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Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron Sharpens Iron

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren, when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

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America Received A Message From Its Symbol Of Freedom On 9-11, But Did The Nation Listen?



I have kept quiet for over 200 years, but I can stay silent no longer.

America, I would like to speak to you at this time. For decades, you have been gazing upon me as a symbol of freedom and hope. I now look upon you. Are you listening? Could you stop for just a moment?

I have been watching you since Tuesday morning. I have heard the screams and cries throughout the land. Your spirit is quenched with helplessness. An enemy has stricken your very heart and soul. Your eyes are to the ground as you wonder in desperation.

I too am crying. The water from the sky on Friday morning were my tears. The oppressive gray overcast was the mourning of my spirit. I realize that conditions have dampened your hope. I want you to know that with this horror, I have lost in this tragedy as well.

Do you understand what has happened? As a helpless symbol of your greatness, I watch you crying with tears for your loved ones. My torch is still burning, but the fire is not as bright. I realize the precious freedoms you have taken for granted are now threatened. I want to continue to be a beacon of hope, but I fear that many will now look upon me differently.

I have a question I would like to ask you. I heard many of you scream "Oh my God!", when I saw you gazing upward at the horror beyond anything you have ever seen. Was this a cry for divine help or was it something that has become as easily said as a "hello" in the morning? I want to know because I keep hearing the words over and over. I have noticed many of you are also crying out, "God Bless America!". Do you know He has, but you have never stopped to thank Him because you are taking the credit for your greatness?

I see an oppressive dust hanging over the land that is as thick as the aftermath of the explosion from the destruction of my twin brothers. Your leaders, friends and neighbors are groping to see the light. My beacon still shines, but with its dimness through so much tragedy, you do not realize that it is symbolic of the oppressive darkness of the American spirit.

It is difficult to hold my torch since my spirit has been deeply touched by the death of your loved ones. I see your sadness and longing to understand. I hear the cries. I see the teardrops that flow throughout the land to Life's Ocean of Tears.

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I listen as your spiritual leaders try to comfort you. I wait for their answers as to why God let this happen. My beacon now burns a little dimmer after hearing the clergy in your places of worship say they do not know why your enemies have destroyed your symbols of greatness. Since the Bible is what you claim is the source of your strength during difficult times, I have been taken back by the deafening silence from those who should know.

Now that your proclamation of prayer and remembrance is over, I want to tell you why you have been so severely wounded. I hope you will listen to what I have to say. I fear, however, that many will not believe me.

I can remember the time when your children use to stand at attention and pledge the allegiance to the flag at schools across the nation. I remember bygone days when a prayer was said each morning, but you have put God on notice that He is no longer welcome in classrooms across the country. I have cried countless tears when I see how your children are now killing one another in the very places where the God you claim to worship has been given what is equivalent to the spiritual finger. My spirit is deeply wounded because you do not realize the spiritual void in the lives of your future leaders.

As I look across the land, I see married couples who tire of one another easily and divorce is a plague across the country. The family is as disposable as the very trash discarded by so many motorists on the side of the beautiful and majestic highways of the most blessed nation on earth. Lives are in total disarray and the very moral fiber and strength of the family institution is in shambles. So many of your children walk the streets of one city after another with anger and bitterness.

I see a debate that burns as hot as fire throughout the land as to whether the killing of unborn children violates personal rights. I have often wondered why those who promote such thinking never stop to consider how easily they could have been a victim of the very act of murder they promote.

I continually see a nation obsessed with entertainment. I see people running feverishly in order to find pleasure, so they do not have to see their true condition.

I see an America that defines freedom as freedom from the very laws that your founding fathers established for the benefit of everyone. You have now been reminded of how fragile freedom is. Does it now mean more to you?

I watch your political leaders argue and bicker for personal gain, while the American flag waves briskly in front of your political institutions. If only you could see that on the very days it hasn't waved proudly, it is because God has wanted you to see that the spirit of the nation is lifeless and without direction.

Money and wealth have become an obsession that you worship with reverence in place of the true God that has blessed you. Your homes, automobiles and bank accounts are your idols. You are drunken with prosperity, but spiritually malnourished. You do not see God as the source of everything you have and have convinced yourself it is because of American ingenuity and hard work.

I watch as you demand a lifestyle that cries out to the heavens and is a stench in the nostrils of God. Even though you say you live by the book you claim is the word of your Creator, you defy it by approving same sex marriages and living together with children out of wedlock. I have become heavier in spirit when I see how you demand personal rights over a strong moral foundation. Your religious leaders constantly remind you that the God you claim to obey is a God of love and accepts you as you are. If only you could see this is not true.

So many times, I have wondered if my torch would go out when I see you how you treat one another with little regard. If only you could understand that the very spiritual foundation of your greatness will determine if you continue as a nation. I fear Tuesday morning was a warning from the God you claim is a part of daily life.

America, I fear I am watching you in your last days. I listen as you search day after day to understand why this has happened. Many of you are saying, "Oh God, how could You let so many people die?" You ask your religious leaders in your places of worship for an answer, but they only provide vague spiritual philosophical reasons.

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As the nation's guardian, and a beacon of hope for so many years, I have to end my outcry with words that will hurt, but I say this out of concern for your future.

You are now preparing for war. You are asking the God of your forefathers to help you in this endeavor. Have you considered how you find God convenient only during national and personal calamity? What if by going to war, He will allow you to be defeated by your enemies so you will learn the lesson of obedience? Do you consider what has happened as a wakeup call for the nation to change on a personal and national level?

America, I fear that unless you turn completely and wholeheartedly to God, without conditions, you will find the days ahead will be filled with horror beyond anything you have ever experienced. Tuesday morning, I fear God let it be known that the direction of the nation was found wanting. Have you learned anything from this calamity? If you have, why are you quickly reminding one another that the American spirit will prevail? I fear another day is coming when the very God your forefathers looked to as a source of strength, will soon be visiting you again. I fear the correction in the days ahead will be far more severe unless you change.

I am almost finished, but there is one more thing I need to tell you as you prepare for war. I will not see many of your young men and women again as they leave the nation in the planes that fly above my face and warships that float beneath my feet. You are now going to fight an enemy that is totally unknown. I hope for the safe return of your sons, daughters, husbands and wives. I have to warn you, however, of grave dangers ahead.

I do hope that I am still here as a reminder of who you are. I hope your enemies do not destroy me as well. I hope that what I have said will not go unnoticed. I cannot help but wonder if there will come a day when I will no longer be here to watch over you? Your enemies are mine as well.

Instead of asking God to bless America, I am asking Him to be merciful as He shows you how you have lost your way. I hope the day will come when my torch shines even brighter. When it does, it means you finally understand God provides the only true light for the nation.

Choose Words of Life
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Right brethren, we are continuing with a study that we began last week. We were talking about our words, about our language and about our ability to communicate through words. And we said last week that if you think about it, animals sort of communicate a little bit, they bark, cheep or chirp, or do similar things. But human beings are very much different. We have words with which we can convey ideas and thoughts. That is very much a characteristic of our God, of our Father and of Jesus Christ our Lord. And yet because it is something that we do day in and day out, we do not always necessarily think very much about our words. Our words can sometimes be very helpful, very uplifting, and very inspiring — and sometimes our words can be downright negative, harmful, injurious and destructive. It is a good idea, perhaps, if we just take a little bit of time and ponder the words that we use. We should ask ourselves a question or two about what the words that we use say about us. What do they reveal about us as a person? Are they the words that you would expect from a believer or not? We might think that our words are relatively unimportant, and we can say that is just the way we are, is it not? I guess it is sometimes exactly as we are, and that is not always a good thing!

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

So, it says here, that our words are a matter of *death and life*.

This gives a hint surely that our words are quite important. Our words can tend to life, or our words can tend to death. "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those that love it will eat its fruit,*" implying that our words do produce fruit, and we will end up eating of that fruit. If the fruit is harmful, destructive, and injurious that will not be very good fruit

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to be taking in our lives. On the other hand, if our words tend to life, our words will build up and encourage. They will be words of truth, and the fruit will be good fruit, and will be good for us. Apparently, that is in the power of the tongue, and in your case in the power of *your tongue*.

One translation is “Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and they that *rule it* shall eat the fruits thereof.” This is implying that you and I can control our tongue; whether it leads to life, or whether it leads to death. But a tongue left to its own devices, where we are being rather careless and paying no regard, it would not be a surprise if that tongue tended toward death, and the words were negative and destructive. It is going to take a bit of work if you and I are going to have words which are words of life.

Matthew 12:36-37 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Here Jesus is saying that *your words* will determine whether you are justified, made right with God, and enjoy life everlasting. But, on the other hand *your words* may well condemn you; which would ultimately be death. So, even Jesus' words here talk about life and death. The words that we use, and the words that people around us use, will justify or condemn; they lead to life or they lead to death.

Verse 36 says, "*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account*". As we said last week, "idle" can be translated as inactive, non-working, useless, unproductive, empty, pointless — just filling up the air with nonsense. You and I need to be careful that we do not use idle words. If we take Jesus' advice that we are going to be held accountable for our empty, vain and useless words, and that we will be justified or condemned by our words, then it makes sense that you and I pay some attention to our words!

We said again last week that the society that we live in, our environment that surrounds us, is full of empty, useless words. The television reality shows, talk shows, politics, are filled with empty, pointless, futile, negative, and destructive words. And that, of course, is likely to rub off on us. So, you and I have to be careful about the influence of the world on us, and hence on our words.

Matthew 12:34-35 "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things."

That is a general statement. They had rather evil hearts and so they generally said evil things. Their words gave them away. If you listen to their words, and where they are coming from, you can see what was in their heart. The same would apply to you and me. "*Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*" What fills up your heart, the way that you think in your heart, will come out in the words that you and I speak. The good man for example, "*out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things.*" This is general, not just for the Pharisees, a good and noble person, a person who has a good mind and a good and honest heart, that person brings forth good things *by speaking*.

But "*an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*" We have talked before about the heart and mouth connection. The mouth gives away what is in the heart.

We also saw last week, in Ecclesiastes, that the Preacher said 'Do not be rash or hasty with your words, especially when you go to the House of God. Especially when you are talking to God, be careful of the words that we say. Be careful of the promises or the commitments that we make. Let your words be few and say what you mean and do it. It is better not to make commitments to God and then fail to deliver them'.

That applies generally, not just when we are in prayer to God. We saw in Psalms 34, that if any person desires life, then they should keep their tongue from evil. I guess that you and I would be individuals that would desire life, and length of days, and a good life? Well one way to achieve that, says the Psalmist, is that you keep your tongue from evil. That is our choice, whether we do or whether we do not. The more we talk, the more in danger we are sometimes of saying things that are unhelpful and inappropriate.

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Proverbs 29:20 "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

Our mouth needs to be synchronized with our brain. If we are hasty or rash with our words, and do not engage the brain before starting the tongue wagging, we are in danger of saying something that we might regret. Those could be words of life and encouragement, in which case there would be no regret. But of course, the default position of our brain, mind and heart is usually to say things which are felt afterwards not to be terribly helpful. Sometimes it is far better to have the vocabulary of silence. If you cannot think of something good to say, perhaps it is better to say nothing at all. As it says here, if a person has a habit of being just hasty of word, well there is more chance of a fool succeeding. You and I do not want to be people that just talk first and ponder afterwards. Hmmm! Was that a good idea? I seem to have blown my friendships there and destroyed people.

We saw a few cases last week, such as where ancient Israel came to the very borders of the Promised Land, and God said, 'Go over and take it'. But they did not believe God. There were giants there, they said, 'You brought us out here to kill us, we are all going to die.' Guess what? By their words they were condemned. They provoked God one time too often. They said, 'We are going to die here, you brought us out to kill us here' and they died there. They got precisely what they believed in their heart, and what they said with their mouth.

Then later on, we saw that David when he was fighting his giant, but David's words were, "Mr. Goliath, My God will deliver you into my hands, I am going to take your head off you this day." And he did. He believed it and his positive words backed that up, and he got what he believed in his heart and said with his mouth.

We saw in James that if we can control our tongue, we can control our whole body, and be a perfect man. Just like you control a horse, by putting a bit in his mouth, you can get him to go to the left or the right. If we control *our mouths*, we control our body. James added that our tongues should be wholesome. It should not be the case that one utters curses and blessings from the same mouth. But unfortunately, James is implying that we do. Now maybe not you and me of course, because we are perfect (!), but out there somebody in the church occasionally uses their mouth to say bad things about the brethren and good things about God. This should not happen; a stream does not pour forth fresh water and bitter water from the same opening, it does not happen.

Again, the implication is that you and I should watch what comes out of our mouths.

Last week we titled the message, "Guard our Lips." This week it is "Choose Words of Life." In other words, words that build up, rather than words that tear down. The words that build up actually are what the Bible calls blessings, and words that tear down are called curses. To devote somebody, or something, to destruction, is to curse them. Jesus gave examples of this:

Mark 11:12-14 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

We see Him here *speaking to a tree*. You might say, 'You would never catch me doing that.' But that is why Jesus had things happen and you and I often do not!

Jesus knew a lot about fig trees, because after all He had created them. There was clearly something with this fig tree that was not right, it was in some way a corrupt tree, and Jesus thought that it should not encumber the ground any further. Perhaps it had a disease that could have spread to the other trees. We do not know exactly, but either way Jesus cursed it.

Mark 11:20-21 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

To express words of destruction is a curse. We are not talking about cursing in the sense of a "four letter" word, but we are talking about cursing something with our words. Jesus is very careful here to choose appropriate words for this

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particular situation, with His wisdom and knowing all about the fig tree and the condition of it. But you and I sometimes can utter words without a great deal of thinking. If those words are injurious and harmful words, then we are doing what James warned us against. Allegedly blessing God with one part of our mouth, but the other part we are stating words which are condemning people, and that would be very dangerous.

