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EK Dank U, Here

... vir al U seëninge.

Dankie dat U altyd daar was...

in sonnige en droewige, bewolkte dae...

in vredsame agtermiddae en lang, donker nagte...

in gesondheid en ongesteldheid...

in al die blydskap en droefheid wat ek ondervind het.

Dankie, Here vir vriendelike glimlagte, helpende hande, liefde en al die wonderlike dinge wat ek ontvang het.

Vir blomme, sterre, kinders en liefdevolle familie en vriende.

Maar dankie ook vir die valleie, onseker tye en trane, omdat al hierdie dinge my nader aan U gebring het.

Dankie dat U my bewaar het, gevoed het, en voorsien het in al my behoeftes.

Wat hou die toekoms vir my in? Dit wat U wil gee, Here. Skenk my geloof om U raak te sien te midde van alle lewensomstandighede. Skenk my hoop en moed om nooit op te gee nie, en liefde... meer liefde vir U elke dag en vir almal rondom my.

Skenk my geduld, nederigheid, onderdanigheid, en 'n vrygewige hart.

Gee vir my, Here, dit wat U weet goed is vir my, selfs die dinge wat ek nie weet hoe om te vra nie.

Gee my 'n gehoorsame hart, 'n sensitiewe oor, en aktiewe hande sodat ek my kan onderwerp aan U volmaakte wil vir my lewe.

Seën my geliefdes en bring vrede in die harte van die mensdom.

Amen.



Sout van die Aarde en Lig vir die Wêreld

Ek luister vanoggend na 'n uitsending op TV wat handel oor 'n vrouekieketspan wat vermoedelik uit Kimberley gekom het en sodanig presteer het dat hulle die trofee gewen het. Die TV-aanbieder het opgemerk: "Die mense van die Noord-Kaap is waarlik die Sout van Die aarde!"

Het die persoon wat die opmerking gemaak het waarlik begryp wat dit beteken om "sout van die aarde" te wees binne die konteks van Jesus se woorde, en waar hierdie begrip regtig vandaan kom?

Jesus sê vir Sy volgelinge: "Julle is die sout van die aarde, maar as die sout laf geword het, waarmee sal dit gesout word? Dit deug nêrens meer voor as om buite gegooi en deur die mense vertrap te word nie. Julle is die lig van die wêreld. 'n Stad wat bo-op 'n berg lê, kan nie weggesteek word nie; en 'n mens steek ook nie 'n lamp op en sit dit onder die maatemmer nie, maar op die staander, en dit skyn vir almal wat in die huis is. Laat julle lig só skyn voor die mense, dat hulle julle goeie werke kan sien en julle Vader wat in die hemele is, verheerlik" (Matt. 5:13 - 5:16).

Voor hierdie gebeure sê die Woord aangaande Jesus Christus: "In Hom was lewe, en die lewe was die lig van die mense. En die lig skyn in die duisternis, en die duisternis het dit nie oorweldig nie" (Joh. 1:4-5). Jesus Self het gesê: "Ek is die lig van die wêreld; wie My volg, sal sekerlik nie in die duisternis wandel nie, maar sal die lig van die lewe hê" (Joh 8:12). Jesus het dan ook hierdie lig aan Sy dissipels en elke kind van God

oorgedra. **Ons is sout en lig!**

Daar word vertel van Charles Finney (1792 - 1875), 'n ware gebedsheld, dat hy net na 'n spotter gekyk het en dat hierdie spotter tot bekering gekom het. Sodanig is die werk van God in die lewe van 'n geesvervulde persoon wat 'n werktuig van God is!

'n Ander prediker Evan Roberts (1878 - 1951) en ook 'n gebedsheld, was 'n Calvinistiese Metodis. Hy het net oor die gemeente heen gekyk en dan het hulle so onder die oortuiging van hulle sonde gekom dat hulle hul tot God bekeer het.

Net soos Jesus, in Wie se voetspore ons loop, word ware gelowiges egter ook vervolg en verdruk (Joh. 16:33), terwyl tekens en wonders en kragtige dade deur hulle plaasvind. Stéfanus, die eerste martelaar vir Jesus wat hulle gestenig het, het vir die Skrifgeleerde en Fariseërs gesê: "Watter een van die profete het julle vaders nie vervolg nie? Ja, hulle het dié gedood wat vooraf die koms verkondig het van die Regverdige, van Wie julle nou verraaiers en moordenaars geword het; julle wat die wet deur die beskikkinge van engele ontvang het en tog nie onderhou het nie!" (Hand. 7:52-53).

Jesus Self het vir die Skrifgeleerde en Fariseërs gesê: "Slange, addergeslag, hoe sal julle die oordeel van die hel ontvlug? Daarom, kyk, Ek stuur profete en wyse manne en skrifgeleerde na julle toe, en julle sal sommige van hulle doodmaak en kruisig en sommige van hulle in jul sinagoges gésel en van die een stad

na die ander vervolg, sodat oor julle kan kom al die regverdige bloed wat vergiet is op die aarde, van die bloed van die regverdige Abel af tot op die bloed van Sagaria, die seun van Berégja, wat julle vermoor het tussen die tempel en die altaar" (Matt. 23:33-35).

Kom ons kyk na nog voorbeeld van kragtige gebed en vervolging. Jakobus skryf aangaande Elia: "Elia was 'n mens net soos ons, en hy het ernstig gebid dat dit nie moes reën nie, en dit het op die aarde drie jaar en ses maande lank nie gereën nie; en hy het weer gebid, en die hemel het reën gegee en die aarde het sy vrug laat uitspruit" (Jak. 5:17-18).

Volg ook die gebeure in 1 Kon. 18 toe Elia die profete van Baäl gekonfronteer het en hy vuur uit die hemel afgebid het. Daarna is hy wrede vervolg en wou hulle hom doodmaak.

Die Woord sê: "maar self het hy 'n dagreis ver die woestyn ingegaan en daar onder 'n besembos gaan sit en gewens dat hy mag sterwe. En hy sê: Dit is genoeg, neem nou my siel weg, HERE, want ek is nie beter as my vaders nie. Daarop gaan hy lê en raak onder 'n besembos aan die slaap; en kyk, daar raak 'n engel hom aan en sê vir hom: Staan op, eet! Toe hy opkyk, was daar aan sy koppenent 'n broodkoek, op warm klippe gebak, en 'n kruik water. En hy het geéet en gedrink en weer gaan lê. En die engel van die HERE het weer vir die tweede maal gekom en hom aangeraak en gesê: Staan op, eet; anders is die pad vir jou te veel. Hy het toe opgestaan en geéet en gedrink en deur die krag van die voedsel veertig dae en veertig nagte lank geloop tot by

die berg van God, Horeb" (1 Kon. 19:4-8). Toe het hy by die berg Horeb gekom en in die spelonk met God ontmoet, waar God met hom gepraat het. Só ondersteun God Sy profete en diensknegte wat by Hom skuil.

