



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2013

Strong In Battle

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.”

Eph. 6:10-13

For a Christian life, is a battle. No one who is desirous of doing the Lord's will can go through life without meeting opposition. The powers which still rule in and about the earth are enemies of God's people. The Bible admonishes us to fight the good fight so that we may stand after having emerged victorious over all opposition. *“He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”* Rev. 3:5. . . .

Many a Christian warrior has found life's sweetest honey in the midst of battle; he has been given a clearer vision, a new fire in the heart and a new power in his life. I dare say that if you want a Christian full of fresh vigor and with an unimpaired spiritual vision search among those who have been in battle and have returned with victory. They have tasted the honey of life and their eyes have been enlightened.

The greatest joy and purest gratitude is found in the heart of a Christian who has been in battle and has won the victory. It is not in times of peace that a Christian comes closest to his God, but in the victorious battle. If this were

clear to all of us, many problems would be solved, many tears wiped away, and man, a discouraged soldier of the Cross, would wield his sword with greater vigor.

The battle is not against flesh and blood (*Ed. IN itself!*). It is not a war among people as we usually think of war, . . . It is a spiritual warfare. No cannon is seen or heard; no saber glitters in the sunshine, and no bayonet is used against the enemy. But it is war nevertheless; anyone who is anxious to save his soul will soon discover that.

The hosts of wickedness arrayed against the Christian can possibly be divided into two groups. The one group is described in our text as principalities, powers, and world rulers of this darkness. This must be those people who live outside of fellowship with God.

It is still true that in most places on this earth true Christianity has not penetrated very far into the life of the people. Those who rule are usually worldly people. They have the power in this age, and it is likely that we shall have no change until Christ returns. Only rarely do they rule in harmony with God's Word and Spirit. The spirit of the world is like a boa constrictor that is ready to crush its victim; Christians meet it on every hand. As long as there is a spark of spiritual life in your and my heart we shall have to battle against this evil spirit; if we do not, our Christianity will soon be a thing of the past.

The Christian needs to be clad in the full armor of God at all times; his battlefield is in the worldly home, the worldly business places, in worldly society, in town hall or the halls of Congress. Briefly, a Christian must be prepared for war wherever he is. He who thinks himself spiritually secure will soon discover that the world is a strong and dangerous enemy of everything that is from God.

Christians of a generation or two ago were very much afraid of keeping too much company with worldly people; possibly they went too far in that direction. They forgot

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that it was not human beings they were to turn away from, but the spirit which dominates in the world. It may be that we have gone to the opposite extreme; Christians today do not think of the world as being particularly worldly. Christianity has been made to fit into the scheme of things in the world. Christians of the present day are not afraid of being associated with worldly people in business or politics. When worldly people are reasonable in their attitudes as they frequently are, it is so easy for the Christian to lay the sword aside. But then he does not have to go much further before he is a friend of the world and an enemy of God

The friendship of the world is enmity with God.

It appears so innocent to be friendly with the world, it looks so refined too. But it is not long before the friendship of the world is found to be more delectable than the company of Christians. When that happens we are on slippery ice; only God's grace can keep us from falling. As a fly is caught and loses its life in a web of exceedingly fine threads woven by the spider, so have many Christians been caught in the web of worldliness and have lost their lives. They died quietly, yet so surely. They forgot that they were at war; this was the tragedy that spelled their doom.

Here – precisely here – many present day Christians are in great danger; many have already been deceived, perhaps even without knowing it. While they are boasting of having progressed far beyond the gloomy spirituality of the pietists, they have landed in a veritable black death; they have pinned a Chris-

tian badge on the lapel of a worldly spirit. They still want to be known as Christians. Thus humbug is frequently paraded as Christianity that has been liberated from ignorance and superstition; it is Christianity that has grown to maturity.

“Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

*To resist with all might
On every hand
Is both proper and right
For him who will stand.
But it takes more than this a wreath to win,
Persistency alone will conquer sin.*

To be continued

Taken from *Spirit and Power* by Ludvig Hope, Chapter Strong in Battle, Copyright HLIF, 1959

* * * * *

From A Nation Of Independence To A Nation Of Dependence

By Pastor David Barnhart, Canal Winchester, OH

As a nation we are moving from a self-reliant people to a people dependent on government for just about everything. A report from the Heritage Foundation shows that since 1960 the number of individuals receiving government funding has gone from 21.7 million to 67.3 million. Approximately 70 percent of the federal budget goes to assorted social and assistance programs. At the same time, 49.5 percent of all Americans pay no income tax.

One in five or 47.73 million persons are now receiving food stamps, with a price tag of \$81 billion per year. There has been an increase in food stamp recipients of 51.7 percent since 2008. Recently the government has been running ads on television encouraging more people to sign up for food stamps. Some liberal politicians falsely state that food stamps are an effective way to stimulate the economy.

While our nation should provide help to those truly in need (*Ed. OR the church*), it would seem today’s liberal politicians have an ill-advised plan to turn people from self-reliance into a people dependent on big government for their very survival.

Excerpt taken from *Vine and Branches*, 2013

Editor’s Note: As ‘mentioned’ before and IF I am not mistaken: THREE things happened in China before the Communists took over China: 1. Immorality was rampant;

2. Depend/rely on the ‘government’ for it will provide and
3. Register fire arms/guns!!! WATCH OUT: Socialism and/or Isms are wanting to take over ‘our’ USA.

* * * * *

TOZER ON BEING CALLED A MYSTIC

“Some of my friends good-humoredly – and some a little bit severely – have called me a ‘mystic.’ Well, I’d like to say this about any mysticism I may suppose to have. If an archangel from heaven were to come, and were to start giving me, telling me, teaching me, and giving me instruction, I’d ask him for the text. I’d say, ‘Where’s it say that in the Bible? I want to know.’ And I would insist that it was according to the scriptures, because I do not believe in any extra-scriptural teachings, nor any anti-scriptural teachings, or any sub-scriptural teachings. I think we ought to put the emphasis where God puts it, and continue to put it there, and to expound the Scriptures, and stay by the Scriptures. I wouldn’t – no matter if I saw a light above the light of the sun, I’d keep my mouth shut about it ‘til I’d checked with Daniel and Revelation and the rest of the Scriptures to see if it had any basis in truth. And if it didn’t, I’d think I’d just eaten something I shouldn’t, and I wouldn’t say anything about it. Because I don’t believe in anything that is unscriptural or that is anti-scripture.”

