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Amy Carmichael Helped the Helpless



Amy Carmichael

"Please help me! Please don't send me back!" screamed 7-year-old Preena as she jumped into Amy Carmichael's lap, clinging to her neck. The little girl had just escaped from a temple in the middle of the night while her guardians were sleeping. She tiptoed quietly through an unlocked door and pushed open the heavy gate running, as fast as she could.

Preena's mother had given her to the temple priests in hopes of winning the favour of the gods. Amy did not know what was going on, but she knew this little frightened girl needed her love and protection.

Amy Carmichael had come to India as a missionary to reach those who did not know Jesus. Amy was sure that God did not want her to marry and have children of her own. That decision had been settled many years before. But was He now asking her to settle down and become a mother to an unwanted Indian child?

Life in Ireland

Amy Carmichael grew up in a wealthy family in Ireland. Her father owned a flour mill business. She went to the best boarding schools and had many fine things.

But one day Amy's life changed without warning. Her father's business began to lose money and it closed. Mr. Carmichael

worried so much about his business that he became ill and died. The family could no longer afford expensive things. Amy had to drop out of school. She spent the next ten years helping her mother take care of her younger sisters and brothers.

Life-Changing Events

One cold, dreary day as the young Amy, her mother and brothers left the church, Amy saw something that changed her life. An old beggar woman came staggering out of the alley. Her clothes were torn and mud-soaked rags covered her feet. Amy felt sorry for the woman. She and her brother helped the old woman down the alley. When she saw other people from church pass by them, she was embarrassed to be seen with the woman and hid her face.

As she continued to walk with the beggar, Amy noticed a fountain in the centre of the road. She studied it closely. Then she heard a voice say, "Gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and straw - the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If the foundation survives, he will receive the reward."

She turned to see who was speaking but saw no one. Amy knew that she appeared kind by helping the old woman, but she knew her heart was wrong. From that moment on, she decided to hold her head high. She was no longer embarrassed. When she got home, she searched the Bible and found the words she had heard. Amy knelt by her bed and promised God that in future, she would only do things to please Him.

At another time she and her mother stopped to have tea and biscuits in a restaurant. As they ate, Amy saw a dirty little beggar girl with her nose pressed against the window. The poor little girl, with no food, touched Amy so much that she made another promise. She promised that when she grew up, she would give her money to the poor.

The Shawlies

Amy Carmichael became very excited about doing what God wanted her to do. On Saturday evenings, she would go with her pastor to the poor neighbourhoods to hand out tracts and food to the poor people known as Shawlies. The Shawlies made so little money that they could not afford hats, so they used their shawls to protect their heads from the cold. They were eager to learn about God.

Amy's heart went out to them. She moved into their neighbourhood and slept in bug-infested beds to be closer to the people. She prayed about building a church for them to attend, but didn't know where she would get money for such a large project. She did not want to ask the rich people in her old church who

didn't seem to care about the Shawlies. Instead, she and the Shawlies asked God to provide it. God answered their prayers and a new church was built!

Time to Move On

Amy began to sense that God wanted her to tell people in other countries about Him. There was one problem though. Amy had an illness that made her so sick she had to stay in bed days at a time. Despite her health, she knew she had to obey God.

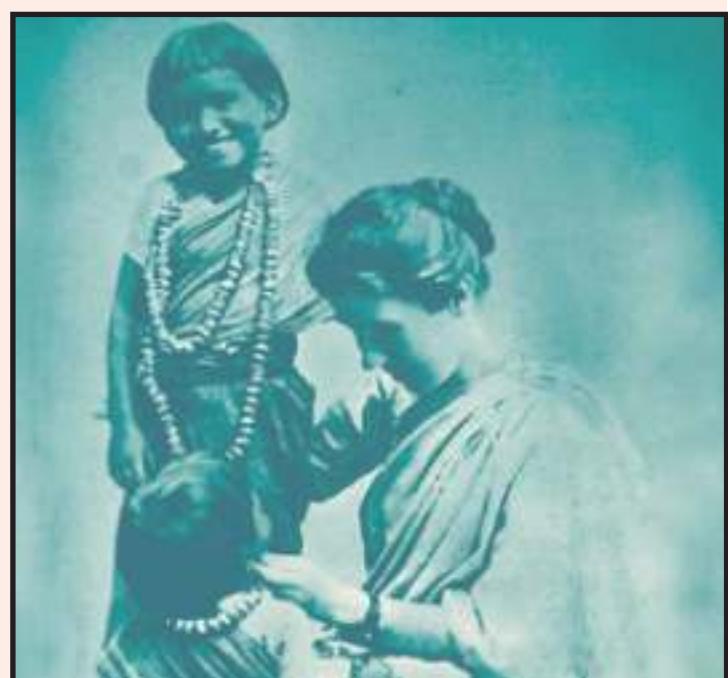
Life In India

Amy travelled the India countryside, telling anyone who would listen about Christ. One day Preena, a little Indian girl, was collecting water for the temple near where Amy was speaking. Preena stopped to listen as Amy told the ladies about her God who loved everybody the same. He did not categorise people into different classes. Preena was very interested in what Amy was saying but knew she should not be seen listening to the stranger. She tucked Amy's words into her memory and hurried back to the temple.

Indian girls were often unwanted and were given to the temple to serve as prostitutes. Because of this, when Preena arrived at Amy's door, Amy knew she could not send her back. The little girl would be beaten, even killed, if she were returned. Amy could have been charged with kidnapping and thrown into prison. But it was a chance she was willing to take.

Over the 50 years she spent in India, Amy Carmichael took in hundreds of unwanted children. She became known as "Amma" or mother to them.

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DIE REGVERDIGE SAL UIT DIE GELOOF LEWE

Die groot hervormer, Martin Luther, het op sy knieë met die *Scala Santa* (Heilige Trappe) opgekruip toe hy God se Stem hoor: "Maar die regverdige sal uit die geloof lewe" (Rom. 1:17). Hy het dadelik afgeklim na onder, sonder om die woorde regtig te verstaan.

Heelwat later, onder leiding van die Heilige Gees, sou die ware betekenis egter tot hom deurdring. Hy wou sy saligheid **verdien**, soos hy in sy kerk geleer het. Hy het baie hard gewerk, sodat hy dit sekerlik sou kon bereik. Maar hoe harder hy probeer het, hoe meer onvergenoegd was hy met homself.

Die *Scala Santa* sou hom na die boonste vloer neem - die "heiligste" plek in Rooms Katolieke oë. In die vroegste tye sou dit net vir die pou beskore wees. Later jare kon die gewone pelgrims ook die trappe bestyg - op hulle knieë, sodat hulle daardeur hulle nietigheid en nederigheid kon vertoon. Dit was die uiterste self-verloëning.

Die *Scala Santa* is volgens Rooms Katolieke tradisie die trappe waarmee Jesus in Sy lydensweek, tydens Sy verhoor, opgeklim het om voor Pilatus te verskyn. Volgens tradisie, is die trappe in latere tye vanaf Jerusalem na Rome verskuif.

Luther se pa het in 'n myn gewerk om sy hoogs begaafde seun geleerdheid te gee. Omdat hy hoë verwagtinge van sy brillante seun gehad het, het hy ook gereken dat sy seun in die regte sou studeer. Groot was sy teleurstelling toe Luther egter gekies het om 'n monnik te word. Hy het teologie en filosofie gestudeer. Dit het só gebeur: Luther was op 'n dag op reis om sy ouers te gaan besoek. Skielik het daar 'n groot storm opgekom en 'n weerligstraal het hom teen die grond geslaan. Hy skrik toe so groot dat hy uitroep: "Heilige Anna, help! Ek sal 'n monnik word!" Hy het God toe nog nie geken nie.