Al Sy diensknegte en kinders ondersteun Hy op 'n kragtige wyse wanneer hulle die sout van die aarde en die lig vir die wêreld is. In die verdrukking is Hy met jou om jou ook te ondersteun om Sy lig in die wêreld uit te stuur. En dít is nie moeilik nie. Elkeen moet net jou hele lewe aan Hom oorgee en in die Heilige Gees wandel (Gal. 5:22). Want Jesus het gesê: "Sonder My kan julle niks doen nie" (Joh. 15:5). Jesus sal Sy lig deur jou laat skyn!

*Without Him, I could do nothing,
Without Him, I'd surely fail.
Without Him, I would be drifting,
Like a ship without a sail.
Jesus, Oh Jesus.
Do you know Him today?
Please don't turn Him away.
Oh Jesus, Oh Jesus!
Without Him, how lost I would be.
Without Him, I'd be dying,
Without Him, I'd be enslaved;
Without Him, life would be worthless
But with Jesus, thank God, I'm saved!*

Sal jy jou lewe vandag nog aan Jesus oorgee om waarlik sout en lig te wees? Dan sal jy ook in krisistye "Brood op warm klippe" en 'n "kruik met water" ontvang. God Self sal by jou kom woning maak omdat jy jou aan Hom oorgee het, en Hom nie verwerp of geminag of verloën het nie.

©Dr JJ Venter

Paid in Full!

Years ago I attended an evangelistic meeting and heard an illustration which has deeply impressed me through the years. This illustration is used again by Walter B. Knight in the *Gospel Herald*. He wrote, "Dr. Howard A Kelly was a renowned physician and surgeon, and, withal, a devout practicing Christian.

During the summer holidays when in medical school, Dr. Kelly sold books to help with expenses. Becoming thirsty, he stopped one day at a farmhouse for a glass of water. A girl came to the door. When he asked for a glass of water, she kindly said, "I will give you a glass of milk if you wish!" He drank the cool, refreshing milk

heartily.

"The years passed, Dr. Kelly graduated from medical school, and became the chief surgeon in the John Hopkins Hospital. One day, a patient was admitted to the great hospital. She was from a rural area and was seriously ill. She was given special care, being placed in a private room with a private nurse. The skilled chief surgeon spared no effort to make the patient well. After undergoing surgery, she convalesced rapidly.

"One day, she was told by the head nurse, 'Tomorrow you will go home!' Though her joy was great, it was somewhat lessened by the thought of the large bill she must owe the hospital and the

surgeon. She asked for it. The nurse said, "I will bring it to you!" She brought the itemized bill. With a heavy heart, the patient began to read the different items from the top downward. She sighed. But as her eyes lowered, she saw the following notation at the bottom of the large bill: 'Paid in full with one glass of milk!' Signed: Howard A. Kelly, M.D."

The greatest debt that anyone can owe is the debt of sin. When we look at the sins which we have committed through the years it is natural to ask, "How can I have the debt of my sins cancelled?" Then we stop and remember the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary and we are reminded that He paid our sin debt there and all

that we have to do is accept what Christ has done on our behalf and we will have the debt of sin removed.

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left
a crimson stain,
He washed it
white as snow.*

Would you like to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour now? Confess your sins, and ask Him to come into your heart.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (John 1:12). [52 Soul-stirring Illustrations, Billy Apostolon, Baker Book House, 1974].

ARE YOU A SHINING LIGHT?

In the work place, even the tiniest light brings glory to the Father. Believe that you can make a difference for Christ right where you are! **Nothing combats darkness like light!**

A single match, a flashlight, or a light bulb can overtake great darkness, and no amount of darkness can overtake even the smallest light.

Matthew 5:14-16 says, "You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven."

Another version says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven."

No matter how small your light, remember that in a dark world, it's a very bright light that brings glory to your Father! Today I hope you will believe that you can make a difference for Christ right where you are. Take a look at the following L-I-G-H-T acrostic to see how.

L – Love people unconditionally.

The most authentic way to display Christlikeness is to love without condition. This is unchanging love without bounds, affection without limits, and care under all circumstances. It's love unhindered by pressuring those you

love to perform. Romans 12:10 says it best: "Be devoted to one another in love."

I – Invest in people.

I like what John Maxwell says, "If you live life with the intention of making a difference in others' lives, your life will be full, not empty. That is the true reason for living."

G – Go the second mile.

(Anyone can go the first mile). Luke 6: 27 says, "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you,

do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

H – Hold others in high esteem.

Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

T – Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Luke 6:31 says, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." To be the light of Christ, just think about how it feels to be in someone's shoes, then act with compassion. As you interact with others today in your office, remember that just a little light makes a big difference.

- Selected

BOKHUTLO JWA NAKO LE PHALA YA MORENA

(The End of Time and the Trumpet of the Lord)

DITEMANA

Gonne Morena ka esi o tla fologa kwa legodimong ka mokgosi le ka lentswe la moengele yo mogolo le ka phala ya Modimo, mme baswi ba ba swetseng mo go Keresete ba tla tsoga pele. Morago ga moo rona ba re setseng re sa ntse re tshela re tla tsholelediwa kwa loaping ka maru mmogo le bone go ya go kgatlhantsha Morena. Mme jalo re tla nna le Morena ka gale (1 Bathesalonika 4:16).

Reetsa, ke tla tla jaaka legodu. Go sego yo o itsitseng, a apere dia-paro gore a se tsamae a sa apara, batho ba bona bosaikatega jwa gagwe! (Tshenolo 16:15).

Jaanong, bakaulengwe, ga go batlege gore lo kwalelwé ka ga dipaka le dinako; gonne lona ka losi lo itse sentle gore letsatsi la Morena le tla tla fela jaaka legodu bosigo (1 Bathesalonika 5:1-2).

DIKAKANYO

Beibele e re bolelela gore ka bokhutlo jwa nako go tla na le mokgosi le lentswe la moengele le phala ya Modimo. Fa se se dira-gala batho botlhe ba ba dumelang kgotsa ba ba ne ba dumela mo go Jesu pele ba tlhokafala ba tla gapelwa legodimong. Se ke go tla ga Jesu go tla go tsaya bana ba Gagwe, kereke ya Gagwe. Nako e ya go tla ga Morena ga e itsiwe ke batho. Se re tshwanetseng go se dira nako yotlhe ke gore re dule re

ipaakantse. Fela jaaka wena fa o ka itse gore magodu a na le mai-kaelelo a go tla go thuba le go utswa mo gagago.

Fa o itsisiwa gore ka moso mai-tseboa magodu a tla mo ntlong ya gago go tla go utswa dilo tsa gago, o ne o ka dirang? A o ne o ka ithobalela fela kgotsa o ne o ka ba emela mme o thibe gore seo se se diragale? Go tla ga Jesu go fela jalo. Batho ba ba itseng Beibele thata le ba ba dumelang mo Modimong mme ba amogetse Jesu go nna Mopholosi wa bone wa nneta ba siame.

Ba a itse gore fa go tla ga Jesu go diragala ga ba kitla ba sala kampo ba tlodelwa fa Jesu a tla. A wena o itse ka nneta gore o siame? Jaanong o ka mpotsa gore ke dire eng go ka itse le go ka na le kagiso gore ke pholositswe? Le mo Beibeleng go ne go na le monna Nikotemo. A ne a botsa Jesu gore a ka pholosiwa jang?

