



*Strength*  
*for*  
*Today*

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*Frances Hunter*

In the beginning ...

God

... and also at the end

# Strength for Today

By Frances Hunter

*Charles and Francis Hunter are  
gifted writers who have gone on to be  
with Jesus, the One they loved  
so much.*

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## Foreword

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If no other words were written than those four. “In the beginning GOD...” it could have been enough. God alone and He alone is sufficient for all the needs any human has ever had, is having right now, or ever will have. He alone is the all sufficient one for every human being on this earth, and for every human problem. He can calm the most tempestuous, raging, violent storm that ever existed — and with the same hand he can calm a tiny baby’s fears.

*Problems which seem to be an  
impossible enigma can be swiftly  
wiped off the slate of life with the  
breath  
of God.*

People whose very lives indicate there is no force in heaven or hell big enough to change them find themselves kneeling at the feet of God. I once heard a man say after the lift-off of a rocket, “Some day all the tools of man will lie still at the feet of God, and God will have His way!” How right he is!

Because in the beginning God... and at the end... God!

The almighty God who rules this universe is speaking constantly, soothing, calming, answering, consoling and also warning, cautioning, admonishing and chastising at the same time. The problem most of us unfortunately have is that we are not listening to what God is saying, or if we are listening, we do not like what He is saying to us, so we don't actually hear His love song to us. And it is a love song, regardless of what He says, because His love for us is so great that even in chastising us, it is for our own good and for our own blessing, even though our carnal eyes might not see it that way at the particular time it happens.

As God spoke to me to write a book concerning His precious promises, He said, "Do not concentrate on single verses for different situations, but concentrate on one single thing throughout the book, and that is to encourage people to find out who I am,

*because once people discover who I really am, and what I can do, their*

*own problems will disappear if they  
look to Me."*



That is the reason for this book. It doesn't make any difference what kind of problems you have, look for God, and not the answer to the problem. In discovering the majesty, power and glory of God, you will find revealed to you the answer that you want in the simplest form possible.

The stories and scriptures in this book will all be familiar to you, but I have lifted them out as choice morsels to satisfy your hungry heart. As I went through the Bible selecting these favorite stories, they spoke to my heart in an unusual and different way than ever before and I hope they will to you, too. Whenever your problem balloons out of proportion and your way gets too hard, select a story, meditate on it and see if your answer isn't revealed to you through it.

*Frances Hunter*

*Read every story to discover the  
limitless authority of God  
and apply it to your own life!*

# 1 Who God Is

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*When you feel the devil is chasing you, and there is no way out., no way you can win, no way for you to turn, read every single word carefully...*

*JEHOVAH NOW INSTRUCTED Moses, "Tell the people to turn toward Piha-hiroth between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baalzephon, and to camp there along the shore. For Pharaoh will think, 'Those Israelites are trapped now, between the desert and the sea!'*

*And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart and he will chase after you. I have planned this to gain great honor and glory over Pharaoh and all his armies, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord."*

*So they camped where they were told.*

*When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelis were not planning to return to Egypt after three days, but to keep on going, Pharaoh and his staff became bold*

again. “What is this we have done, letting all these slaves get away?” they asked. So Pharaoh led the chase in his chariot, followed by the pick of Egypt’s chariot corps—600 chariots in all—and other chariots driven by Egyptian officers. He pursued the people of Israel, for they had taken much of the wealth of Egypt with them. Pharaoh’s entire cavalry—horses, chariots, and charioteers—was used in the chase; and the Egyptian army overtook the people of Israel as they were camped beside the shore near Piha-hiroth, across from Baal-zephon.

*Does your situation look worse than  
this?*

As the Egyptian army approached, the people of Israel saw them far in the distance, speeding after them, and they were terribly frightened. and cried out to the Lord to help them.

