (Editor: God’s Incorruptible Word that GOD promises will never return unto Him void!) gets bewitched. But I kept reading.

#### ***“I realized there is a God who speaks to me.”***

I realized there is a God who speaks to me. I made the decision to leave the one who scares me and follow the One who wants a relationship with me.

The problem, however, was fear ...taught me how to accept a new lifestyle of growth in Jesus Christ. He taught me that the secret of living is not doing this or that. The most important thing is to surrender the steering wheel of my life to God. With Christ, there is no fear.

Sometimes, I don’t feel God’s presence and Satan tempts me to doubt. But I remember the compassion of Jesus.

Excerpt taken from *Leading the Way*

## Quenching the Spirit

“Quench not the Spirit.” (I Thess. 5:19)

This verse, together with many other passages in the Bible, shows us that a Christian has a responsibility for the kind of life he lives. Even if we have reached the point of living an exemplary Christian life, and are effective tools in the hands of the Holy Spirit, we shall never advance to the point of being exempt from responsibility. Here in life we are never free from danger or beyond the temptation to fall into sin. It is possible for the best Christian to sink into a hollow and powerless spiritual state; it is even possible for him to lose his spiritual life altogether. “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

At no place in the world can a Christian be absolutely safe against strong temptations; he can never be quite sure of himself. It is for this reason that God has reminded us to be on our watch and encouraged us to fight the good fight, clad in the full armor of God. While we are resisting that which is evil, we are also to be on our guard against losing the good things which we have received. In the verse before us now we are warned against quenching the Spirit in our own lives; it is also possible for us to do likewise in the lives of others.

Just think of it! That light which led us out from darkness, created life out of death and gave us a hope of glory; that fire which cleanses, sanctifies, warms us and sheds light upon the dangerous road that we are to walk in the future—that light and that fire we can quench. When the seriousness of such a possibility dawns upon us, this question rises in our heart: “How is it possible for us to quench the Holy Spirit?”

There are many answers to such a question. The constantly changing scene of life with its countless temptations and dangers to a Christian has more than enough of both questions and answers along this line. A Christian is nowhere safe from the evil powers. He is attacked by the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the air, by the mass of godless people in the world and by his own sinful nature. These all combine to destroy the Christian’s life with God.

WE shall try to point out some of the byways upon which a Christian may enter and which lead to a quenching of the Spirit.

Let us in the first place be aware of this that we do not have to do anything in particular in order to quench the Holy Spirit. A fire can be extinguished without the use of a fireman’s hose. A lamp goes out when there is no more oil left. The fire dies in the stove when the fuel has been burnt up. The fire with us—God’s Spirit in our hearts—will likewise be quenched when our spiritual

life no longer is nourished.

All the externals of our life may be in order; in the eyes of men we may appear to be the best of Christians. Our moral life may be in harmony with the best rules and regulations on this score. But the spiritual power within is gone; the spiritual fire in the heart has been quenched quietly and little by little—as happens to the lamp when the oil has been used up. So it was in the churches at Ephesus and Laodicea; so it was also with the five foolish virgins. These are examples of how the spiritual life may decline quietly and almost imperceptibly.

What is it, then, in our spiritual nature which must be nourished if the Spirit is not going to be quenched?

Spiritual life must have the Word of God, and requires communion with Him through prayer. The Word is meat and drink for the spiritual life. Prayer is the outreach of the inner man to God for help. It is the arm that moves the arm of God. It is the organ by which we receive the grace of God. IF a Christian lay the Bible aside and forgets his prayer chamber, he will surely though slowly sink into that unhappy state of having the Spirit quenched in his heart. God’s Spirit cannot work in us when we violate the laws of the Spirit’s operation.

It was characteristic of the early period of our Christian life that we loved to read the Word of God and to pray. In our prayer closet, with the open Bible before us, we held sweet communion with God. There we were both chastised and comforted. The joy in the Lord and testimony of the Spirit in our heart made us courageous, and at the same time careful Christians. The fire upon the altar was fed with the right fuel. The fire is the Holy Spirit. But we are certain to lose this treasure to the same extent that we fail to open our hearts in prayer and neglect to use the Word of God. We are thus quenching the Holy Spirit.

There is also another way in which we may be certain to quench the Holy Spirit. *That is by excusing sin in our lives.*

***Our hearts let new-created be,  
Our walk make pure and holy.  
Help us offense and sin to flee,  
And ever serve God solely,  
So that our faith in Christ, our Lord,  
May prove itself in deed and word  
Before the world about us.***

Taken from *Spirit and Power* by Ludvig Hope,  
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# Editorial

RES

## *Motherhood, Inheritance!*

***“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.”***

*(Psalm 127:3)*

What an ‘inheritance’; ***a Gift from the LORD!*** Now, stop and contemplate the magnificent ‘gift’ that lasts for ETERNITY! Other than the great ‘gift’ of Salvation, can you think of anything so significant and important as Proverbs 22:6? AS you already know; IF your ‘Mother’ believed in and practiced ‘abortion’ possibly you would not be here on this ‘earthly’ journey and not have the opportunity of spending all eternity either in Heaven or Hell! No doubt, many of us that are elderly are in what we call not very-good physical-health; but IN JESUS we can look forward to a perfect-body one-day that will never become less than PERFECT for all Eternity ***with Jesus!*** If you do not want Jesus as your personal Savior, you will not spend ‘eternity’ in His presence either – and in the meantime, as a Grandparent or Great-grandparent, pray for your off-spring to become an INHERITANCE! ***“Thanks be to God for His indescribable (unspeakable) gift. We are inadequate to express the majestic Divine gift! – THE PEARL of great price!***

Likely, as you already know, in the Old Testament era it was a shame or embarrassment to not give ‘birth’ to an infant. The ‘womb’ would be closed and thus barren in reproducing children from ‘conception’ and on as life begins at the very moment of conception. (If you don’t believe that, check it out in God’s inerrant Word, the Bible as He is the GIVER of this Inheritance!)