Mark 11:22-23 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

So again, you get the strong impression that words are important, because if we believe in our heart and *speak to a mountain* and say, 'Go', then Jesus says that person will have *whatever he says*. Of course, if we are not prepared to speak and say it, then we can forget it.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

If we speak to the mountain but do not believe, why do we expect results? This is Jesus giving instructions, and He knew whereof He was speaking. He just demonstrated that He had spoken to a fig tree and it withered up. He says here if there is a mountain in your life that you do not want to be there, *speak to it*. I guess if you can speak to the mountain *to go*, I guess you can speak to a mountain *to come*? After all, death and life are in the power of the tongue.

People might say, 'You will never catch me saying things like that.' Well people do. They do not recognize it, but they do speak like that. If you listen to yourself and I listen to myself, we would probably come across all manner of statements that we are speaking with our mouth and reflecting what is in our heart and it is going to come to pass. People might say things like, 'There is no point in me applying for this job, I never get the breaks in life.' Well, if they believe in their heart, then they will get what they say. People say, 'Things always go wrong in my life.' Or they say, 'I have heard on television that this year's flu is going to be the worst for twenty years. You watch, I will get it first, I always get what is going around.' Well, guess what? If you believe in your heart, and speak with your mouth, you will have whatever you say. In essence we are cursing ourselves! We are devoting ourselves to destruction.

People get into their car, and it is not working too well, and they speak to the car. 'You sorry useless thing, why did I buy you, you heap of junk. I bet you will die on me halfway down the road today.' Well — speaking to the car, or their gas cooker, or their television set. Of course, usually the words are of the curse variety, rather than speaking words of favor and blessing on their motor car, or television set! Jesus says that you can have whatever you say if you believe in your heart. You may say, 'Well that is Jesus talking.' It is, but He said in verse 23, "*Whoever says...*" And that rather opens it up!

Matthew 21:18-19 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

This is the same story, and I think that we know from putting the two accounts together it says, "*Immediately the fig tree withered away.*" Mark's version says that it withered away from the roots. Putting the two together one imagines that the immediate part was the part below ground, where the roots withered away immediately, but clearly the part of the fig tree above ground probably looked normal at that point.

Matthew 21:20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

Jesus had cursed it, and He had "assigned it to destruction," because He *spoke words*.

Matthew 21:21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if *you* have faith and do not doubt, *you* will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also *if you say* to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

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Some people will say, 'This is Jesus, and He can do these things, we cannot. Jesus has power beyond what you and I can imagine. He can do these things, but it does not apply to me'. Of course, that is turning the wine of God's Word into water, and diluted water even at that. It says here, "If *you* have faith and do not doubt, *you* will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done".

So, Jesus said that *you can do that too*, you can speak to the fig tree too! You can not only do that, but while I am talking to you, you can also *say to this mountain*, 'Move'. But, of course, you would have to speak to the mountain and believe in your heart. This is part of the law of faith. Then the mountain would move. But just believing in your heart and just staring at the mountain will not make it move. Just believing in your heart and asking God to move the mountain is not what Jesus said. He said, "*if you speak to this mountain, Be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done*. You have to do the speaking; and no surprise, *our words are powerful*."

Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and you and I can be very careless about wagging our tongues and saying all manner of things. Now, of course, in our conversation there are lots of things that are just routine and not particularly important. "Do you like your eggs sunny-side up, medium or over-well?" This is not the sort of conversation that is going to cause big problems; but if we are talking about bigger issues in life, then we have to be careful what we are saying, because words can lead to life, and words can lead to death.

Matthew 21:22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, *believing*, you will receive."

Christ does not say, "And whatever things you ask in prayer you will receive."

He says we must *believe*. Faith, as we have said before, is necessary. You might say that you do not think it will work for you. Well — it just did, because you do not believe in your heart, and you just said it with your mouth, then nothing will happen, and you just got exactly what you believed and said — so it is working for you!

We think that our words are inconsequential, and it does not matter what we say. If we say, 'I do not believe what I am saying myself, nobody else does, and God does not,' well — that is a huge problem. We should be saying *what we mean*, and meaning what we say, and doing what we say we will do. Our words should be *important*. We have plenty of opportunity to practice, because most of us tend to use words every day! I guess that if you are living on your own you might not say an awful lot, understandably, but maybe you have a dog or a cat and you speak to them? But most of us, at least on many days of the week, have plenty of opportunity to speak to other people, speak to God, and speak to ourselves.

The big question would be, 'If somebody recorded our conversation, and then edited it taking all of the inconsequential stuff out, just played back the more important words that we said, what would they sound like?' Would they hear murmuring, griping, complaining, negative, and destructive words? Or would they hear words which are up-building, life-giving, filled with good nature, kindness, good humor? Remember, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. This shows a great deal about ourselves (which of course we might not like!). And if you do not like it, you can *change it*.

Matthew 17:14-16 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

If you take a sick person to a minister today, and he anoints and prays the prayer of faith and nothing happens, we say, "well I guess it was not God's will, because if it was God's will he would be healed. Because he has not been healed clearly that is God's will." But that is not what Jesus said here.

Matthew 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

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It is quite clear that Jesus was totally exasperated at this point. His disciples had been out previously, preaching, healing, and casting out demons; and here they come to Jesus with this epileptic boy, and they failed utterly to drive out the demon, and heal the boy. Jesus does not say, 'Well now, come on lads I guess you did your best, but at the end of the day sometimes you need Me around to show you how it is done.' "*Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation..."* 'You bunch of losers, how long have I got to be around your lot, how long can I even bear you? You are a drain on Me, bring him here to Me.' Jesus was not saying that because of *physical exasperation*, but because He knew that they should be doing better.

Faithlessness does not please God; without faith it is impossible to please Him. Here Jesus is saying, 'This is not good, you should be well able to handle this.'

Matthew 17:18-19 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

And Jesus did not say, 'Well because it was not God's will ... or it is good for him to suffer longer, and it brings him closer to God' ... and other theological ideas taken from the book of Hezekiah chapter 15. No, look at verse 20:

Matthew 17:20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of *your unbelief*, for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

He said it was because they *did not believe*; it was not God's will for the illness to continue, do not blame God, or point the finger at God. 'It is *your lack of faith*, you faithless generation'. He told them, 'If you have faith *you will say*; you will *speak*'. Faith is released in the words that we speak, and here again Jesus said to *speak to the mountain*. If you had faith, even a tiny portion, you would speak to the mountain and it would move, it would obey you.

Matthew 17:21 "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

My take on that is that is talking about the *type of unbelief* rather than this type of demon; because demons obey words of faith. So here it is basically saying that if you had faith *you would say*, you would speak to the mountain, to the fig tree, or whatever.

Luke 17:5-6 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Again, Jesus is reinforcing *the power of our words*. Jesus was not saying that only He could do this, because He was the Son of God, 'so these things happen for Me, but you guys cannot do it'. That is what we might like to say, perhaps, to try and excuse our own failings. Or we could say, 'but that was for the apostles in that day, in those days because it was prior to the scriptures being completed' and all of the rest of it. That does not come across in scripture anywhere. Jesus said *if you* have faith, even like a mustard seed, *you would say*. Because our faith in our heart is expressed, or released by our words, our words, once again, are important. You and I have no guarantee of receiving what we have faith for, unless *we do* what we are instructed to do. Jesus tells us *to talk to* the mountain.

Mark 5:25-28 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

We have read this a number of times, and I guess it becomes after a while ho-hum, but this is quite dramatic for this lady. She has had this issue of blood for over ten years, I would imagine if she had not been healed here, she would die of her complaint. She leaves her home and finds the Lord Jesus out somewhere. I guess that she looked for the crowds, and He is in there somewhere, and so she makes her way to Jesus. He is thronged by lots and lots of people, and you do not just walk up to Him, but you have to fight your way through. So, this lady is taking action, she is demonstrating her

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faith. She probably had to get down on her hands and knees at one point, I suspect, to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. But notice what she was saying. "*If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.*" Jesus said that what you believe in your heart, and what you say with your mouth, you will have whatever you say. So here is a lady using the gift of her tongue rather wisely, 'If I can touch this man's clothes I shall be healed'. And she did:

Mark 5:29-30 "Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched My clothes?'"

Some people think that Jesus is just playing some sort of a game here, because He is "omniscient," and He knows everything. No, He did not. He was a human being, the Son of God; but He had given up His eternal deity and His god-like powers. But He knew that some power had left Him, and He wanted to know who it was.

He said, "Who has touched me?" The disciples said, 'There are so many people around you, and you are asking who touched you, what is the matter Jesus?' But Jesus meant that somebody had touched Him in a special way.

Mark 5:31-34 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

It was not in this case Jesus' faith; it was *her faith* that had made her well. Jesus was not even, in that sense, consciously involved. She crept up in the crowd, reached out and touched His garment, and she was healed by her faith. Jesus detected that some power had left Him, and turned around and was asking what happened there, who has taken power from me? Eventually, of course, she realizes that she is not going to escape; and she comes and explains, and then Jesus blesses her with His words. She had *believed* in her heart, she *spoke words* of faith, and she received her blessing.

We have seen Jesus cursing in the sense of assigning, dedicating or devoting a fig tree to death; but Jesus also spoke words of healing, and words of blessing.

Mark 10:13-16 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and *blessed them*.

Jesus came to do good, to heal and to preach. And here they are keeping youngsters away from the Lord Jesus, and He was not pleased at all.

When Jesus blessed them it was not some little religious ceremony. He blessed them — meaning that *He spoke words* over them, words of favor, words of good, words of success — and that would have happened, because death and life are in the power of the tongue. Jesus certainly used His tongue properly, He spoke words of life, and He spoke these words of life to these young boys and girls and they would have benefited for the rest of their lives. It didn't apply just for Jesus.

We saw how Isaac blessed Jacob, somewhat by mistake as Jacob had been disguised as his brother and was wearing goat skins and smelly garments, and trying to appear like Esau, and it worked in that sense. Isaac said, 'It smells like Esau, sounds like Jacob mark you, but his hands are all hairy and rough, I guess it is Esau'. At any rate, Isaac *blessed Jacob*; he said words of favor, prosperity, power and status. He transferred all of those blessings with his words.

Of course, Esau came later and said, 'Is there nothing left for me?'

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Isaac said, ‘I cannot do it, I cannot take it back’. The words that we say sometimes we cannot take back! It is important that you and I learn how to speak of other people, or to other people. Whether we speak words of favor and blessing, or words of condemnation and destruction, our words are probably more important than we think. I think that most people take their words to be meaningless, just hot air, but the scripture says death and life are in the power of the tongue.

There again, Jesus said that you and I will be judged by every idle word that we speak. We will be held accountable. It is just too easy for us to open our mouths and say the first thing that comes into it, and just think that we can blab anything we want. But the scriptures are quite clear, our words reveal a great deal about us.

There are clear instructions that you and I need to be using our tongues wisely.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Unfortunately, that sounds a bit religious. Other translations say, “*Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth,*” “*Let no evil talk word proceed out of your mouth,*” “*Let no harmful things proceed out of your mouth.*” Our words should not be evil, unwholesome, destructive, something that corrupts. Then in the second half of the verse we see, “*but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*” How do we impart grace or favor to the hearer? It is a choice that you have, and it is a choice that I have. We can either say things which are destructive, harmful, lots of murmuring and complaining, or we can speak words which are good, for necessary building-up, and words that impart grace, delight or favor to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by which you were sealed for the day of redemption.

I think that is still in the context of *our words*.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

So that again means the words that we use. We should have no corrupt communication, do not grieve God’s Spirit, let all bitterness (words), wrath (words,) anger (words), clamor (again words), and evil speaking (clearly words) ...

What are we to do?

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Of course, we are not in a position to withhold forgiveness from other people; bearing in mind how much you and I needed from our God. Being kind to one another again would be being kind *in words*. He is saying do not use these nasty words, do not have words of anger, wrath and clamor, but *be kind*. So, the implication in the context is to be kind *in your words*, use tender words, and of course, words of forgiveness, just as you also have been blessed by God’s forgiveness.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

God does not speak words of curses against you and me, and so we need to be careful not to speak curses against other people.

Colossians 3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

These are very similar words here to those used in Ephesians. I guess Paul had the same points to make to each congregation; the same problems in every congregation; and they are probably still around today for that matter.

How do you express anger, wrath, malice and blasphemy? Well, wag your tongue. With anger, you shout at people, with wrath you say nasty things, malice you say very nasty things, from a nasty heart, and blasphemy and filthy language.

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The words that you and I choose to use should be *words of life*, words that impart favor and grace. Our words should bless, not damn, destroy and corrupt!

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...

Again, that is using our tongues.

We are supposed to put off the old man, or the old woman, and put on the new man; we have a different heart, and we have different words.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Well, that is perfect, let your speech always be with grace; grace is favor, it is kindness, it is delight. Then you season it with salt, not too much, not too little, so that it is just appropriate and good. Your words build up, they add value, they are kind and necessary, but shunning the carnal stuff. This is what you and I are supposed to be doing, and of course our language and our words do rather give us away. If our words are harsh, critical, argumentative, and unwholesome and unpleasant, fault finding, well “Out of the abundance of the heart.” The abundance — that rather gives the game away, doesn't it?

If our heart is at peace, and we have a thankful and a gracious heart, then our words will reflect that.