And they turned against Moses, whining, “Have you brought us out here to die in the desert because there were not enough graves for us in Egypt? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Isn’t this what we told you, while we were slaves, to leave us alone? We

*said it would be better to be slaves to the Egyptians than dead in the wilderness.”*

*But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch, and you will see the wonderful way the Lord will rescue you today. The Egyptians you are looking at—you will never see them again. The Lord will fight for you, and you won’t need to lift a finger!”*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, “Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward, march! Use your rod—hold it out over the water, and the sea will open up a path before you, and all the people of Israel shall walk through on dry ground! I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians and they will go in after you and you will see the honor I will get in defeating Pharaoh and all his armies, chariots, and horsemen. And all Egypt shall know that I am Jehovah.”*

*Then the Angel of God, who was leading the people of Israel, moved the cloud around behind them, and it stood between the people of Israel and the Egyptians. And that night, as it changed to a pillar of fire, it gave darkness to the Egyptians but light to the people of Israel! So the Egyptians couldn’t find the Israelis!*

*Meanwhile, Moses stretched his rod over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path*

*through the sea, with walls of water on each side; and a strong east wind blew all that night, drying the sea bottom. So the people of Israel walked through the sea on dry ground! Then the Egyptians followed them between the walls of water along the bottom of the sea—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen. But in the early morning Jehovah looked down from the cloud of fire upon the array of the Egyptians, and began to harass them. Their chariot wheels began coming off, so that their chariots scraped along the dry ground. "Let's get out of here," the Egyptians yelled. "Jehovah is fighting for them and against us."*

*Even your enemies will realize  
Jehovah is fighting for you!*

*When all the Israelites were on the other side, the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand again over the sea, so that the waters will come back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses did, and the sea returned to normal beneath the morning light. The Egyptians tried to flee, but the Lord drowned them in the sea. The water covered the path and the chariots and horsemen. And of all the army of*

*Pharaoh that chased after Israel through the sea, not one remained alive.*

*The people of Israel had walked through on dry land, and the waters had been walled up on either side of them. Thus Jehovah saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and the people of Israel saw the Egyptians dead, washed up on the seashore. When the people of Israel saw the mighty miracle the Lord had done for them against the Egyptians, they were afraid and revered the Lord, and believed in him and in his servant Moses* (Exodus 14:10-31 TLB).

*God gave them a way out ...and He'll  
do it for you!*

## 2 Who God Is

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*When you're in a "hot" spot, your hands are tied, and there's no way to exit.*

*Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.*

*And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,*

*"that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;*

*"and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."*

*So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.*

*They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!*

*"You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony*



*with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;*

*“and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

*“There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

*Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and AbedNego. So they brought these men before the king.*

*Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?*

*“Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”*

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Ne go answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.*

*"If that is the case,*

*our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us from your hand, O king.*

*"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

*Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Ne go. Therefore he spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

*And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Ne go, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

*Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their*

*other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

*Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Ne go.*

*It's always the hottest just before the  
Great Fire Extinguisher acts!*

*And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Ne go, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."*

*"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

*Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach,*

*Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.*

*And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.*

*Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent*

*His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!*

*"Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and AbedNego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."*

*Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.* (Daniel 3:1-30 NKJV)

Remember... "Our God whom we serve  
is able to deliver us from the burning  
furnace..."

### 3 Who God Is

---

*When you are facing a time in your life and you doubt, the reality of God and unbelief comes in and you feel you are not even sure there is a God...*

*Who else has held the oceans in his hands and measured off the heavens with his ruler? Who else knows the weight of all the earth and weighs the mountains and the hills? Who can advise the Spirit of the Lord or be his teacher or give him counsel? Has he ever needed anyone's advice? Did he need instruction as to what is right and best? No, for all the peoples of the world are nothing in comparison with him—they are but a drop in the bucket, dust on the scales. He picks up the islands as though they had no weight at all. All of Lebanon's forests do not contain sufficient fuel to consume a sacrifice large enough to honor him, nor are all its animals enough to offer to our God.*

*All the nations are as nothing to him; in his eyes they are less than nothing—mere emptiness and froth.*