Other than the ‘Gift’ of Salvation; being a ‘Mother’ is the next greatest ‘gift’ that an Adult female can have! What is the most important thing in your ‘household’?

Abortion, same-sex marriages and being transgender are among the most hated/horrible SINS a person can commit in God’s sight. (As always, following Scripture YOU will never go wrong). NOW, before you jump to a conclusion; there is FORGIVENESS to be experienced of a truly repentant sinner which includes Homosexuals, Lesbians, etc.) as there is room at the CROSS and the ground is level at the foot of Calvary.

Biblically quarantined though is the fact ‘same-sex-marriages’ ***will never reproduce natural born in-***

fant(s) from conception on (which is a miracle from God, as a new life (Infant) is begun at the very same time). BUT keep in mind that Satan is a very good imitator/counterfeiter, for He is a copier. Bearing children is definitely a ‘gift’ from God and Satan cannot create!

It has been said: ‘the Hand that rocks the Cradle rules the World’! What an ‘Inheritance’ to be entrusted with by Almighty God and to realize other than Salvation this is the greatest ‘gift’ that any PERSON can receive. BUT today we live in a culture (society) where many think having earthly possessions (especially money) will bring happiness and contentment. People seemingly are willing to work *almost* around the clock with no real lasting satisfaction. (See Luke 21:34-36) Notice the word ‘snare’ as it is not ‘money’ itself as the ‘root of all evil’, but the LOVE OF MONEY. (I Timothy 6:10) Notice also on Easter Morning the ‘Ladies’ were seeking the Corpse among the dead; as already the burial had taken place or had His body/corpse been STOLEN? Evidently the enemy of the ONE who had been crucified for your sins and mine, had been placed in a borrowed Tomb.

Then JESUS Himself asks the very important QUESTION: “Why seek ye for the living among the dead?” The same question is being asked by the same Person to us today: “Why seek ye the *LIVING among the dead?*”

Many times when we think of a godly female, regardless if the ‘womb’ is closed or open; we think of Proverbs chapter 31, don’t we? God says that a contented wife/homemaker is much greater than great riches!

*“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good, Blessed, is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD (a child-like fear), you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.”* Psalm 34:8-9

AND then continue to prayerfully read on remembering this is only one of God’s promises, not man’s! Contentment with ‘godliness’ is great gain! The Word ‘taste’ here, does not mean ‘sampling’, but personally experiencing HIS great GIFT of SALVATION!

OH, we all know that the Dad has as great of calling or more; but he is to be the basic 'bread-winner (provider); even though he is intended to be the 'head' of the family! It's not the 'house-wife' as NO house has a 'wife' and a house is just a building, whether it is a humble shack, tent or a mansion, until it becomes inhabited by one person or more, then it becomes a

'home'.

**Ephesians 4:14 – 16 and Psalm 128:5-6 reads: “The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. Yes, may you see your children’s children. Peace be upon Israel.”**

## **JESUS is risen...what difference does that make?**

**“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day.”** (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

Christians believe that likely the apostle Peter was crucified in Rome approximately 34 years after Jesus' resurrection. Peter did not consider himself worthy to be crucified in the same manner that his Savior was crucified and thus tradition has it that Peter was crucified up-side-down.

Some people today state that Jesus was more or less in a coma when His body was laid in a borrowed tomb. They deny that He was definitely dead and brought back to life. EVEN worse than this are others who respond to the resurrection fact with indifference, stating, “Even if He rose from the dead, what difference does that make today?”

For example: there are Pastors today who preach about the power of positive thinking. They teach that IF you have good thoughts, etc., good things will happen to you! Thus, they have turned their backs on the biblical truths that are inspired by God Himself, Inspired, Inerrant, Infallible Word of God; In-breathed by the Holy Spirit; the Bible, the entire Book.

Jesus made Heaven poor that you and I might become rich in His provided GRACE. (II Corinthians 8:9)

Jesus came from Heaven as true God and true man (Incarnation), shed His Own Blood, died on the CROSS and rose again that you and I might escape eternal perdition! I tell you the absolute truth, that no-one is going to make it to Heaven without believing/trusting that Jesus rose from the tomb. Jesus said: *“I am the resurrection and the life”*. “The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” and *“Because I live, you will also live”* John 11:25 & 14:19. PLEASE READ I CORINTHIANS 15:1-7. **Jesus paid the price for your sins and mine in full, but HE didn't stop there as HE rose from the grave and is coming again for ALL who solely rely on His Finished Work of Salvation.**

After all, this is the most important FACT in a Christian's life, that HE is risen.

Jesus paid for our sins on the Cross, but He didn't stop there. He conquered the grave so that we could spend all eternity with Him. “BECAUSE HE LIVES, I CAN FACE TOMORROW.”