Sometimes it is only under pressure that the game is given away. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth *leaks*, as we have said in the past. The example I have given is a hypothetical illustration, not one that you should actually do. Ladies, when your husband is asleep at night, and he is all nice and cozy, you take his hand and put it on the bedside cabinet, you take a hammer, you move one finger into the centre, and you take the hammer and — *bang* on his finger. Then you will find out what is in his heart! If he leaps up and shouts ‘Hallelujah!’, you have a good one — but if it is other words, then he has some work to do! But under pressure it does give the game away of what is in our hearts. Our hearts and our mouths are linked.

Psalms 19:12-14 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the *words of my mouth* and the *meditation of my heart* be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

To be fair, you and I do not always see our weaknesses. We see here again the heart and mouth connection.

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD.”

We want God to be pleased with the way that our heart and mouth works. What we meditate on, what fills our heart, what we dwell on and ponder, that does affect the words of our mouth. And really, if our mouth is not doing too good, it is really *the heart* that needs the attention. If our thoughts are right, if our thinking is right, then our words are likely to be right. Like the Psalmist says, ideally the words of our mouth and the meditation, the pondering of our heart, should be acceptable in God's sight.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

We can take this as being God the Father speaking to us, as His son or daughter, advising us to pay attention to His Word, the scriptures, and incline our ear to His sayings.

Proverbs 4:21-22 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

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Jesus said elsewhere that His words are spirit and they are life.

Proverbs 4:23-24 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put perverse lips far from you.

One translation for “*deceitful mouth*” it says, is a crooked mouth, a warped mouth. When it says, “put *perverse* lips far away,” one translation says, “thrust” perverse lip far away. You and I do not need to have conversation and words which are perverse, and backward. We must avoid it, and we must keep our heart and watch our words.

Proverbs 4:25-27 Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

You and I must *guard our lips*. It is regrettably too easy for us, in this negative selfish world, to acquire that sort of mentality, it just sort of rubs off, and our language ends up matching a carnal mind. It is not so much in our case, hopefully, that it is swear words, or four-letter words. (I have heard a few from time to time in God’s church, including even on one occasion from a minister!). It is more a question about the negative words and the critical words.

In fact, we went to the Feast some years back to Edinburgh. We were at a special Medieval Banquet, and we thought that it was just all church people. The people opposite us were swearing; using the well-known four letter word quite a lot. We thought, ‘How did they get in here, it is supposed to be church people?’ They used swear words plentifully throughout the evening. It turned out that he was a church member — from Canada, I have to say. So, we have to watch our words.

Very occasionally it is right to point out another person’s error, *very occasionally*. Paul criticized those of the circumcision that taught false doctrine. Paul named Alexander the Coppersmith, and the Apostle John, identified Diotrefes as a dangerous minister. That was not just careless talk from Paul and John, but that was them taking responsibility for the safety of the members. In our case, the danger is you and me just talking nonsense, blessing, and cursing at the same time; we should not do it.

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.

I think one translation says, the more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is. So, a person choosing words which are very fitting, or appropriate, helps to get the point across.

Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth and adds learning to his lips.

Again, the heart and mouth connection; a wise person is careful how they speak, and careful with the words that they choose. Essentially, with our words we must be building up, adding grace, and avoiding being injurious.

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

Or sweet to the mind and healing to the body; they are pleasant words carefully chosen by a wise heart.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Because, unfortunately, what seems right to the world is to use any old words that you want, and shout, argue, humiliate, seek to prove that you are right and the other person is wrong. That does not work, though that way might seem right. “I will demonstrate my integrity by shouting at that person and being nasty to them.” No, a wise person selects his words and it is like a honeycomb; it is sweet to the mind and healing to the bones. That is the way that God would do it.

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

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Again, you can see the heart and mouth connection. *“The heart of the righteous studies...”* One translation says, *“ponders”* how to answer. It is going to take a bit of time here, we have to think about it, and we need to ask ourselves what is *the best way* to express myself here? What is the best way to build up, to edify, and to help? Whereas *“the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”* No thought — just lets it all rip, and that is an evil person. A good and righteous person ponders how to answer, and how best to use his words. Hopefully, they are saying in their mind, I am walking like God, I am seeking the best for other people, I want to do good here, I want to do good for them, as I would want people to do good for me. How do I answer this question in a way that is up-building? The wicked person does not care, just blah, blah, blah.

Proverbs 21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

Guard your mouth. It does not mean that we cannot speak, we can say a lot of things, and we do. That gives us plenty of opportunity all day long, 24/7, but we should be pondering, we should be guarding our mouths and tongues at times depending on the circumstances, who we are with, the topic being discussed. Again, if you are in Denny’s, whether you want chocolate sauce or caramel sauce, at the end of the day it is hardly a death and life in the power of the tongue issue.

But sometimes there will be topics which are being discussed where it will be possible to build up or destroy. We must guard our mouth, and sometimes *saying nothing* is the very best thing to say. Your job and my job, is to watch what we are saying, and to make good choices that build up, encourage and impart grace to the hearer — and not just belch forth garbage.

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Because a teacher clearly teaches, and a teacher therefore is going to be saying words to a number of people. It might be a small class of about 5 or 10, or it might be a big group of 10,000 or 100,000; but a teacher can influence the beliefs and the behavior of many other people. So clearly if the teacher teaches what is wrong, or teaches what is false, or teaches that which could lead to death, then it is no surprise that the teacher is going to receive somewhat stricter judgment; because potentially they cause a lot more damage.

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

If we do not stumble in word; in other words if we are always very careful of what we say, how we say it, and when we say it, if we could do that perfectly then we are a perfect person. I guess none of us do it perfectly.

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

Like in the body you may have big feet, big shoulders, but a little tongue, but it boasts great things. The tongue is small, but it can cause immense pain and suffering.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

They are quite complex sentences there from James. But the gist of it is that the tongue is a fire, and a fire can obviously do good, or be immensely destructive. A little fire can destroy an entire forest. It says, *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body,”* That may mean that if you use your tongue incorrectly, if you say words that are negative and destructive, you can affect your own health and well-being, and it defiles the whole body: *“...and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”*

James 3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

I'd put it this way, no *unconverted* man or woman can tame the tongue, but with God’s Spirit we can and we should. The unconverted person’s tongue lets just anything out, it says anything, and it can be immensely painful. There are some

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passages in Psalms saying that the tongue can be like a razor blade. Used incorrectly a few words can just slash at somebody and leave them scarred for life.

James 3:9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

And cursed does not just mean a four letter swear word, it is saying things that potentially are injurious.

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

And for a believer, they need not be so.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Hearing God’s word is easy. It is easy to turn up for Sabbath services, listen to a Bible study, or turn on a tape and hear the word. But it is not the hearers, it is the doers. We hear, and think that we are doing a great job; yes we are doing something, as hearing certainly is the start. Jesus said in one place, ‘He who comes to Me and hears My word *and does it*, is like the man that dug the big foundation and built his house on it. But he who comes to Me and hears My sayings and *does them not* is the man who built his house on the sand, and along comes a storm and sweeps it all away’. The difference is that one of the men heard and did, and one *just heard* and deceived himself.

James 1:23-25 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

We must do what we hear.

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.

You can say, “I am a believer, I have been in the Church of God for forty years, twenty years, fifteen years, whatever, yet scripture says *“and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.”*

So, if any of us think that we are religious — but our tongues are out of control — then we are deceiving our heart, and our religion according to James, is pointless, and it is useless if we do not bridle our tongue. We must guard our lips.

In conclusion, you and I talk pretty much every day, and we have multiple opportunities to choose our words wisely. We must choose words that tend to life, and conversely if we do not pay any attention, if we do not ponder, and we do not study what is in our heart, then we can speak words which are foolish, idle words, unprofitable words, and words that lead to death, in our lives, and in those around us.

So, brethren, “Choose Words of Life.”

Transcript by Patricia Plunkett (thanks Trish!)

Editor’s Note:

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Commencement address time again (but can the grads read?) (Copyright 05-03-2025) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE to anyone who has listened to a commencement speech in the last ten years to know that a spirit of elitism has been fostered among students – and deliberately – by politicians. Not so well known is the fact that many professors pander this same line to their classes, telling them how smart, how well-educated they are.

"The words of politician and professor combine to reinforce the usual late-teenage ignorance; students of that age already assert their self-superiority. In short, too many professors pander to their audience and help the student to believe what his feelings of inadequacy have led him to assert: that he is smart and educated, that youth equates with wisdom, that age equates with obstinacy and wrongness, and that the past has no lessons for the present."

IT'S A LIE, and an ironic one, because we have seen the dumbing down of several generations in public education.

Modern teachers usually go to college for six years before beginning to teach. UP magazine #603 featured an article about a teacher in the early 1900s, "At 18 years old she taught school" by David Fridodig:

"A teacher's first day is never without qualms, but Irene Prisk had more than the average reason for concern. The 'school' was the living room of the Trevilyan farmhouse. The teaching materials included a box of broken chalk, a piece of slate, and some old books – and the student body consisted of 9 children, seven of whom spoke only Finnish.

"It hadn't looked like Irene's widow mother could send her to college, but a family friend encouraged her to take the county teacher's exam and here she was. It wasn't the only challenge she would face in front of Copper Country blackboards, but it was certainly one of the greatest."

Irene got \$48 a month but paid \$20 for room and board. It only cost the school \$10 a month to rent the room, but by Christmas program time, Irene had the Finns starting to speak English.

"DURING HER CAREER, Irene witnessed many innovations in education. She agreed with a few of them, tolerated others, and openly rebelled when necessary. After receiving the directive that the phonics approach to reading had been abolished, she told her instructors to continue teaching phonics.

"But when the superintendent visits your class, don't teach phonics.' When the superintendent asked why her school fared so much better than others on reading tests, Irene said she didn't have the slightest idea."

THERE MUST BE A LESSON IN THERE SOMEWHERE.

P.S. Irene was the name of my kindergarten through third grade teacher, too. We farm kids were only given six weeks of kindergarten but started learning to read on day 1. Hooked on phonics, of course. When those rural kids took their 8th grade exam, most of them rated 10th grade proficiency, several 11th grade, and two of us '12th grade, first month."

PPS: ENOUGH SAID YET? IT'S NOT "FOR THE KIDS." Follow the money. The question is, do the union educrats want your kids to be educated or NOT?

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Angelic Encounters

(Copyright 05-11-2025) by Rebecca Wise (East Bend, North Carolina)

What do angels do in heaven?

They worship God Revelation 4:11

They administer God's government Psalm 103:18-22

What do angels do on earth?

They serve as guardians Psalm 91:11-12

They are warriors doing battle for God Daniel 12

They carry out God's justice Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 2:2 Exodus 23:20-21

They give encouragement Acts 27:23-24

They strengthen people - ministered to Moses, Elijah and Jesus

They are messengers

They reassure us Isaiah 6:6-7

They warn us of danger

They show us to safety

They show us what we need, what is lost or unnoticed

They deliver things we need

They give us instructions

They guide us to important encounters

They watch over us Daniel 4:13, I Corinthians 4:9

They comfort the dying and bring hope Luke 16:22

Angelic Encounters

From "A Rustle of Angels"

by Marilyn Carson Webber

& William D. Webber © 1994

Mighty Warriors Dressed for Battle (pages 77-79)

John Patton and his wife were pioneer missionaries to the New Hebrides Islands. They tried to faithfully live out the Christian gospel and model a Christian lifestyle but were met with hostility. They returned insults with kindness, hatred with love. Soon it became apparent that their lives were in danger. They were threatened with murder and their home being burned, but they felt called by God to serve Him there. They prayed for divine protection and continued to minister in a spirit of love.

One night they heard noises outside their small missionary compound. They were completely surrounded by the chief and his men with torches and spears. The Pattons had no weapons or earthly means of protection, but they prayed fervently all night for God to send His angels to protect them. They also prayed that this warlike tribe would someday find peace with God.

The next morning, the tribe silently left. The Pattons were thankful and surprised. There was no apparent reason for them to leave. The Pattons felt compelled by God to stay. They continued to witness without any apparent results.

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A year later the chief became a Christian. Finally, John Patton was able to ask him what they had been planning to do that night. He replied that they had come to kill them and burn everything they had, but they were afraid of all those men who were guarding their house. Patton replied that there were no men, but the chief insisted they were giants, awesome, glowing with a strange light, each with a drawn sword. John knew then that God had sent His angels to protect them. He read to him the account in *2 Kings 6:16-17*, *when the king of Syria sent his army to capture the prophet, Elisha. They surrounded his house during the night, and his servant saw the horses and chariots. He was afraid, but Elisha told him not to fear because “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Elisha prayed that his eyes would be opened, and “he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire.”*

Nightly Camping in Haiti (pages 79-82)

Kay Hallander, a missionary nurse at a clinic near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, shared a small house with another lady missionary. A low fence surrounded the property. Every night drums announced that voodoo rituals were taking place. Every morning, she saw evidence of blood, fragments of animal parts, and occult objects. She would always pray for those under the spell of voodoo. She often treated wounds incurred from the hysteria of the rituals.

Poverty was everywhere. Destitute people often broke into houses and stole anything of value. The two women only had modest belongings, but in that area everything they had was worth stealing, not to mention the potential harm to themselves. However, their home was never broken into, despite the nightly violence all around them.

One night a Haitian man with tooth pain came to the clinic. His oral surgery and repair work were extensive, so he stayed several days. When Kay helped him with pain management, she had a chance to ask him why there had never been a break-in at their house. He replied, “No one would ever enter your yard. Everyone knows about the guards you have on duty every night. There are four big, big, very dark men. One stands on each corner of your property. They are very frightening. No one would dare to come into your house. Lady, no one will cause you any trouble.”