### *How can we describe God?*

*With what can we compare him? With an idol? An idol, made from a mold, overlaid with gold, and with silver chains around its neck?*

*The man too poor to buy expensive goods like that will find a tree free from rot and hire a man to carve a face on it, and that's his god—a god that cannot even move!*

*Are you so ignorant? Are you so deaf to the words of God,—the words he gave before the worlds began? Have you never heard nor understood? It is God who sits above the circle of the earth. (The people below must seem to him like grasshoppers!) He is the one who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and makes his tent from them.*

*He dooms the great men of the world and brings them all to naught. They hardly get started, barely take root, when he blows on them and their work withers and the wind carries them off like straw.*

*“With whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?” asks the Holy One.*

*Look up into the heavens! Who created all these stars? As a shepherd leads his sheep, calling each by its pet name, and counts them to see that none are lost or strayed, so God does with stars and planets!*

*O Jacob, O Israel, how can you say that the Lord doesn't see your troubles and isn't being fair?*

*Don't you yet understand? Don't you know by now that the everlasting God, the Creator of the farthest parts of the earth, never grows faint or weary? No one can fathom the depths of his under standing. He gives power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the weak.*

*Even the youths shall be exhausted, and the young men will all give up. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

*(Isaiah 40:12-30 TLB)*

*Never give up —  
Victory is on the way!*



*LISTEN IN SILENCE before me, O lands beyond the sea. Bring your strongest arguments. Come now and speak. The court is ready for your case.*

*Who has stirred up this one from the east, whom victory meets at every step? Who, indeed, but the Lord? God has given him victory over many nations and permitted him to trample kings underfoot and to put entire armies to the sword.*

*He chases them away and goes on safely, though the paths he treads are new. Who has done such mighty deeds, directing the affairs of generations of mankind as they march by?*

*It is I, the Lord, the First and Last; I  
alone am he.*

(Isaiah 41:1-4 TLB)

## 4 Who God Is

---

*If you are doubting God's ability to take care of a situation, and you question His power...*

*And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the Lord—you and they, as well as Aaron.*

*"Each of you take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; you also, and Aaron, each of you with his censer."*

*So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron.*

*And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.*

*And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,*

*“Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.”*

*Then they fell on their faces, and said, “O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?”*

*So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

*“Speak to the congregation, saying, ‘Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abram.’”*

*Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.*

*And he spoke to the congregation, saying, “Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.”*

*So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.*

*Then Moses said: “By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these work, for I have not done them of my own will.*

*"If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me.*

*"But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."*

*Then it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.*

*So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the congregation.*

*Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!"*

*And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offer in incense.*

(Numbers 16:16-36 NKJV)

*If God can open up the earth and swallow up evil men, women and children along with their tents, and all their possessions, and leave His children untouched, nothing is impossible with God!*

## 5. An Unchanging God

---

*If you ever question God's ability to know who you are, and how to get out of your problems read this...*

*DARIUS DIVIDED THE kingdom into 120 provinces, each under a governor. The governors were accountable to three presidents. (Daniel was one of them) so that the king could administer the kingdom efficiently.*

*Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other presidents and governors, for he had great ability, and the king began to think of placing him over the entire empire as his administrative officer.*

*This made the other presidents and governors very jealous, and they began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling his affairs so that they could complain to the king about him. But they couldn't find anything to criticize! He was faithful and honest, and made no mistakes.*

*So they concluded, “Our only chance is his religion!”*

*They decided to go to the king and say, “King Darius, live forever! We presidents, governors, counselors and deputies have unanimously decided that you should make a law, irrevocable under any circumstance, that for the next thirty days anyone who asks a favor of God or man—except from you, Your Majesty—shall be thrown to the lions. Your Majesty, we request your signature on this law; sign it so that it cannot be canceled or changed; it will be a ‘law of the Medes and Persians’ that cannot be revoked.”*

*So King Darius signed the law.*

*But though Daniel knew about it, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs bedroom, with its windows open toward Jerusalem, and prayed three times a day, just as he always had, giving thanks to his God.*