Jesu o mo tlhaloseditse ka go re: "Mme Morwa-Motho o tshwanetse go tlhatlosiwa, jaaka Moše a kile a tlhatlosa noga kwa sekakeng, gore mongwe le mongwe yo o dumelang mo go ene, a se latlhege, mme a nne le bophelo jo bo sa khutleng. Gonne Modimo o ratile lefatshe mo go kalo, mo o bileng wa le neela Morwaa-on a yo o tsetsweng a le esi, gore mongwe le mongwe yo o dumelang mo go

ene a se ka a latlhenga, mme a nne le bophelo jo bo sa khutleng. Kana Modimo ga o a roma Morwaa-on a mo lefatsheng gore a atlhole lefatshe, mme e le gore lefatshe le pholosiwe ka ene.

"Yo o dumelang mo go ene ga a atlholwe. Yo o sa dumeleng o setse a atlhotswe, ka a se ka a dumela mo leineng la Morwa Modimo yo o tsetsweng a le esi."

Le wena o ka dira jaaka Nikotemo. O ka amogela Jesu gone jaanong. O tshwanetse go rapela fela mme o bolelele Modimo gore o amo-gela Morwaa-on a mme o dumela gore o go pholositse ka go go swela mo sefapaanong. Fa o dira se o tlabo o ipaakantse mme o tlabo o amogela bophelo jo bo sa khutleng.

RAPELA THAPELO E E LATE-LANG: Ntate Modimo, ke dumela mo go Jesu Keresete le gore Ene o swetse dibe tsa me mo sefa-paanong.

Ke mo amogela go nna Mopholosi wa me mme go tloga gompieno ke dumela mo Modi-mong wa Beibele e e Boitshepo. Ke kopa gore o ntshwarele dibe tsa me mme nthuse ke nna ngwana wa Gago. AMEN.

Reetsa sefela se se latelang sa "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

https://youtu.be/HjnKXb7bR_o



Johan Zerwick
Sêle ke 083 458 3837

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

*When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.*

On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of his resurrection share;
When his chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.
Let us labour for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care;
Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.
https://youtu.be/HjnKXb7bR_o

WHAT IS HAPPENING WORLDWIDE?

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Cor. 14:8).

Many Crises

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days" (James 5:1-3).

In the summer of 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic raged, the *World Economic Forum* set its agenda for the year and proclaimed that it was time for the world to undergo a "Great Reset." A plethora of documents posted on the elitist group's website make it abundantly clear that they had every intention of using the crisis to change the world forever. For example, an article published on June 3, 2020, declares in its headline, "Now is the time for a 'great reset.'" The piece, which was penned by the *Forum's* chief executive, Klaus Schwab, states, "The pandemic represents a rare but narrow window of opportunity to reflect, reimagine, and reset our world to create a healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous future."

Another article published by the *Forum* quotes the former Prince of Wales, who is now King Charles III of the United Kingdom. "There is a golden opportunity to seize something good from this crisis... global crises know no borders and highlight how interdependent we are as one people sharing one planet," Charles said. These comments imply an almost giddy excitement at the prospect of transforming the world even as billions of people were suffering.

A month later in July 2020, the *Forum* published an additional article written by Schwab and economist Thierry Malleret, which states, "A new world could emerge, the contours of which it is incumbent on us to reimagine and to redraw." The article later asks, "Will there be enough collective will to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to reimagine our world, in a bid to make it a better and more resilient one as it emerges on the other side of this crisis?"

As the Covid-19 pandemic fades

into the past, few would argue that the world emerged from that crisis better than it was before. In reality, the world is more dangerous and volatile than ever, and many of the problems wreaking havoc on our planet are byproducts of the Covid-19 crisis. Extraordinary lockdown measures prompted the United States government to dole out billions upon billions of dollars in stimulus money, which created an imbalance of supply and demand. This imbalance caused a supply chain crisis, which then sparked an inflation crisis.

As the pandemic dragged on and people were forced to spend more time at home, throngs of Americans decided a change of scenery might be the best course of action. The housing market surged and led to such an astronomical rise in home values that many Americans, especially young adults, were priced out of the market and could only dream of owning their own homes. Thus, we had a housing crisis.

To combat inflation, the Federal Reserve began aggressively raising interest rates in 2022. In total, the Fed hiked interest rates seven times last year and has already raised rates twice in 2023. These rate hikes made borrowing money significantly more expensive and caused financial institutions difficulties, leading to the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in March 2023. Now we have a banking crisis.

To make matters worse, the Russian invasion of Ukraine a little over a year ago sparked a war that is unlikely to end soon and has already come at a horrifying cost. A report from the Associated Press estimates that as many as 200 000 Russian soldiers have been wounded or killed, while Ukraine has suffered more than 100 000 casualties.

Newsweek claims that Russia lost more than a thousand soldiers in just one day in early March 2023. The United States and countries in Europe have poured tens of billions of dollars into the war effort and have given Ukraine large amounts of ammunition, weaponry, and equipment. Because Ukraine is a major exporter of wheat and other staples, the war, along with the historic drought in the Horn of Africa, has worsened the global food crisis. Before the war, Russia was the world's largest exporter of oil and natural

gas. Europe has relied heavily on Russian natural gas, but since the war began, natural gas flowing from Russia's pipelines into Europe has dropped by 80 percent. As a consequence of the war and sanctions against Russia, the world was thrown into a global energy crisis.

In the United States, rampant depression, anxiety, and suicidal tendencies have resulted in a mental health crisis. Mental health issues, along with chronic pain and the corrupt practices of pharmaceutical companies, caused many people to become addicted to dangerous drugs. These problems led to an opioid crisis.

The news is replete with stories regarding a border crisis even as Democrats and Republicans argue over how to fix the problem. Widespread violent crime in America's largest cities, mass shootings, the sin of abortion, society's open embrace of homosexuality, and confusion regarding gender identity have contributed to America's moral crisis. With fewer couples having children in developed countries, including the United States, there is also a fertility crisis. Furthermore, if you spend time watching or reading the news, you will likely be bombarded with stories about a climate crisis. If this is the "Great Reset," how do you like it?

In January 2023 as members of the *World Economic Forum* prepared to meet for their annual summit in Davos, Switzerland, an article posted on the group's website asked in its headline, "We're on the brink of a 'polycrisis' - how worried should we be?" Polycrisis is a word so obscure that you may not even find it in your dictionary. However, the prefix 'poly' simply means many or much. Thus, the term polycrisis refers to a dire situation in which many crises are occurring at the same time. The term was used repeatedly throughout the group's meeting in January.

In March 2023, another article was published on the *Forum's* website with the headline "This is why 'polycrisis' is a useful way of looking at the world right now." The report quotes historian Adam Tooze who said, "If you've been feeling confused and as though everything is impacting on you all at the same time, this is not a personal, private experience. This is actually

a collective experience." He later went on to say, "This coming together at a single moment of things which, on the face of it, don't have anything to do with each other, but seem to pile onto each other to create a situation in the minds of policymakers, business people, families, [and] individuals."