At their house in Haiti, they had four angels who camped out every night. *Psalm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him.*

**From “The Crossings Treasure of Angel Stories -
Contemporary Stories of Angelic Encounters”
by Robert Strand © 2010**

Chapter 2 (pages 5-7) - A Chocolate Cake Too

A pastor of a small church in Knob Noster, Missouri tried valiantly to believe that God was their source and would provide for his family. The economy was depressed, so the church suffered a great loss of income. Unemployment was everywhere. The parsonage cupboards were bare, the car had no gas, and no jobs were available. While looking at the empty shelves, his wife was writing a shopping list of the things she would buy when the Lord sent the money. He said, “As long as you’re making a list, write down chocolate cake! She wrote it down, but crossed it off, thinking it was a bit selfish and impractical.

Later that day a car arrived at the parsonage. One of the ladies from their church stood holding a large sack of groceries in each arm. “Here,” she said, “take these and come back. There’s more, and I’m in a hurry because I’m late for work.” Two more large sacks were waiting at the front door. She said, “I can’t talk right now, but God told me to share.”

That evening she stopped by after work. She and they realized they had participated in a miracle. The pastor’s wife had carefully marked off each item from her “faith” list as she unpacked the sacks. Every item was there, including the chocolate cake! The donor related how she had been told by a voice exactly what to load into the sacks from her own pantry shelves. While packing the specified groceries, the chocolate cake mix had fallen and hit her on the head twice. She put it back, and when it hit her on the head a third time, she thought, “Well, Lord, if they want chocolate cake that much, I’ll just give it to them with the frosting too!” With hearts overflowing in gratitude and full bellies all around, the family went to bed thankful for how much their heavenly Father loved and cared about them. *Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

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Chapter 3 (pages 8-10) - The Money Angel

In Rockford, Illinois, in the early 1970s, Pastor Don Lyons led his church to buy farmland on which to build a church building and radio station. First, they built a small house. Ron prayed to be able to find the right person for this startup ministry. As he prayed, in his mind he saw a name spelled out: “Tietsort.” Later, at a special pastor’s meeting for all the churches in Rockford, Pastor Lyons was greeting guests when a young man walked up. His name tag read RON TIETSORT. Pastor Lyons soon learned that Ron had a radio/television background before he became a pastor in Sioux City, Iowa. Pastor Lyons told Ron his story and offered him the job of station manager. The Tietsorts soon moved to Rockford. His wife Millie became the bookkeeper, receptionist, and sometimes programmer.

By winter 1975, despite all their efforts and a growing audience, they needed over \$3,000 to catch up on their bills and keep going. They had already exhausted all possible avenues for fresh revenue. Millie prayed, “Lord, we really thought You wanted the station to succeed. Did we misread You? Please tell us what to do now.” Just then the front door opened and a middle-aged man walked in with a sealed envelope. Millie was startled because she hadn’t heard a car or footsteps on the porch. The man said quickly, “Give this to Ron. Use it for the station.” Before Millie could offer him a tax receipt, he turned and left without saying anything else. Millie quickly brought the envelope to Ron’s office and put it on his desk. Ron was surprised but opened it. “Millie, look!” They counted the money inside and it contained \$3,250! Ron leaped up and raced outside to thank the man, but he was gone. There was no car in sight, no tire tracks in the driveway, and there were no footprints in the snow on the porch! Ron and Millie never saw the stranger again, but Station WQFL and its companion WGLS are still operating today.

Chapter 5 (pages 15-17) - Modern Manna

Newlyweds John and Bonnie Eller had served at their first pastorate for six weeks. Their financial situation was difficult. Their small church in northeast Arkansas could not support a full-time pastor. John had looked for work at every business in the small town of 1,700 with no success. That evening Bonnie served the last of their food supply - pancakes made with water and sweetened with their last teaspoon of sugar. “This is all we have, John,” she said. “But don’t worry, God called us here, and He won’t let us down.” That night John tossed and turned for several hours. Finally, he went to the living room and sat on the threadbare couch, letting his Bible open where it would. He read, *“It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. (II Samuel 22:33).* That reassured him, and he went back to bed and fell asleep.

The next morning, an elderly man arrived at the doorstep holding two large grocery sacks. He wore a faded red flannel shirt and bib overalls. Thin, stopped and unshaven, he hung a walking cane from his elbow. “Here, preacher,” he said in a hoarse and trembling voice, “you may need these.” John accepted the two heavy sacks and put them down. He turned around to thank his benefactor, but he was gone! John ran outside and looked up and down the street, but the man was nowhere in sight. John ran around the house and over to the church next door, but there was no trace of the man.

Returning to the house, John found Bonnie smiling with big tears rolling down her cheeks. She had opened the sacks and looked at the contents. Amazingly, they contained everything they normally bought - juice, sugar, flour, canned vegetables, meat, and even their favorite brand of coffee! “See,” Bonnie exclaimed, “I told you God would take care of us. He even knows what brands we like.”

After breakfast John went through the town’s tiny business district, describing the man who had brought the groceries and asking if anyone knew him. Everyone said no; no such man had ever been seen in their community. During the remainder of their time as pastors in that little town, the Ellers often inquired about the man who had brought help to them in their time of need. They never saw or heard of him again. Since then, the Ellers have never been in such dire circumstances, but they have remained confident that the Lord who helped them that time would always supply their needs.

Chapter 6 (pp. 18-20) - Chicken on the Doorknob

Leon Miles and his wife were new pastors in their first church whose people had many different needs. “We learned just how needy the church was when we received our first weekly paycheck of \$3.85. We didn’t know how we would be able to support our little family. Discouraged yet optimistic, we thanked the Lord for the \$3.85. We began to believe and pray on the promises of Proverbs 3:5-6 and Matthew 6:33.

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God began to prove Himself the next day. Someone dropped by at 6am with cereal and milk. At noon, several steaks arrived to go with the vegetables that had been dropped off. The following Saturday, a weekly occurrence began that would last until the day we moved. When the doorbell rang, we shouted down the stairway, “Come on in!” There was no response or anyone downstairs, but hanging on our apartment door was the best fryer chicken hanging on the doorknob. For the next five years, the doorbell rang at different times every Saturday, and no one would ever be there, but there would always be a bag on the doorknob with meat inside. It happened whether or not we had guests, rain, snow or sunshine, during special meetings or regular services.

Inside the bag, always wrapped in butcher paper would be steaks, roasts, chicken, fish, etc. It always met the needs of our growing family plus any guests we were having that week. Who could be the angel delivering this beautiful package, and how could he or she disappear so quickly?

Finally, on our last Saturday at this parish, the doorbell rang. I ran down to look out the front door and caught sight of a taxi cab with no passengers pulling away from the curb. We looked at the last package to discover it had come from the town’s best meat market and had been sent “special delivery” by taxi. We then assumed all the meat had come from this source. We asked at the market, but they didn’t know anything about the mysterious happenings. To this day we have no clue as to whom God used to provide the meat. All we know is that He did, and we were sustained. We had been fed for five years, and we never went hungry!

I Kings 19:5-8 All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” So, he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights.

Chapter 7 (pages 21-22) - The Skinny Little Angel

A pastor from near Springfield, Illinois had gone to Mexico on a preaching mission. While returning, their van broke down. He elevated it and crawled underneath, but the jack collapsed, and the van fell onto his chest. His companions tried to lift it but couldn’t budge it. With his last breath he cried out, “Jesus! Jesus!” Within seconds a short, slender young man ran toward them, smiling as he approached. He easily lifted the van as if it were a feather. The pastor felt his chest expand, and his crushed, broken ribs immediately mended! He crawled out without needing help. The young man lowered the van, waved and ran back where he had come from and disappeared on the horizon as they watched. No one knew who the mysterious visitor was or where he had come from.

Daniel 3:24-25 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisors, “Didn’t we bind and throw three men into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, O king.” He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Chapter 8 (pages 23-25) - The Angel Promised

Samuel Doctorian, an Armenian Christian born in Beirut, Lebanon, has traveled the Middle East sharing his story of conversion in Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Greece and Cyprus. One evening his friends James and Liberty Osmand shared their sorrow about having lost three children, and because doctors had told her that she would not be able to have another child. Samuel prayed with them. Later as he was praying at bedtime, an angel of the Lord appeared before him. He had a glorious face and a wonderful smile, giving him a scroll which read, “Go and tell my daughter, I shall give her a son next year.” Samuel excitedly ran to share the message. They all rejoiced and praised the Lord for the glorious message He had brought. Exactly one year later - to the day - a son was born to the Osmands!

Eighteen years later Samuel was in England attending a “League of Prayer” convention with Jim Osmand, one of the special speakers. Jim and Liberty were excited to see Samuel, but their greatest joy was to introduce their son, the promised one, a very dedicated Christian. It was thrilling to meet him and praise God for the glorious and wonderful fulfillment of the message He had brought eighteen years earlier!

II Kings 8:14-17 So [Elijah] said [to his servant Gehazi], “What then is to be done for [the Shunammite woman for all her concern and care for us]?” Gehazi answered, “Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old.” So he said, “Call her.”

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When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!" But the woman conceived and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.

Luke 1:26-31 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus."

Chapter 10 (pages 29-30) - The Delivery Angel

My parents were struggling to establish a mission church in Evansville, Minnesota (population 750). As a pioneering pastor, Dad also had to work side jobs to support Mom, my younger brother Gene and I. We had a little garden and ate well when church farm families brought produce to the parsonage. However, one night there was nothing on the stove, in the refrigerator or cupboards, or on the table. We had no potatoes, flour or noodles to make anything with.

Mom said, "Let's sit down and ask the Lord to bless our meal." We bowed our heads as she said, "Dear Lord, we thank You because You are so good to us. Bless Dad tonight as he's away working. And, Lord, thank You for the food we are about to partake of, in Jesus' name I pray." Before she said "Amen," we heard a noise on the back porch. We ran for the back door and flung it open. There on the porch were boxes of groceries! We looked in every direction down our little dirt street and saw nobody, no car driving away, no one for quite a distance in all directions. We excitedly brought the groceries in and put them away until they overflowed the cupboards and refrigerator. Then we sat down to a glorious feast. We asked, "Mom, who do you think brought the groceries?" She smiled and said, "Let's just thank the Lord for providing!"

We experienced other instances of miraculous provisions during those same years. Many times some anonymous giver would drop a plain envelope into our mailbox with \$50 in it along with a note that simply said: "Let not your right hand know what your left hand is doing." These envelopes always arrived when we were in the middle of a financial crisis. It was an ongoing event that happened many times during those years, and they were always delivered on the very day we needed them. Eventually my brother and I set up a watch over our mailbox to catch the person(s) who did it, but we never saw anyone put the envelopes in that box.

Rabbah, an ancient Jewish scholar, wrote: "Although the span from earth to heaven is a journey of 500 years, when one whispers a prayer, or even silently meditates, God is nearby and hears." *Psalm 37:25 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.*

Chapter 23 (pages 70-72) - Could It Have Been?

In September 1939, Hitler's blitzkrieg army conquered Poland. Even France couldn't defend itself with an army of six million soldiers. In ten months Germany had marched across France and the rest of Europe. The Allied armies were demoralized.

On May 26, 1940, the battered Allied army was safely evacuated, thanks to thousands of volunteers with boats, and especially to God for sending a timely and unusually heavy fog and calming the waters of the English channel. Shortly afterward, Hitler called a surprise meeting of his generals, some of the best military minds in the world. He asked them to decide whether or not to invade England then or wait for a better time. That was the best time, because the Allies were on the verge of total defeat. However, according to Hilton Sutton [1924-2012], an air force officer, several divine interventions occurred. A strange 'general' also attended Hitler's meeting. He was not German, nor was he previously known to Hitler's staff. This 'general' persuaded Hitler and his staff not to invade England but to wait until the German army was stronger and victory was assured. The generals decided to invade Russia rather than England! Germany plunged into Russia ill-prepared and overconfident.

Meanwhile, General [Erwin] Rommel, the German 'desert fox,' had been pursuing General [Bernard Law] Montgomery in North Africa. Rommel's troops were poised and ready to destroy the English army when Hitler again called a surprise

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meeting of his generals. Once more, this same visiting ‘general’ convinced them to recall Rommel to Germany and replace him with another general who was not prepared for desert warfare. This allowed Montgomery to recover and counterattack, resulting in a major victory. Then the Americans joined them, and Germany was in retreat.

Again, Hitler called a staff meeting to decide whether to produce jet aircraft or continue bombing Britain. Again, a strange visiting general convinced Hitler and his staff not to take the time to set up an assembly line to produce jet aircraft. By the time the Germans realized their mistake, the United States had gained total air supremacy and was able to destroy most of the German industrial complex. According to Hilton Sutton [prophecy teacher of World Ministries], nobody in the world could have pulled off such daring feats other than an angel. It could even have been “Michael,” the Chief of Staff of the warring armies of heaven!

Daniel 12:1 At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered.

Chapter 24 (pages 74-76)- The Angels of Mons

In this report in the London Evening News, Arthur Machen, a leading Welsh author, told how the tiny British expeditionary force, outnumbered three to one, was apparently saved by heavenly reinforcements at the Battle of Mons on August 23, 1914. Arthur’s short story “The Bowmen” told the legend of the Angels of Mons.” While the British army was retreating from Mons, a unit of German cavalry charged after them. The British tried to run for sanctuary, but the Germans arrived first. The British army turned and was astonished to see a troop of angels between them and the enemy. The German horses were terrified and stampeded in all directions.

Later, a British army chaplain, C.M. Chavasse, wrote that he had heard similar accounts of the miraculous angelic deliverance from a brigadier general and two of his officers. A lieutenant colonel also described being escorted for about 20 minutes by a host of phantom cavalry. The Germans confirmed this account, recording that their men refused to charge a certain point where the British line was broken because of the presence of a very large number of troops. According to the Allied records of this battle, not a single British soldier was in the area. All officers and soldiers who witnessed this supernatural event wished to remain anonymous, lest their disclosures would hinder any possible future promotions.