*He would not compromise  
his beliefs!*

*Then the men thronged to Daniel’s house and found him praying there, asking favors of his God. They rushed back to the king and reminded him about his law.*

*“Haven’t you signed a decree,” they said, “that permits no petitions to any God or man—except you—for thirty days? And anyone disobeying will be thrown to the lions?”*

*“Yes,” the king replied, “it is ‘a law of the Medes and Persians,’ that cannot be altered or revoked.”*

*Then they told the king, “That fellow Daniel, one of the Jewish captives, is paying no attention to you or your law. He is asking favors of his God three times a day.”*

*Hearing this, the king was very angry with himself for signing the law, and determined to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day trying to think of some way to get Daniel out of this predicament.*

*In the evening the men came again to the king and said, “Your Majesty, there is nothing you can do. You signed the law and it cannot be changed.”*

*So at last the king gave the order for Daniel’s arrest, and he was taken to the den of lions. The king said to him,*

*“May your God, whom you worship continually, deliver you.”*



*And then they threw him in. A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring, and that of his government, so that no one could rescue Daniel from the lions.*

*Then the king returned to his palace and went to bed without dinner. He refused his usual entertainment and didn't sleep all night. Very early the next morning he hurried out to the lions' den, and called out in anguish, "O Daniel, servant of the Living God, was your God, whom you worship continually, able to deliver you from the lions?"*

*Then he heard a voice! "Your Majesty, live forever!" It was Daniel! "My God has sent his angel," he said, "to shut the lions' mouths so that they can't touch me; for I am innocent before God, nor, sir, have I wronged you."*

*The king was beside himself with joy and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. And not a scratch was found on him, because*

*he believed in his God.*

*Then the king issued a command to bring the men who had accused Daniel, and throw them into the den along with their children and wives, and the lions leaped upon them and tore them apart before they even hit the bottom of the den. Afterward King Darius wrote this message addressed to everyone in his empire:*

*“Greetings! I decree that everyone shall tremble and fear before the God of Daniel in every part of my kingdom. For his God is the living, unchanging God whose kingdom shall never be destroyed and whose power shall never end. He delivers his people, preserving them from harm; he does great miracles in heaven and earth; it is he who delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”*

*So Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.* (Daniel 6:1-28 TLB)

*God's ability can override  
man's laws!*

## 6 Being Obedient

---

*When you question God's ability, discover it, and then are questioning whether or not to obey Him, this will answer your questions.*

WHEN ABRAM WAS ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him and told him, "I am the Almighty; obey me and live as you should. I will prepare a contract between us, guaranteeing to make you into a mighty nation. In fact you shall be the father of not only one nation, but a multitude of nations!" Abram fell face downward in the dust as God talked with him.

"What's more," God told him, "I am changing your name. It is no longer 'Abram' ('Exalted Father'), but 'Abraham' ('Father of Nations')—for that is what you will be. I have declared it. I will give you millions of descendants who will form many nations! Kings shall be among your descendants!"

*And I will continue this agreement..  
between us generation after  
generation, forever, for it shall be  
between me and your children a well.*

*It is a contract that I shall be your God  
and the God of your posterity. And I will  
give all this land of Canaan to you and them,  
forever. And I will be your God.*

*(Genesis 17:1-8 TLB)*

*Then God added, “Regarding Sarai your  
wife— her name is no longer ‘Sarai’ but  
‘Sarah’ (‘Princess’). And I will bless her  
and give you a son from her! Yes, I will  
bless her richly, and make her the mother of  
nations! Many kings shall be among your  
posterity.”*

*Then Abraham threw himself down in  
worship before the Lord, but inside he was  
laughing in disbelief! “Me, be a father?” he  
said in amusement. “Me— 100 years old?  
And Sarah, to have a baby at 90?”*

*And Abraham said to God, “Yes, do  
bless Ishmael.”*

*“No,” God replied, “that isn’t what I  
said. Sarah shall bear you a son; and you*