Luther verwerf sy Meestersgraad en kry 'n aanstelling as professor by die universiteit om teologie en filosofie te doseer. Nog later verwerf hy ook sy doktorsgraad. Hy het hoofsaaklik Psalms asook Paulus se Sendbrieve en die brief Hebreërs as vakke aangebied. Dit is egter waar sy gewetenswroeging ontstaan het: sy Kerk het onder andere geleer dat 'n mens deur **werke** gered moet word. Maar sy studies het hom gelei na die boek Romeine,

waar hy gelees het van die geregtigheid van God wat as 'n **vry gave** aan die mensdom geskenk word. Luther het op die spoor van Paulus geloop, wat met dieselfde gedagtes geworstel het. Soos Paulus, het hy gekom by Rom. 1:17, wat 'n aanhaling is uit Hab. 2:4 - "...Maar die regverdige, deur sy geloof sal hy lewe."

Tussen Paulus en Luther was daar groot ooreenkoms. Albei was manne van hoë intellek en albei het 'n sterk godsdienstige agtergrond gehad. Albei moes, ten spyte van hulle agtergrond, by die **geregtigheid** van God uitkom. Dit kon net gebeur deur die kragtige werking van die Heilige Gees. Hulle moes leer dat die verklaring van die Skrif veral deur die openbaring en belewenis van God kom en nie slegs deur die intellek nie. Albei is in hulle soeke na ware diens aan God deur 'n weerligstraal / lig teen die grond geslaan: Paulus op pad na Damaskus toe hy gedink het hy moet God dien deur die vevolging van die Kerk en die onderhouding van die Wet, en Luther op pad na sy ouers.

In Hab. 2:4 en Rom. 1:17 kom die ongeloof van die ongelowige teenoor die geloof van die gelowige ter sprake. Een leef nog in duisternis, die ander het die geregtigheid van God deur 'n openbaring van God ontdek. Wie is die regverdige? En wat is die betekenis van lewe vir hom?

Die Regverdige

As ons na Paulus en Martin Luther se lewens kyk, is die regverdige die persoon wat deur 'n openbaring van God deur die Heilige Gees die geregtigheid van God ontdek het. Die Evangelie (Goeie Nuus) word nie slegs met die verstand of intellek begryp nie, maar is 'n openbaring van God se Heilige Gees wat ast' ware in jou siel ontploff - 'n krag van God wat deurbreek in jou innerlike mens! **Die regverdige sal uit die geloof lewe.**

Wanneer dit gebeur, sê Paulus in Gal. 3:11 - "En dat niemand deur die wet by God geregverdig word nie, is duidelik; want die regverdige sal uit die geloof lewe." Dus, nie deur die Wet of deur die werke nie (Paulus), ook nie deur die werke of verdienste nie (Luther), ook nie deur die filosofie of die blote intellektuele aanvaarding nie (Paulus en Luther) nie, maar deur die **geloof** in Jesus Christus wat lewend gemaak word deur die Heilige Gees.

Die skrywer van Hebreërs voeg 'n waarskuwing by: "Maar die regverdige sal uit die geloof lewe; en as hy hom onttrek, het my siel geen welbehae in hom nie" (Heb. 10:38). Dan voeg hy by: "Maar by ons is daar geen onttrekking tot verderf nie, maar geloof tot behoud van die lewe" (Heb. 10:39).

Die Amplified Bible stel dit so: "But our way is not that of those who draw back to eternal misery (perdition) and are utterly destroyed, but we are of those who believe [who cleave to and trust in and rely on God through Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by faith preserve the soul."

Hierdie "**vashou**" in geloof aan Jesus Christus beteken om volhardend te glo. Voortdurend aan te hou glo, al kom die Satan met allerhandende versoekinge en hewige aanvalle om die gelowige te laat afstand doen van sy geloof.

Uit geloof tot geloof

Paulus brei uit op "geloof": "Want die geregtigheid van God word daarin geopenbaar uit geloof tot geloof, soos geskrywe is: Maar die regverdige sal uit die geloof lewe." (Rom. 1:17). Dit beteken dat daar 'n voortgang van geloof is. Dit is nie 'n eenmalige, afgehandelde saak nie, maar moet dag vir dag gehandhaaf word deur die krag van die Heilige Gees. Iemand stel dit so: "From start to finish." Nog iemand stel dit so: "From faith to faith means **faith** is at the beginning of the salvation process, and it is the goal as well. When a person first exercises faith in Christ, that person is saved from the penalty of sin and declared righteous. As the believer lives by faith, God continues to save him or her from the power of sin to live righteously (v. 16)."

Ruilhandel

In die vroegste dae het die mense nie met geld gekoop nie, maar ruilhandel toegepas. Die een man kon vir die ander sê: "Ek gee jou my vis, gee my jou dadels." Dan is altwee tevrede, want dit was 'n gelykop ruiling met items van gelyke waarde. Maar nou lees ons in 2 Kor. 5:21 - "Want Hy het Hom wat geen sonde geken het nie, sonde vir ons gemaak, sodat ons kan word geregtigheid van God in Hom."

Die Amplified Bible lees so: "He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable

to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness]."

Die Boodskap lees: "Weet julle, Christus het nooit enige sonde gedoen nie. Tog het God Hom daar aan die kruis in 'n sondaar verander. Hy het al ons sondes daar op Christus afgelaai. Daarom is ons almal wat in Christus glo, se saak met God nou in orde. Ons is nou vry."

God neem dus Sy Seun Jesus Christus, wat nooit gesondig het nie, en ruil Sy sondeloosheid vir ons sondes. Hy maak ons die **geregtigheid van God**. Maar wat 'n ongelyke ruiling! Hoe kan óns sondes opweeg teen Sy sondeloosheid? En dan koop Hy ons met Sy eie bloed aan die kruis! Dit doen Hy gratis vir elkeen wat glo in Hom!

Jesus sê dus vir elkeen van ons: "Gee My jou sonde, dan gee Ek jou My geregtigheid." Dan word jy 'n kind van God, op pad hemel toe. In Jesus se geregtigheid staan jy voor Hom asof jy nooit gesondig het nie; nie deur wetsonderhouding nie (Paulus), en nie deur werke nie (Martin Luther), maar gratis deur die Bloed van Jesus! En Martin Luther het uitgeroep: "Dit was my wedergeboorte!"

Ontdekkingsreisigers

In die vroegste jare, en veral ook gedurende die 15de eeu, was daar ontdekkingsreisigers soos Vasco da Gama, Bartolomeus Dias, Christopher Columbus, en talle ander wat reise na ver plekke onderneem het soos Afrika, Suid-Afrika, die Amerikas en Asië. Talle van hulle het kruise geplant op ver lande wat hulle ontdek het.

Ons is elkeen op reis op ons lewenspad. Die Woord sê: "U woord is 'n lamp vir my voet en 'n lig vir my pad" (Ps. 119:105). My pad loop deur die Woord op my lewensreis. Dan kom ek op 'n stilhouplek in my binnekamer, 'n aanskoulike plek, af. Dan moet ek eers 'n bietjie stilstaan sodat ek die skoonheid van die Woord kan inneem, kan absorbeer en so 'n bietjie met God praat en Hy met my. En dan plant ek 'n kruis... Dít moet ek elke dag doen!

Kom ons aanvaar God se voorsteling, Sy geskenk van redding en geregtigheid en regverdig-making wat ons gratis in geloof moet aanneem. Leef dan voluit vir Hom - elke dag!

Kom Philip, Ek wil jou hê!

My eie bekerig was radikaal - amper soos Paulus s'n op die pad na Damaskus. 'n Drastiese ommekieer! 'n Omdraai na God toe, toe ek Jesus aangeneem en Hy in my hart kom woon het.

Die Bybel sê: "Hy wat ons verlos het uit die mag van die duisternis en oorgebring het in die koninkryk van die Seun van sy liefde" (Kol. 1:13). Om hierdie rede het radikale bekerings van ander

mense my ook altyd aan die hart gegryp.

Ek onthou een so 'n persoon, jare gelede. Sy naam was Philip. 'n Anderskleurige in wie se lewe ek duidelik die Here gesien het. Hy het my van sy eie bekerig vertel: "Ou Philip, hy was binnekant by die asblik. Die deksel, hy was toe. Toe kom die Here Jesus, Hy haal die deksel af en Hy sê: 'Kom Philip, Ek wil jou hê!' Hy trek my toe uit die asblik uit, en maak my

skoon van al die vuil dinge in my lewe. Hy het my 'n nuwe lewe gegee. Hy het in my hart kom bly.