II Kings 6:17 (When [Ben-Hadad II] king of Syria learned that Elisha had been warning [Jehoram/Joram] king of Israel about his military plans, Ben-Hadad surrounded Dothan, where Elisha lived. God sent a vast army of angels to surround the Syrian army. And Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around.

II Kings 19:14-19 (When King Hezekiah of Judah was threatened by the Rabshakeh, the Tartan and Rab-saris sent by King Sennacherib of the Assyrians, God sent His angel through the enemy camp and destroyed 185,000 enemy soldiers).

Chapter 26 (pages 80-82) - The Bookstore Angel

Dr. L. Nelson Bell, who served in the hospital in Tsing Kiang Pu, Kiangsu Province, China, related an event that happened in a Christian bookstore in Shanghai, China, in 1942. Dr. Bell bought his gospel portions and tracts to distribute among his patients. After the Japanese had annexed much of China, they imposed control. One morning a Japanese truck stopped outside the bookstore. It carried five Japanese marines and was half full of books. The bookstore assistant realized they had come to confiscate his inventory.

However, before they could enter, a neatly dressed Chinese gentleman entered the store ahead of them. The shop assistant knew all the customers well, but he had not met this stranger. For some unknown reason, the marines seemed unable to follow him into the store. They stood outside and milled around, looking in the four large front windows. No one else was in the store and no one else outside, yet each time they tried to enter the store they couldn't. They stood around for more than two hours. The stranger asked what the soldiers wanted, and the assistant explained that the Japanese had taken books from the other bookshops and now wanted to take from his. The two prayed together, and this stranger encouraged him, and the invisible barrier remained across the entrance.

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Finally, the marines shook their heads and left in their truck. The stranger left also. He had not made a single purchase or even asked about any of the items in the store. Later the owner, Mr. Christopher Willis (Chinese name Lee), returned. The assistant asked him, “Do you believe in angels?” “Yes I do.” “So do I!”

Chapter 27 (pp. 83-85) - The Angel Truck Driver

In a small town and church in a farming area in a midwestern state, the pastor led a thriving church and the entire community. When he discovered that one of his lay volunteers was committing adultery, he removed him from the position of worship leader. The man angrily threatened him twice for making him an example and falsely accused him of exposing his affair to the whole town. Later the man asked to meet him to apologize. The spot he named was at the top of a hill on a gravel road a few miles from town.

The pastor agreed and went to the spot to wait. The man slammed to a stop by the pastor and got out, but at the same time, a brand-new Chevrolet water truck stopped next to the pastor and his adversary. The angry man took one look at the red truck and hastily departed. The pastor watched him leave, then turned to talk to the driver of the truck, but both had disappeared. For miles in both directions there was no tank truck or driver to be seen!

Later the pastor asked the water delivery man if he had bought a new truck, but he still drove the old one. A few days later, the adversary called the pastor and asked, “Why did you have that other truck come when I was to meet you?” The pastor replied, “I don’t know who it was or where it came from. He just drove up.” The man then confessed that he planned to meet the pastor on that hill to kill him. He eventually apologized and asked forgiveness, repented and became a part of church life again. To this day the pastor has never seen a red truck with a stainless-steel tank.

Chapter 40 (pages 123-125) Changing Tires

Pastor George Greer was driving alone from Mabank, Texas to Dallas for a special ministers’ meeting. On the long and lonely stretch of highway, he realized he had a flat tire. He pulled over and saw the rear tire was completely flat. He opened the trunk, but there was no jack. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a Jeep pulled up and two young men got out. One of them said, “We see you have a problem, and we have come to help you.” They got out a jack and tire tools and went to work. When the pastor offered to help, they said, “No, sir; you would get your clothes dirty, and it’s our business to help pastors.”

George went to the front of the car to check both tires. While he was kneeling, the young men finished changing the rear flat. He stood up to thank them, but no one was there. Both the young men and their vehicle had vanished. He looked up and down the highway, but no one was in sight. *Hebrews 11:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

Chapter 42 (pages 129-133) - Angel on a Tractor

In August 2003, DuWayne Paul was part of a group of 20 volunteers from Shaminou International to teach at an English language camp in rural China. Along with about 40 Chinese people, children, guides and drivers, they started out in three 20-person vans. On the way, in a rural area about 20 miles south of Hailar, they found the road closed for construction and a detour through a nearby field. However, it had been raining for two weeks, so the field was now deep mud and sticky Chinese clay. All three vans became hopelessly mired and the wheels couldn't turn. There were no signs of life for several miles in any direction. The American leaders gathered in the front van to pray and ask God how to proceed. They considered walking back to the nearest village for help and then trying to find another place to hold the camp.

While they were praying, a man in the group looked up and said, “We can stop praying; our answer is here!” They opened their eyes and saw a brand new 7000 series four-wheel drive John Deere tractor approaching. The driver stopped and cheerfully offered to help them. He pulled the vans out of the mud, one by one, and onto some nearby grass. He smiled the entire time, and when he was finished, he suddenly left in the same direction from which he had come. They formed a circle and gave thanks to God before resuming their trip.

They watched the man on the tractor slowly drive over the crest of the hill until he was out of sight. They followed him in the vans over the same hill, but when they came to the top, the entire landscape was empty - the tractor had vanished!

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They decided the man was an angel, because it was grassland country, and there was no trace of farming or agriculture in the area. Second, all other tractors they had seen earlier and later were like small garden tractors, nothing like the 7000 John Deere in newness or size. Third, there was no mud on the tractor tires. Fourth, the kindly Chinese gentleman on the tractor refused to accept any money for his efforts - definitely very un-Chinese-like.

Later, one of the Chinese missionaries who had served as their guide saw the photos from the trip. The tractor that pulled the vans out of the mud in Hulun-Beier was marked 'Di-Er Tian-Tuo. Di-Er is a transliteration for Deere, and Tian-Tuo is a shortened version of Tian-Tuo-La-ji, which means "Tractor from Heaven!" God was with them that day and did not want them to turn back. The events of the two weeks at the camp and the impact on so many young lives would never have happened if they had turned back because of the mud. They actually met an angel driving a "John Deere Tractor from Heaven" in rural northeast China!

Chapter 47 (pages 149-151) - Just In Time

In the late 1880s, Queen Victoria was a passenger on an express train heading toward London, England. Suddenly, in the engine's headlights, the engineer saw a strange figure in a black cloak standing in the middle of the tracks and waving its arms, signaling the train to stop. He put on the brakes and stopped the train. He and his men climbed down but couldn't find any trace of the strange figure. On a hunch, he walked a few hundred yards ahead and discovered to his horror that the bridge ahead had been washed out and fallen into the flooded river below. If not for the mysterious figure, the train would have fallen, and the passengers killed.

While the bridge and the tracks were being repaired, the crew continued searching for the 'flagman,' but the mystery was finally solved when they returned to London. At the base of the engine's headlamp the engineer discovered a huge dead moth. On impulse, he wet its wings and pasted it to the glass of the lamp. Climbing into the cab, he switched on the light and saw the 'flagman' in the beam. As He knew the answer now - the moth had flown into the beam seconds before the train would have reached the washed-out bridge. In the fog, it appeared to be a phantom figure waving its arms.

When Queen Victoria was told of the strange happening she said, "I'm sure it was no accident. It was God's way of protecting us. He sent an angel in the form of a moth to warn us." God, quite possibly through the ministry of His unseen angels, had placed the moth on the headlight lens exactly when and where it was needed [and facing upright rather than any other position]. Truly, *"He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone."* (Psalm 91:11)

Chapter 55 (pages 173-175) - Heavyweight Angels

Pastor and Mrs. B. C. Heinz, the ministry family at a small church in North Dakota, were heading home at night with another couple from their church after an all-day fellowship in the town of Dickinson, where Pastor Heinz had spoken. They headed north on State Highway 85 toward Williston, and about that time it started to rain, sleet, snow and freeze all at once. They started into the valley, and the icy mixture became even more intense, accumulating on the highway, making driving treacherous and the visibility near zero. They had no snow tires or chains because it was late spring, and they hadn't expected any more snow. Mrs. Heinz began to pray: "Help us, Lord, help our car, keep us safe." As the road began to climb up from the valley floor, the car began to lose traction and soon they stopped completely. No matter what they tried, the car would spin out of control. They thought they would have to spend the night huddled in the car, waiting for the snowplow or other help to come their way. Spending the freezing night in the car would have risked death from exposure.

Just then, a car drove up behind them with six husky young men in it. They stopped and asked if they could help. Pastor Heinz said, "A push would help us, but we really need more traction on the rear end. Perhaps more weight would help us make it to the top." The pastor started the car, and five of the young men pushed the car up the steep snow-covered road while the sixth drove their car behind. As soon as the car began rolling, the five men all jumped up on the trunk. Two sat with their feet over the sides, and two sat facing the rear with their feet on the rear bumper. With this help, the car easily made it to the top of the hill. The pastor immediately stopped the car and got out to thank the kind heavyweight strangers, but they had all disappeared! No trace of them nor of their car that had followed them to the top of the hill was visible - not even a tire track! Billy Graham once wrote: "Reports continually flow to my attention from many places around the world telling of visitors of the angelic order appearing, ministering, fellowshiping, and disappearing."

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Hebrews 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.

Chapter 56 (pages 176-178) - Angels in the Snow

In late August one year, J. D., Agnes and their kids were heading home across Red Mountain Pass from Durango to Grand Junction, Colorado. This mountain pass was called the “Million Dollar Highway” because of steep grades and hairpin turns with few guardrails. As they crossed over the summit and began descending, they encountered a late summer snowstorm, but they weren’t yet equipped for winter travel. Wind blew the heavy snow, which froze into an icy glaze on the roadway. Visibility was poor, but they had nowhere to turn around or stop. Conditions worsened quickly. As J.D. drove, Agnes and the kids prayed.

Despite J.D.’s precautions, the car began to slip and slide. They came very close to the edge of the road, which had no guardrail, and a drop of hundreds of feet to the valley below. Suddenly two men appeared running beside the car. One had his hand on the left front fender, and the other on the left rear fender. The car straightened out of the skid and the two men continued to run alongside the car until J.D. had maneuvered it through the last treacherous, icy hairpin curve to enter the town of Ouray. J.D. pulled over and stopped to thank the men who had come to their rescue, but as he got out of the car, no one was found! There was no place for the men to go but up or down the mountain road, which was clearly seen in both directions. The family looked but didn’t even see any footprints in the snow! Safely down the mountain, they gave thanksgiving to the Lord for His protection and care in sending the two men who had come to their rescue. *Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.*

Chapter 57 (pages 179-183) - A Highway Angel

In October 1979, Vincent J. Kern of Snellville, Georgia was heading south on Merritt Parkway, a two-lane highway in southwestern Connecticut. While passing a slow-moving vehicle, his car hit a large puddle, and his car stalled. Several other drivers wouldn’t let him pull back into the right lane, so he had to stop facing oncoming traffic. His car wouldn’t start, so he turned on the four-way flashers and jumped out, standing on the narrow left-hand shoulder and motioning for approaching cars to pass. Many drivers got angry and shouted obscenities at him. After half an hour, his car battery died and the flashers ceased.

Just then an older vehicle approached from the rear. Vincent motioned it to pass, but the driver slowed and stopped, saying he was going to help him. The man was clean shaven, mid-thirties, with light blue sparkling eyes and dark blond hair, wearing a sport coat. He said, “We’ll have to get your car over to the right-hand shoulder and out of the way of traffic.” He pulled his car around to the front, attached a heavy chain and pulled Vincent’s car to safety on the right shoulder. The entire time he was helping him, they had encountered no traffic coming from either direction. Not only was this highly unlikely, it was virtually impossible!

The man removed the chain, and Vincent tried to start the car, but it was hopeless. He asked, “Is there anything else I can do to help you?” Vincent replied, “Yes, would you please drive me to the next exit so I can phone a friend to come pick me up?” He obliged, and in a few minutes they pulled up at a phone booth near the ramp. Vincent noticed that his new friend was soaking wet, and his sport coat was a mess. Vincent insisted three times that he accept a \$20 bill to cover the cost of dry-cleaning. Each time he refused the small reward, with an odd look on his face. He looked directly at Vincent and said, “Don’t thank me for being here; thank God for sending me to you.” With that, he drove away, and he and the car simply vanished as Vincent watched. He was nowhere to be seen up or down the highway for two or three miles in either direction. Vincent’s friend arrived and drove him back to the stalled car as he explained what had just happened. When he opened the door, he noticed the dome light was brightly lit. He tried one last time, and it started immediately. The previously dead battery was now fully charged. This was far from normal.

During the next ten years Vincent retold this story several times to friends. One day at a church conference a middle-aged African American walked up to him, looked him in the eye, and told me that there were three separate times in his life when the Lord had sent angels to protect him from imminent death by putting His hand of divine protection upon him. Then he began to laugh! He continued, “The man who so graciously rescued you on the highway was an angel sent by God, and both God and the angel found it humorous when you tried to offer him \$20 for his sport coat to be cleaned!” Then

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the African American disappeared. Vincent inquired about him to thank him for those words, but no one knew him, or had seen him, or even knew where he could have come from! *Proverbs 2:7-8 He holds victory in store for the upright; He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones.*

Chapter 60 (pages 192-194) - The Blessing Angel

One day, as a man was driving home from work on Interstate 70, he saw a white-headed elderly gentleman carrying a large old suitcase. The driver felt compelled to stop and ask where he was going. The man replied, “Illinois.” The driver lived in Elkland, Missouri, but he invited the man for dinner and a special service in a nearby town, and said he’d bring him back to the highway later. The driver and his wife had four small children, but his house only had two bedrooms.