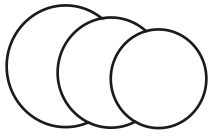
Perfect LOVE casts out all 'fear', so we really have nothing to 'fear', in this earthly journey of life or in death because in the end, we will rise like Jesus (1 John 3:1-2) if we truly know Him and love Him. The crucifixion and the resurrection are like the two sides of the same coin. If you split the coin, it is no longer any good as legal currency as it doesn't work. IF someone tries to separate the Cross and Jesus' Resurrection, YOU won't make it to Heaven as the Bible guarantees that! (See Revelation 22:18-19).

**“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied (miserable). But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.”** Hallelujah, Praise the Lord. (I Corinthians 15:19-20)

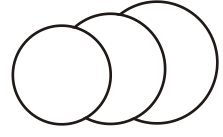
Editor

## **Charles Spurgeon**

IF we fear the Lord, we may look for timely interposition when our case is at its worst. Angels are not kept from us by storms, nor hindered by darkness. Seraphs think it no humiliation to visit the poorest of the heavenly family. If angels' visits are few and far between at ordinary time, they shall be frequent in our night of tempest and tossing. Dear reader, is this an hour of distress with you? Then ask for peculiar help, JESUS is the Angel of the Covenant, and if His presence be now earnestly sought it will not be denied. What that presence brings is heart cheer.



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**M.J./J.L.,** **Lake City, IA**  
 My husband and I are having some major physical problems. During this time we have really gotten a lot of good reading from the Morning Glory. Keep up the good job and pray the finances will appear. Yours in Christ.

## **KILLED IN ACTION**

### A Personal Testimony

Dear Editor and Readers of Morning Glory,  
 Gerald A. Peterson, 25, was born near Worthington MN on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1918. He grew up and spent most of his years in the Badger, IA Community. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941 Gerald was inducted into the Army and his basic training took place at Camp Glaborne, New Jersey; before he was sent overseas and served in the army for 23 months; as he was stationed in England, Ireland and North Africa.

Private first-class Gerald Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Peterson of Thor was reported killed in action on the African front in a telegram received at Thor April 22. The date of his death was given in the telegram as April 8.

Gerald is the brother of Paul Peterson of Kenyon, MN who is a member of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation and is also our financial Treasurer. At the time of Gerald's death, Paul was two and one half years old.

(Editor: This 'testimony' in print goes on as following), Dear editor and readers of the Morning Glory: We are sending \$... to the Soldiers' Fund in memory of P.F C. Gerald Peterson who was killed in action in North Africa, April 8<sup>th</sup>. (Editor: FREEDOM always costs someone the supreme price of giving their 'life'; that is for you and me, regardless IF it be in the secular realm or in the CHRISTIAN realm!)

It was hard for us to receive a message like that, but God has been good to us and given us grace and strength to bear it. We believe he is gone home to glory, according to the letters he wrote home. He said he had been asking God to give him grace to meet whatever might befall him. He said too that he was glad to know and experience that when so many things here change, His Word is still the same and does not change. He felt his sinfulness and was grieved over it, and asked us to pray for him. In one of his last letters he referred to Heb. 4:15, 16 and also to I John, chapter 5.

It is hard to part with our dear ones here on earth, but

when we can look forward to the time that we shall be reunited in the home which Jesus has gone to prepare for us, then there is joy in the midst of sorrow. Heaven seems so much closer to us now, and it will not be long till we shall be together again, never more to part. Blessed hope!

Gerald wrote in one of his last letters, that he was receiving Morning Glory quite regularly and was much blest by it. He said we should renew the subscription for him, as it was soon due. He also wrote that we should send a little donation to the paper, which we now do. Blessed be the sweet memory of Gerald!

We think of the many boys who are in the armed forces; it surely must be a hard place to be many times. But we praise God that He is mighty to protect each one, or guide the outcome for each one, who puts his trust in Him. Then we think of those who do not know Jesus as their personal Savior. May they yield to His loving call and be saved. The world has nothing to offer, but Jesus has lasting joy and peace to offer to all who will receive His grace.

M/M Harris Peterson, Thor, Ia.

(We are glad the Father has not left you comfortless, dear friends. Thanks for the very touching testimony. It warms our hearts to know that the humble ministry of our paper was of blessing and help to your dear departed Gerald. We shall meet him in the morning. -L.)

## **INSTEAD of:**

**Instead of the dry land, springs of water!**

**Instead of heaviness, the garment of praise!**

**Instead of the thorn, the fir tree!**

**Instead of the brier, the myrtle tree!**

**Instead of ashes, beauty!**

**Isaiah 41:18, 55:13, 61:3**

Selected

# Believable ...Yet Unbelievable

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## Time To Take A Stand, Stand up and be Counted!

### Virginia Couple Wins

Ken and Liv Hauge in Fredericksburg, VA, had been in a legal battle for their right to hold Bible Studies in their Apartment building's community room and also in their own private Apartment.

Their attorneys argued that it was a violation of the Fair Housing Act by discriminating against the couple's freedom of religion. A settlement has been reached that rescinds the policy to prohibit religious activity in the building, and permits them to host Bible Studies in the community room or their apartment. This is a great example of Christians standing up against those who would try to stifle their religious freedoms.

Faithwire.com & *The Vine and the Branches*

## Bill Seeks to Control Pastors

California legislators have proposed a bill, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 99, which would demand that counselors, pastors, religious workers, and educators "stop perpetuating the idea that something is wrong with LGBT identities or sexual behavior." It would also outlaw any form of counseling "to change unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion." This would make it illegal for pastors and other spiritual leaders to preach, teach, or counsel from a biblical standpoint regarding LGBT issues. Let us pray this bill doesn't pass.