*are to name him Isaac ('Laughter'), and I will sign my covenant with him forever, and with his descendants. As for Ishmael, all right, I will bless him also, just as you have asked me to. I will cause him to multiply and become a great nation. Twelve princes shall be among his posterity. But my contract is with Isaac, who will be born to you and Sarah next year at about this time."*

(Genesis 17:15-21 TLB)

*"Where is Sarah, your wife?" they asked him.*

*"In the tent," Abraham replied.*

*Then the Lord said, "Next year I will give you and Sarah a son!" (Sarah was listening from the tent door behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old, and Sarah was long since past the time when she could have a baby.*

*So Sarah laughed silently. "A woman my age have a baby?" she scoffed to herself. "And with a husband as old as mine?"*

*Then God said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?'"*

*Is Anything too hard for God?*

*Next year, just as I told you, I will certainly see to it that Sarah has a son.”*

*But Sarah denied it. “I didn’t laugh,” she lied, for she was afraid.*

*Then the men stood up from their meal and started on toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them part of the way.*

*“Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” God asked. “For Abraham shall become a mighty nation, and he will be a source of blessing for all the nations of the earth. And I have picked him out to have godly descendants and a godly household—men who are just and good—so that I can do for him all I have promised.*

*(Genesis 18:9-19 TLB)*

*THEN GOD DID as he had promised, and Sarah became pregnant and gave Abraham a baby son in his old age, at the time God had said; and Abraham named him Isaac (meaning “Laughter!”). Eight days after he was born, Abraham circumcised him, as God required. (Abraham was 100 years old at that time.)*

*And Sarah declared, “God has brought me laughter! All who hear about this shall rejoice with me. For who would have dreamed that I would ever have a baby? Yet*

*I have given Abraham a child in his old age!”* (Genesis 21 :1-7 TLB)

*LATER ON, GOD tested Abraham’s [faith and obedience).*

*“Abraham!” God called.*

*“Yes, Lord?” he replied.*

*“Take with you your only son—yes, Isaac whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah and sacrifice him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I’ll point out to you!”*

### *Don't question God!*

*The next morning Abraham got up early, chopped wood for a fire upon the altar, saddled his donkey, and took with him his son Isaac and two young men who were his servants, and started off to the place where God had told him to go. On the third day of the journey Abraham saw the place in the distance.*

*“Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the young men, “and the lad and I will travel yonder and worship, and then come right back.”*

*Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering upon Isaac’s shoulders, while he*

himself carried the knife and the flint for striking a fire. So the two of them went on together.

“Father,” Isaac asked, “we have the wood and the flint to make the fire, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?”

“God will see to it, my son,” Abraham replied. And they went on.

When they arrived at the place where God had told Abraham to go, he built an altar and placed the wood in order, ready for the fire, and then tied Isaac and laid him on the altar over the wood. And Abraham took the knife and lifted it up to plunge it into his son, to slay him.

At that moment the Angel of God shouted to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Yes, Lord!” he answered.

“Lay down the knife; don’t hurt the lad in any way,” the Angel said, “for I know that God is first in your life—you have not withheld even your beloved son from me.”

Then Abraham noticed a ram caught by its horns in a bush. So he took the ram and sacrificed it, instead of his son, as a burnt offering on the altar. Abraham named the place “Jehovah provides”—and it still goes by that name to this day.