Toegaan roep ek al daai vrouens saam met wie ek bier gedrink en baie ander lelike dinge gedoen het, en sê vir hulle: 'Hierdie Philip is die NUWE Philip! Hy doen nie meer die lelike dinge nie! Hy loop nou die pad van die Herel! Nou is ek bly dat die Here Jesus elke dag met my is, en ek wil tot die einde saam met Hom die pad loop!"

Onthou, jy is NOoit te vuil vir die Here om jou te red nie! Soos die tollenaar wat die "regverdig" Fariseër se gebed in die tempel gehoor het. Die Bybel sê: "En die tollenaar het ver weg gestaan en wou selfs nie sy oë na die hemel ophef nie, maar het op sy bors geslaan en gesê: o God, wees my, sondaar, genadig!" (Lukas 18:13). En God het hom verhoor! So hoor Hy nog steeds as ons Hom aanroep!

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O YA KAE FA O NTSHA MOWA WA BOFELO? (Where are you going when you exhale your last breath?)



DITEMANA

Ka ga mohumi le Lasaro "Go ne go le motho mongwe yo o humileng, a apere seaparo se sehibidu le lesela le lentle la letseta, a nna a itumela ka letsatsi le letsatsi mo bontlengtleng. Mme mokopi mongwe yo o bidiwang Lasaro, o ne a beilwe fa kgorong ya gagwe, a tletse dintho. A eletsa go kgorisiwa ka tse di wang mo tafoleng ya mohumi: gape ga tla dintsha, tsa latsha dintho tsa gagwe. Ya re mokopi a swa, a belegelwa ke baengele kwa sehubeng sa ga Aborahame. Mohumi le ene a swa, a fitlhwa. Ya re a le mo felong ga baswi, a tshol-etsa matlho a le mo ditlhokofatsong, a bona Aborahame kgakala le Lasaro a le mo sehubeng sa gagwe. Ke fa a kua a re: 'Rara Aborahame, nkutlwelie botlhoko, o rome Lasaro gore a ine ntlha ya monwana wa gagwe mo metsing, a ntsidifatse Ioleme; gonne ke utlwa botlhoko mo kgabong e.' Mme Aborahame a re:

'Ngwanaka, gopola gore o amogetse tse di molemo tsa gago mo bophelong jwa gago, mme Lasaro ene tse di bosula jalo; mme jaanong mono ene o a gomodiwa, mme wena o a tlhokofadiwa. Mme kwa ntla ga tsotlhе tseo go na le kgophu e kgolo fa gare ga rona le lona, gore ba ba kwano ba ba ratang go fetela go lona, ba retelelwe, le ba ba koo, ba ba ratang go tla kwano go rona, ba palelwe.' Mohumi a re: 'Rra, fa go le jalo, ke go rapela gore o mo rome kwa ntlong ya ga re; gonne ke na le bomorwa-rre ba le batlhano; a ye teng, a ba tlhagise, e se re gongwe le bone ba tla felong fano ga tlhokofatso.' Aborahame a mo fetola a re: 'Ba na le Moše le baporofeti; a ba utlwe bone!' Mme mohumi a re: 'Nnyaya, Aborahame rra, mme fa mongwe a tswa mo baswing, a ya kwa go bone, ba tla sokologa.' Foo Aborahame a mo raya a re: 'Fa ba sa utlwe Moše le baporofeti, ga ba ka ke ba kgonega, le fa

mongwe a ka tsoga mo baswing.'"

DIKAKANYO

Kgaolo e re e lebelelang gompieno ke ka ga Lasaro le mohumi. Lasaro o ne a dumela mo Modimong mme a tlhoka mme a sa phele monate. Le fa a ne a sa phele monate a ne a dumela mo go Jesu. Mohumi ene o ne a phela monate thata mme a sa tlhoke sepe. A na le gothe se a se ratang le se ditsala tsa gagwe a di ratang mme a sa kgathalele dithuto tsa baruti mme a itumeletse madi a gago le menate ya lefatshe.

E rile fa mokopi a swa a belegelwa ke baengele go ya kwa sehubeng sa ga Aborahame kwa legodimong. Mohumi ene, e rile fa a swa a fitlhwa mme a ya kwa felong ga baswi. Mme felong ya baswi ke ya ba ba sa dumelang mo Modimong. Beibele ya re a ne a le mo ditlhokofatsong. Ke dumela gore mo bophelong a ne a phela monate mme a nwa monate mme a tlholo mo dišebineng le ditsala tsa gagwe. Jaanong kwa a felelsang teng o eleletsa fela gore Lasaro a ine ntlha ya monwana mo metsing ka gore a re o utlwa botlhoko mo kgabong e. Akanya fela gore o sotlega thata jang. Mme jaanong mono mo legodimong Lasaro ene o a gomodiwa, mme Mohumi ene o a tlhokofadiwa. Mo lefatsheng Lasaro o ne a utlwa dithero tsa baruti, mme a bona le dimakatso a tsosiwa le mo losong ke Jesu. Ene a ne a amo-gela Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa gagwe. Mohumi ene o ne a sa batle go utlwa sepe ka baruti mme a sa ele tlhoko dithero le dithuto tsa bone mme a sa kgathale

Lefoko la Modimo, Jaanong Lasaro o mo monateng wa Legodimo mme o amogetse bophelo jo bo sa khutleng mme Mohumi ene o mo diheleng kwa botlhokofatsing jo bo sa khutleng. Mohumi gape o kopa gore ba romele molaetsa kwa go bomorwa-rre ba gagwe ba batlhano gore ba sokologe mme ba se wele mo diheleng le bone. Fela jalo ga go melaetsa epe e e ka tswang kwa legodimong kgotsa kwa diheleng go tswa kwa baswing go tla mo go ba ba phelang. Wena jaanong o tla felela kwa kae fa o ka swa jaanong? A o tla belegwa ke baengele kgotsa ba tla go fitlha fela mme o ya kwa baswing mme o tlhokofadiwa le wena jaaka mohumi?

O santse o phela. Dirisa tshono ya gago go reetsa Lefoko le le rerwang le dithuto tsa gore o amogetse Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa gagwe. Fa o sa dire jalo o tloga o tshwana le Mohumi o eleletsa fela monwana wa metsi mme o sa tshwane le Lasaro yo o kwa Legodimong.

THAPELO

Modimo ke leboga o ratile lefatshe mo go kalo, mo o bileng wa re neela Morwaa-wa gago yo o tsetsweng a le esi, gore mongwe le mongwe yo o dumelang mo go ene a se ka a latlhega, mme a nne le bophelo jo bo sa khutleng. Re leboga ka o sa roma Morwaa-wa gago mo lefatsheng gore a athole lefatshe, mme e le gore lefatshe le pholosiwe ka ene, e bong Jesu Keresete. Re kopa o re thuse gore re belegwe ke baengele le rona mme re se ye go tlhokofatswa jaaka mohumi. AMEN.



Johan Zerwick
Sêlē ke 083 458 3837

GROWING IN GODLINESS

Godly living, especially in the face of intense persecution requires great endurance. At all times, but especially when suffering, believers are to help encourage and strengthen each other. It is vital that believers grow in maturity through both the knowledge and practice of Scripture.

Leaders need prayer and cooperation. We must not fall into legalism to earn God's favour or even relief from suffering. We have favour with God and are able to enter His rest from works, only because of the grace found in Jesus.

Seek to grow in godliness and maturity with endurance, setting your hope on Jesus Christ, looking forward to His return.

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Enter God's promised rest. Rest from trying to earn salvation through works.

Receive the rest found in Jesus, Who has provided salvation by grace through faith, not works.

Seek to mature in faith. Study the Bible, so that you can both understand and live it in your everyday life.

Endure suffering, and remain faithful to God. Hold tightly to God's promise of salvation, look hopefully to Jesus' return, and continue in godliness.

[NEW SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE BIBLE, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2002].