They said an unexplainable feeling of peace surrounded the man, who spoke with wisdom and gentleness. The wife said, “It brought goose bumps upon goose bumps just to be near him.” Two of the boys accidentally knocked the old man’s suitcase off the bed. It opened to reveal one item - a very large, worn, old Bible. The host asked the old man many questions, who would speak to God as if He were sitting right there beside them, and then answer the host. While the old man was speaking, the family felt an overwhelming powerful presence in the room.

The next morning, they woke early to find the man blessing their house. He blessed every room in the humble home, then each of the kids individually, and both parents, and even the old worn-out car. The father drove him to the bus station and bought him a ticket to Illinois, and gave him everything he had left - \$80, a large sum for them. He was a truck driver, and his wife stayed home with the kids instead of working. The man thought, “How am I going to feed my family this week? That was all of our grocery money.”

Later that afternoon a check arrived in the mail for more than \$200 from a totally unexpected source. From that point on, circumstances changed for the family. The father kept on getting better and better jobs. They moved into larger houses and drove nicer and newer cars. Their family was even healthier. The little old house the old man had blessed was later converted to a church where many people became Christians. From that time of blessing, the parents and their children and families all lived for the Lord and used their talents to glorify God. All of those blessings can be traced to the stranger who stayed a night with them. They are convinced that it was an angel who came to visit and bless them. *Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels unaware.”*

Chapter 62 (pages 198-200) - Heavenly Phone System

One night a church pastor was working late in his office. At 10 pm he called his wife before leaving for home. She didn’t answer, so he let it ring. He thought it odd and called again after finishing up. This time she answered immediately. He asked her why she hadn’t answered the first time, and she replied that the phone hadn’t rung all evening.

Two days later he was in his office again when a man called, wanting to know why the pastor had called him previously. The pastor said, “I didn’t call you; I’m sorry.” The man said, “My phone rang twelve times, but I didn’t answer.” The pastor realized that he must have misdialed, and apologized for disturbing him. The man said, “That’s quite all right. Actually, I was planning to commit suicide, but first I prayed, “God, if You’re up there and You don’t want me to do this, give me a sign NOW!” Just then my phone began ringing, and kept on until I checked the caller ID. It said, ALMIGHTY GOD, and I was afraid to pick up the phone to answer Almighty God, so I let it ring.” The pastor said, “It showed that on your caller ID because I pastor a church named ‘ALMIGHTY GOD TABERNACLE!’”

The man was overwhelmed, and the pastor prayed with him, and later counseled him and helped him get his life back on track. But that important night, it was very likely that the pastor had dialed the correct number, but God chose him and rerouted the call to the man at that particular moment. A man in need experienced a revelation of the love of God in a spectacular way with spectacular timing! *Daniel 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants!”*

Chapter 63 (pages 201-203) - Be Prepared

One day Jack Tibbitts of Meadow Lakes, Texas had a distinct thought, as if a voice had told him he was supposed to prepare to preach a sermon in the North Bend, Wisconsin church where he had grown up and attended church. He had never even thought of speaking from a pulpit, and was not comfortable with the idea, but the message was

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repeated. When it came again, he was told to use John 15:13 as the basis. The text said, “Greater love has no man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.” He said, “Okay, Lord,” and prepared. The message said to visit his parents’ home in North Bend over Memorial Day weekend. The trip involved driving over 600 miles each way with four young children, but his wife agreed they should go. When they arrived at his parents’ house, he asked who would be preaching the next day. His mother replied that the regular pastor had been called to another church, and seminary students would fill in. The next day at church a neighbor mentioned that the supply pastor hadn’t shown up. Instead of offering to speak, Jack thought to himself, “*Lord, You have gotten me this far, You tell them,*” and sat down with his family. The church elders decided to have Jack’s mother lead the service but omit the sermon. Jack was sitting by the aisle, and as she passed him she asked him if there was anything he could possibly say. He replied, “Yes, I would be glad to.” He gave the sermon he had prepared, with a sense of fulfillment instead of anxiety. He didn’t know if it had an impact on anyone else, but it was a mountaintop experience for him!

Although no angel appeared visually, Jim heard an angel’s voice giving him the messages after God directed them to guide him to speak at church that day. God also meant that particular message for at least one person at church. The Lord works in mysterious ways indeed!

Chapter 70 (pages 224-226) - Angel Bodyguards

Christians in China during the Communist uprising in 1927 were being persecuted. They endured looting, building burnings, executions, and more. Favorite targets were mission compounds, hospitals, orphanages, and anything Christian. A lady missionary recalls that “During a night of burning, looting and shooting, when anarchists ran through the streets, our compound, which sheltered hundreds of women and girls who spent the night in prayer, went untouched.” The previous night, the missionary in charge of this mission, which was dedicated to sheltering homeless women and girls, was laid low with a bad malaria attack and high fever. The neighbors asked, “What do you plan to do when the looters attack your compound? What about all those promises of protection you have been preaching to us? Who will you be trusting when the fires and robberies begin on your compound?” Along with all the women and girls, the sick missionary spent much time in prayer. She pleaded, “Lord, I have been teaching these people for many years to believe and trust in the promises of God. If You and Your promises fail in this time of disaster, I shall never again be able to open my mouth. Then I shall have to return home to America.”

The following night when the anarchists came to the compound, she immediately was well enough to get up and walk among the frightened refugees in her care. She prayed with them and comforted them while disaster was taking place in the neighborhood all around them. But the mission compound and all who were inside were untouched. The next morning, people from three different neighboring families asked, “Who were those four people - three were sitting and one was standing - who were quietly watching from the top of your house at the front of the compound?” The missionary answered, “No one was on our housetop.” The neighbors refused to believe her. “We saw them with our own eyes. These men were awesome! When the looters came to the compound, they turned and ran because they became afraid. We saw it happen!”

Chapter 71 (pages 227-232) Sandwiched Between Two Angels

Frankie Walker is a missionary and speaker who has traveled extensively in the States and overseas. She has counted at least twelve special angelic visitations. Here are a few of them.

While driving home from the Ozarks in Missouri on side roads with no center strip or guidelines, many trees on both sides were overgrown, and the moon was behind the clouds. My visibility was low because of my bright headlights. She asked the Lord for His help. Right away a black car came up behind her and passed, staying a few car lengths ahead. Another black car approached and stayed a few car lengths behind. When she arrived at the city limits, the lead car moved into the left lane of the four-lane highway. She glanced back, but there was no car in her rearview mirror. The lead car was suddenly gone also. There were no exits or turn ramps, only four totally empty lanes except for her car.

Another time while staying on the Hilo side of the big island of Hawaii, she was returning to her upstairs apartment. Turning to thank her hosts, she tripped and fell, with no handrail to grab. As she fell, a hand or presence reached out and caught her on the chest and lifted her back to a standing position. Her host saw what happened and agreed that only an angel on duty could have prevented a fall that might have been fatal. They said they wouldn’t have believed it if they hadn’t seen it happen.

Another time, her husband was driving them home from town. He was upset and driving too fast. As they sped down the hill, a little boy on his bike came onto the road right in front of them. They had no time to react and no place to turn to avoid him. She only had time to whisper, "Jesus!" Her husband slammed the brakes, and the car skidded. When they stopped, the car almost touched the fender of the little boy's bike. Her husband said, "There is no way I could have stopped in time. Something stopped this car!" The little boy was shaking and crying, so the lady jumped out and comforted him. Angels had been guarding all of them, in spite of the driver's carelessness.

Chapter 72 (pages 230-232) - The Travel Agent Angel

Missionary-evangelist Melvin Jorgensen was scheduled to speak at a conference at 8:30 the next morning in Subotica, Yugoslavia, about 100 miles away, but the host pastor was not there to meet Melvin as his plane arrived in Belgrade. Melvin didn't know the language, and wasn't feeling well. How would he find transportation to his destination? He had no currency negotiable in Yugoslavia to buy a bus ticket. Melvin didn't know that the pastor had already come to the airport and that Melvin wasn't on the flight. So, he had returned home, wondering what to do about the conference the next day.

Melvin took a shuttle that brought him to the bus terminal but didn't know how to find his way to Subotica. He felt anxious, lost and sick. However, he noticed a man who stood smiling at him. The man was average height and appearance, but he motioned for Melvin to follow him. The man stopped at one of the many bus ticket windows, talked to an agent, received a ticket, gave it to Melvin, and motioned for him to follow. At the bus-loading area, Melvin didn't know which one to take, but the man motioned for him to wait for his bus at an empty stall. He refused any payment and left.

Melvin's ticket showed it was for the bus to Subotica, but no bus appeared where he was standing and he began to wonder if he was in the wrong place. Then the special 'travel agent' appeared again, smiled, and motioned for him to continue waiting. Shortly afterward, the bus pulled into the parking stall. Melvin got on, showed his ticket to the driver, and they left for Subotica. He arrived safely, to the relief of the host pastor, and all went well at the conference.

Chapter 73 (pages 233-235) - Following Orders

One year Winifred Currie was on an evangelistic safari with Lucille Friesen and Martha Underwood, working with nationals being trained in the Ndeya School in Belgium Congo, Zaire. One morning the three women distinctly heard a message during their pirate devotions. They were not to go to a cotton sale as planned but were to specifically follow His guidance as to where God had a special person already prepared for their coming.

Their young guide disagreed with them about traveling to the village. He said, "All the people will be working out in their fields, and no one will be at home in the village." But Lucille replied, "You will witness a miracle of grace today." So, he reluctantly agreed to go along with them. They followed the Lord's instructions exactly, and when they came to the village, they met an elderly lady sitting by a small fire. She had scars like raised welts on her back, which they later learned were from beatings she had received years earlier while being captured by an Azande raiding party. Apparently, she had remained a slave, unable to escape, and never saw her family again.

A boy in the village began beating the drum to call the people out of their fields to hear our presentation. Soon everyone gathered, and the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was given in the Bangala language. The former slave woman's face began to light up as the name of *Yesu* (Jesus) was introduced as the name of the Son of God who had died for her sins. When the women asked for those to make decisions to believe in *Yesu*, she began to speak excitedly in the Azande language.

The night before, she was suddenly awakened by a very bright light. When she saw a person in a white robe, she became afraid and cried out, "Who are you?" He spoke calmly and so kindly that her fear left her. He said, "Don't be afraid. Tomorrow I am sending My messengers to you, and they will tell you My name!" Then He disappeared. She continued, "Now I know His name. It is *Yesu*, and I want to believe in Him today!" The villagers were astonished and began to also respond to the Gospel message that day. The women were privileged to witness the greatest miracle among all the miracles they had seen in their ministry in the heart of Africa. That day, everyone in the village believed in Jesus as their Savior! *Revelation 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches.*

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Chapter 74 (pages 236-238) - The Messenger

A teenage girl was pregnant, penniless, alone, and afraid. Crying as she watched her baby's sonogram, she knew an abortion was out of the question. She cried herself to sleep every night because she didn't know how she would be able to manage. One night an angel appeared to her in a dream. He said, "Don't be afraid. Everything will be fine because you and your baby will be well taken care of." The angel gave her a look into the future. She saw her healthy, strong and beautiful baby placed by an angel into the arms of a wonderful, caring couple. The next scene showed the baby as a grown young lady, mature and happy. The angel also told her that God was concerned about the baby and would work everything out for good for her unborn child. Then the angel touched her with a light that seemed to give off a warm glow that stayed in her heart during the rest of her pregnancy.

When she awoke the next morning, she felt wonderful, loved, and at peace that everything would work out for the best. Later that day she was introduced to a lady who told her about a support group-home for unwed mothers, and she checked in the next day. There she found emotional healing and help with choices she needed to make about her baby's future. She decided to give birth and place the baby with a Christian adoption agency.

While holding her baby for the last time in the hospital, she dedicated her little girl, blessing her with a long life, and giving her to the Lord for protection, care and keeping.

Matthew 1:20-22 But after he had considered this, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the LORD had said through the prophet.

Chapter 76 (pages 242-244) - A Black Angel in Hawaii

Frankie Walker related another angelic encounter in Hawaii. While based in Oahu, a friend invited her to a street music festival in downtown Honolulu. They found a large crowd, which continued to increase rapidly, so that bodies were being pressed against each other. The ladies began to panic and find a way out, but the crowd was from one sidewalk to the other. There were no alleys or cross streets in sight, and all the buildings were closed for the evening, so there was no way out.

They felt panic begin to grip the crowd. In the heat and the press, people began to faint and were carried along with the crowd because there was no place to lie down. Meanwhile, more people were trying to get into the festival from both ends, thus blocking the crowd from leaving the area. Frankie almost lost her footing; to fall in that crowd would have been disastrous. She began to pray that the crowd wouldn't panic. She saw fear on many faces and felt that many people might have a breakdown. It was the worst mob scene she had ever witnessed. She continued to pray for help and a way out of the crowd,

All of a sudden she felt that she was no longer being pushed or jostled. Behind her was a tall, distinguished looking, clean cut, well-groomed black man, with peace and calm on his face. He stood head and shoulders above the crowd. He was completely relaxed and moved with wonderful grace. The jostling crowd didn't budge him a bit. He acted as the ladies' guard so no one brushed against them. He didn't say a word, simply nodded and smiled and stayed behind them for nearly an hour until they came to a clearing and could escape. He never moved from being their guardian the whole time.

As they got clear of the crowd, Frankie turned to thank him but he was gone. Not more than a few seconds before she had looked at him. The ladies searched everywhere, but he was nowhere to be found. He wasn't in the crowd, or they would have seen him, because he was so tall. Then Frankie knew he had been an angel sent to protect them.