What Difference Does the Holy Spirit Make?
A.W. Tozer. Selected

Editor’s Note: Let “US” remain faithful to the Inspiration, Inerrancy and Infallibility of the Holy Scriptures (ALL of the Bible)

God’s Ability . . .

Is beyond our largest prayers! I have been thinking of some of the petitions that have entered into my supplications innumerable times. What have I asked for? For a cupful, and the ocean remains! For a sunbeam, and the sun abides! My best asking falls immeasurably short of my Father’s giving; it is beyond what we can ask or think.

J. H. Jowett

Editorial

RES

Thanksgiving

It is 'beneficial' for 'us' to know where 'we' came from, in order to give 'us' a sense of 'direction' of where we are going!

ONE Autumn night in 1607, a furtive group of men, women and children set off in a relay of small boats from the English Village of Scrooby, in pursuit of 'freedom' in a fresh start; numbering no more of 50 to 60, as we know today as Pilgrims.

Heading across the North Sea to the Netherlands with a chance to build new lives, and to 'Worship' as they chose, and to avoid the fate of fellow Separatists; who were hanged for their religious beliefs in 1593...

In 'our' great USA since 1863, 'Thanksgiving' has been observed as a 'holiday.' There are some who actually claim that *Thanksgiving day* (?) began at El Paso, Texas, in 1598.

Actually the first 'Thanksgiving' *day* (here in USA) was in 1623 – when they gave 'thanks' when a much needed rain ended a drought.

ESPECIALLY in years gone by, 'Thanksgiving Day' was observed by church worship service; rather *than feasting!* President George Washington actually proclaimed the **FIRST Thanksgiving Day in 'our' beloved land** in 1789.

Very 'early' in the morning of 8/25/13 (app. 3:40 a.m.) 'our' telephone rang, which informed 'us' that a severe thunderstorm and lightning was in the making for 'our' area with possible high wind and hail. (Actually we had a very 'wet' spring and a dry summer up to this point): BUT in essence 'we' did not receive a drop of rain!

NOW why is it that we readily appreciate the 'Fore-Casters' – fore-cast; BUT have such difficulty taking GOD AT HIS WORD (the Bible)?

"...They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame, wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." Jude 12b & 13.

YET

Seemingly (at large) 'we' fail to realize 'we' are living in these days of 'Apostasy,' falling away!

Now I want to emphasize the word **REMEMBER**, because **"thanksgiving"** is not *necessarily* what you and I possess (stewards) now; but memory of the heart!

I recall being told about a lady, probably in her 'eighties'

who was experiencing the pain of a toothache and under her 'breath' she was grumbling/complaining to the LORD in regards to her discomfort and then suddenly realizing she had never had a 'toothache' before in her entire life. So quickly she began thanking and praising her LORD!

REMEMBER you and I (and everyone else) were born 'sinners' (Psalm 51:5, 58:3, Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:10-20) and with 'our' *spiritual eyes blinded!*

It is good to keep this in 'mind/heart' when 'we' pray for lost loved one, neighbors, friends and whoever; but don't 'dwell' on that in your 'own' personal life; but what are YOU now! There is a *danger* on dwelling too much of what I was, because the very important thing is where am I standing now today, spiritually before 'our' thrice HOLY GOD, now? The BIBLE clearly states that 'we' are to examine 'ourselves' in the light of His Word! Scripture is clear in stating the terrible experience that it is possible for the 'Spirit of the Lord' to leave a person and that person is not even aware of it – how tragic! Thus 'we' need to keep in mind that 'our' heart is deceitful and desperately 'wicked' Jeremiah 17:9 and not gamble with 'our' eternal Soul!

Martin Luther shares that a living faith (**LIVES**) as long as it struggles and that a person will always end up back at CALVARY. ALL 'redeemed' sinners find that the ground is level at the foot of CALVARY! Isaiah 43:25-26, 44:22, 1 John 1:7-9, Col. 2:9-10, 1 Cor. 1:30-31 & 1 Thess. 2:4.

"Enoch walked with God!" *What a 'testimony', In God's Grace, can that be said about YOU? Remember what you ARE speaks so loud that often they can not hear what you say!* 11 Corinthians 5:7.

REMEMBER we definitely are living in what the BIBLE calls '*Perilous Times*', which means very difficult times! Days of 'deception and Apostasy/falling away.

IN the 'Lukewarm' church today; if those who are in 'leadership' sense or realize you are about to 'leave' because of what Scripture states; likely they will seek to put you in a role of leadership; like a Sunday School teacher, Deacon, Trustee, etc. Thus likely 'human reasoning' will say you must stay now as a Light and Salt; while the Bible (God) says: *"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remember her iniquity"*

unities.” Revelation 18:4-5, 11 Thessalonians 3:5-6, 1 Samuel 15:22-24, Rev. 2:4, 3:3. ONE has said that IF there is a time in your life and you loved Jesus more than you love Him now; you are in a back-slidden position.

BUT ‘remember’ when you have to leave a congregation/group; you do so because of what Scripture states and not at all a ‘personality difference’ or any ‘root’ of bitterness, etc. LOVE is tested by ‘obedience’ to His Word! *“Sanctify (set apart & unto) them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”* John 17:17. Remember ‘Freedom’ both physically and spiritually is never FREE! (Salvation is free (God’s Grace)); but there definitely is a cost involved in true discipleship. Most certainly ‘we’ are in a intense spiritual battle/warship!

REMEMBER that at the time of the institution of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, when JESUS said one of you are going to ‘betray me’; they did not point their finger at Judas, but asked the very heart searching question: *“Lord, is it I?”* Martin Luther also shared that the one who does not ‘fear himself’ has the greatest reason to ‘fear’ of all! Proverbs 3:5-6, Hebrews 4:11-16, **Psalm 80:18b-19, 119:149.**

How tragic, but realistic that ‘deception’ in our ‘day’ is rampant, which shouldn’t catch ‘us’ by surprise; because God in His Infinite LOVE tells ‘us’ in His Holy Word about false prophets, those who follow ‘signs and wonders’ that the very ‘elect’ shall be deceived IF possible! Matthew 24 & 25. Yes, there are those who are ‘deceiving and being deceived’ themselves: especially so in ‘perilous times’. *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”* 11 Corinthians 11:3, 13-14, Galatians 1:1-9.