This era of crises has left the masses feeling exhausted, frustrated, and discouraged. When we consider everything happening in the world, it is easy to understand why.

Interestingly enough, a report published by Axios in July 2022 indicates that the American people's engagement with news fell dramatically last year. The decline includes news on television, news websites, and social media. A 2022 survey conducted by the *Reuters Institute* found that 42 percent of respondents said they "sometimes or often actively avoid the news."

If you are tired of endless bad news in this world, you can find good news in God's Word! In fact, the word gospel means "good news." This good news includes a reminder that we, as followers of Jesus Christ, can have peace in our hearts even in a world overwhelmed by a polycrisis. In John 14:27 our Saviour tells us, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jesus further tells us in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

There has never been a better time to draw near to God and establish a close relationship with Him. Psalm 73:28 declares, "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works." We are further instructed in James 4:8, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." If we stay true to God, He will give us the strength to endure all that is ahead. If you have not yet repented of your sins and dedicated your life to God, I urge you to do so now!

Charlie's Prayer

The following story is a true account, taken from an old, out-of-print book called "Touching Incidents And Remarkable Answers To Prayer" compiled by S.B. Shaw and published in 1894.

We serve a truly faithful God! I was a surgeon in the United States Army during the Civil War. After the Battle of Gettysburg, there were hundreds of wounded soldiers in my hospital. Many were wounded so severely that a leg or an arm, or sometimes both, needed to be amputated.

One of these was a boy who had only been in the service for three months. Since he was too young to be a soldier, he had enlisted as a drummer boy. When my assistants came to give him chloroform before the amputation, he turned his head and refused it. When they told him that it was the doctor's orders, he said, "Send the doctor to me."

I came to his bedside and said, "Young man, why do you refuse the chloroform? When I found you on the battlefield, you were so far gone that I almost didn't bother to pick you up. But when you opened those large blue eyes, it occurred to me that you had a mother somewhere who might be thinking of you at that very moment. I didn't want you to die on the field, so I had you brought here. But you've lost so much blood that you're just too weak to live through an operation without chloroform. You'd better let me give you some."

He laid his hand on mine, looked me in the face and said, "Doctor, one Sunday afternoon, when I was nine and a half years old, I gave my heart to Christ. I learned to trust Him then, and I've been trusting Him ever since. I know I can trust Him now. He is my Strength. He will support me while you amputate my arm and leg."

I asked him if he would at least let me give him a little brandy. Again he looked at me and said, "Doctor, when I was about five years old, my mother knelt by my side with her arms around me and said: 'Charlie, I am praying to Jesus that you will never take even one drink of alcohol. Your father died a drunkard, and I've asked God to use you to warn people against the dangers of drinking, and to encourage them to love and serve the Lord.'

"I am now 17 years old, and I have never had anything stronger than tea or coffee. There is a very good chance that I am about to die and appear in the Presence of my God. Would you send me there with brandy on my breath?"

I will never forget the look that boy gave me. At that time I hated Jesus, but I respected that boy's loyalty to

his Saviour. And when I saw how he loved and trusted Him to the very end, something touched my heart deeply. I did for that boy what I had never done for any other soldier - I asked him if he wanted to see his chaplain.

Chaplain R. knew the boy well from having seen him frequently at the tent prayer meetings. Taking his hand, he said, "Charlie, I'm really sorry to see you like this." "Oh, I'm all right, sir," Charlie answered. "The doctor offered me chloroform, but I told him I didn't want any. Then he wanted to give me brandy, which I didn't want either. So now, if my Saviour calls me, I can go to Him in my right mind."

"You might not die, Charlie," said the chaplain, "but if the Lord does call you home, is there anything I can do for you after you're gone?"

"Chaplain, please reach under my pillow and take my little Bible. My mother's address is inside. Please send it to her and write a letter for me. Tell her that since I left home, I have never let a single day pass - no matter if we were on the march on the battlefield, or in the hospital - without reading a portion of God's Word, and daily praying that He would bless her."

"Is there anything else I can do for you, my lad?" asked the chaplain. "Yes - please write a letter to the Sunday School teacher of the Sands Street Church in Brooklyn, New York. Tell him that I've never forgotten his encouragement, good advice, and many prayers for me. They have helped and comforted me through all the dangers of battle. And now, in my dying hour, I thank the Lord for my dear old teacher, and ask Him to bless and strengthen him. That is all."

Then turning to me, he said, "I'm ready, doctor. I promise I won't even groan while you take off my arm and leg, if you don't offer me chloroform." I promised, but I didn't have courage to take the knife in my hand without first going into the next room and taking a little brandy myself.

While cutting through the flesh, Charlie Coulson never groaned. But when I took the saw to separate the bone, the lad took the corner of his pillow in his mouth, and all I could hear him whisper was, "O Jesus, blessed Jesus! Stand by me now." He kept his promise. He never groaned.

I couldn't sleep that night. Whichever way I tossed and turned, I saw those soft blue eyes, and when I closed my own eyes, the words, "Blessed Jesus, stand by me now," kept ringing in my ears. A little after midnight, I finally left my bed and visited the hospital - a thing I had never done before unless there was an emergency. I had such a strange

and strong desire to see that boy. When I got there, an aide told me that 16 of the badly wounded soldiers had died. "Was Charlie Coulson one of them?" I asked. "No, sir," he answered, "he's sleeping as sweetly as a babe."

"When I came to his bed, one of the nurses said that at about nine o'clock, two members of the YMCA came through the hospital to read and sing a hymn. Chaplain R. was with them and he knelt by Charlie's bed and offered up a fervent and soul-stirring prayer. Then, while still on their knees, they sang one of the sweetest of all hymns, 'Jesus, Lover Of My Soul.' Charlie sang along with them, too."

I couldn't understand how that boy, who was in such horrible pain, could sing!

Five days after I performed the operation, Charlie sent for me, and it was from him that I heard my first Gospel sermon. "Doctor," he said, "my time has come. I don't expect to see another sunrise. I want to thank you with all my heart for your kindness to me. I know you are Jewish, and that you don't believe in Jesus, but I want you to stay with me, and see me die trusting my Saviour to the last moment of my life."

I tried to stay, but I just couldn't. I didn't have the courage to stand by and see a Christian boy die rejoicing in the love of that Jesus Whom I hated. So I hurriedly left the room. About 20 minutes later the aide came and found me sitting in my office with my hands covering my face. He told me that Charlie wanted to see me. "I've just seen him," I answered, "and I can't see him again." "But, Doctor, he says he must see you once more before he dies." So I made up my mind to go and see Charlie, say an endearing word, and let him die. However, I was determined that nothing he could say would influence me in the least bit, so far as his Jesus was concerned.

When I entered the hospital I saw he was sinking fast, so I sat down by his bed. Asking me to take his hand, he said, "Doctor, I love you because you are a Jew. The best Friend I have found in this world was a Jew." I asked him who that was, and he answered, "Jesus Christ, and I want to introduce you to Him before I die. Will you promise me, Doctor, that what I am about to say to you, you will never forget?" I promised, and he said, "Five days ago, while you amputated my arm and leg, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and asked Him to make His love known to you."