Prophecynewswatch.com.

**Editor's Note:** Indeed WE are grateful and thankful (at this time of editing) that President Donald Trump called for National Day of Prayer (For 3/15/20) in view of the 'State of Emergency for the USA and the serious "virus" infection, regardless our political persuasion, on behalf of WE THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT USA! According to the Medical World through the news media, this 'Virus' is very, very serious and ten times worse than the 'flu' in regards to the death rate.

Not only because of the serious 'crisis' WE are going through, but in behalf of 'We the People of the Great USA', but how 'we the people' are to plead and ask for God's Mercy, Grace, Forgiveness and Restoration for this great land in daily prayer.

Do YOU see any 'Hand-writing' on the Wall?

WAKE UP EVERYONE FOR IT IS LATER THAN

## YOU THINK!

The story is told of a youthful gent who woke up unusually early one 'morning' and decided to slip down-stairs and entertain himself. The 'family' had an old-grandfather's clock (that likely had chimes that struck each hour!) So, whatever this youth was doing the 'clock' started to ring the hours of the day and it had lost control of itself and kept on 'ringing' even after the twelve o'clock hour. The boy ran up the stairway shouting 'WAKE UP EVERYBODY AS IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK!'

It is now that we need to pray for a Heaven-Sent Revival (Not humans working it up, but 'Seasons of Refreshing from the Presence of the Lord' – Acts 3:19! Time is Fleeting!

The word 'Revival' means "restoration to life" or in other words, to bring back that which is dying or even possibly that which once had 'life', but is now dead. (Something like a house-plant that is wilting/dying because of lack of water!)

One of the late great Reform Preachers stated that when we pray for a "Revival" – to draw a circle on the floor and step within it, including your pocket-book/check-book and ASK GOD to 'revive' ALL that is within the 'circle'. Are we willing to do the same?

**"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ" (Ephesians 4:15, please read Ephesians 4:11-21)**

## Still Fighting

Aaron and Melissa Klein owned a bakery in Salem, OR, and seven years ago refused to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding, as it conflicted with their religious beliefs. Melissa said, "We lost everything we loved and worked so hard to build." They lost their case and were hit with \$135,000 in fines. The negative publicity and fines forced them to close the bakery. Now there is a glimmer of hope for them, however, as their case is being heard by the Oregon Court of Appeals for reconsideration. The court is expected to rule within the next six months. Melissa also stated, "I am hopeful and putting my hope in Jesus."

Stream.org



## School Of Witchcraft

The newest cartoon series from Disney is *The Owl House*. Playing on the Disney Channel, the show introduces children to the world of demons and witchcraft. The main character is a teenage girl named Luz, who discovers a portal to a realm called “Demon Town.” Luz joins a witch school, led by Eda the Owl Lady, and says that she hopes to become ‘just like her.’ The program tries to portray witchcraft as a means of fighting evil. Deborah Bunting, who wrote an article DBN, stated, “Over the years, Disney has gone farther and farther into the darkness of the spiritual world that opposes the living God, coming up with programming and characters that lead the vulnerable into that dark world of deception.” Although they portray this as a way to fight evil, it is anything but innocent. The dark spirit realm is real, and programs like this seek to desensitize the children to witchcraft and deceptively entice them to be friendly with the demonic world.

Lifesitenews.com, copied from  
*The Vine and the Branches*

## 560 Terror Attacks Stopped

In 2019 Shin Bet, the Israel Security Agency, has stopped more than 560 terror attacks from taking place in Israel. The organization uses advanced technology to monitor terror plots. Nadav Argaman, chief of Shin Bet, said “We foiled 10 suicide attacks, four abductions and over 300 shootings.” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke at a recent ceremony and said, “The lives of hundreds of Israelis, perhaps more, were saved by your activity. Quality of life is a sense of security...and by saving lives you create a sense of security.”

Cbn.com

## China Plans Total Control

Beginning in February of 2020, new measures will be taken by China to exercise greater control over the spiritual lives of its citizens. The state news recently reported that 42 articles of the Administrative Measures for Religious Groups have been approved. The articles will further restrict and limit the religious activities of the people of China. While religious restriction is nothing new in China, these new articles are a clamp down meant to exercise even greater control of religion. The process of cultural imperialism being imposed on the state-run Three-Self Patriotic movement church has already been in process with government places to re-translate the Bible so that it agrees with China’s socialist ideology.

Communist officials are also known to write socialist-friendly sermons for pastors, deviating greatly from traditional Christian teaching. These strategies, combined with modern surveillance technology and a reward system for civilian watchdogs, have made it increasingly difficult to be a Christian in China.

Worthynews.com (The Vine and the Branches)

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## The Kingdom of Heaven

**“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in the field; which a man found and hid; and in his joy he goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”** (Matthew 13:44)

WHEN we find Christ, we get the purest joy and greatest riches that we can obtain in this world. But what is hard and offends many is that we must give up everything for that ONE. Why may we not be Christians, and then own and love whatever we wish? Most people think this must be right, and so they go away in anger, and say that Christianity is unreasonably strict in its demands.

If that is your opinion, let us ask you what you would say about the wife or husband who wanted to share love and life with many men and women? Do you think that would work? You know that this is impossible, and yet you demand this impossibility when you wish to become a Christian.

We can never own Christ, life’s most precious treasure, if we desire to love something else just as much as HIM. *“He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.”* ... Son, daughter, give me thy heart.