## *Watch the blessings of obedience!*

*Then the Angel of God called again to Abraham from heaven. "I, the Lord, have sworn by myself that because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your beloved son from me, I will bless you with incredible blessings and multiply your descendants into countless thousands and millions, like the stars above you in the sky, and like the sands along the seashore. These descendants of yours will conquer their enemies, and be a blessing to all the nations of the earth—all because you have obeyed me."* (Genesis 22:1-18 TLB)

*God put Abraham to the test and when he failed not, look at what God did for him!*

*The same is true for you — God's command may not seem logical to you at the time, but obedience brings rewards!*

## 7 Who God Is

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*If you've ever decided that Christianity isn't working for you, and you're looking into another religion, read this!*

*Now it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.*

*So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.*

*And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.*

*For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)*

*And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass*

*to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock.”*

*So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.*

*Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, “Is that you, my lord Elijah?”*

*And he answered him, “It is I. Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”*

*Then he said, “How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?”*

*“As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, ‘He is not here,’ he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.*

*“And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here’!”*

*“And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.*

*“Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD’s prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water?”*

*“And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here!’ and he will kill me.”*

*Then Elijah said, “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today.”*

*So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.*

*Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?”*

*And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and you have followed the Baals.*

*“Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”*

*So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.*

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions?"

*If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him."*

But the people answered him not a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

"Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood but put no fire under it.

Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no

voice; no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they had made.

And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

And it was so, when midday was past, that they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

*After their Failure, watch what Faith  
did!*

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a

*trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.*

*And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."*

*Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.*

*So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.*

*And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD GOD of Abraham, Issac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.*

*"Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."*

*Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.*

*God never fails, regardless of the  
challenge!*

*Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"*

*And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.*

*Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."*

*So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."*

*Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"*



*Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.*

*Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

*( Kings 18:1-46 NKJV)*

*The world may say there is no God,  
but the smallest opportunity may be  
your biggest miracle!*

## 8 Praise

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*When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.*

(Matthew 8:1,2 KJV)

Leprosy was no easy disease to tolerate in Bible times. Lepers were completely outcast from society. Everyone ran from them screaming in terror. There was never a cure, never a hope of returning to family, friends or loved ones. Lepers were tormented even when they were trying to find tidbits of food, garbage left by others. Children threw stones, adults cursed them. This afflicted person took a great chance entering the normal world in search of a cure for this dread disease.

Yet, notice what this man did when he found Jesus. He fell down and worshiped Him. He praised Jesus before ever asking or expecting Jesus to do anything else in return.

Few Christians today realize what power there is in just praising God. The Bible is

full of praise scriptures throughout the Old and New Testaments. Great things happened when the people praised God. Enemies were scattered. People were healed. Battles were won. Great books have been written on praise and how vital it is to the believer. It is truly life to our souls to praise God. Isaiah 43:21 says we were actually created by God to praise Him.

Years ago someone said something that really spoke to me. They said,

*"Praise is the flow that makes the furrow in our hearts to prepare it to receive from God."*

That's why we always have glorious praise and worship before our healing services. When we get our minds off our problems and onto Jesus, we can receive from God. As long as we dwell on our problems and illnesses, we haven't turned on the light switch to God's power. We have blocked the flow of the Spirit. We have dammed up the rivers of living water that want to flow out of our innermost being.

During a Healing Explosion in Bogota, Colombia several years ago, unbelievable

miracles occurred during one of the most glorious praise and worship services we ever heard. People were healed. They were delivered and set free while God's people sang and worshiped Him. Men, women and children came out of wheelchairs and were walking around that large arena praising God. An older gentleman received his sight and wandered all over in total amazement as he praised God for his glorious healing.

(Read the whole story in *I Don't Follow Signs And Wonders, They Follow Me*).

*There is nothing in the whole world which will bring joy, rest peace, hope, expectation, faith, healing and love more rapidly than to begin offering up praise unto God.*

Since the enemy can't stand to listen to us praise God, we will drive him right out the door. Sing your favorite praise song. In fact, you will recognize many scripture verses as exactly that — one of your favorite praise songs. The Psalms are such great examples of thanks unto God that hundreds of verses have been set to music and are

used across the world daily to praise and worship our Father.

Just start praising and thanking God for all the great and mighty things He has done in the past. Praise can be compared to saying “Thank You” —we praise someone for what they have done. Praise is very important to God. He talks about praise approximately 500 times within the Scriptures — one of the most frequently mentioned subjects in the Bible. If God mentioned praise that many times, we can be sure that it is a very important part of being a Christian.