HE IS A STRONG TOWER

"The Name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10 KJV).

According to Strong's Concordance, the Hebrew word for "name" is, 'shem' (H8034) which means, "reputation, fame, or glory." The name, reputation, and track record of the Lord are strong. He is undefeated. He is the Champion. He is your strong Tower. God is your mighty Fortress. There is no one like Him. His character is strong. His reputation and authority have no end. He is mighty!

The authority and power of God extend past human capacity and intellect. His authority extends past your fears. His power expands beyond your limits, talents, skills, and abilities. His influence, might, authority, and strength stretch beyond your reach and outperform your best

attempts. Choose to put your trust in God. Choose to place your hope in God. Choose to bow at His feet. Choose to trust that He is your mighty Tower. He is your Battle Ax. Nothing can defeat Him! He is your Fortress. You are safe in Him.

Choose to meditate on His Word. Choose to focus on His promises. Choose to place your hands in His. Choose to trust Him. He is your emotional Fortress. He is your physical Fortress from danger. He is your financial Fortress. He is your strong Tower! Put your heart in His hands. Put your life in His hands. He is your true Champion. Nothing can be compared to Him. No one can outrank Him. He remains undefeated for all of eternity. So give Him your temporary problem. Hide in Him. He is your strong Tower. You are safe in Him!

- Selected

MY GOD IS NOT DEAD!

If you had been named as a beneficiary in the will of a deceased, you would naturally claim everything bequeathed to you.

Jesus Christ, your elder Brother, died (but rose again, Hallelujah!) and made YOU a beneficiary in His Will.

God's Word is His will, and in it is listed all your inheritance. Don't fail to approach God, the Father, in the Name of Jesus and claim all that was left to YOU in the will.

"...if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

He bequeathed to us:

■ **Salvation** (for ourselves and our household): "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

■ **Healing**: "By whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). "Bless the Lord... Who healeth all thy diseases" (Ps. 103:2, 3).

■ **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**: "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost for the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off" (Acts 2:38, 39).

■ **Abundant life**: "I am come that ye might have Life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

■ **Prosperity**: "Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2).

■ **Divine Guidance**: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go - I will guide thee with Mine eye" (Ps. 32:8).

■ **Victory and power over Satan**: "Behold I give unto you power over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).

God has no problems - He only has plans. Learn to hear God speak. Submit to HIS PLAN for your life, and the result will be MIRACLES, MIRACLES, and MIRACLES from the Hand of God!

The world says: "Grab all you can!" GOD says: "Give all you can" (Luke 6:38).

The world says: "You can't afford to give." GOD says: "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth" (Proverbs 11:24).

The world says: "See to yourself first." GOD says: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Ask God to transform and renew

your mind (Romans 12:2) so that you can stop thinking the way the world thinks, and think the way God thinks and miraculous results will follow!

Satan would like to reduce Christianity to the natural, but it is supernatural! Always remember - "The things that are impossible with men are possible with God"

(Luke 18:27).

WE SERVE A GOD OF MIRACLES!!! A God Who is interested in every detail of our lives - even the very hairs of our head are numbered!

[GOD and you Unlimited, Nola Stevens, Exposition Press, Smithtown, New York, 1980].

LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS
LIKE AN UNSHARPENED PENCIL -
IT HAS NO POINT!

 **Hendrik van Graan**
Susana van Graan
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GOD LOVES TO FORGIVE

Webster's Dictionary defines the word **grace** as unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification.

The word **unmerited** is key here, because it means **undeserved**. So, in the Christian faith, we'd say that grace is something we've been given that we don't deserve. And one of the most amazing things we've been given by God's grace is His **forgiveness**.

In Luke 15, Jesus told a parable about an ungrateful son who demanded his portion of his father's estate. The father granted the request, and within a short time the son left with everything he received.

Living frivolously and recklessly,

he squandered it all away and eventually decided to go back home.

Much to his surprise, the father was watching for his son, ran toward him, and met him with a grace-filled, unexpected welcome. This story is one we love to read because it's a story of love toward the undeserved. **It's how God feels towards us.**

But we also find ourselves navigating the disconnect we feel when this son returns home and is met with a celebration. There were no "I told you so" comments or lectures on what the father will do if this happens again. **There was just immense love, stupendous grace, and overwhelming forgiveness lavished upon a very unworthy son.** It's beautifully uncomfortable, isn't it?

That's how God's forgiveness works in the economy of the Kingdom of Heaven. God forgives us freely because of Jesus' perfect act of selflessness on the cross. We receive forgiveness because He gave. Our good works don't earn us anything; Jesus' perfect work does.

We want forgiveness but honestly we don't know how to accept it. We know it's a gift but we want to do something to earn just a little bit of it. Because receiving a gift that we not only never earned but can never do enough to pay back is more than our finite minds can grasp.

Thankfully, God's forgiveness is for everyone who calls on Him. Everyone.

Because God is a forgiving God,

then it only makes sense for us to be conduits of that same forgiveness toward others. **But forgiving others will cost us something.** It will be hard. It will take effort. It will go against what we want. Our sin nature desires revenge. Not only that, but we think there is some kind of "sin system" where some sins are not as bad while others are extremely bad. **All sin is bad. But not all consequences of sin are equal.** Regardless of the intensity of the consequence, God hates all sin.

But praise God, He does not hate us! He's waiting for us, looking off into the distance for us to come back home. He's ready to run to us and celebrate and overwhelm us with His grace, acceptance, and forgiveness.

- *Knowing God's Heart*

THE ALL-EMBRACING GRACE OF GOD

Looking through my prayer list I'm amazed at the wide variety of individual needs I pray for daily.

There's Steve with great challenges after a life-threatening brain tumour removal. A young mother who lost a child in a gruesome way. An 18-year-old teen who broke his neck diving into the sea on our beach in Onrus. Troubled minds and broken hearts; cancer; post-operative pain that refuses to yield and a wound that just won't react to treatment. And many, many more.

How does one face all these needs in prayer without giving in to utter hopelessness? Beloved, faith in the One Who raised Lazarus on that day so long ago, but still so fresh in my mind. My history of God's help and Divine support. Provision when things looked bleak. Comfort when my heart was crushed with sorrow. Miraculous healing when it seemed that a situation is here to stay.

I know you have a similar history of God's gracious mercy at work in your own life. Don't ever lose sight of God's all-encompassing, all-embracing grace. The Word of God lifts our hearts and nourishes our spirits each time we soak in His love.

Give me your attention for a moment as you embrace these familiar, beloved words:

"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God and at the right time He will lift you up in honour."

"GIVE ALL YOUR WORRIES AND CARES TO GOD, FOR HE CARES ABOUT YOU. STAY ALERT! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, AND BE STRONG IN YOUR FAITH!"

"Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same suffering as you are. In His kindness, God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of CHRIST JESUS. So, after you have suffered a little while, HE WILL RESTORE, SUPPORT, AND STRENGTHEN YOU, AND HE WILL PLACE YOU ON A FIRM FOUNDATION" (1 Peter 5:6-10).

No suffering or challenge that you may face falls outside of God's restoring grace. Grasp hold of that thought like the parachute it is. You and all your challenges are firmly inside the embrace of God's grace.

- Helen du Plessis, 083 332 0895

DARE TO HOPE



Helen du Plessis

The last two years had been devastating to many people. Loved ones lost through COVID and other circumstances resulted in a multitude of heartaches as well as in financial losses.

I'm sure you know someone who desperately needs comfort. Maybe you need to catch your breath too amid heart crushing events.

Keeping these suffering ones in mind, I sat down and wrote this book, reaching out to you in your pain. **Dare to Hope** makes an excellent gift to anyone in dire need.

It will certainly encourage you to dare to hope as well. The book is available from me directly.



Email me at helenduplessis@hermanus.co.za.

Price per copy: R100 plus postage and packaging of approximately R85.00.

Nogtans...

Al sou die vyeboom nie bot nie, Here, en daar geen druwe aan die wingerde wees nie. Al sou die olyf-oes misluk, en die lande geen oes lewer nie...