Frankie asked a policeman standing nearby about the situation, and he said it was a miracle that no one had panicked to the point of screaming, or many could have been trampled. She asked him if he had seen their 'guide,' but he said, "Only you two ladies."

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Psalm 91:9-10 If you make the Most High your dwelling - even the LORD, who is my refuge - then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent,

Chapter 77 (pages 245-247) Angels on Guard

In East Africa, during the Mau Mau riots in 1956, a band of roving Mau Maus surrounded and massacred the village of Lauri, 300 men, women and children. Less than three miles away was the Rift Valley School, a private school for missionary children. Phil, son of missionary Morris Plotts, remembers the Mau Maus heading their way with spears, bows and arrows, clubs and torches.

The teachers and children had nowhere to flee, so their only choice was to pray. Soon a ring of lighted torches surrounded the school, as the Mau Maus shouted and cursed. Suddenly, when they were within a spear's throw, they stopped and ran away!

When the army arrived, they searched for the rebels and captured the entire band, including the leader. At their trial, the leader confessed to the Lauri massacre and their intent to do the same at the Rift Valley School. When the judge asked why they didn't attack the school, he said they had seen huge men dressed in white with flaming swords. (He had never heard of Christ or angels). Later, the schoolteachers and children said they had never seen their angelic guards, only the fleeing terrorists.

Chapter 78 (pages 248-250) - The Little Old Lady Angel

In 1990, a missionary and her friend were walking through the Arab Quarter in Jerusalem when a missile struck. Suddenly an Arab merchant running with a large, heavily loaded cart hit her in the back. She was knocked down, stunned, in pain and in shock. Another Arab merchant helped her and apologized. Finally, she stood and said, "Lord, by Your stripes I am healed." Others were amazed that she could stand.

Then a little old lady stepped up to her, held her hands, and said "Peace!" with a look of compassion. Instantly her strength returned, the pain was gone, and the shock left her. The missionary turned to thank the kind Arab merchant, then back to thank the lady, but she had vanished! She had disappeared while holding her hands!

Malachi 4:2 But for you who revere My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

Chapter 79 (pages 251-253) - Two African Angels

A Sudanese missionary couple with four children had often provided refuge for many other missionaries, especially the Sudan Interior Mission. The ruling Muslim government demanded their presence in the mission to divert attention from the foreign missionaries.

In 1989, the couple were preparing to emigrate with three of their children. Amir, their adopted son, age 4, was taken from them and placed with a Muslim family. (Both Muslims and Christians believe in angels.)

One of their other children was sick. The mother was overwhelmed with worry, anxiety and fear, and fell asleep one night praying. She awoke to see a light coming in through the balcony doors, and two figures stood in front of the closed curtains. They were tall and wore traditional African floral turbans matching their long elaborate robes. They spoke softly in Sudanese. One of them said, "Do not be afraid." The other said, "We are sent to encourage you. God wants you to know this: You ARE NOT ALONE! She asked, "Are you angels? If you are, then come and stand behind the big chair." To her amazement, they glided and danced their way to the chair. They were beautiful and silhouetted against the light they brought with them. She sensed a great peace from God. She asked, "Why are you dressed so?" The second angel replied, "This is how we were sent here," clearly meaning to Africa where floral designs are very traditional. The other angel said, "You are loved, both you and your family. We encourage your faith because you encourage the helpless and insecure." Then they disappeared gradually from her sight as silently as they had entered. She was alone again, but completely refreshed in body, mind and spirit. Now she could face the remainder of what was before them.

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Daniel 10:4-7 On the 24th day of the first month, as I stood on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I saw a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it; but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.

Chapter 80 (pages 254-256) - What Big Guy?

Marvin Ellsworth, the pastor of an Indian mission church on a reservation in North Dakota, saw a teenage boy running down the road toward the mission. Marvin went out to meet him. The boy panted that a fight had broken out between two factions. He had called the sheriff, but he was out on another call and couldn't come. About 35 people were involved. Since no one else was available, Marvin drove him in the van to the scene of the fight.

They all carried baseball bats, knives, clubs, lead pipes and guns. Marvin quickly and fervently prayed for protection and stepped out of the van. The fighting stopped immediately, and all the combatants turned their attention toward him. He spoke for about twenty minutes, saying things that he wasn't sure where they came from, and quoted scriptures he didn't even know. They all stood completely focused on him, still holding their weapons. They didn't notice each other or care who their enemy was. The longer Marvin spoke, the bolder he felt. When he finished speaking, all the combatants quietly walked to their vehicles and drove away. There was no more fighting or even taunts.

The two leaders started talking to each other and motioned to Marvin, slowly walking toward him, as he backed up against the van. They stopped a few feet on either side of him, standing impassively, still carrying their weapons. They asked, "Tell us who is the great big guy who stood behind you while you were speaking and is now standing over there." Marvin and the boy turned to look but didn't see any big guy, then they realized that God had sent a guardian angel!

That incident marked the beginning of many good things at the church mission. Barriers were broken, and many of the Native Americans began attending the church with the pastor who had the "big guy" for protection!

2 Kings 6:16-17 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Chapter 82 (pages 261-263) Does Anyone Care?

Arthur and Anna Berg were missionaries at Natsis-Rutchuru in the Kivi District of the Congo. For days, Anna and her daughter had been sick with malaria. Anna's condition was so critical that Arthur called a group of Congolese Christians to join him in prayer for Anna. Later Arthur went outside and looked into the sky, wondering if anyone they knew in America knew of or cared about their predicament.

He went back inside, opened a hymn book, and began to sing "Was There Ever a Friend so True?" Suddenly the room was filled with indescribable music. He was no longer alone. Singing with him was a choir like none he had heard before or since. A strong presence was in the room. The Congolese Christians were still praying while the angels were singing in English about Jesus Christ, a Friend who was near.

The moment was interrupted by a Congolese who shouted, "Madame, *anakufa!* Madame, *anakufa!* (Madame is dying! Madame is dying!) Quickly Arthur ran to her bedside, not to witness her dying, but to see her hands raised in worship. The fever had broken! Her temperature had fallen. Their daughter, Agnes, was healed also! The next day both mother and daughter were able to resume normal activities. Later Anna said that in the middle of her suffering, what seemed like a ball of fire had touched her head and gone throughout her entire body.

Years later, after returning to America, a lady in Minneapolis, a friend of the family, asked him if they were in trouble at any time in the Congo. She had seen his face one time and was seized with a burden to pray for him. She did until she felt peace about his need. They learned that it was the exact night when Arthur had prayed.

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All these events had taken place at the same time. When Arthur was out in the yard praying, when the African Christians were praying, and when the little lady in Minnesota was praying, the answer came. A choir of angels was sent to help a weary missionary and to restore a wife and daughter back to health. What an amazing God!

Chapter 91 (pages 289-281) - Angel Lookalike?

In 1969, Burt was driving with his family to Duluth, Minnesota. While driving along the Red Cliff Indian Reservation, Burt was strangely and strongly impressed to turn around and return to a small roadside park. They got out and sat at a picnic table to wait. Soon a man approached them, asking, "You're Burt, aren't you?" He had been crying. Burt asked him to sit down.

Bill, part Native American, told how his wife and daughter had died in a tragic auto accident in Oregon. He was so overcome with remorse and loneliness that he planned to take his life that day. Burt encouraged Bill to look to the Savior who could meet his needs, and shared God's word with him. Burt prayed with him, and Bill opened his heart and invited Jesus Christ to come into his troubled life.

Then Burt asked, "How did you know my name?" Bill asked, "Don't you remember? We were talking this morning in the lower park." Burt replied, "I was a long way from here this morning." "No, Burt, it was you. He looked just like you, except he was wearing a different shirt. And you told me to come to the upper park and wait for you." Burt told Bill it couldn't have been him, because he was visiting his mother in upper Michigan. Then Bill asked, "Where are you from?" Burt said, "I live in Springfield." Bill replied, "You told me this morning that you were from Missouri!"

Everyone who witnessed this unusual encounter is convinced that the person Bill had met that morning must have been an angelic messenger sent to keep Bill from his plans of suicide until Burt could talk and pray with him to invite the Savior into his life. Bill had been waiting all those hours for God's human messenger to arrive!

Acts 16:9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

African Ministry Update
(Copyright 08-16-2025) by Rebecca Wise (East Bend, North Carolina)

Thank you so much for including appeals for our African brothers and sisters. Their zeal to learn and their faithfulness are so inspiring!

Mansa and Macedonia

From August 6-10, 2025, Obed Mambwe and Kasuba Manad visited Mansa (provincial capital of Luapula Province, Zambia) to purchase bicycles for their ministries (in Kawambwa and Nchelenge districts) with funds provided by our fellowship. Manad had traveled 3 hours by bus from Nchelenge to Kawambwa (85 km/53 miles), and Obed joined him for a further 6 hours to Mansa (169 km/105 miles).

Many people asked them to stay and teach them from God's word, which they received with all readiness of mind (see Acts 17:11). Obed and Manad gladly accepted the invitation; they never waste any opportunity to share the Gospel wherever they go. Attached are photos of them traveling and preaching the Word.

There weren't any Church of God Sabbath keepers in Mansa, but now there are (although they lack Bibles. Even in a large town like Mansa, brethren can't afford one, but every disciple of Christ should have one. The Bible Society of Zambia translates and prints Bibles in local languages and sells them as affordably as possible, but \$9 is still too expensive for most people.

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KAWAMBWA and NCHELENGE

The fellowships of Sabbath keepers in Kawambwa and Nchelenge have many adults and children (many are orphans). There are still many people on the waiting list for a Bible in the Bemba language. (Children's Bibles are also available in Bemba). English is used for education and commerce, but Bibles in their heart language are most effective. A Bible is the most important tool to help a new believer remain committed to God. Please help us provide Bibles for these brethren. Attached are photos of people in Kawambwa and Nchelenge receiving much-anticipated Bibles, which they treasure greatly and read diligently.

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FEED MY LAMBS MINISTRIES and NCHELENGE ORPHANS AID EDUCATION MISSION, PO Box 740009, Nchelenge 740000, Luapula Province, Zambia

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In Acts 16:9-10, after the call to Macedonia, a fellowship of believers was added to the Lord, and flourished in the faith so much that later they contributed generously to the poor saints in Jerusalem (Romans 15:26). Macedonia is also mentioned many times in Paul's letters to Timothy and the Corinthians, Thessalonians, and Philippians. In 2 Corinthians 11:1, Macedonians supplied Paul's needs during his ministry and missionary journeys.

For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! — Romans 10:13-15

Kisii and Kericho

The fellowships in Kisii and Kericho counties (Kenya) also have many essential needs. At Sengera and Getionko (Feast sites in Kisii), the children have very old (or few, or no) mattresses and blankets. The widows and orphans rarely have enough to eat, and rely on donations to survive on porridge made from maize etc. We hope to build some chicken cages for the remote areas and provide feed and chicks for eggs & meat. A chick only costs 175 KSH (Kenya shillings) or \$1.35 USD. This includes VAT (Value Added Tax). In most African nations, it's about 16%.

Below is the PayPal link to donate to our widows and orphans in Kisii County, Kenya. (There is an optional fee. You can also make your donation monthly). They are very thankful even for the smallest amount and pray for the (few) donors daily. (Donations are always secure).

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GYQKRX264EMNW

Or you can go directly to PayPal and set up Kenya Hands of Hope as a recipient. However, there is no option for monthly payments, so they must be made individually.

<https://www.paypal.com>

Recently, Douglas Henry his family fled their home to avoid arrest (and in-jail assault) from thugs. (Women are now being arrested too). The latrine needed to be emptied, but it took over 3 days to scrounge funds to pay. Douglas is held

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accountable for any repairs demanded at Getionko, and for all the orphans under his care. (Even when we don't have to pay a bribe for his release, the injuries would have been severe, and KHOFH can't always pay for medical care).

They had nothing to eat for 3 days, but when they returned home they found their house had been robbed. They had no bedding, pots, or food. KHOFH has so few donors that we often can only provide food for a few days at a time. During the last few years we have lost ten widows or orphans to starvation. Jesus said that whatever we do for the least of His brethren, we do for Him.

Nehemiah Evans is held accountable for any demanded repairs at Sengera, or for any orphans whose school fees aren't paid in full in advance. Another man, John, was recently beaten in jail so badly that he can barely walk. He was jailed because KHOFH couldn't pay the mandatory school fees for the orphans under his care.

Below is the GoFundMe link for the current Kenya Hands of Hope fundraiser (bedding for the Getionko orphans). There is a fee on a sliding scale. So far we have raised 29% of our goal. (Thanks to all who helped with the previous fundraiser to rebuild the Getionko meeting hall.) See khofh.com). It is a secure website.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/getionko-orphans-bedding-is-needed?attribution_id=sl:cd17f34b-a925-4c05-93aa-f1a9444ec24c&lang=en_US&utm_campaign=man_ss_icons&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link

The brethren in Kericho also need a place to meet but have no funds to continue construction. (None of the brethren have a house large enough for a house church). They have posts and beams for a small, simple Tabernacle, but no iron sheets for roof or walls. Reuben and his 3 sons are doing all the work themselves. The kitchen at one end will need a 'rocket' stove of bricks and an iron grate, and basins for washing. (There is no running water except the nearby river. The water level in the well is not always sufficient).

They are also digging a latrine. The work is very hard, but they are willing to proceed, if funds are donated for materials. Iron sheets (mabati) sized 2.46'x9.84' cost \$9.50 USD each. They need 6 for the latrine roof and 20 for the walls (8'x16'). The Tabernacle will be 20'x30' and will need 36 sheets for the roof and 40 for the walls. Even a sheet or two at a time will help provide shelter from sun, rain and wind for the brethren to attend services. They will also need chairs. The most comfortable and economical are plastic patio armchairs (\$9 USD each).