If you desire to be rich and to have life’s greatest success, and if you wish to wear the pearl that will adorn you in life, in death, and in all eternity, then give yourself wholly to Christ. And you who were wise enough to choose Him to be the only One to own you entirely, praise Him who accepted you, and who loves you as His bride.

*Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Source of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me;  
Ah, how long I’ve panted  
And my heart hath fainted,  
Thirsting, Lord, for Thee.  
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,  
Naught I ask beside Thee.*

*Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope,  
Copyright © Augsburg Publishing House.

## Are There Degrees of Punishment in Hell?

**“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets, who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.”** (Luke 20:46-47)

When the final judgment takes place, will the Lord be just in meeting out retribution upon the lost? Will they all be punished equally, or will those who were more evil receive greater punishment? Will Judas Iscariot be punished more severely than a kind unbelieving soul because He betrayed Jesus unto the death? Will people like Hitler be punished more severely because of the carnage they brought upon the human race? Will people who sinned greatly receive a greater condemnation?

The Book of Revelation, Chapter 20 describes the final judgment. In it, the Lord looks at the deeds done in this life. *“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”* (Revelation 20:12) When the Lord judges the lost people by their deeds, He will see people who committed more and greater acts of evil against God and against their fellow men. God is perfectly just, which means that He gives people what they deserve. *“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”* (Deuteronomy 32:4) If God did not deal out more severe punishment to the worse offenders, then He would not be fair and just because people would commit greater and more numerous offenses and receive nothing greater in return.

We see this in the judgment that has already taken place. Satan led some of the angels in heaven in a revolt against God. *“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”* (Revelation 12:7-9) The judgment upon Satan and these angels was that they were thrown out of heaven

and down to the earth. Yet for some of these angels, God enacted a stricter judgment. *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.”* (2 Peter 2:4-6) There were certain angels in this judgment who which were not allowed to spend time on the earth. God judged them more severely than the others because they are in hell and pits of darkness, just waiting for God’s final judgment. We are not told what they did to incur this, but this is what God did to them in judgment.

He also did it to entire cities of people. *“And if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter.”* (2 Peter 2:6) When these two cities went into gross immorality (See Genesis 19), God judged them more severely by pummeling them down to ashes. There were other sinful groups of people which God did not judge so severely. The reason that He did this, as stated in the above Scripture, was to be an example to people afterward. *“If you live this way, this is how God will judge you.”* Jesus picked up on this when He dealt with a town of people. *“And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”* (Matthew 11:23-24) The fact that Jesus told Capernaum that it would be more tolerable for Sodom & Gomorrah than for them in the judgment means that they will be judged more severely than even those people!

Does this mean that there are degrees of punishment in hell, as though those at the bottom of the pit are suffering more? *“For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.”* (Deuteronomy 32:22) God defines His judgment here as being even to the LOWEST Hell. But exactly who will be those people who receive the greatest condemnation from God? The answer might surprise you.

In the Scripture at the top of the page, Jesus pronounces a greater condemnation upon the religious leaders of the Jewish people – the Scribes. He said the same thing about the Pharisees as well (Matt. 23:14). These people were the epitome of following the Law to the letter, and even coming up with more laws just to make sure they didn’t violate it even in the least part. Why would Jesus say that they, of all people, would receive a greater condemnation? Because they were

wrong about the way to God and led others astray because of it. Of all people, they should have known better because they were so well versed in the Old Testament, they should have known exactly of the coming of the Messiah and what He would do. But in the face of the evidence, they refused to believe, and took their stand against the Lord Jesus. Jesus also told about this in Luke 12:

*“But if that slave says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming,’ and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.” (Luke 12:45-48)*

Jesus is describing His return and His final reckoning to His people. He commends the watchful slave and says, *“Whether He comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so [being on the alert], blessed are those slaves.” (Lk. 12:38)* But to the other slaves who knew of His master’s coming and didn’t care about when He came and *“knew His master’s Will and did not get ready,”* this is the one who *“shall receive many lashes.” (v. 47)* *“But the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging [many lashes] will receive but few.” (v. 48)*

Dear reader, this could be you if you know the truth of Christ and yet refuse to act upon it. You could end up with greater condemnation on judgment day than even some of the coarsest unbelievers throughout history because they didn’t know any different, and you do. Perhaps you had better evaluate afresh your relationship to the Lord.

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

*So the nations will fear the name of the LORD,  
And all the kings of the earth Thy glory.  
(Psalm 102:15)*

## Produce Your Cause

**“Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring for your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.”**

Isaiah 41:21

OVER in Canada there lived an Irish saint called “Holy Ann.” She lived to be one hundred years old. When she was a young girl, she was working in a family for very small wages under a very cruel master and mistress. They made her carry water for a mile up a steep hill. At one time there had been a well dug there; it had gone dry but it stood there year after year. One night she was very tired and she fell on her knees and cried to God, and while on her knees she read these words: **“I will open ... Fountains in the midst of valleys; I will make the dry land springs of water.”** **“Produce your cause saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons.”** These words struck Holy Ann, and she produced her cause before the Lord. She told Him how badly they needed the water and how hard it was for her to carry the water up the steep hill; then she lay down and fell asleep. She had pleaded her cause and brought forth her strong reasons. The next morning, early she was seen to take a bucket and start for the well. Someone asked her where she was going, and she replied, “I am going to draw water from the well.” “Why, it is dry,” was the answer. But that did not stop Holy Ann. She knew whom she had believed, and on the pure, cold water, and she told me that the well never did run dry! That is the way the Lord can fulfill His promises. “Produce your cause, bring forth your strong reasons,” and see Him work in your behalf.