En al sou die verlang tot diep in my oë gaan lê, en die bang en onsekerheid bietjies-bietjies in my hart wegkruip...

Al sou die pad kilometersvol grond en gate voor my voete uitloop, en my hart se probeer moeg raak...

Al sou my oë sukkel om die son

raak te sien, die son wat U elke dag op my pad kom neersit...

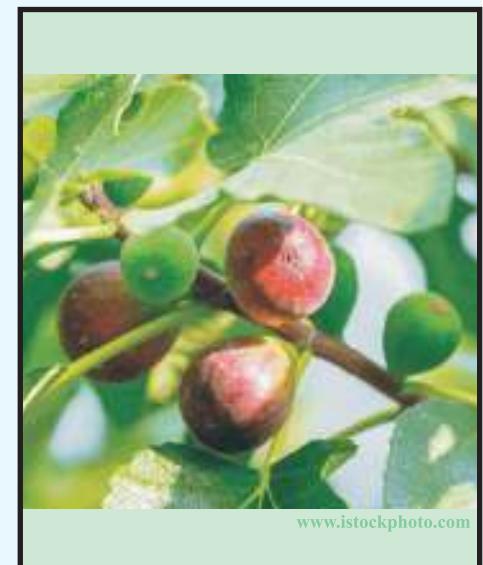
Al sou my kop aanhou probeer om my hart te verstaan, en my bid party dae moeg voor U kom kniel... Nogtans sal ek in U bly glo. Sal ek glo dat U hart goed is, en liefde is.

Nogtans sal ek elke mōre stil luister of ek U Stem hoor. Want dit is U wat vir my die krag gee om elke oggend op te staan en my stukkie pad voluit te stap. Dit is U wat my hart se huil stilmaak en die stukkies verlang gaan wegberé,

daar waar dit hoort.

Dit is U wat die verlede se onthou toevou in U hande, en dit eenkant neersit, daar waar dit my nie meer kan raaksien nie.

Dit is U wat langs my kniel en my optel as die pad vir my te lank word. Daarom sal ek glimlag oor U. Daarom sal ek elke oggend U vrede diep in my hart gaan wegberé. Daarom sal ek my kop oplig en die lewe stil in die oë kyk... Want U, Here, loop saam met my. Elke dag. Altijd. En dit is vir my genoeg!



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HULPKRETE!!!

Tuimel-swaai na benede. In die onmeetlike watermassa die uitgestrekte arms van 'n wanhopige. Met die uiterste konsentrasie word die helikopter geloods en die redder gryp-gryp na die drenkeling. Met groot moeite en durfkrag word die ellendige na bo gehys en na veiligheid gebring.

Hoeveel keer het ons al sulke tonele op die TV-skerm aanskou. Noodtoestande as gevolg van watervloede in baie lande het aanspraak gemaak op die waagmoed en dapperheid van menige reddingswerker.

Telkemale egter die ontstellende wete: daar is soveel hulpbehoewendes, maar veels te min reddingswerkers om almal te help te snel. Talle naamlose mense verdwyn in watergrafe en dit sal maande, selfs dalk jare duur, om al die vermistes op te spoor en al die skade te herstel wat aangerig is.

Hierdie krisissituasies gryp 'n mens aan die hart. Jy sien dit, jy hoor daarvan, en jou menswees weet daarvan. Maar sien ons die geestelike nood rondom ons werklik raak? Hoor ons die hulpkrete van drenkelinge wat ook so in die malende, kolkende watermassas van sonde en ontoereikendheid uitroep? Voel ons hulle leid in ons diepste menswees? **Of het ons só onbetrokke en afgestomp geraak wat die geestestoestand van mense aanbetrif dat ons maar net verbystap?** Hoeveel reddingswerkers is daar wat mense na God, die Groot Redder, rig en bring? **Kom ons kyk weer, luister weer en voel weer in hierdie gebroke wêreld. Kom ons maak 'n verskil in die lewens van mense!**

©Huegene Venter

Influence

"They took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13 NIV).

Being 'under the influence' means to be controlled by something or someone. Our family and friends, backgrounds, activities, and media choices all influence us and shape who we are. It works like this: our lives influence our thinking, our thinking influences our actions, our actions influence our character, and our character determines our destiny.

The best Influencer we can have, is Jesus. We need to allow Him to speak into our hearts and minds. The more time we spend with Him, the more we'll become like Him. When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they were transformed to the extent that some people thought they were drunk!

But Peter said: "These people are

not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people'" (Acts 2:15-17 NIV).

Two chapters later, we read this: *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13 NIV).*

The Holy Spirit, Who is the Influence of Christ, transforms our lives. Let's be under His influence!

So what now? **Who do you spend the most time with**, what social media do you tap into the most? Ask God if they're having a good influence on you or if there are any influences you need to step back from.

- Selected

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's Voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the One Who will keep you on track. (Proverbs 3:5-6, The Message Bible)

You do not get to choose the events that come your way, nor the sorrows that interrupt your life. They will likely be a surprise to you, catching you off guard and unprepared. You may hold your head in your hands and lament your weak condition and wonder what you ought to do. To suffer is common to all. To suffer and still keep your composure, your faith, and your smile, that is remarkable.

Pain will change you more profoundly than success or good fortune. Suffering shapes your perception of life, your values and priorities, and your goals and dreams. Your pain is changing you!

- Pastor David Crosby

Die Heer het Waarlik Opgestaan!

Deur die eue het mense die opstanding van Jesus Christus ontken. Die Jode het gesê dat Sy dissipels Sy lyk gesteel het (Matt. 28:12 - 15).

Vandag is daar geleerdes wat sê dat die vroeë kerk die storie versin het dat Hy uit die dood opgestaan het, om sodoende die herinnering aan Jesus lewend te hou. Dit is nou behalwe die openlike ongelowiges wat net eenvoudig nie glo nie.

Maar 'n mens hoef nie noodwendig die opstanding van Jesus te ontken om nogtans 'n streep deur die betekenis van die opstanding te trek nie. Jy kan selfs elke Sondag saam met die gemeente bely dat Hy op die derde dag uit die dood opgestaan het, maar dan tog nie leef vanuit die implikasies van die opstanding nie.

Paulus sê in 1 Kor. 15 dat as daar geen opstanding van die dooies (letterlik lyke) is nie (v. 13), dan is Christus ook nie uit die dood opgewek nie.

Dan is ons prediking tevergeefs - sonder inhoud. Dan vertel ons maar net 'n mooi storie. Dan is ons geloof sonder inhoud en waardeloos. En dan is die apostels (Petrus, Johannes en Paulus) valse getuies van God. Maar dwarsdeur die eue (20 eue!) het die kerk gepreek: Die Heer het waarlik opgestaan!

As Christus nie uit die dood opgestaan het nie, dan kan ons maar ophou om elke Sondag 'n erediens te hou; die kerkdeure sluit. Dan is ons voorouers, wat reeds in die graf is, verlore! Dan hoef ons ook nie verder Bybel te lees of te bid of sendingwerk te doen nie. Dan is die lewe "een groot grap"

(Jean-Paul Satre).

Maar nou! Christus is opgewek uit die dood (v. 20)! In die oorspronklike taal van die Nuwe Testament (Grieks) word hier 'n werkwoordsvorm gebruik wat wys na 'n saak wat gebeur het en wat vasstaan. Wat waar en seker is en waarvan die gevolge nog in die hede impak maak. Dus preek Paulus: Jesus Christus het opgestaan uit die dood en die gevolge van Sy opstanding geld deur die eue - tot vandag!

Daarom is 'n lewe wat nie geleef word vanuit die implikasie dat ons as gelowiges ook sal opstaan uit die dood nie, 'n sinlose en doellose lewe. Dan is alles tevergeefs. Dan is my troos in lewe en dood nie dat ek aan Jesus Christus behoort nie (Heidelbergse Katechismus 1), maar dan leef ek net vir die genietinge wat hierdie aardse

lewe my kan gee. Maar wat maak jy dan as jy die laaste groot vyand in die oë moet kyk? Die groot generaal: Generaal DOOD. Dán besef jy dat alles verganklik is en begryp jy waarom sommige mense sover kom om 'n rewolwer teen hulle kop te druk en die sneller te trek. Dan is alles HOPELOOS! Paassondag sê egter: Die dood is dood. Die angel van die dood is uitgetrek. Die doelloosheid van die niks, die grysheid, die leegheid is weg. Jesus Christus het dit weg-geneem!