REMEMBER while you go through various ‘afflictions’ that cruel tool is held with nail pierced ‘hands’ for ‘our’ good with one of two purposes in Infinite LOVE and that is either to show us our need of a ‘Living Savior’ and/or to

get us grow deeper roots into HIS Word in order that our lives might be more bountiful to His Glory! Psalm 119:65-72, Romans 8:28 – 29, Hebrews 12:5-13.

REMEMBER, please to not gamble with the eternal soul that you ARE! The most dangerous lies are those closest to the TRUTH!

REMEMBER it is not too late yet for GOD to turn the USA around as there is definite ‘hope’ in HIM! GOD is the same as ‘yester-year’, the Holy Spirit and the Incorruptible Word of God, the Bible. Luke 18:1-8, 11 Chr. 16:9, 7:14, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8.

REMEMBER not only live your ‘Christianity’, BUT **tell** of what JESUS has done in your life, but is doing to your children, grand-children, great grand-children and on!

REMEMBER in the LORD, ‘we’ (Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/*Morning Glory*) are dependent upon you to help keep this ‘ministry’ alive and well!

REMEMBER one of the ‘earmarks’ of a ‘born again’ person is love (dedication/commitment) for the brethren: Hebrews 13:1, 1 John 3:14, 4:21, see how they LOVE one another, Matthew 24:12, John 13:34-35.

REMEMBER

“Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today... We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.” Hebrews 3:13-14 (NIV) and Where there is NO vision the people perish!

REMEMBER

People in the Old Testament and in the New Testament ‘dwelt in tabernacles/temples/tents IDENTICAL to YOU and ME!! **Jeremiah 9:1, Psalm 119:136, Romans 9:1-5**

Oh, that God could instill in ‘us’ greater LOVE for JESUS & His Kingdom Work!!

Hans Nielsen Hauge

died at age 53, on March 28, 1824. At the time of his death, lay-fellowship groups and prayer meetings had been organized in every one of Norway’s 600 parishes.

On his tombstone is the following: *“Until his last breath he held fast to the faith, hope and love he had spread among others by word, deed, writings and Christian life. He lived in the Lord; he died in the Lord; by the grace of Jesus does he receive eternal salvation.”*

The influence of Hans Nielsen Hauge continues to this day in Norway and throughout much of the world.

Norwegian immigrants to Europe and the United States faithfully witnessed the gospel, encouraging people to have a personal conversion to Christ and to live out their lives in holiness before God and man. Many true Lutheran congregations today highly esteem their Haugean heritage.

ALSO as a result, the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation publishes the *Morning Glory*, conducts spiritual-life Bible Conferences, sponsors evangelistic meetings and has a limited amount of Scriptural Christian literature for donations.

Selected.

GREEN PASTURES

(Continued from last issue of MG)

Green pastures are literally “pastures of tender grass.” ... Moffat says, “He makes me lie in meadows green.”

The green pastures are the young, tender, tasty, nutritive grass upon which the sheep feed.

For us, we repeat, the green pastures are the tasty, nutritive Scriptures.

The Psalmist said, “*How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.*” “*They shall hear my words for they are sweet.*” Food gives us physical strength; so also food gives us spiritual strength.

When there was a scarcity of copies of the Bible and a copy was chained to a pillar in St. Paul’s Cathedral, there was chained to that pillar green pastures where the sheep of God might come and eat to the full.

We read the experience of a Catholic boy of many, many years ago. Some pages of the Bible fell into his hands. He read them and believed them, and experienced the great change that comes in regeneration. His mother, a fanatical Catholic, could not understand the change that had taken place in her son. She thought that maybe it had something to do with the secrecy of his room at night, for he retired to his room every evening and locked the door. One night she peeked through the keyhole, saw him take some papers out of the mattress where they were hidden. She watched him read with a smile on his lips and a shine in his eyes. The next day, while her son was away, she went into his room and removed the pages of the Book from the hiding place in the mattress. She took them to her priest, with the result that her son was brought before the cruel Inquisition and condemned. That boy was a sheep of God feeding in the green pastures of the Word, but more than that: he was honored by being counted worthy to “suffer for His sake,” and even when tied to a stake in the valley of the shadow of death he feared no evil, for the Good Shepherd was with him, watching over His sheep.

The trouble with too many sheep of God today is that they wander in fields where there is no pasture. They are like Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, who lived in Lodebar, which means “no pasture.”

The world is nothing but a howling wilderness in which a child of God can never find nourishment. Too many are like the prodigal son who turned his back on father and on father’s home to walk his own path of self-will, wasting his substance in riotous living until at last he came, not to the green pastures where the sheep fed, but to the fields of husks where the swine fed. Swine’s food will never nourish a sheep of God.

Too many times the sheep wander in fields where noxious weeds grow. They become poisoned with the false

doctrines of the day. There is no nourishment in error-only deadly danger.

Some pastures are withered and dry. Newspapers, magazines, man’s books do not nourish spiritual life. I am not saying that we should not know the news, that we should not read sermons and commentaries, that we should not follow our Father’s work in the world, but I am saying that the spiritual nature of God’s sheep demands the green pastures of God’s Word.

The test of real food is its sustaining power. One may eat a great deal of food that neither strengthens nor sustains. I have read that on one occasion when the Jews were driven from Russia without even the bare necessities of life, they ground up weeds, mixed them with clay, to try to satisfy their hunger. The terrible edge of appetite was dulled in this way, but the people still died for there was no food value in what they ate.

The pastures of God are always unfailing in supply. We cannot walk with our Shepherd without finding them. Two disciples on the way to Emmaus had lost all their spiritual zest, but as they walked with Him they were led by Him into the green pastures of the Word, and they returned to Jerusalem filled with zeal. God’s pastures are ready at every hour of need.

“***He maketh me to lie down***” gives to us a picture of repose. It is a picture of fullness and satisfaction. Sheep will not lie down when they are hungry. If you see a sheep lying down in green pastures, you may be sure the sheep is satisfied. Sheep do not eat lying down. If you put a tuft of sweet, tender grass under the nose of a lying sheep it will not eat it unless it first rises to its feet. Such fullness and satisfaction can only come to us through the Word.