How little we use this method of holy argument in prayer; and yet there are many examples of it in Scripture, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Elijah, Daniel – all used arguments in prayer.

*Springs in the Valley*, Compiled  
by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman.

*Editor’s Note:* Personally, I am not comfortable with the phrase “all used arguments in prayer”.

As already mentioned, I don’t like that phrase; for Our Savior knows best and HE only wants the best for each of us! Above all, we want God’s Will to be done regardless of our own personal wishes. Sometimes God gives us what we ask for so that we have to bear the consequence of asking for something that was not good for us. When you have been disciplined by the Lord this way, then it becomes easy to say, “According to Thy Will.”



## Co-Laborers IN JESUS

Dear Morning Glory Reader: The following letter was sent out to a number of Pastors and Congregational Leaders and now purposely for YOU to prayerfully consider.

Dear Co-Laborers IN JESUS our LORD, (Pastor and Congregational Leaders),

Greetings with: ***“Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy”*** Psalm 99:9.

We (The Board of HLIF) know that we are seeking to walk in harmony with His Word and out of Love for Jesus, naturally we want to obey – by His Grace and empowerment by the third Person of our Triune God in Harmony with HIS Holy Word. Thus, I want to directly challenge and encourage you to consider the following:

I (Rod) am personally privileged and responsible to be not only the Editor the *Morning Glory*; but also on behalf of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation as their Part-time field representative I seek to find open doors for evangelistic meetings. Our Lord is still ‘calling’ forth evangelists to share His Law and Gospel! Thus, it is my opportunity to see if you would like to have either ‘Evangelistic Meetings’ or a Hauge Bible Conference? The Lord organized this biblical Lutheran Faith pietistic movement to see if we can be an assistance to you and your congregation in assisting you in nurturing/feeding the Lambs and Sheep in your midst, and into the community and even beyond? GOD makes it very ‘clear’ in Ephesians 4:11-12 that HE called and is calling forth Evangelists also: ***“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors, and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*** So, if interested, please give me a telephone call at 218-287-5586 OR E-mail me (haugerep@gmail.com) and we can easily talk out the simple details of encouragement.

We also believe that not only the entire Bible was inspired by God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit; but that we are living ‘evil times’ which should be ‘fuel’ for Urgency in ‘occupying’. This reminds me what Martin Luther had said, “IF the LORD told me He was coming tomorrow and yet said ‘plant trees today’; I would plant trees’!”

Spiritually, I am not promising anything; but we know that doing God’s Work, in God’s way, we will experience God’s richest blessings as we plant, water and cultivate with His Incorruptible Seed, God will give His richest blessings!

May our Living Savior be permitted to lead in your intercessory prayer life in knowing His decision/directive; for this is the best biblical way in our ‘earthly journey’, but also a very biblical way in occupying for HIM and to GOD BE THE GLORY! By no means am I seeking to state that you are not seeking to practice an Evangelical Christian Ministry; but having such as the above states is definitely included as part of God’s Plan for His Kingdom Work here on Earth; naturally by empowerment of his Incorruptible WORD in His GRACE He Provides! TIME IS FLEETING! **Romans 13:11-14 & Ephesians 4:11-17.**

May our Living SAVIOR richly bless you, in order that you may become a richer blessing in your Congregational and in your Community and beyond!

His Because of Calvary,  
Rodney Stueland, Editor/Hauge Rep.

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### Your Unique Prayer

***“From His dwelling place He looks (intently) upon all the inhabitants of the earth—He who fashions the hearts of them all, Who considers all their doings.”***

Psalm 33:14-15

Because God has fashioned our hearts individually, our prayers can flow naturally out of our hearts and be consistent with the way He has designed us. As we develop our individual styles of communication with God, we can learn from people who may be more experienced than we are, but we need to be careful not to make what others do our standard. Thankfully, Jesus is our standard, and He is the only standard we need.

Enjoy your time with the Lord. Don’t try to force yourself to do what others do if you are not comfortable with that in your spirit. You don’t have to keep up with others or copy their prayer styles. You can go before God with thanksgiving in your heart, knowing that He hears you and loves you just the way you are. You can pray as the “original” He has made you to be.

Prayer of Thanks

Father, I thank you that everything about me is unique—even the way I pray. Help me to shake off comparisons and just come to You with confidence as Your child. I love You, Father, and I love spending time with You.



## I'VE BEEN THINKING

Antoinette Frank

In the conclusion of his Letter from Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "What else can one do when he is alone in a narrow jail cell, other than write long letters, think long thoughts and pray long prayers?" As a prisoner in a 'narrow jail cell' I can say, "Ain't that the truth!"

Lately, I've been thinking about adversity. Many books have been written on the subject – "*The Reasons Why We Experience Adversity*," "*How to React in the Midst of Adversity*", and so on. But I have yet to come across a book on how to avoid adversity. That's probably because one doesn't exist.

Adversity expels the idea of anyone procuring a perfect, painless life. The fact is the storms of adversity are an inevitable occurrence in the cycle of life. But with a godly approach, the storms can actually serve as a key-stone, to fortify our faith and hold together our virtues.