Those words went deeply into my heart. I couldn't understand how, when I was causing him the most intense pain, he could forget all about himself and think of nothing but his Saviour and my uncon-

verted soul. All I could say to him was, "Well, my dear boy, you will soon be all right." With these words I left him, and 12 minutes later he fell asleep, "safe in the arms of Jesus." Hundreds of soldiers died in my hospital during the war, but I only followed one to the grave, and that was Charlie Coulson. I rode three miles to see him buried. I had him dressed in a new uniform, and placed in an officer's coffin, with a United States flag over it.

That boy's dying words made a deep impression upon me. I was rich at that time so far as money was concerned, but I would have given every penny I possessed if I could have felt towards Christ as Charlie did. But that feeling cannot be bought with money.

Alas, I soon forgot all about my Christian soldier's little sermon, but I could not forget the boy himself. Looking back, I now know that I was under deep conviction of sin at that time. But for nearly ten years I fought against Christ with all the hatred I had, until finally the dear boy's prayer was answered, and I surrendered my life to the love of Jesus!

About a year-and-a-half after my conversion, I went to a prayer meeting one evening in Brooklyn. It was one of those meetings where Christians testify about the loving-kindness of God. After several had spoken, an elderly lady stood up and said, "Dear friends, this may be the last time I have a chance to publicly share how good the Lord has been to me. My doctor told me yesterday that my right lung is nearly gone, and my left lung is failing fast, so at the best I only have a short time to be with you. But what is left of me belongs to Jesus. It's a great joy to know that I shall soon meet my son with Jesus in heaven."

"Charlie was not only a soldier for his country, but also a soldier for Christ. He was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, and was cared for by a Jewish doctor, who amputated his arm and leg. He died five days after the operation. The chaplain of the regiment wrote me a letter, and sent me my boy's Bible. I was told that in his dying hour, my Charlie sent for that Jewish doctor, and said to him, 'Doctor, before I die I wish to tell you that five days ago, while you amputated my arm and leg, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ for you.'"

As I heard this lady speak, I just couldn't sit still! I left my seat, ran across the room, and taking her hand said, "God bless you, my dear sister. Your boy's prayer has been heard and answered! I am that Jewish doctor that Charlie prayed for, and his Saviour is now my Saviour! The love of Jesus has won my soul!"

You wrote Your glorious Name across the heavens...



and it read Elohim - The Creator!

You pronounced
Your holy Name
to Your people
and it was
**Yahweh -
Lord of Relationship**

You posted
Your powerful Name
at life's valleys
and dead-ends
and it was
**El Shaddai -
All-Sufficient God.**

You spoke
Your lovely Name

into fear and conflicts
and it was
**Jehovah Shalom -
The Lord Our Peace.**

You whispered
Your compassionate Name into
sorrow and brokenness
and it was
**Jehovah Jireh -
The Lord Provides.**

You signed
Your most beautiful Name
in blood upon our hearts and it
was **JESUS - JEHOVAH IS
SALVATION!**

Time Well Spent

(Here's the Secret to Finding God's Bountiful Blessings)



Vincent M. Newfield

What is the secret to lasting peace, joy, contentment, stability, wisdom, protection and every wonderful gift God offers? It is spending time with God in an intimate, loving relationship. This one endeavour is why we were created - it is the fertile soil from which all blessings grow.

Spending Time in the Secret Place

God promises in Psalm 91:1 that "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]." And in Psalm 31:20, David declares of the Lord that "...in the secret place of Your Presence You hide them from the plots of men; You keep them secretly in Your pavilion from the strife of tongues."

What amazing protection! Satan knows this, and that is why he fights so hard to keep you from spending intimate time with the Lord. Something amazing happens in the Secret Place. A restoration of hope... a rejuvenation of strength... and a clarification of vision are established. Nothing equals this powerful union!

"The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the Presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His Divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way..." (Brother Lawrence).

Fellowship and Wisdom are Found in Secret
Psalm 25:14 exclaims, "The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning." Wow! What a promise. What is the Lord saying? Those who worship and revere Him will experience the secret of His companionship and have an in-depth understanding of His Word.

Similarly, Proverbs 3:32 proclaims that God's ...confidential communion and secret counsel are with the [uncompromisingly] righteous... The Internet and all the libraries in the world cannot compete with the Lord's infinite wisdom! Likewise, no person on Earth can compare with His companionship. He is able to touch your life like no one else can, going where no man has gone before - inside your heart!

You are Invited into the Secret Place!

Jesus says, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me - watch how I do it..." (Matthew 11:28, 29 The Message). What do you need? **Time in the Secret Place.** Jesus awaits your arrival. You can stay as long as you like. In fact, He invites you to ABIDE! www.preparethewaytoday.org

JESUS IS WONDERLIK!

"n Kind is vir ons gebore... Hy word genoem Wonderbaar" (Jesaja 9:5).
JESUS CHRISTUS is in alle opsigte besonders.

Van Hom is gesê:

- "Ek vind geen skuld in hierdie man nie" (Luk. 23:4).
- "Nooit het 'n mens so gespreek soos hierdie mens nie" (Joh. 7:46).
- "Waarlik, hierdie man was regverdig" (Luk. 23:47).
- God Self het uit die hemel gesê: "Dit is My geliefde Seun, luister na Hom!" (Matt. 3:17).

Jesus is die Eerste en die Laaste wat werklik God is en terselfdertyd ook sondelose Mens. Hy het 'n menslike bestaan aanvaar, sodat ons 'n Goddelike erfenis kan verkry. Hy het Seun van die Mens geword sodat ons kinders van God kan word.

Toe Hy nog 'n Baba was, het koning Herodes bang geword vir Hom. Toekomstige was, was die leraars verwonderd oor Sy wysheid en kennis. Toekomstige 'n Man was, het Hy oor die natuur beheer gehad. Hy kon op die water loop en die stormagtige see in 'n oomblik kalm laat word. Hy kon enige siekte genees sonder medisyne.

Hy het nooit 'n boek geskryf nie, en tog kan die grootste biblioteke volgemaak word met boeke wat oor Hom geskryf is. Hy het nie musiek geskryf nie, tog is daar meer liedere en musiek oor Hom gekomponeer as oor enige iets of enigemand anders. Groot manne het gekom en gegaan, maar net HY leef nog van die begin af. Herodes kon Hom nie doodkry nie, Satan kon Hom nie verleid nie, die dood kon Hom nie oorwin nie, en die graf kom Hom nie gevange hou nie! Elke mens skiet in een of ander opsig tekort, maar nie HY nie. Hy is die unieke God. Om HOM te ken, is die grootste ondervinding wat 'n mens kan hê. Hy is die enigste Verlosser en die beste Vriend wat daar is. Daarom kan elkeen van ons saam met miljoene ander gelowiges sê: "**Hy is wonderlik!**"

- Oorgeneem

SKILDERYE IN DIE GALERY VAN DIE EWIGHEID...