The rest of the sheep is not an idle rest. Sheep do not lie down to feed, but they chew the cud. They bring up from the first stomach the grass they have eaten and chew it over and over and over again. The sheep is a ruminant. Remember that in the Law of Moses God declared that the clean animals were the ones that chewed the cud and divided the hoof. That refers to proper digestion and a steady walk. It is these things that make us clean in the sight of God. In Psalm 1 we read: “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*” That word “meditate” is really “ruminant,” and merely means chewing the cud. Too many times we read the Word of God hastily. Too many times we read a large portion merely to say we have read so much. The Bible should be read, but it would be better to take one verse and chew it over and over and over again to get the sweetness and strength out of it than to read three chapters or a whole book and not know what we have read when we have finished...

The shepherd is satisfied to have the sheep lying down chewing the cud, for he knows they are putting on fat and growing wool. Our Shepherd delights in our soul-fatness, too, and in the wool of our service and praise by which He is enriched.

“He maketh me to lie down.” This is a lying down under loving constraint and compulsion. It seems that sometimes we need to be made to lie down that He might accomplish His purpose in us. Paul was made to lie down in green pastures in a Roman prison. Out of those green pastures came the fatness of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. John Bunyan was made to lie down in green pastures in the Bedford jail, and out of those green pastures came the wool of *“Pilgrim’s Progress.”* Dr. J. R. Miller said, I found green pastures in the little white bed of the hospital.” So sometimes He puts us on beds that we might ruminant. Too many times men break down spiritually because they will not lie down. The disciples, at our Lord’s command, could make five thousand sit down upon the tender green grass to satisfy their natural hunger from His abundance. There is blessed constraint in that *“maketh me,”* for it means to satisfy our spiritual hunger out of His abundance.

Taken from *The Psalm of Psalms* by R. L. Moyer, D.D. , Copyright 1945, World Wide Publications

He has given us his very great and precious promises

2 Peter 1:4

When a shipbuilder erects a boat, does he do so only to keep it on the scaffolding? No, he builds it to sail the seas and to weather the storms. In fact, if he does not think of strong winds and hurricanes as he builds it, he is a poor shipbuilder.

In the same way, when God made you a believer, He meant to test you. And when He gave you promises and asked you to trust them, He made His promises suitable for times of storms and high seas. Do you believe that some of His promises are counterfeit, similar to a life vest that looks good in the store but is of no use in the sea?

We have all seen swords that are beautiful but are useless in war, or shoes made for decoration but not for walking. Yet God’s shoes are made of iron and brass, and we can walk all the way to heaven in them, without ever wearing them out. And we could swim the Atlantic a thousand times in His life vest, with no fear of ever sinking. His Word of promise is meant to be tried and tested.

There is nothing Christ dislikes more than for His people to publicly profess Him and then not use Him. He loves for us to make use of Him, for His covenant blessings are not simply meant to be looked at but should be appropriated. Our Lord Jesus has been given to us for our present use. Are you making use of Him as you should?

O beloved, I plead with you not to treat God’s promises as something to be displayed in a museum but to use them as everyday sources of comfort. And whenever you have a time of need, trust the Lord.

Charles H. Spurgeon

*Go to the depths of God’s promise,
And claim whatsoever you will’
The blessing of God will not fail you,
His Word He will surely fulfill.*

How can God say no to something He has promised?

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman, © 1996 by Zondervan

But When You Sin

“And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1 John 2:1

There is no suggestion anywhere in Scripture that any person can be sinless. *“All have sinned”* (Romans 3:23), the Bible boldly declares. *“There is none righteous, no, not one”* (Romans 3:10). Repentance toward God (Acts 20:21) and salvation by God (2 Corinthians 7:10) eternally settles the issue of the sinful *condition* inherent in us (Ephesians 2:1-8). However, even though we have been *“made the righteousness of God in him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21), we still commit sinful acts (1 John 1:8-10)!

Hallelujah for the *Advocate!* What a blessed promise it is that is recorded for us that the same Jesus Christ who died for our sins, who rose from the grave in glorious victory over sin, *“is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”* (Romans 8:34).

Although our security in the completed work of Christ Jesus is “for ever” (Hebrews 10:12), our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14) stands ready to rebut the constant efforts of Satan to flaunt our sins before the holy throne of God (Revelation 12:10). We have no standing there on our own. Our life, even though forgiven and “rescued” from sin, still is tainted with the deeds and consequences of evil choices. Even the body in which we live houses “no good thing” (Romans 7:1).

Were it up to us to “be holy,” we would quickly be defamed by the reality of our life. The child of God, though redeemed by *“the precious blood of Christ”* (1 Peter 1:19), has no ability to plead Christ’s work in person before the throne. *“Wherefore he (Jesus) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”* (Hebrews 7:25).

Henry M. Morris III, D.Min

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Don't Forget

Read: Deuteronomy 8:7 – 18

Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 8:11

I don't agree with those who rail against material things and say that owning stuff is inherently evil. And I have to admit that I'm a consumer – often tempted to pad my pile of treasures with items I think I need.

But I do recognize that one of the dangers of owning a lot of stuff is that it can lead to spiritual loss. The more we have and the more we feel as if we have all we need, the more prone we are to forget our need for God and even our desire for Him. Yet, ironically, everything we have comes ultimately from God, who "gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17).

Sadly, our enjoyment of God's provisions might just mean that we end up loving the gift and forgetting the Giver. This is why, when God was getting ready to give His people a life full of bounty in the Promised Land of good and plenty, He warned, "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God" (Deut. 8:11).

If God has allowed you to enjoy material abundance, remind yourself where it came from. In fact, all of us, whether rich in this world's goods or not, have much to be thankful for. Let's heed the warning not to forget the Lord and praise Him for His abundant goodness. Joe Stowell

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today. – Miller*

Love the Giver more than the gifts!

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Our Eternal Bodies

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Philippians 3:21

Only those religions which believe in special creation – that is, Orthodox Judaism, Islam, and Christianity – also believe in a bodily resurrection. Of the three creationist/resurrectionist religion, however, only the CHRISTIAN FAITH acknowledges that the resurrection can be possible only when the CREATOR becomes the atoning Savior,

dying for sin and thereby defeating death.