When we enter into the family of God, He equips us with all manner of authority, to ascent our struggles, to turn our vexes into victories. No matter how hot the fire, we have the power to control how adversity affects our inner being – our moral assertion, our spiritual aptitude. The very thing adversity has the tendency to diminish.

The first thing we can count on is, 'The storm will come.' Secondly, 'God will be with us through the storm.' Finally, 'Every storm has to end and the sun will shine again.' But this is not the way of God's people. The saints do not shrink back from adversity, rather we carry our cross (Ed. The '*cross*' we are to carry each day is; in my personal conviction from Scripture is the 'persecution' of living a godly life), and rely on Christ's strength and wisdom.

I'd like to share a story with you that was passed on to me. Like the saying goes, "when you've been blessed, pass it on." Be blessed my friends.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about life and how things were so hard for her. She didn't know how she was to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling.

It seemed as if one problem was solved and a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and the last she placed ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she

laddled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs and coffee," she replied. She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She felt that they were soft. Then she asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity – boiling water – but each reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, it became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in boiling water they had changed the water. "Which are you?" She asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond?" Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Am I an egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside I'm bitter and tough with a stiff and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstances that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and the trials are their greatest, do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity? Antoinette was in 'prison' at this time, but this was received many years ago!

*Hope for Your Heart*

Oswald Chambers wrote, "Our yesterdays present irreparable things to us; it is true that we have lost opportunities which will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ. Leave the Irreparable Past in His hands, and step out in the Irresistible Future with **Him.**"

## From Bitter Root To Flower Of Forgiveness

I didn't mean to grow up bitter. I was a good girl as a child. I obeyed my parents. I respected my Sunday school teachers, and worked hard at school, aiming for excellence and trying daily to do my best.

But some people treated me without love because of my skin color. Calling me names. Making fun of me. Turning me away. Closing their doors. In school, one teacher refused to call on me in class for an entire year. She called me a "Nobody" — making it clear how little she thought of me. Laws in my country stopped me from using certain public water fountains, restrooms, restaurants, or living in certain neighborhoods.

In no time at all, I grew bitter. I knew Jesus then. But I also knew hurt. And hurt fertilizes bitterness, making it grow like a weed. Indeed, bitterness is like a root that sinks deep into the soil of our heart and spirit. When watered with resentment and anger, it "springs up and causes trouble," defiling many around it. (Heb. 12:15 ESV)

Everyone around me hated people. I learned hate from them. I taught hate to others. What a tragic outcome that bitterness multiplies like a bad seed, sprouting yet more ugly wrong

But what about God? While I loved the Lord, and believed He loved me, my bitterness was a wall of sin separating me from Him. As I grew, that separation grew. Bitterness became a nagging, sour, hateful habit. I'd forgotten the Bible's call to "strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14 ESV)

Instead, I was obsessed with racial hatred, always looking for it in others—not to root it out, or to ask God to end it, but to lay blame. To shout you're wrong. So I found wrong. It's no wonder the Bible sharply reminds us to "get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" (Eph. 4:31)

Despite the world's injustices that we suffer, such malice is dangerous, a true sickness. And it won't help bring about the peace and justice of God. But how do we rid ourselves of this bitterness? Finally turning to God for help, He mercifully revealed three effective ways:

1) Take our bitterness to Him. Ask God to dig it up and banish it. That's what Job did during his ordeal, crying: "Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath... Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul" (Job 7:7,11).

In his struggle with bitterness, Job knew only God could help him. Likewise in my life, seeing God as my only deliverance, I pleaded for His help. In reply, the Lord offered a remedy, speaking clearly to my spirit: "You must forgive." Immediately, I recognized His divine wisdom. Forgiveness was my answer. Yet how would I manage that? How will you?

2) Ask God to teach you. Because forgiveness is a process. Jesus spoke of it exactly this way in Matt. 18:21-22. His disciple Peter asks the Lord how to forgive, saying, "How many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus's answer far outdid that limit and also the Jewish ideal of forgiving three times: "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." In other words, forgiveness can't be measured. In fact, forgiveness isn't about the one who hurt us. Instead, forgiveness is about restoring our relationship with God first. *Then* we can love.

Scholar Lewis Smedes explained that forgiveness isn't to excuse the one who hurt us; forgiveness means, "we are ready to be healed" (*The Art of Forgiving: When you Need to Forgive and Don't Know How*, Ballantines Books, p. 178). by God. Which takes time. So how do we accomplish such forgiveness?

3) Rely on the Holy Spirit's great power. Forgiveness, indeed, is tough work. In our own strength, we can't forgive hurt we don't deserve—the kind of deep hurt that makes us bitter. When we ask the Holy Spirit to empower us, however, His power enables us. *Then other people see His work in us*. Then our forgiveness becomes a witness, just as Jesus promised on the Day of Pentecost. As He said:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you: and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).*

Imagine the miracle of this! We take our bitterness to God. At His feet, we ask Him to teach us to forgive. Struggling, we ask His Holy Spirit to empower us. Then our enabled forgiveness becomes a witness for Christ. What started out a bitter root blooms, in Christ, into a beautiful flower.

True, my "soil" always needs weeding. But I know the Gardener. May His love keep turning my bitter sin into a harvest of grace and light.

*Our Daily Bread*

## We Are Standing On Our Hope – Jesus

By Carol Hoikkala

According to the dictionary, Hope is defined as ‘a person in whom confidence is placed or who could provide what is wanted.’ (Editor: Also, this ‘hope’ is more than chance, being lucky or wishful-thinking).