Occasionally, when a real disaster surrounds us, we can barely muster a thought of praise let alone start speaking or singing any forth. At those times when we need that extra boost, the easiest way to praise God is to read praises from the Psalms.

When your need for strength is in times of distress. unrest, unhappiness, doubt or misery, read these verses of praise unto God. Better yet, read these verses out loud so your mind understands them, your lips say them and your ears hear them.

*Let your spirit absorb every blessed word as you glean God's Strength from each verse.*

Feel His power start to flow through you. Let your faith arise from your innermost being. Let the praise furrow your heart of stone into a heart of flesh and allow God's healing power to surround you in utter love.

If you need God's power right now to do a work within you, whether healing, peace, love, joy, read these scriptures and let His love flow out of the words right into your heart. When you have finished the verses here, go on and do your own study of all the verses in your Bible on praise and its power. Your faith will explode as you gain the revelation of the weapon you have in just praising God.

*For you bless the godly man, O Lord; you protect him with your shield of love.*

(Psalm 5:12 TLB)

Praise Him right now for the fact that He does bless the godly man. And who is a godly man? The man who follows God! That's you and me. Praise Him for the fact

that He protects us at all times with His shield of love so that we can ward off the blows that come from the devil.

*Oh, how grateful and thankful I am to the Lord because he is so good. I will sing praise to the name of the Lord who is above all lords. (Psalm 7:17 TLB)*

Whenever I sit down to recount the blessings that God has given me, I overflow with joy because I am so grateful and appreciative of the fact that He is so good, in spite of what might be our human failings. How can you keep from singing praises to God when He has done so much. Write down the things He has done and sing about them daily!

*I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth (recount and tell aloud) all Your marvelous works and wonderful deeds! I will rejoice in You and be in high spirits; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High! (Psalm 9:1,2 AMP)*

Don't praise God with just a portion of your heart, or halfheartedly. Tell out loud with all of your heart what He has done for you and be in high spirits as you rejoice and

sing praises to His name! It will start your day off right.

*Oh, sing out your praises to the God who lives in Jerusalem. Tell the world about his unforgettable deeds. (Psalm 9:11 TLB)*

The world doesn't believe that nothing is impossible with God. They need to know about the wonderful and wondrous things He has done in our lives. And how are they going to know unless we tell them? Tell everyone you see what Jesus has done for you! Praise Him. Goon with a list of good things He has done in your family's lives and then go on to your friends' lives. Thank Him, sing His praise for every item on that list! Declare His doings around the world!

*But I have trusted, leaned on and been confident in Your mercy and loving-kindness; my heart shall rejoice and be in high spirits in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me. (Psalm 13:5,6 AMP)*

Because of our willingness to trust, lean on and be confident in the love and mercy of God, we can rejoice and our hearts will be in high spirits because of our salvation. Keep



singing and continue to thank Him because He has dealt so bountifully with us.

*Therefore will I give thanks and extol You, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to Your name.*

(Psalm 18:49: Romans 15:9 AMP)

What a privilege to be at peace and know we belong to Him. We can certainly celebrate with others from nations around the world to honor and worship as we sing His praise. God understands our praises no matter what language we utter.

*I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the congregation I will praise You.* (Psalm 22:22 NKJV)

Declare means to assert positively; to state in an unmistakable manner and that is what we should do with His name. We should let the world know in no uncertain terms what it means to us to belong to Him. David was boldly sharing God's praises with others around Him and we should do the same!

*I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My*

*soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:1-3 NKJV)*

Let's think on those wonderful scriptures! His Word tells us to bless him at ALL times, not just a part of the time, but consistently at all times and let His praises continually and without interruption fill our mouth. Let us boast about Him and what He has done in our life and let's get other people to do the same thing with us.