Het die skouspel van die see u al ooit in vervoering of verwondering gebring? Of die hemelruim: die wit vloot wolke - skoon, sag, rustig, óf die stormjaers wat deur die winde voortgedryf word - onheilspellend?

Hoeveel kunsgalerye, museums, of monumente beeld gebeure, tydperke, die sterrehemel, mense, diere of die natuur uit? In die Sistynse Kapél in die Vatikaanstad, Rome, staan jy vasgenael voor Michelangelo se asemrowende uitbeelding van die Skepping en baie ander Bybelse verhale, asook die uiteindelike Verdoemenis wat vir sommige wag! In die Voortrekkermonument kan ons meeleaf met die verhale van lief en leed van ons voorouers wat deur die fresco's uitgebeeld word.

Maar wat is skouspelagtiger as die menslike siel, die grenslose gees met al sy verskillende fasette en kompleksiteit? En die volle som van hierdie mens-wees het 'n blywende effek wat ons INVLOED noem. Dit is iets wat ALTYD van ons lewens uitgaan, soos die lig van 'n lamp, die hitte van 'n vlam, of die reuk van 'n blom...

Om te lewe, is om invloed op ander se lewens te hê - óf ten goede óf ten kwade. Ander mense let op ons lewenswyse en hulle dade of optrede word deur ons s'n getemper of gewysig. Elke GOEIE lewe oefen 'n tweevoudige invloed uit: direkte uitvloeisels wat tot seën vir ander mense is, asook die stille inspraak waardeur ander beter gemaak of besiel kan word om soortgelyke goeie dingte doen.

Selfs die dood beëindig nie invloed nie. Dit duur voort. Dink maar aan bekende Bybelfigure en geloofshelde wat deur hulle lewensinvloed vandag nog vir

ons tot inspirasie dien.

ABRAHAM moes kies om te bly waar hy was óf om sy gesin te neem en weg te trek na 'n onbekende bestemming om sodoende aan God se Stem gehoorsaam te wees. Hy moes leer om met al sy menslike krag en vermoëns aan God en aan God se liefde vas te klou. Met sy hele wese het hy die waarheid verkondig terwyl hy soms geignoreer is en dikwels in lewensgevaar verkeer het en baie erg vervolg is. Sy waarskuwings is in die wind geslaan en hy het met bittere trane aanskou hoedat koning na koning die volk van God verlei het agter ander afgode aan. Hoewel hy menige keer moed wou opgee, het hy ten spyte van sy volk se wederstrewigheid, getrou aan God gebly tot die einde toe.

SAMUEL is gebore in antwoord op 'n moeder se hartstogtlike gebede. Sy naam beteken weliswaar "van God afgebied". Omdat hy van kleins af gewillig was om in klein takies 'n toegewyde diens-kneg van God te wees, is hy deur God geroep om o.a. priester, profeet, raadgewer en rigter van Israel te wees. **SAMUEL** se lewe word só geskilder: "Samuel het grootgeword. Die Here was by hom en het nie een van Samuel se woerde onvervul gelaat nie. Die hele Israel van noord tot suid het gemerk dat Samuel betroubaar was as profeet van die Here" (1 Sam. 3:19-20).

DANIËL se hele lewe demonstreer 'n persoon wat in woord en daad nie afgewyk het van sy beginsels nie. Hy het met wysheid God se Woord op sy eie lewe van toepassing gemaak. Hy was nie net 'n hoorder nie, maar ook 'n dader daarvan! Beide sy fisiese en geestelike dieet het 'n baie belangrike deel gevorm van sy intieme verhouding met sy God. Sy volhardende, volgehoute gebedslewe is vir elke mens wat na sy afbeelding kyk, kosbare inspirasie. Ten spyte van verdrukking en vervolging het hy getrou aan God gebly!

JEREMIA se geweldige uithouvermoë ten spyte van antagoniste en apatiese toehoorders laat ons verwonderd toekyk hoe sy lewe afgeskilder word. Hy moes leer om met al sy menslike krag en vermoëns aan God en aan God se liefde vas te klou. Met sy hele wese het hy die waarheid verkondig terwyl hy soms geignoreer is en dikwels in lewensgevaar verkeer het en baie erg vervolg is. Sy waarskuwings is in die wind geslaan en hy het met bittere trane aanskou hoedat koning na koning die volk van God verlei het agter ander afgode aan. Hoewel hy menige keer moed wou opgee, het hy ten spyte van sy volk se wederstrewigheid, getrou aan God gebly tot die einde toe.

STEFANUS is deur die apostels as diaken gekies wat moes help met die daaglikse versorging van die Griekssprekende weduwees wat afgeskeep is. Hy is beskryf as iemand wat "vol van die Heilige Gees is en wysheid het..." (Hand. 6:3). Hy het sy taak met getrouwheid verrig en het bekend geword as iemand "aan wie God baie genade en krag gegee het" en hy "het groot wonder en tekens onder die volk gedoen" (vers 8). Hy was ook 'n baie goeie spreker en voor die Joodse Raad het hy uitgewys hoe die Messiaanse profesieë in Jesus vervul is. Met hierdie woorde het hy sy eie doodsvennis uitgespreek. Lede van die Raad het op hom afgestorm, hom buite die stad uitgesleep en gestenig. In sy sterwensoomblikke het hy gebid en gevra dat God hulle sal vergewe! In sy kort lewe het hy baie gou soos Jesus geword, want hy het eers sy lewe geleef vir die Evangelie van Jesus Christus en toe gesterf daarvoor! As ons na Stefanus se skildery kyk, is óns bereid om regtig vir Christus te leef en ook om vir Hom te sterf?

Met bogenoemde voorbeeld in gedagte kan ons ook weer met

nuwe oë na die geloofshelde van Heb. 11 kyk. Hul lewenskilderye is "*'n groot wolk van getuies*" (Heb. 12:1) vir elkeen van ons nog vandag. Deur na hulle opregte en toegegewe lewenswandel te kyk, word ons aangemoedig om die goeie stryd testry en moet ons ook "*elke las aflê en die sonde wat ons so maklik omring, en met volharding die wedloop loop wat voor ons lê, die oog gevestig op Jesus, die Leidsman en Voleinder van die geloof...*" (vers 2b).

Van elke mens wat ooit geleef het of wat nóg sal leef, word 'n skildery gemaak waarna gekyk kan word en uit wie se lewensportret ons die goeie of die slechte kan neem. Hoe sal ander mense ons skilder of uitbeeld? Hoe sal ons selfportret lyk? Want deur ons woorde en dade skilder ons eintlik 'n skildery van onself! Watter invloed laat óns lewens na? **Goeie invloed of slechte invloed**, want slechte lewens en slechte dade het OOK hulle invloed.

Daar word vertel dat 'n sterwende man, wie se lewe andere baie geskaad het, uitgeroep het: "Versamel my invloed en begrawe dit saam met my in die graf!" Die man het hierdie wêreld verlaat, maar sy invloed het agtergebleef en die GIF daarvan ook om vir geslagte lank in die lewens van ander te werk en uit te woed.