When Christ arose from the tomb, He could proclaim, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18). His resurrection body was the same physical body that had been in the grave, able to be touched and even retaining its crucifixion scars. Nevertheless, it was different, a "spiritual" body (1 Corinthians 15:42-49), controlled by spiritual forces. Our present "natural" bodies are controlled by natural forces, but the resurrected Christ could move quickly from Earth to heaven, and could pass through closed doors (John 20:17, 19, 26).

But our resurrection bodies will be like His someday, according to the "working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead" (Ephesians 1:19-20). By that same "working," He is able to subdue all things, for He is the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16). Our "vile" bodies will become "glorious" bodies, no longer subject to sickness and aging, or lust and evil passions.

"This corruptible shall have put on incorruption" (1 Corinthians 15:54). "We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). This is the blessed hope of the genuine Christian.

Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

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Pray for the Impossible

It is easier for God to do a difficult thing than an easy thing. The very structure of His infinite nature is such that He lives in the realm of the supernatural, the omnipotent and the infinite.

When we ask Him for some easy and trifling thing, there is always a danger of our mingling with our faith a certain amount of human reasoning and looking quite as much to second causes as to God. But when we come out into the clear light and the high altitude of the impossible, then there is no place for anything but God; and He is untrammelled by our human reasonings and limiting unbeliefs.

A. B. Simpson

THANKS!

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"

Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31. (James 1:17 & Romans 2:4).

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

New 'Scouting' Program for Boys – *God-honoring, Christ Centered*

A Nashville convention has ended with the launching of a new Christ-Centered Organization for boys to provide a faith-based program for those who have become disenchanted with 'Boy Scouts of America' called 'Trail Life USA'.

There was representation at this convention from forty-four states and informed that this 'organization' is based on the Bible and that 'Trail Life USA' is partnering with "American Heritage Girls". Selected

Reactions to First Gay Bishop (ELCA)

Michael Cooper-White, "I don't expect it (Erwin's election) to cause a lot of ripples, frankly. Those who would have been troubled by the decision left four years ago when the ELCA changed its stance on sexuality. This is not huge news, the way it was news four years ago." Michael Cooper-White, President, ELCA Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Editor's Note: Please keep ALWAYS in mind when these 'errors', Doctrines, Convictions come to your attention; it is not 'personality' clashes (disputes) BUT 'principles, convictions. *What does God's Holy Word/Scripture teach* for that is the bottom line (which is the all important factor)? "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them, For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ,..." Romans 16:17-18, 11 Timothy 3:16-17.

The tower of Babel was a religious tower...

"The idea that ancient men were primitive brutes, cave men, is a lie that fits the evolutionary model but doesn't explain the evidence that ancient man was brilliant. Adam was created in the 'image' of God, by God's own doing! The cave man myth contradicts the Biblical account that definitely indicates men before the flood were extremely intelligent, lived hundreds of years and invented amazing things. For example: How did ancient man move massive 100-ton stones and fit them so precisely together in the building of 'pyramids' that you cannot slide a credit card in the joints?

As 'man' tried/wanted to be 'god', the Tower of Babel was a religious tower showing rebellion against the One

and Only TRUE GOD!

ELCA Releases NEW BIBLE to match *its Theology*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), through its publishing arm Sparkhouse, recently announced the release of a new version of the Bible called "Animate." Like many today who do not appreciate what the Bible teaches about various subjects, the ELCA was inclined to write its own version.

The Animate Bible was loosely translated by a group of leaders from the Emergent Church, and much of it reflects the Emergent Church's off-the-wall theology as well as the strange theology now being promoted within the ELCA. ...

Taken from *Vine and Branches*, Issue 4, 2013.

Pastor Unmoved at Danger

"My colleague and I visited Pastor Emre, a humble but powerful Turkish believer. In January, 2013 he learned that more than a dozen individuals, including some who had infiltrated his church and even babysat his children, had conspired to assassinate him. Despite this alarming news and painful betrayal Emre remained unmoved in his commitment to Kingdom work in Turkey and he even forgave those who conspired against him."

Voice of the Martyrs

Jay Bakker, son of Jim and Tammy Bakker, starts New Church in Minneapolis Bar

The ELCA apparently likes Jay Bakker's style and theology enough to ask him to be one of the commentators for their new "Animate Bible."

This past April Jay Bakker, long associated with the Emergent Church, chose Minneapolis, Minnesota as the location for his new church that will be located in a bar.

A recent (fairly) article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune stated that Bakker chose the location because of "Minnesota's growing prominence in the Emerging Church movement, an unconventional, broad-minded brand of Christianity that questions traditional religious labels and practices." There are approximately six Emergent churches in the Twin Cities area.

The article further stated: "Covered in tattoos and piercings, Bakker looks more like a hipster than a minis-

ter—quite different in style and beliefs from his evangelical parents, who made headlines in the 1980s for their PTL ministry and subsequent fall from grace and scandal and fraud. Bakker is liberal-leaning on social issues and a fervent gay rights supporter. He has married same-sex couples in Hew Your where the practice is legal. Tony Jones, theologian-in-residence at Solomon’s Porch in South Minneapolis, is close friends with Jay Bakker.”

Taken from *Vine and Branches*, Issue 4, 2013.

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Thanks, I needed That!

Psalm 141:5-10

The psalmist David thanks the Lord for those who admonish and correct: *“Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness; and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil ...”* (V. 5). Solomon concurs; “Faithful are the wounds of a friend” (Prov. 27:6). The best friends are not necessarily those who are ready to commend, compliment and say whatever is required at the moment to make us feel better. The friend indeed is the one who will speak the truth in love, even if that means we might be pained for a time due to a needed word of exhortation or even rebuke. “The righteous” who thus speak are exactly that, “righteous” – they speak what is right and what is required according to God’s truth. The counsel of godly associates, even if it “smites: or hits us right where it hurts, in invaluable; such exhortation is an “excellent oil” – it is just what is needed to medicate our backsliding heart or to prod us in the right way. Godly fellowship are a blessing and spiritual help (vv. 5b, 6); however, compromised associations always result in spiritual debilitation (1:1, 4-6; 119:63).