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Flesh-Eating Bacteria Cases on the Rise: Here Are the Symptoms

(Copyright 08-18-2025) by Jason Darrow (Email)

Every year, around 150 to 200 severe cases of *Vibrio vulnificus* are reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with most cases occurring during the summer when more people are swimming in the ocean and eating raw oysters.

Some people can also contract necrotizing fasciitis by eating raw oysters or seafood contaminated with the bacteria. (How about some sushi my friends?) 😊

According to the CDC, one can reduce their risks of infection by avoiding salty or brackish water when they have a wound from a surgery, piercing, or tattoo.

The wound should also be covered with a waterproof bandage if there's a chance of being in contact with saltwater, brackish water, or raw or undercooked seafood and its juices.

<https://www.zerohedge.com/medical/flesh-eating-bacteria-cases-rise-here-are-symptoms>

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What Do You Think It Is?

(Copyright 08-16-2025) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

WHAT IS EVERYONE INTERESTED IN UNTIL THEY HEAR IT?



WHAT DO MOST CLAIM TO BE SEARCHING FOR, SEEKING...

UNTIL they learn how it will change their life?

WHAT IS IT *that only a "...FEW there be that find it?"*

ANSWER: THE REAL BIBLE TRUTH

"Enter you in at the strait gate...Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14)

Time and again we see when the Bible truths come to light... suddenly the discussion ends...*and so does the interest.*

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS:

"Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits.....every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit..."(Matt. 7:15-17)

SOME BIBLE TRUTHS:

(1). The New Testament Sabbath is not Sunday. It is Saturday, the 7th day of the week: "There must still be, therefore, a Seventh Day rest reserved for Yahweh's ["God's" NJB] people..." (Heb. 4:9-11; New Jerusalem Bible; see also Lk. 4:16) **(2). The Apostle Paul Practiced Old Testament:** "But this I confess to you, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim ("God"; KJV) of my fathers, **believing ALL things which are written in the Law and the Prophets..**" (Acts 14:14)

"...not the hearers of the Law are just before Yahweh ["God", KJV], but...**doers of the Law shall be justified.**" (Rom. 2:13) **(3). The Biblical Holy Days and New Moons are still binding:** "Let no man therefore judge you...in respect of an Holyday of the New Moon, or of the Sabbath days: Which **are** [present tense] a shadow of things to come..." (Col. 2:16-17)

Editor's Note:

**There is no command in the law to keep new moons which are the first day of each month. The only exception to that is that Feast of Trumpets is a new moon day and also an annual holy day (Sabbath).
Laura Lee**

(4). Tithing is not on money but on agricultural produce; money is never mentioned in tithing laws: "...tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the trees, is Yahweh's, it is holy unto Yahweh." (Lev. 27:30) "...the tithe of the herd, of the flock...whatsoever Passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holy to Yahweh." (Lev. 27:32)

Where is money mentioned in those Laws? Read these publications:
"Why Do You Tithe on Money?" and "Biblical Tithing is NOT on Money"

Editor's Note:

If you want to tithe on money, there is no law against doing so. Laura Lee

AS YOU SEEK THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, DO NOT FORGET TO:

"LET THE OTHER SIDE BE HEARD."-Robert Oppenheimer, physicist

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For Authors

(Copyright 08-24-2025) by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Print Items and Articles – Should be at least 50 words long and must have a title and must state that you the sender are the author. Anything you want us to consider for print should be sent in a Word File or in the body of an email. We will no longer convert articles from a .pdf file into a printable Word File.

Iron Sharpening Iron – This section is reserved for comments in agreement or comments in disagreement or just comments in regard to the items that are printed. (These are then posted with the item you are commenting on.)

Format for Print is as follows: Title of article, by Your Name (Town, State and/or Country) We also put your website address at the end if you have one.

Advertising Books or Booklets: We do not advertise books or booklets within articles unless something in the article is specifically in reference to that book or booklet. This is decided at our discretion.

Use of Sacred Names: We do not do sacred names here, but we do print articles in which people do use sacred names.

Strange Doctrine: There are many strange or should I say doctrines which we have never heard before. Some of these may actually be biblical and others may not be. If we believe it is not biblical, we will put "Editor's Notes" on it or add an "Iron Sharpening Iron" piece after and in reference to said article.

Copyright - Starting with Issue #56, we are going to put copyright on all articles that we print, even if the author has not specifically asked for it. (This will not cover the articles that are currently ready for print but will cover future articles we get ready for print.)

We are Fallible: We can be wrong and sometimes we do not catch every unbiblical point, that is why it is important that you let us know when you disagree with us or if we have missed something. Your input is important to us. If you dispute something send biblical proof with your dispute.

Email Addresses:

We do not publish email addresses within or at the end of articles. If you have a website we give you a link at the end of your article and people can then go to your website to contact you.

Newsletters:

Anything that has been printed in any given newsletter cannot be removed and that includes newsletters we have ready but have not yet sent out. All items printed are also posted online. Anything posted online cannot be removed.

We will update this policy as needed.

Update on Francis

(Copyright 05-11-2025) by William P. Goff (Tuckerton, New Jersey)

Greetings Once Again Brethren,

Thank you for your prayers for Francis, he is okay now. As previously reported, Francis was in a bad Motor Bike Taxi accident on his way back to boarding school on Friday. He was diagnosed to have a broken neck. And as we prayed yesterday, he was being transported to a bigger Hospital in Kisii Town (do to the severity of his injury.) But after arriving, his diagnosis changed. I'm happy to announce that he is okay as you can see in the picture below.

So again, we thank you for your prayers.



Also, our website was down for a few hours this morning. But it is now back up. The link to the latest Donor Letter dated May 9, 2025, is below. Hope you get a chance to see it.

Thank You
Bill Goff

Website: <https://khofh.com/>

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E-mail: goffb50@aol.com

Donate: <https://khofh.com/support-us/>

Kenya Hands of Hope, a 5013c charity founded in 2006 by William P. Goff

Website: [KHOFFH – Kenya Hands of Hope](https://khofh.com/)

Send Donations to:

Kenya Hands of Hope, 334 E. Main Street, Bldg. B Unit A-3, Tuckerton, NJ 08087

PayPal Donations: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GYQKRX264EMNW

Please consider donating monthly by PayPal or e-checks scheduled through your bank.

For More Information:

Phone: (843) 447-0140

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Sengera House

(Copyright 05-16-2025) by William P. Goff (Tuckerton, New Jersey)

Greetings Brethren,

Hope all of you are well, as we continue our count to the Feast of Pentecost. This whole creation continues groaning as do we, His First Fruits, as we eagerly wait and hope for our Lord's return. (Romans 8:22-23).

As mentioned in previous mailings, all the orphans at Sengera House (and a number of orphans who are living in the bush with a Grandparent) are back in school, and this is wonderful. But after paying over \$7,000 for school fees and also making a number of repairs at the orphanage, our funds are totally depleted. Please help if you can, we at Sengera House are currently struggling, even our food pantry is now empty.

Your brother in Christ.

Bill Goff

Website: <https://khofh.com/>

E-mail: goffb50@aol.com

Donate: <https://khofh.com/support-us/>

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God Is Gracious

(Copyright 08-16-2025) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Dear Friends and Brethren,

I did not post a sermon or send out a newsletter last Sabbath because some other matters came up requiring my attention, and for lack of time I was not able to complete the editing of the sermon I had planned on posting for the Sabbath. I have completed it now, however, and for this Sabbath I have edited and posted a sermon titled "**God is Gracious.**"

There are many ways in which God's grace is revealed and demonstrated throughout the Bible, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Unfortunately, the idea of "grace" has often been perverted and misrepresented by false teachings, implying that there is a conflict between the concept of God's grace and that of obedience to his commandments.

One reason that some turn aside from God is that they don't really believe that God is gracious. Some believe in God just enough to have a morbid fear of what might happen to them, but they don't have enough faith to really believe that God can or will forgive their sins and save them from death. The Old Covenant God made with Israel at Mt. Sinai was predicated on grace, as shown in Exodus 34:5-7. But God in his love and mercy also is a just God, and in his mercy and love for mankind he requires obedience to his laws which are given to us for our benefit. In God mercy, grace, longsuffering, and truth are united with holiness and justice. Like the Old Covenant, the New Covenant is also predicated upon grace, and it is through grace that we are ultimately saved (Acts 15:11; Romans 6:23; II Timothy 1:9).

God knows our frame, our weaknesses and our inherent sinfulness, but he is always ready to pardon us upon repentance, and his plan is not a plan of destruction for mankind but one of salvation. In today's sermon, I point out some ways in which God's grace towards all mankind, including you and me, is demonstrated. And also, specific things you can do to enjoy the fullness of God's grace.

In Christian love,
Rod Reynolds

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New Covenant Law

(Copyright 08-24-2025) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Dear Friends and Brethren,

It's commonly taught among professing Christian churches that some or all of the commandments of God, especially the ten commandments given from Mt. Sinai, are not applicable to Christians. Christ, we are told, has "replaced the law," including the ten commandments, thus they are no longer obligatory for Christians.

An example of this general idea is found in how the *Jamieson Fausset Brown Bible Commentary* interprets the meaning of Colossians 2:14: "The law (including especially the moral law, wherein lay the chief difficulty in obeying) is abrogated to the believer...." "The 'handwriting' (alluding to the Decalogue [i.e., the ten commandments])...." "Not only was the law against us by its demands, but also an adversary to us by its accusations." "In His person nailed to the cross, the law itself was nailed to it." For an explanation of what Colossians 2 actually teaches see our article: "**Were the Commandments 'Nailed to the Cross'?**".

After Herbert W. Armstrong, founder and leader of the Worldwide Church of God, died in early 1986, within a few years his successor, Joseph Tkach, began to teach radically different doctrines from those formerly taught by that Church, concerning how the ten commandments and ancillary laws apply to Christians, as well as a number of subjects. Under Tkach's leadership teachings adopted from "Evangelical Christianity," as reflected in the above quotation, replaced the former teachings of the Church which were to the effect that Christians are obliged to obey the ten commandments and ancillary laws.

At the time, I was a member and ordained minister of the Worldwide Church of God and had been for a number of years. I was amazed at how quickly and eagerly many of the people I had known and respected, whom I had assumed to be converted, embraced the "new" teachings. While some ministers and members rejected the apostasy and began to separate themselves from the Worldwide Church of God, which subsequently changed its name, about ninety percent did not, but many of them soon abandoned the Church as well, for different reasons.

It is easy to be deceived about what the Bible teaches, and in fact, most people, including most people who call themselves Christians, as well as Jewish people who claim to follow the teachings of the "Old Testament," are deceived about much of what is taught in the Bible. It's much more difficult to find and hold to the truth of what is taught in Scripture. Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). The "god of this age [or world, KJV]" is Satan, and he "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9).

One common way in which people are deceived is to simply latch on to one or more human devised traditions of men, contrary to Scripture, who claim the authority to teach religious doctrine, often even claiming that such traditions are sanctioned in Scripture. Much of what is taught in popular "Christianity," both Catholic and Protestant, as well as Judaism, is based on such traditions of men. In reference to such traditions, Jesus said to the Pharisees and scribes (there were scribes of both the Pharisees and Sadducee's, leading sects among the Jews at the time): "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition" (Mark 7:9).

It's quite common for individuals to attempt to justify their beliefs and practices not only by appealing to the authority of "Church tradition," or some person of reputation, such as a minister or priest or scribe, but also by isolating one verse of

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Scripture, or a portion of a verse, or sometimes several scattered verses, and reading into these a meaning that conflicts with the context, both of the portions cited, as well as the overall context of Scripture. In some cases, faulty and misleading translations of a verse or portion of Scripture are relied on as well.

So it is with the idea that the commandments God gave to Israel at Mt. Sinai, particularly the ten commandments, do not apply to Christians. In the sermon I intended to post on the Sabbath of August 23, titled "**New Covenant Law**," I address the idea that these commandments are abrogated for believers under the New Covenant.

I hope everyone who receives this newsletter will take the time to listen to this sermon, which I have edited and re-posted as of today (the day following the Sabbath), due to the fact that circumstances did not allow sufficient time to get it posted on the Sabbath. In any case, there are individuals on the mailing list of this newsletter scattered over various parts of the world, in different time zones, so even though I attempt to post the sermons during the Sabbath in the time zone where I am located, you may not receive the newsletter until well after the Sabbath, depending on where you are. Certainly, you should attend services on the Sabbath with an assembly of Christians faithful to God's word, if possible, wherever you are. Or if not, listen to a sermon as well as study the Scriptures on the Sabbath. Of course you should study the Bible daily, but listening to a sermon featuring sound doctrine is profitable at other times as well as the Sabbath.

As noted above, it's very easy to fall into a lax posture regarding your relationship with God and becoming a victim of deception. Don't take it for granted that you cannot be deceived if you are not careful to study the Scriptures and clearly understand what God requires of you. In this sermon I go through a number of Scriptures related to the subject, and it's important to have these Scriptural precepts engraved in your consciousness at all times.

For your convenience, I am including a **link to the notes** for this sermon, which I intend to post as an article after the material is edited and reformatted. I encourage you to take note of the Scriptures quoted and look them up in your own Bible and review them as often as necessary to keep mindful of them. Your ultimate salvation may depend on it.

In Christian love,
Rod Reynolds

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New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025

Pentecost – June 2, 2025

Trumpets – September 23, 2025

Atonement – October 2, 2025

Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025

Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Notes