The Author of the book of Hebrews speaks of hope by saying, **“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which enters the presence behind the veil.”** (Hebrews 6:19) The anchor spoken of is the Gospel hope. It is immovable and sure. It is the work of God. It does not fasten itself in the sand but fixes itself upon Christ. Who is the Believer’s hope?

Metaphorically speaking, the anchor is used for spiritual support in times of trial. Just as a ship whose anchor is not secure begins to drift when storms come, so it is with our faith. If we do not place our *anchor*, our hope, securely in JESUS and His Word, we too will begin to drift when disappointments and trials come our way.

First and foremost, Jesus is our only hope for spending eternity with God in Heaven. In Romans 3:23 we are told of the condition that the whole human race finds itself in. It says, **“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”** In Ephesians we are given the remedy for our condition. **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.”** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The two misguided beliefs that keep people from accepting the free “GIFT” (Jesus) Who gives them Eternal Life are: 1) The belief that if they try to live a good life and attend church, etc., God will accept them into His Kingdom, and 2). The belief that because of the sinful life they have lived God couldn’t love them and offer the “GIFT” to them. These two false beliefs leave salvation totally dependent upon what a person does, or does not do, rather than relying only on what Jesus Christ did on the Cross.

The following is a testimony of one who had once believed that his sin was so great God would not forgive him, and save him. When most hear the name David Berkowitz they think of “son of Sam”, however today he was a new name, the “son of hope.” In his testimony titled, “Son of Hope” David says: *“Ten years into my prison sentence, when I was feeling despondent and without hope, another inmate came up to me as I was walking the prison yard one cold winters evening. He introduced himself and began to tell me that Jesus Christ loved me wanted to forgive me. Although I know he*

*meant well I mocked him because I did not think that God would ever forgive me or that He would want anything to do with me. Still this man persisted, who we became friends. His name was Rick and we would walk the yard together. Little by little he would share with me about his life and what he believed Jesus had done for him. He kept reminding me that no matter what a person did, Christ stood ready to forgive if that individual would be willing to turn from the bad things he was doing, and would put his full faith and trust in Jesus Christ and what He did on the Cross –dying for our sins.*

\*\*\*\*”One night I was reading *Psalm 34*. I came upon the 6<sup>th</sup> verse which says, **“This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”** It was at this moment, in 1987, that I began to pour out my heart to God. Everything seemed to hit me at once – the guilt of what I had done and the disgust of all that I had become. Late that night in the cold cell I got down on my knees and began to cry to Jesus Christ.

I told Him that I was sick and tired of doing evil. I asked Jesus to forgive me for all my sins. I spent a good while on my knees praying to Him. When I got up it felt as if a heavy but invisible chain that had been around me for so many years was broken. A peace flooded over me. I did not understand what was happening. In my heart I just knew that somehow my life was going to be different.”\*\*\*\*

While people may believe that God does save those who have committed grievous sins, some may find it hard to believe that God can use such people to His honor and glory –He does! I am reminded of Moses who killed the Egyptian (Exodus 2:12) and David who pre-meditated the murder of Uriah (1 Samuel 11:15) both became instruments in God’s Hand. Today David, too, is being used as one of God’s instruments as he shares the Gospel Message of hope to the lost in the prison where he lives and by his testimony that is made available through various ministries.

(Likely this first became available 25 years ago through the *Hope For Your Heart Ministries*.)

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**DON’T!!!**

***Don’t stop praying, but have more trust;  
Don’t stop praying! For pray we must;  
Faith will banish a mount of care;  
Don’t stop praying! GOD ANSWERS PRAYER***

Selected

## UpDate

At the time of this writing [late March] – the Corona-Virus has come upon us like one of the Plagues of Egypt. What started in China has now spread around the world – with a number of people dying from it.

Businesses have been out under mandatory closing because of the threat of the virus passing from person to person. Even churches are closed and some doing services through the Internet or recording a sermon for people to listen to. Almost overnight our entire world has gone from normal to what seems like a scene out of the Book of Revelation.

It almost seems like the start of the great end time disasters that will come upon the earth where it says in Luke 21:26, “*men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*”

This isn't a military conflict with another people where we can take offensive action to eliminate the threat. This is something that is unseen and spreads without notice or warning. People have fear of what might happen to them or their loved ones.

We at the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation want to encourage you to remain steadfast in your faith in Jesus. God is still on the throne and this virus is part of His Permissive Will. We want to encourage you to reach out to people at this time of great fear because Jesus is the only Hope that lasts and is greater than death. Now more than ever is the time for the great Gospel of Christ to go out to troubled hearts.

We are here to assist you in doing exactly that. We can work with you for an evangelistic crusade in a neutral location, sponsor a tent meeting or have evangelistic meetings in your church.

We thank everyone who has stood with us in prayer and financial support. As the Lord enables you, will you help us to continue in the ministry of Hauge? Thank you for your help to us.

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## God's Protecting Shield

God shields us from most of the things we fear, but when He chooses not to shield us, He unfailingly *allots* grace in the measure needed. It is for us to choose to receive or refuse it. Our joy or our misery will depend on that choice.

—Elizabeth Elliot

This is good to know when we face uncertain times and perhaps wonder why God doesn't come to our rescue right away. God is still sovereign and accomplishes His Will for mankind and nothing will stay that. We may not know right now what the Will of God is for us, but we know that the Lord always extends His mercy and grace to people, and that in Jesus we always find what the Scriptures say in Hebrews 4:16, “*Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.*”