The psalmist concludes by saying that even though he may be facing a desperate situation in which it appears that his enemies have gained the victory, his eyes are still on the Lord (vv. 7-8). When the prospect of deliverance seems impossible, God’s provision is near. The Lord will certainly not leave His child to be a prey for the adversary, and we can trust our God to deliver us from the entrapments of the wicked (vv. 9-10). God can counter anything the Devil throws our way, but we must turn to Him as did the psalmist David. May this marvelous petition of Psalm 141 be ours today.

Dennis W. Costella

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THY WILL BE DONE

*Thy Will be done in our life each day,
Lead us to Your good and only perfect way.
Help us to shun evil and harm as others we meet.
May our disposition be always loving and sweet.*

*Thy Will be done when tragedy may come our way.
Though not understanding, help us to accept we pray.
When all of life seems hopeless and our outlook defeat,
You are still on Your throne, our needs to meet.*

*Thy Will be done when countries foolishly go to war.
Give us the peace within that will always endure.
When our country forsakes You and encourages sin,
Keep us assured in the end righteousness will win.*

*Thy Will be done when the income seems far too low,
Instead of despair may our faith in you increasingly grow,
You have promised to supply all of our need.
Help us to avoid confusing this with greed.*

*Thy Will be done when life comes to an end.
Help us realize the faithful have a Savior and friend.
We need not fear the grave or what lies ahead.
We can have the assurance of eternal life instead.*

By James M. Hite

* * * * *

Our Legacy

“They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security deserve neither liberty or security.”

Benjamin Franklin

“So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it, the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable member of society.”

John Quincy Adams

Does A Pastor Have Authority to Forgive Sins?

“But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” (Mark 2:10)

In some liturgies, after the confession of sin, the pastor stands in front of the congregation and pronounces something similar to this:

*“Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, **I forgive you all your sins**, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”*

Note that he is not just pronouncing God’s forgiveness, but he himself is forgiving the listeners their sins. Does he have the authority under God to do this?

Were you to question a pastor on this, he would probably tell you that Jesus promised the apostles that they could forgive and retain the sins of others. *“If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”* (John 20:23) It is called “The Office of the Keys” where the pastors are said to have this authority to “bind and loose, or forgive and retain,” the sins of others based upon John 20:23.

Please note two important things about this verse. First, it is pronounced to the apostles only, not to the pastors of churches. Both Timothy and Titus were pastors and the apostle Paul never said anything of this sort to them. We would only believe this would be true for pastors today if we believed in Apostolic Succession – which is the false notion that the apostolic office continues through the pastors today.

Secondly, there is no record in Scripture of the apostles themselves ever forgiving or retaining the sins of others. Rather, Scripture records where they pronounced (preached or wrote) what God had said in His Word about repentance of sin and faith in Jesus in order to receive forgiveness of sins from God.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached to the crowd assembled in Jerusalem. They were pricked to the heart of their sins and their need for salvation. They then asked the apostle Peter what they must do. Peter’s reply was this: *“Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38). Notice that Peter did not forgive these people their sins, rather he told them what they must do in order that God could forgive them their sins. Also, the apostle Paul pronounced what

God would say about people and their sins: *“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins.”* (1 Cor. 15:17) Paul was making a rhetorical argument for the resurrection of Christ and stating that, if Jesus were not raised, you would still be in your sins. Notice that he did not tell them, “I retain your sins, and therefore you are still in them;” rather he was stating that only the resurrected Christ can forgive sins, and if He be not risen, then you are in your sins. (Thank God that Christ is risen!)

Notice in these two examples of the apostles forgiving and retaining sins that they were simply pronouncing what the Scripture records: Anyone who comes to Jesus in repentance of sin and faith in Him has the promise of Scripture of forgiveness of sins from Jesus, not through any other agent.

Since only God has the authority to forgive people their sins (Mark 2:7) and this is through Jesus, Who is God in the Flesh (Mark 2:10), the apostles and the church merely declared what God does. When a man repents of sins and accepts Jesus, his sins are forgiven. If he does not, he does not have forgiveness of sins. A pastor (or other Christian) can simply repeat what Scripture says: *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:8-9) This is called a “Declaration of Grace” where the pastor tells the listeners what God says in His Word about those who confess their sins and believe in Jesus. Note that the apostle John did not absolve the people of their sins, rather he pronounced the truth of God: If you deny sin, you are not forgiven. If you confess your sins, God will forgive you.

Lest we think this is a small matter, some even take this to the point that, if an unbeliever simply believes the absolution from the pastor, his sins are forgiven, whether or not he has repented of his sins or come to Christ. This leads to false conversions and people deluded about their eternal destiny. Before Luther’s conversion, he confessed all of his sins at length to Staupitz, yet never had peace of heart that his sins were forgiven, even though Staupitz would have forgiven him. It wasn’t until Luther came to personal faith in Jesus through the Word of God that he knew his sins were forgiven, because Jesus had then forgiven him and given him that assurance of salvation.

I once knew a man who believed in a priest having this authority to forgive or retain sins. I asked him once,

“What would you do if you confessed your sins to the priest and he didn’t forgive you?” His reply was, “I would find another priest!” Isn’t this the heart of the matter? We are depending on a human agent to do what only God can do.

Are you relying on this for forgiveness of your sins? Are you relying on the fact that your pastor has pronounced to you that your sins are forgiven, when you have not repented of your sins before God and come to Jesus in faith? Then hear what Jesus Himself says about this: “*I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.*” (John 8:24)

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

* * * * *

Are You Blessed or More Blessed?

“I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”(Acts 20:35)

You can live a charmed life. As one old southern preacher put it, you can live under the spout where the glory comes out! You can have a blessed life.

All through the Bible, God gives us promises concerning the receiving of His blessing upon our lives. It is important that we understand that these promises are almost always conditional. If we will, then He will. Most people want to live a life of continual blessing, but few want to fulfill their part of the bargain.

Case in point is the matter of giving versus receiving. God says it is more blessed to give. What is this verse teaching us?

It is a Blessing to Receive

We receive a blessing when someone is kind enough to give us some token of his or her love and appreciation. For the shallow of spirit, the enjoyment comes from the material gift. For the spiritually mature, the blessing comes not from the gift itself, but from the love and sacrifice that it represents.

It is More of a Blessing to Give

Let me try to sell you on this great truth: the happiest people in the world are not the getters but the givers. Why is this true?