In jou krisis, as jy doodsbenuoud is, as jy weet die kanker is aan die versprei... Nog ses maande, dalk bietjie langer, maar die einde kom. Dan het jy hoop wat oor graf en dood triomfeer: **Christus leef en ek sal met Hom opstaan tot 'n nuwe lewe!**

-Ds. Koos Mouton, 082 925 3959.

Met Watter Woorde Begin Jy Jou Dag?

Met watter woorde begin jy elke oggend jou dag?

- Moses sou sê: "Here, as U nie saam met ons vooruitgaan nie, laat ons dan net hier bly."
- Abraham sou sê: "Die Here sal voorsien."
- Jakob sou sê: "Ek sal U nie laat gaan totdat U my geseën het nie."
- Josua sou sê: "Ek en my huis, ons sal die Here dien."
- Samuel sou sê: "Spreek Here, U dienskneeg luister."
- Nehemia sou sê: "Die blydskap in die Here is my beskutting."
- Dawid sou sê: "Die Here is my Herder, niks sal my ontbreek nie" en "Dit is die dag wat die Here gemaak het, laat ons daaroor juig en bly wees."
- Salomo sou sê: "Vertrou die Here met jou hele hart en steun nie op jou eie insigte nie. In alles wat jy doen maak dit bekend aan die Here en Hy sal jou paaie gelyk maak."
- Jesaja sou sê: "Staan op, word verlig want jou lig kom en die heerlikheid van die Here gaan voor jou op. Geen wapen wat teen my gesmee word sal iets uitrig nie."
- Jeremia sou sê: "Die Here het planne om my voorspoedig te maak en sal my nie teleurstel nie."
- Jabes sou sê: "U sal my seën en my grondgebied vermeerder."
- Sadrag, Mesag en Abednégo sou sê: "Ons buig voor geen beeld nie, maar ons sal die Here dien."
- Eségiël sou sê: "Enige droë bene in my lewe sal weer lewe."

Cast Your Cares

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7 KJV).

Cast your cares, fears, worries, concerns, and anxieties over to Him. He is your strong Tower. When you are in Christ, you are shielded by His Blood. The Blood of Jesus breaks every curse, destroys your fears, and breaks every torment of the past. Choose to surrender to His Name.

Philippians 2:10 declares, "That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." There is no sickness, no disease, no demonic force, no principality, no throne, no dominion, no authority that can outrank or dethrone the Name of Jesus. In the Name of Jesus, sickness must flee. In the Name of Jesus, all forms of cancer must dry up. In the Name of Jesus, fear must bow and flee! In the Name of Jesus Christ, limbs are renewed, minds are restored, and families are made whole. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Heaven stands at attention. Choose to run into His Tower!

Don't go forward in your own strength. Don't try to conquer your battle in your own strength. Submit to the strong Tower.

Submit to the Name of Jesus - the Name above every name. Move forward in His strength!

Zechariah 4:6 declares, "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.'"

This is the Word of the Lord to you: God is your strength. He is your strong Tower. Move according to His Word. Submit to His power. Submit to His authority and worship Him. It's not by your own power. It's not by your own might, intellect, and strength. Success, promotion, advancement, and enlargement come from God.

Execute in His timing. Execute in His season. Execute according to His plan. Cast your cares. Cast your dreams. Cast your plans. Cast your desires on Him. Cast and surrender your heart to Him.

"Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed" (Proverbs 16:3 AMPC).

- Selected

WAAR LIEFDE IS, IS GOD

(Na 'n verhaal van Leo Tolstoi)
In 'n kelderkamertjie onder straatvlak het Martin Avedéitsch skoene gemaak. Dag vir dag het hy oor sy lees gebuk gesit, en wanneer hy 'n keer opkyk, kon hy deur die smal venstertjie bo sy kop net die voete uitmaak van die mense wat op straatvlak verbygeeloop het. Die meeste van daardie skoene het hy self gemaak.

Martin was 'n eensame man. In sy armoede moes hy so hard werk dat hy skaars tyd gehad het om met ander mense om te gaan. Sy enigste gespreksgenoot was God. Namate hy ouer geword het, het die verlange in sy hart gegroei om dié God tot Wie hy so baie gebid het, een keer van nader te leer ken.

Toe droom hy een nag dat Christus aan Hom verskyn en sê: "Martin, hou môre die straat dop, want Ek gaan jou kom besoek."

Die volgende dag was Martin gereed vir sy Besoeker. Vroeg reeds was sy koolsop, melkpap en broodjie gereed vir die belangrike Gas. Elke keer wanneer hy 'n onbekende paar

skoene sien verbykom, het hy opgestaan om deur die smal venstertjie die gesig te probeer uitmaak. Hoe sou Hy lyk?

Toe kies ou Stepánitch, die straatveér, om reg voor die venster te kom staan. Eintlik daardeen aan te leun. Want sy verskrompelde ou lyf was duidelik nie in staat om die sneeu weg te spit soos van hom verwag is nie. Ongeduldig, omdat sy Gas enige oomblik kon opdaag, klop Martin teen die ruit en nooi die ou man in om hom 'n bietjie te kom warm maak by die vuurherd.

Een koppie tee het twee geword en later drie, want ou Stepánitch het lang stories gehad. Martin het maar geduldig geluister, maar elke keer skramms deur die venster geloer of Hy nog nie aankom nie.

Later was Martin se suiker op, maar ou Stepánitch se gesels nog nie. Martin het geluister en ingesien dat die ou drommel maar net so eensaam was soos hysself.

Toe die ou man uiteindelik vertrek, was Martin verbaas dat hy amper van sy Besoeker ver-

geet het.

Skaars was hy weg of Martin sien hoe 'n skraal ou vrouetjie met 'n huilende baba in haar arm teen die oorkantste muur gaan sit waar sy probeer om die kind teen die sneeuwind te beskerm.

"Kom in," roep hy. "Dit is darem warmer hier by my vuurherd." Dankbaar maak die vrou haartuis, maar die baba skreeu een stryk deur. "Is hy siek?" vra Martin. "Hunger!" antwoord sy en kyk verlangend na die papotjie wat op die vuurprut. Toe die vrouetjie later loop, was die pap op en die baba stil. En Martin het 'n vriendin gemaak.

Nou was dit al namiddag en steeds het die Here nie gekom nie. Sou hy wat Martin is Hom dalk verkeerd verstaan het? "Hou die straat dop; Ek gaan jou vandag kom besoek," het Hy tog gesê. Maar al wat dáár verbygaan, is die bekende skoene van Martin se klante.

Tot sy verbasing kry Martin Avedéitsch vandag soveel mense dat hy skaars kan werk. Nou is dit weer 'n kaalvoet-

seuntjie wat by sy venster kom klop om ingelaat te word toe 'n klomp straatbullebakke hom agtervolg. Martin nooi hom dus maar in en vertel 'n paar stories om hom te kalmeer. En stop hom 'n bekertjie sop in die hand teen die koue. Nou is daar byna niks oor vir die hoë Gas nie!

Teen donker gee Martin moed op dat die Here nog sal kom. Dit was, na alles, tog maar net 'n droom, dink hy.

Hy pak sy werkgoed weg, steek die lamp op en haal sy Bybel uit. Dit val asof vanself oop by Matteus 25:35 - *"Ek was hunger, en julle het My iets gegee om te eet; Ek was dors, en julle het My iets gegee om te drink; Ek was 'n vreemdeling, en julle het My gehuisves. Ek was sonder klere, en julle het My klere gegee; siek, en julle het My verpleeg; in die tronk, en julle het My besoek..."* Vir sover julle dit aan een van die geringste van hierdie broers van My gedoen het, het julle dit aan My gedoen." **Toe verstaan Martin wat die Here bedoel het...**

[Uit: Stories vir die Lewe-Omnibus, Lux Verbi]

UITERSTE TOEWYDING

William Tyndale het die Nuwe Testament in Engels vertaal. Dit is in Duitsland gedruk. Jare lank is hierdie klein testamentjies na Engeland gesmokkel totdat Tyndale deur 'n "vriend" verraai is.