Kom ons besin ernstig oor die invloed wat vanuit ONS lewens uitgaan. Laat ons waak oor elke woorde, gedagte en optrede. Net in dié mate wat ons met die Gees van God vervul is en die liefde van Christus in ons gestalte gevind het, sal ons invloed heilsaam en tot seën vir ons medemens wees. Mag die geur van ons lewens en die invloed wat van óns uitgaan, welriekend wees en diegene wat deur ons lewens aangeraak word, besiel om die volkommenheid van menswees na te jaag...

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DIE LEWE

Ons lewe is te vinnig, en omdat ons te vinnig lewe, lewe ons nie diep nie, maar net bolangs.
Ek het nie tyd om stil te staan nie, maar moet altyd hardloop.
Ek kan nie luister nie, maar praat aaneen.
Ek kan nie geniet nie, want ek moet insamel.
Ek kan nie ontspan nie, want ek moet werk.
Ek kan my nie in klein dingetjies verlustig nie, want ek het my oog net op die groot dinge.
Ek kan nie lewe nie, maar bestaan net.
Ek word van vroeg tot laat voortgedryf.
Ek jaag na my bestemming en as ek daar gekom het, soek ek 'n ander...
En dit alles omdat ek nie na die diepte kan afdaal nie, maar bolangs lewe.



THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH

What shall we do when everything in life seems to be going wrong? What if we have several problems all at one time, like the situation mentioned in Habakkuk 3:17? “*Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls...*”

Perhaps you are also having problems in any number of areas: your children, your marriage, your finances, your health, your job, your neighbours, or your mind and emotions. If so, I am sure you need to be encouraged.

God promises to be your Strength. He is the God of our salvation. That means He delivers us and provides a way out of the troubles in which we find ourselves. It is important to keep rejoicing even in times of trouble. “*Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the [victorious] God of my salvation!*” (Habakkuk 3:18). Nehemiah 8:10b also declares, “*And be not grieved and depres-*

sed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.”

Depression, discouragement, and despair only weaken us, but being positive and finding something to rejoice about adds energy to our lives. Even if you cannot find something to rejoice about, you can rejoice over your relationship with the Lord. **HE** is your joy, not your circumstances.

When we trust in God, He enables us to make spiritual progress even during times of trouble. Through Him we can keep on walking forward. Satan's favourite tool to use against God's children is fear. Fear immobilises us if we let it, and it prevents us from making progress. **But thank God that in Him we can still make progress even in times that are hard to endure.**

We tend to think that the highest place to be is on the mountain top with no problems and everything going our way, but that is not true according to God's Word. He says that even on our high places are trouble, suffering, and responsibility, and therefore He promises that He will give us hinds' feet.

A hind is a type of mountain goat that can leap about freely on the rocky, difficult slopes. Hinds climb mountains with seemingly no effort at all because of the way God has made them.

Habakkuk 3:19 states that “*The*



Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, and my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] and make [spiritual] progress upon my high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]!

Look to God as your Strength, and trust Him to help you make progress during trouble.
[The Everyday Life Bible, Commentary by Joyce Meyer, Faith Words, New York, 2006].

Following God

“The path of following the Lord Jesus Christ is not an easy one. Along the way lies suffering and hardship, but nothing we experience will ever compare to the suffering Jesus endured for us on the cross!

I have a problem with the ‘prosperity’ teaching prevalent today, which tells us if we follow the Lord we’ll be safe and comfortable.

This is completely contrary to Scripture as well as to our experiences in China.

In addition to serving years in prison, I've been arrested about thirty different times for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To follow God is a call not only to live for Him, but to die for Him also.”

- The Heavenly Man, Brother Yun



EK WIL KOM STIL WORD...

*Ek wil kom stil word hier aan U wete;
ek wil kom hoor wat U vir my wil sê.
Ek wil kom oopmaak vir U Gees, Heer;
as ek my vrae voor U kom lê.
Want soveel mense sterf sonder Jesus -
soveel mislei na die ewige dood;
daar's soveel oorvloed, selfsug en rykdom -
wyl ander ly in hongersnood.*

*Ek wil kom vra, Heer, wat van die kinders,
wat nood en lyding glad nie verstaan?
Wat van die mense wat stukkend en seer is?
Wat van die een wat eensaam vergaan?
As ek dan vra Heer, "Waar is U liefde?"
Moet ek erken, dit lê nog by my!
Hier in my selfsug, stap ek gewoelloos
by nood en seer van mense verby!*

*Maak my 'n beeld van Jesus se liefde
om in die nood U hande te wees.
Ek gee myself aan U as 'n offer
onder beheer van die Heilige Gees.
Hier staan ek voor U, net soos Jesaja.
Raak my nou aan met U Heilige Vuur
sodat ek oral U liefde kan uitdra.
Hier is ek Heer, U kan my stuurl
Hier is ek Heer, U kan my stuur...
[Ben du Toit / Gesing deur Annalise Wiid]*

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A LIFE IN THE HOLIEST

Oh the blessedness of a life in the Holiest!

Here the Father's Face is seen and His love is tasted.

Here His holiness is revealed and the soul made partaker of it.

Here the sacrifice of love and worship and adoration, the incense of prayer and supplication, is offered in power.

Here the outpouring of the Spirit is known as an ever-streaming, overflowing river, from under the throne of God and the Lamb.

Here the soul, in God's presence, grows in more complete oneness with Christ, and more entire conformity to His likeness.

Here in union with Christ, in His unceasing intercession, we are emboldened to take our place as intercessors, who can have power with God and prevail.

Here the soul mounts up as on eagle's wings, the strength is renewed, and the blessing and the power and the love are imparted with which God's priests can go

out to bless a dying world.

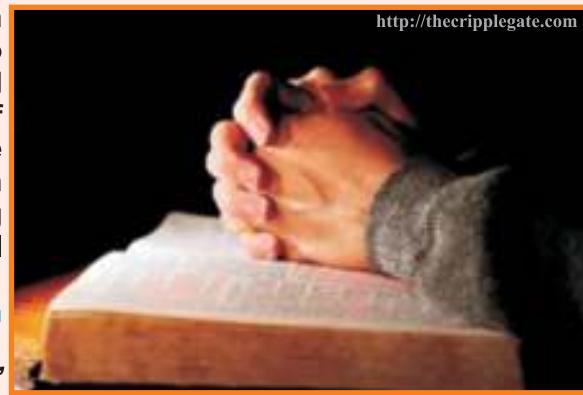
Here each day we may experience the fresh anointing, in virtue of which we can go out to be the bearers, and witnesses, and channels of God's salvation to men, the living instruments through whom our blessed King works out His full and final triumph.

O Jesus! Our great High Priest, let this be our life!

From: "The Holiest of All"

by Andrew Murray.
Reference: Hebrews 10:19.

<http://thecripplegate.com>



DIE SKOOL VAN TELEURSTELLINGS

Ek dink nie daar is 'n enkele mens wat nie érens in die loop van sy lewe met teleurstelling te doen kry nie. Die belangrike vraag is egter nie **of** jy al teleurstellings ervaar het nie, maar **wat** jy daaruit geleer het.