Givers are more blessed because they control their

personal happiness. If you are only happy when you are receiving, then you will only be happy when someone decides to give you something. Your happiness is at the mercy of the generosity and thoughtfulness of others.

But if you are happier giving, you can be happy whenever you like, because you can choose to give whenever you like.

Several years ago, I had two young ladies in our youth group who were about the same age. One was constantly moody. It seemed that she was only happy when someone was complimenting her or in some way shining the spotlight on her.

The other young lady always seemed to have a smile on her face. She spent her time encouraging and uplifting others around her. She often did things secretly for teens in our youth group when she found out they had a need.

I have never met a happier young lady. Why? Because she had died to self and was constantly living for others, she was living a more blessed life.

Givers are more blessed because they spend their time thinking of others. Try to spend some time each morning planning to be a giver. Think of people you will come in contact with how you can lift their burden or make them smile.

Let me share an observation: selfish, self-centered people are the most miserable people in the world! Two great secrets to happiness are dying to self and living for others.

Givers are more blessed because they most resemble the Saviour. “*For God so loved the world, that he gave...*” God gave His Son to die for our sins. Jesus spent His time here on earth living for others.

The sad truth is that the lost world seldom sees a person who claims to be a Christian actually living like He lived. Jesus gave everything for me! Why is it so hard to give Him what He asks of us?

Open that clenched fist! Let go of your selfishness and get ready to start grabbing the blessings of God.

Jerry Ross, Selected

“I WILL love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. IN my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God’ He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.” Psalm 18:1-3, 6.

IT IS TIME TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

By Pastor H. Van Someren, Princeton, MN

As our nation drifts away from God, it no longer understands that ***“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”*** James 1:17.

We are living in a materialistic society where the emphasis is on the accumulation of wealth and property. Now, there is nothing wrong with wealth and property except when it becomes more important than God in our life. ***“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”*** Mark 8:36.

Thankfulness for our God-given blessings begins with the peace of Christ in our hearts. ***“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”*** Col. 3:15.

When the peace of Christ rules in our heart, our focus is on Jesus. His peace assures us that we don't need to accumulate earthly goods to be happy and thankful. The writer to the Hebrews said, ***“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”*** Heb. 13:5.

This Thanksgiving, as we gather around the table with family and friends, let us not forget who has provided for the food on the table, the clothes on our back, and the roof over our heads. But far more important than temporal blessings are the eternal blessings God has given us in Christ. When did you last thank God for the gift of His Only Begotten Son who shed His blood on the cross of Calvary that we might receive the blessings of eternal life?

Have you ever thought to thank God for trials and tribulations by which our faith is strengthened? ***“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*** Jas. 1:2-4.

A happy heart is a thankful heart. If you are not grateful for the blessings received from God, you will not be content. As a Christian, our life should be a living example of thankfulness. No matter what the situation is, we can always find a reason to be thankful, even in those situations that we would consider difficult.

I read a story about Corrie Ten Boom, the Dutch lady who was sent to a German concentration camp. Because of the terrible conditions at the camp, she was covered with lice. She said she complained about this condition until someone told her that, because of the lice, the camp

guards did not assault her. Then she realized that the lice were a gift from God and thanked God for protecting her from the lusting camp guards in a most unusual way.

Count Your Blessings

By Edwin O. Excell, 1851 – 1921

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings – name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings – every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their land and gold
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings – money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high.

So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged – God is overall;
Count your many blessings – angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Let the following scripture be on your hearts this coming Thanksgiving Day and every day of the year.

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Col. 3:16.

Taken from *Revival Tidings*, 11/09

Is It Old Age?

Doctor: That pain in your leg is caused by old age.

Grandpa: Don't be silly – my other leg is the same age, and it doesn't hurt at all.

***If clouds are full of water, they pour rain
upon the earth.***

Ecclesiastes 11:3

If we believe the message of this verse, then why do we dread the clouds that darken our sky? It is true that for a while the dark clouds hide the sun, but it is not extinguished and it will soon shine again. Meanwhile those clouds are filled with rain, and the darker they are the more likely they are to bring plentiful showers.

How can we have rain without clouds? Our troubles have always brought us blessings, and they always will, for they are the dark chariots of God's bright and glorious grace. Before long the clouds will be emptied, and every tender plant will be happier due to the showers. Our God may drench us with grief, but He will refresh us with His mercy. Our Lord's love letters often come to us in dark envelopes. His wagons may rumble noisily across the sky, but they are loaded with benefits. And His rod blossoms with sweet flowers and nourishing fruits. So let us not worry about the clouds. Instead, let us sing because May flowers are brought to us through April clouds and showers.

O Lord, "clouds are the dust of (your) feet" Nah. 1:3. Help us remember how near You are during the dark and cloudy days! Love beholds You and is glad. Faith sees the clouds emptying themselves and thereby making the hills on every side rejoice.

C. H. Spurgeon

*What seems so dark to your dim sight
May be a shadow, seen aright
Making some brightness doubly bright.*

*The flash that struck your tree – no more
To shelter thee – lets heaven's blue floor
Shine where it never shone before.*

*The cry wrung from your spirit's pain
May echo on some far-off plain,
And guide a wanderer home again.*

The blue sky of heaven is much
larger than the dark clouds.

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman,
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Hanging On Nothing

Read: Job 26:5-14

***He stretches out the north over empty space;
He hangs the earth on nothing.*** Job 26:7

A world map published by National Geographic Society has this notation: "Earth's mass is 6.6 sextillion tons." And what supports all that weight? **Nothing.** The planet we inhabit spins on its axis at 1,000 miles per hour as it hurtles through space in its orbit around the sun. But it's easy for that to remain unnoticed in the midst of our daily concerns about health, relationships, and how to pay the bills.

The Old Testament character Job repeatedly considered God's creation in his struggle to make sense of the numbing loss of his health, his wealth, and his children. "(God) *stretches out the north over empty space,*" Job said. "*He hangs the earth on nothing:* (Job 26:7). Job marveled at the clouds that did not break under the heavy water inside them (v.8) and the horizon "at the boundary of light and darkness" (v.10), but called them "the mere edges of His ways" (v. 14).

Creation itself did not answer Job's questions, but the heavens and the earth pointed him to God the creator, who alone could respond with help and hope.