Nadat hy vir kettery verhoor is, het hy 'n jaar in die tronk deurgebring in afwagting op sy teregstelling. Hy het die Ou Testament net betyds klaar in Engels vertaal voordat hy in 1536 op die brandstapel gesterf het. Daar het hy sy laaste gebed gebid: "Here, maak die koning se oë oop!" Die Here het! 'n Jaar later is die druk van die eerste wettige Engelse Bybel toegelaat. Vandag stem 90% van die King James Bible woordeliks ooreen met Tyndale se werk!

* * * * *

Nikolai Khamara het as 'n dief tronk toe gegaan en as a Christen uitgekom. Na die inhegtenisneming van sy pastoor, het die owerhede gedreig om Khamara te martel om ondergrondse geheime van die pastoor te verkry. Khamara het sy pastoor verseker: "Ek gee nie om om vir Christus te ly nie."

Hulle het toe Khamara se oë uitgesteek. Die pastoor het uitgeroep: "Hoe kan ek dit aanskou? Jy sal vir altyd blind wees!" Khamara het geantwoord: "Nou sal ek meer skoonheid sien as wat ek ooit met my oë gesien het. Ek sal die Verlosser sien!"

Hulle het toe gedreig om sy tong uit te sny. "Prys die Here Jesus Christus! Nou het ek die hoogste woorde gesê wat gesê kan word. Julle kan maar my tong uitsny!" Hierdie mense kon nie sy geloof breek nie. Hy het uiteindelik 'n martelaarsdood gesterf! [www.persecution.com]

Lieve Heer,

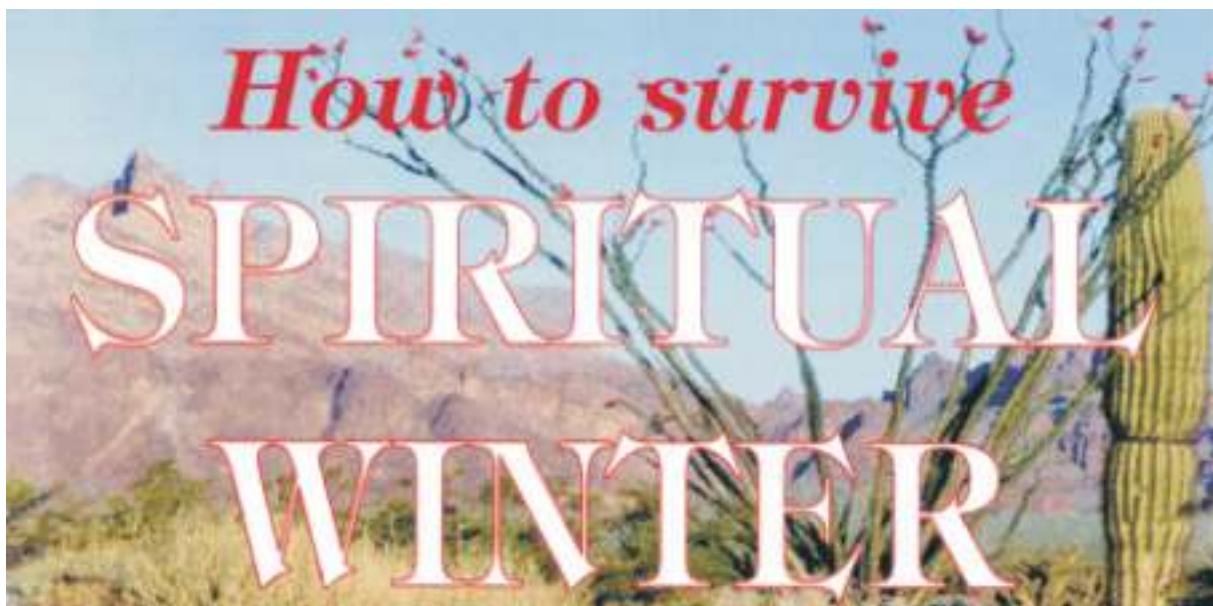
Omvou my met U liefde:

- *My verstand: om ander te verstaan en nie te minag nie.*
- *My gesig: om U liefde uit te straal na die wêrelde.*
- *My ore: Om in liefde na ander se probleme te luister en ook om U te gehoorsaam.*
- *My oë: Om ander deur U oë te sien en met hulle medelye te hê.*
- *My mond: om van U liefde te vertel en só ander te bemoedig.*
- *My hart: sodat ek ander kan vergewe en vrygewig kan wees.*
- *My hande: om in liefde vir U te werk sonder om vergoeding te verwag.*
- *My voete: om die pad van liefde, met die Ewige Lewe as eindbestemming, te stap en so ook 'n voorbeeld aan ander te stel.*

Omvou my vandag in u sagte, warm liefde en vriendelike teenwoordigheid, soos 'n snoesige kombersie 'n klein kindjie...

Laat my in liefde leef, in U liefde, tot gehoorsaamheid en redding van siele.

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Ever felt the bite of winter's wind? Maybe you have always lived in the sunshine and have escaped the snow and the sleet. It's unlikely, though, that you've avoided all the harsh and bleak of life. Spiritual winter, like nature's blizzard, can destroy and kill - freezing families, chilling churches, and cracking communities.

How do you cope when the howling winds of discouragement and adversity blow? To survive spiritual winter, study these four strategies:

PROPER ATTITUDE

Winter is not an enemy. Why? "God made winter" (Read Psalm 74:17). The snowpack He sends in winter, waters the valleys on hot summer days. He creates the cold weather that kills pesky bugs. Many flowers He designed, demand a winter, or refuse to bloom.

However, like southbound snowbirds we tend to shun winter, to avoid the difficult. But hard is not bad, it is just hard. Like the months of cold, your spirit's wintertime is not your enemy. Receive the season. Let it kill corrosion of character, bring out the best of blooms, and develop a depth that detours drought.

PROPER CLOTHES

The amazing woman of Proverbs 31 dismissed the wail of wintery winds: "She fears not the snow for her family, for all her household are doubly clothed in scarlet" (Proverbs 31:21).

Why did the Holy Spirit tell us how to prepare for winter, also concerning our clothes? (Prov. 6:6) Merely a reminder to bundle up before embracing snow and storm? Hardly. God, like Proverb's virtuous woman, provides double protection from spiritual frostbite for His household, so that we can walk through winter without fear.

What does His winter wardrobe look like? Scarlet-coloured and doubly

thick! He provides both the blood-red robe of righteousness and the garment of praise. Like a cheery fire, praise in dark days warms the soul and lights up life, protecting us from spiritual frostbite. Make this double-layered look a must in your winter wear. (It's always "in" - whatever the season!)

PROPER LOCATION

Moving in winter on slippery roads is inconvenient and dangerous. Do you opt for flight when adversity blows? Like a spiritual snowbird, do you refuse to endure the gusts of God? Better wait till spring to decide if God really wants you to head for another place. Paul urged Timothy, "Do your utmost to come before winter" (2 Timothy 4:21). In Acts 27, people insisted on travelling too close to the stormy season. The result? Paul's famous shipwreck.

Are you in winter? A change in spouse, church, or address won't cure you. Stay put, pray, and wait for spring!

PROPER BELIEF

How do you survive winter? Although these wise Welsh words are true: "It's a long road that has no turning," winter is not endless. Let God's promise to Noah be yours: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22).

Are you in spiritual winter? Hang on, Spring is coming. One day you will look out of the window of your soul and sing with Solomon: "My beloved spoke, and said to me: 'Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!'" (Song of Solomon 2:10-13, NKJV).