Saul en Dawid het geweet wat teleurstelling, mislukking en verwering is. En ondanks Dawid se sonde, het hy sy "kursus" in die "skool van teleurstelling" geslaag. Dieselfde kan ongelukkig nie van Saul gesê word nie.

Albei konings het foute gemaak en verkeerde dinge gedoen. Waarom sê die Bybel dan dat Dawid - en nie Saul nie - na aan God se hart was?

Die profeet Natan het Dawid met sy sonde gekonfronteer, en hy het dit onmiddellik **erken** en voor God **bely**. Hy het met opregte **berou** na die Here toe gegaan en vir Hom gesê: "Teen U alleen het ek gesondig en gedoen wat verkeerd is in U oë" (Ps. 51:6). Daarop het hy gepleit dat God hom nie moes verlaat nie: "Verwerp my nie van U aangesig nie en neem U Heilige Gees nie van my weg nie. Gee my weer die vreugde van U heil, en ondersteun my deur 'n gewillige gees" (Ps. 51:13, 14).

Saul het ook as jongman op God vertrou, maar sy posisie en sukses het hom stadig maar seker laat verander. Hy het begin glo dat die wette van gehoorsaamheid nie op hom van toepassing was nie, en hom nie net van sy volk vervreem nie, maar ook van God. Die tragiese is egter dat hy homself deur dit alles steeds oortuig het dat hy gehoorsaam was. Ons sien dit waar Samuel hom konfronteer omdat hy nie, soos God beveel het, al die Amalekiete en al hulle besittings, vernietig het nie. Want hy antwoord dat hy wél God se bevel uitgevoer het. Hierdie selfmisleiding het uiteindelik tot krank-sinnigheid gelei.

Hy was bitterlik jaloers op die jong

Dawid, wat al hoe meer gewild geraak het onder die mense en het vir jare probeer om hom dood te maak. Dawid het egter geweet dat God Saul as koning laat salf het, en wou daarom nijs doen wat hom kon benadeel nie. Dawid het wel later in sy lewe aan owerspel toegegee - maar Saul het aan bitterheid en haat toegegee.

Wat ook al in **jou** lewe gebeur, moenie toelaat dat bitterheid 'n houvas op jou kry nie. **Daar is min dinge wat 'n mens so finaal kan vernietig as bitterheid.** En neem jou voor om jou sonde - wat dit ook al mag wees - met berou voor God te bely en die pad enduit saam met Hom te loop.

Sommige mense moet elke dag met hulle teleurstellings en mislukkings saamleef. Dink maar aan die mens wat aan 'n rolstoel gekluister is, of elke dag saam met die een met wie hy getroud was, moet werk.

Ons glo dat die Here ons uit enige beproewinge kan verlos. Maar daar word nie genoeg klem gelê op die feit dat Sy genade ons ook midde-in die omstandighede kan versterk nie.

Paulus was 'n kragtige instrument in God se Hand. Hy het nie net verlore siele tot verlossing gelei nie, maar talle mense genees. En tog is **hy** nooit van die "doring in sy vlees" genees nie. Christene spekuleer al eeu lank oor wat Paulus makeer het. Ons weet nie wat dit was nie, maar ons weet wel dat dit iets ernstigs moes gewees het, anders sou hy nie so vuriglik gebid het om daarvan verlos te word nie. Dit was egter nie God se wil om dit weg te neem nie, maar dit het geensins afbreuk gedoen aan die groot werk wat die apostel vir God se Koninkryk gedoen het nie. Ons sien, intendeel, dat die "doring in sy vlees" uiteindelik die simbool van 'n baie belangrike beginsel in sy lewe en bediening geword het.

"Hieroor het ek die Here drie maal

gebid, dat hy van my sou wyk. En **Hy het vir my gesê: My genade is vir jou genoeg, want my krag word in swakhed volbring. Baie liewer sal ek dus in my swakhede roem, sodat die krag van Christus in my kan woon. Daarom het ek behae in swakhede, in mishandeling, in node, in vervolging, in benoudhede, om Christus wil. Want as ek swak is, dan is ek sterk" (2 Kor. 12:8-10).**

Selfs die grootste probleme en die mees verpletterende omstandighede kan in geleenthede omskep word. Die duivel is slim, maar hy is beslis nie alwetend nie en hy maak ook foute. Daarom moet hy dikwels toekyk hoe die

omstandighede waardeur hy ons wou vernietig, deur God vir die gelowige omskep word in 'n geleentheid om waarlik in en deur Sy genade te leef.

Dit is dán wanneer die gelowige ondanks al sy probleme kan sê: "God is vir ons 'n toevlug en sterkte; as hulp in benoudhede is Hy in hoë mate beproef" (Ps. 46:2). Die Christen wat waarlik oorwinning behaal het, ken die Here God ook op hierdie vlak. Hy weet dat Hy Sy kinders nie net **uit** hulle probleme verlos nie, maar dat Hy hulle ook **in** hulle probleme versterk en bystaan! **Uit: Die uitweg as ideale misluk,** David Shibley, VGU, 1994.

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JY WORD GESNOEI

Het jy geweet dat sommige tuiniers met hulle plante praat? Hoekom? Omdat dit hulle help groei! Verbeel jouself jy sê: "Jy is so'n goeie plant. Jy lyk pragtig vandag. Ek is so trots op jou!"

Verbeel jouself nou dat jy met die plant praat terwyl jy hom snoei en sê: "Hierdie maak my seerder as wat dit jou maak." Snip! "Jy sal my na die tyd hiervoor bedank." Snip! "Dis vir jou eie beswil."

"Snip!" Dink jou in dat die plant terugpraat: "Jy het nie 'n hart nie. Jy haat my. Ek het lank en hard gewerk om daardie rose te maak wat jy so pas afgesny het."

Is dit nie ook wat ons vir God sê terwyl Hy ons snoei nie? 'Is U nie lief vir my nie? Gee U nie vir my om nie? Kan U nie sien wat tans in my lewe aan die gebeur is nie?'

Ons dink dat God vir ons kwaad is. Nee, Hy is nie kwaad nie. Een

van die grootste foute wat ons maak, is om snoei met straf te verwarr. Moenie die twee gelykstel nie.

God sien jou as iemand wat meer vrugte kan dra, iemand met die potensiaal om groot dinge te bereik, iemand wat Hy op 'n betekenisvolle manier kan gebruik. Hy wil hê jy moet soveel vrugte dra as wat jy moontlik kan, dus snoei Hy jou en sny selfs dinge in jou lewe af waarmee Hy

jou geseen het.

Het jy 'n werk waaroor jy mal was verloor? Of 'n geliefde verhouding? God mag dalk iets beters in gedagte hê. Kan jy Hom vertrou? Glo jy dat Hy in jou lewe aan die werk is? Sy Woord sê: 'Ek is oortuig dat God die goeie werk wat Hy in julle begin het, sal voortsit totdat Hy dit voltooi...' (Filippense 1:6 NVL).

- Bob & Debby Gass, Woord vir Vandag", Radiokansel.

Kom vier saam fees!

25ste verjaarsdag van

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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 afgawting 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 'n 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!

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Jer. 20:11

B&B *Uit die Hand*

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AGS BAILLIE PARK



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