The Lord who upholds the universe by the "***word of His power***" (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17) is in control of our everyday lives. Experiences that seem "empty places" are all undergirded by our heavenly Father's power and love.

— David McCasland

*Dear Lord, we praise You for Your infinite power.
You created the world out of nothing and uphold
It by Your word. Help me to remember that You
Are also in control of every part of my life.*

**When we reflect on the power of God's creation,
We see the power of His care for us.**

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, copyright 2013,
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Editor's Note: AND then to 'think' that GOD in His 'Wisdom' gave 'mankind' a 'free-choice'; this is proven from Genesis 3 and on. This does not disagree with Scripturally man's TOTAL DEPRAVITY as before a lost soul is saved; they are the "slaves" to SIN!

**Just 'marvel' at the GREATNESS,
Goodness & Mercy and Grace of GOD!**

LOVE AND PRAYER

Read: Psalm 92

They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. Psalm 92:14

In a popular children's book Winnie the Pooh watches Kanga bound away. I wish I could jump like that, he thinks. Some can and some can't. That's how it is.

We see younger or more able men and women doing extraordinary things that we cannot do. They can; we can't. That's how it is. It's easy to feel useless when we can't do the things we were once capable of doing.

It's true that we may not be able to "jump" like we once did, but we can love and we can pray. These are the works that time and experience have prepared us to do well.

Love is the very best gift we have to give to God and to others. It is no small matter, for love is the means by which we fulfill our whole duty to God and our neighbor. Our love for one person may seem to be a small action, but love is the greatest gift of all (1 Cor. 13:13).

And we can pray. Paul encouraged the Colossians to "continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2). Our prayers are a powerful force in the universe!

Love and prayer are mighty works indeed, the mightiest works for any of us. Why? Because our God, who wants to use us, is an all-loving and all-powerful God.

– David Roper

*Begin the day with God,
Kneel down to Him in prayer;
Lift up thy heart to His abode,
And seek His love to share. –dann*

**God pours His love into our hearts
That it might flow out to others.**

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, Copyright 2013, Radio Bible Class, Grand Rapids, MI. Permission Granted.

Editor's Note: Are you elderly? Take encouragement and hope, as according to my 'knowledge' the "Palm Tree" bears its best and finest 'fruit' in 'old age'.

* * * * *

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Ps. 103:2.

When we count our blessings we are often surprised at all that the Lord has done for us. It may seem that we have

nothing, that we are poor in the things of this world, but when we begin to look at all the benefits that God has bestowed upon us we will praise Him. And when we begin to praise Him our love for Him grows, for our hearts are warmed toward Him.

A mother had asked her son to pray for exercise of his soul. But the little boy said he did not know what to pray about. The Mother advised him to thank God for all that He had given him. The little boy was willing to do this and began: "Dear God, I thank you for my play-horse and all my games; for my legs that I can use to run around with, so I do not have to use crutches as Carl does; for my good eyes, so I am not blind as poor Fritz; for my warm bed; for my mother and father; for the food –"and he stopped. Turning to his mother he said,

"But, Mother, there is no end!"

When we begin to praise and thank God for all His benefits toward us, there is no end. We are put to shame for our murmuring, and our complaining.

Dear Lord Jesus, rebuke Thy children when they would forget Thy benefits. Give us grateful hearts, and stir our hearts to sing Thy praises. In Jesus' name and for His sake. Amen.

*Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love;
Praise the Lamb, our Expiation.
Priest and King enthroned above;
Praise the Fountain of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live;
Undivided adoration
To the One Jehovah give.*

Taken from *Altar Steps* by R. P. Haakonson,
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Editor's Note: Once again we take a 'page' out of this timely family devotional book that can be yours' for a five dollar donation, plus a dollar for shipping.

WHY not give a 'gift' that is inexpensive this Christmas Season (just ahead of us) that lasts throughout the whole year?

ALSO, we have available *Mirror of the Heart* (Author unknown) and *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* by Jonathan Edwards. By the way: when was the last sermon you heard about the wrath of God? God has used this 'sermon' in a marvelous way!

Place your 'order' now and I believe you definitely will receive the same in plenty of time before 'Christmas Day'!

Suggested 'donation' for *Mirror of the Heart* is three dollars and *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* for one dollar plus some for postage.

UPDATE

“Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set” Proverbs 22:28

ONE of the ‘more’ difficult things today seems to be: ‘The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing’!

God so moved Laymen and Pastors to officially organize the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in 1920 (Morning Glory came about later). Since then there has been ONE Message carried forth, by GOD’s Grace, and that is for ‘each’ person to come to know JESUS (Personally) and to nurture and strengthen fellow believers. Thus it is the ‘Message’ preached from the inerrant Word of God and that JESUS saves, keeps and satisfies!

We will not remove the Biblical Landmarks nor change what has worked for so long. We remain committed to the proclamation of the infallible Word of God and will continue to keep the main thing to that of seeking to win Souls for the Kingdom of God and encouraging ‘fellow believers’ by (His GRACE) ***“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?”***

As editor of *the Morning Glory*, I want to express my (and our Board Members of the HLIF) sincere thanks to all of you for your support of this ‘mission’. But maybe more importantly, and on a personal note, I want to ask you for your continuing prayers for me and Barb as we continue seeking to serve our risen Savior who is coming again! (Naturally also this ministry stands in NEED of your continued financial support and encouragement and cooperation).

IF our home base is not keep burning/alive; foreign missions will also fail. May it not be said of “US”: no Man careth for my Soul!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”

1 Corinthians 15:58.

CHALLENGE: We not only genuinely appreciate the gifts/donations from individuals that keeps us going throughout the year(s); but why not prayerfully and seriously consider your congregational’s giving towards ‘missions’ to include the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory; as this is definitely a ‘mission’? With God’s Provision *The Morning Glory* reaches into almost every State of our beloved USA and also a little into foreign countries;

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besides our ‘neighbor’ to the north – Canada as fortunately we have a fair number who receive the same!

By the GRACE of GOD making no apologies for the old time Christianity and seeking to practice the same: as ‘we’ are Biblically based a Lutheran Free Movement.

Total Offerings for September were \$892.00

The actual cost of publishing and mailing each issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,000; plus there are definitely other noticeable expenses.