The Letter

One day a woman named Louise fell asleep in her bed, and dreamt a very upsetting dream. She dreamt that someone in Hell wrote a letter to her, and it was to be delivered to her by a messenger. The messenger passed between the lakes of burning fire and brimstone that occupies Hell, and found his way to the door that would lead him to the outside world.

Louise dreamt that the messenger walked to her house, came inside, and gently - but firmly - woke Louise. He gave her the letter, saying only that a friend had written it to her from Hell. Louise, in her dream, with trembling hands, took the letter and read:

"My Friend, I stand in Judgment now,
And feel that you're to blame somehow.
On Earth, I walked with you day by day,
And never did you point the way.
You knew the Lord in truth and glory,
But never did you tell me the story.
My knowledge then was very dim;
You could have led me safe to Him!
Though we lived together on the earth,
You never told me of the second birth.
And now I stand this day condemned,
Because you failed to mention Him.
You taught me many things, that's true,
I called you "friend" and trusted you.
But I learn now that it is too late,
You could have kept me from this fate.
We walked by day and talked by night,
And yet you showed me not the Light.
You let me live, and love, and die,
You knew I would never live on high.
Yes, I called you a "friend" in life,
And trusted you through joy and strife.
And yet on coming to the end,
I cannot, now, call you 'My Friend'.
Marsha"

After reading the letter, Louise awoke. The dream was still so real in her mind and sweat dropped from her body in pools. She swore she could still smell the acrid smell of brimstone and smoke from her room. As she contemplated the meaning of her dream, she realised that as a Christian, she had failed in her duty to "go out to all the world and preach the Gospel." As she thought of that, she promised herself that during the next week or two, she would call Marsha and invite her to go to church with her. She eventually called Marsha and this was the conversation: "Morning Bill, is Marsha there?" "Louise, don't you know?" "No, Bill, know what?" "MARSHA WAS KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT LAST NIGHT. I thought you had known."

Fellow Christian, is this your testimony? Are you witnessing to your friends that you are with every day? Or will there be friends of yours in Hell, asking you why you did not tell them about JESUS? How many of your friends will hold you accountable for not telling them about Jesus and His love?

-Author Unknown

A Personal Matter

"The life of Christianity," said Luther, "consists of personal pronouns. It is one thing to say, 'Christ is a Saviour.' It is quite another to say, 'He is MY Saviour.' The devil can say the first. Only a true Christian can say the second. FRIEND, WHAT IS CHRIST TO YOU?

'n Siel Opgeveil

Die vermaarde Engelse prediker, Rowland Hill, was eenmaal besig om in een van die groter stede in Engeland te preek.

Mense het van heinde en verre na hom kom luister. In die middel van sy rede hou daar 'n koets voor die deur stil, en die volgende oomblik kom Lady Anne Erskine die kerk binne. Sy was iemand wat bekend was vir haar rykdom en liefde vir vertoon, 'n ster van die hoogste orde by elke dans-party, konsert en opvoering, maar 'n seldsame besoeker aan enige kerk waar God met erns aanbid is. Sy het van Rowland Hill gehoor en wou hom graag eenmaal hoor preek "net om haarself te behaag."

Die oomblik toe die prediker haar sien, kom die gedagte by hom op dat 'n spesiale geleentheid aan hom vergun was om 'n siel van diens te wees.

Meteens onderbreek hy sy rede, strek sy hand uit in haar rigting en sê met 'n kragtige stem: "Kyk, hier kom Lady Anne Erskine. Kom ons veil haar siel op!"

Die verbasing van die dame was onbeskryflik! Alle oë was nou op

haar gerig, en sy het gevoel asof sy in die grond kon weg sink, maar sy het dit onmoontlik gevind om haarte ont trek.

Die prediker se stem het weer deur die gebou weer klink:

"Wie sal Lady Anne Erskine se siel koop?" Vir 'n oomblik het hy stilgebly nadat hy hierdie merkwaardige vraag gevra het, en toe vervolg hy: "Ek sien verskeie begerige kopers wat gewillig is om hulle prys te betaal."

"Wêreld, wat sal jy daarvoor betaal?"

"Ek sal al die prag en heerlikheid waaroer ek beskik, gee, eer en invloed, 'n lewe van weelde en genotvolle tye."

"Niks meer nie? Geen onsterflikheid en ewige lewe daarby nie?"

"Dit besit ek self nie."

"Dan is jou prys te laag vir ons. Wêreld, jy sal haar nie kry nie! Want wat sou dit die dame baat as sy die hele wêreld sou win en haar eie siel sou sy verloor?"

"Nou, Satan, wat is jou bod?"

"Ek bied die lus van die oë, die lus van die vlees en die trots van die lewe. By my kan sy haar eie sin kry, al haar begeertes bevredig en

die wêreld se beker van genot tot op die bodem ledig."

"En wat eis jy in ruil daarvoor?"

"Haar siel; dat sy eens en vir altyd in my mag kom."

"Die prys is te hoog vir ons: Jy sal haar ook nie kry nie, Satan, want jy is 'n moordenaar van die begin af, 'n leuenaar en die vader van die leuen!"

"En nou, Here Jesus, wat sal U gee?"

"Ek het reeds My eie lewe vir die dame gegee. Ek het My bloed vir haar gestort toe Ek aan die kruis die rantsoen betaal het vir die hele wêreld. Ek sal haar siel vervul met 'n vrede wat alle verstand te bowe gaan. Ek sal haar genieting gee wat die wêreld nie kan gee en nie kan wegneem nie."

"Ek sal haar beklee met die kleed van geregtigheid en haar met die goud van die geloof versier. Ek sal haar as 'n seëlring bewaar, en niemand sal haar uit My hand ruk nie. En wanneer sy haar wedloop in die geloof voleindig het, sal Ek haar na Myself in heerlikheid opneem, want waar Ek is, daar sal My dienaar ook wees."

"En wat vra U in ruil vir al hierdie heerlike gawes?"

"Haar sonde, haar slechte gewete,

alles wat haar innerlik verdruk en kwel."

"Here Jesus, U sal haar kry. Uwe is sy en Uwe sal sy bly tot in alle ewigheid!"

"Lady Erskine, is u tevrede?"

"Ja," antwoord sy met 'n luide, vaste stem, terwyl 'n golf van ontroering deur die hele vergadering trek.

En Lady Erskine het haar woord gehou. Van daardie oomblik af het sy van lewenswyse verander. Sy het al haar versiersels en tierlantyntjies afgelê en alle ydele plesier en wêrelde geselskap versaad.

Sy het 'n vriendin en moeder geword vir almal wat siek en arm, ellendig en in nood was. Niemand het meer heilige ywer vir die saak van Christus aan die dag gelê en meer opgeoffer as hierdie eertydse wêrelde vrou nie. Haar hele lewe deur het sy God se opsoekende liefde geprys wat haar na daardie diens gelei het en haar op so 'n kragtige wyse losgeskeur het uit die kloue van die wêreld en sy vors, die satan!

Uit: Wegwyser na die Ewigheid - Timo Kriel.

Voetspore...

'n Dronkaard het een nag weer voortgestompel na die kroeg... Buite het dit swaar gesneeu, maar sy dranklus het hom voortgedryf.

By die armoedige huisie het die moeder en kinders met angs op sy tuiskoms gewag.

Met haar neusie plat teen die ruit vasgedruk, het een klein dogtertjie na die sneeu buite gekyk.

En toe sien sy dit! Die diep spore in die sneeu!

Sonder om te aarsel het sy die voordeur oopgemaak en uitgeglip. Haar treetjies het lank gerek om in die groot voetspore te bly, tot daar waar die helder ligte van die kantien gewink het. Toe die vader opkyk, was hy gesok om die kind daar te sien.

Op sy vraag, "Hoe het jy hier

gekom?" was die helder antwoord: "Ek het net in Pa se voetspore gevolg!"

Dié woorde van 'n onskuldige kind was die oorsaak van hierdie vader se redding.

Onthou! Jy loop nie jou pad alleen nie!

[Van die Here ontvang - Gabrielle Malan].



Jer. 20:11

★★★ **B&B** *Uit die Hand*

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