*And He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many shall see and fear (revere and worship) and put their trust and confident reliance in the Lord. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who makes the Lord his refuge and trust, and turns not to the proud or to followers of false gods. Many, O Lord my God, are the wonderful works which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; no one can compare with You! If I should declare and speak of them, they are too many to be numbered. (Psalm 40:3-5 AMP)*

God's people are envied by the world when we trust in the Lord. The world has

nothing they can turn to. because there is really nothing else worthwhile, and those who follow false gods are never happy, blessed or to be envied. There is nothing or no one in all the world who can compare with God. No wonder we have so much for which to praise Him. God has placed eternity in the heart of every man, and nothing will ever satisfy except Him! Let's praise Him because we have found Him!

*I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among a mighty throng.*  
(Psalm 35:18 AMP)

We must give thanks to God everywhere we go. This verse doesn't say to praise God just among the saved, the believers, but God is telling us that we must praise Him even in the midst of unbelievers! In the grocery store! At school! In the airport! Praise His holy name everywhere' Say, "Praise God!" right where you are reading this book. In fact, be bold, shout "Hallelujah! Praise God!"

*Let those who favor my righteous cause and have pleasure in my uprightness shout for joy and be glad and say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, Who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant. And my*

*tongue shall talk of Your righteousness, rightness and justice, and [my reasons for] Your praise all the day long.*

(Psalm 35:27,28 AMP)

We already shouted, “Praise God!” Do it again with real joy! Magnify His holy name! Did you catch what followed? *Who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.* We need to proclaim to the world that God is truly still on the throne and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He takes pleasure — PLEASURE — PLEASURE in the prosperity of His servant. We are His servants and we favor His goals. His causes and take pleasure in His righteousness! We shout for joy and praise Him! Therefore, He will take pleasure in us! Praise Him all the day long.

*He has given me a new song to sing, of praises to our God. Now many will hear of the glorious things he did for me, and stand in awe before the Lord, and put their trust in him.*

(Psalm 40:3 TLB)

God gave me a glorious new song in my mouth. I was a wild sinner before I got saved. I drank, I smoked, I was the life of every party because I knew more dirty jokes

than anyone else. When I got saved, I told God, "I'll make a deal with you, I'll give you all of me if You will give me all of You." I really got the best end of that deal, Hallelujah!

God truly changed my life! Instantly, I looked at sin and it made me sick, so I ran the opposite direction! My daughter, Joan, got saved just a few weeks later. When I asked her what convinced her to accept Jesus, she said, "I saw what a drastic change He made in your life."

No one can deny that God gave me a new song to sing, new desires in my heart, and a new love for Him. I tell everyone I see about Jesus because I trust Him and rely on Him every day of my life.

*My heart is fixed, O God; my heart is steadfast and confident! I will sing and make melody. Awake, my glory (my inner self); awake, harp and lyre! I will awake right early [I will awake the dawn]! I will praise and give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy and loving-kindness are great, reaching to the heavens, and Your truth and faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.*

(Psalm 57:7-11 AMP)

Lets praise Him because our hearts are fixed and immovable and locked into Him. David rose up early in the morning to praise God and we should do the same thing. If we thank Him for what He has done and what He is going to do for us, we will have a better day. Miracles will overtake us, and blessings will overcome us!

*TO YOU belongs silence (the submissive wonder of reverence which bursts forth into praise) and praise is due and fitting to You, O God, in Zion; and to You shall the vow be performed.* (Psalm 65:1 AMP)

Have you ever been so appreciative for something that someone has done for you that you were nearly speechless? Is there any wonder that many cry in the mere presence of God? To experience Him in reverence and awe and wonder brings forth praise in everyone. Praise literally bursts forth spontaneously. Who should be praised more than God who always keeps His promise to take care of His children!

*SING TO THE Lord, all the earth! Sing of his glorious name! Tell the world how*

*wonderful he is. How awe-inspiring are your deeds, O God! How great your power! No wonder your enemies surrender! All the earth shall worship you and sing of your glories.*

*Come, see the glorious things God has done. What marvelous miracles happen to his people! He made a dry road through the sea for them. They went across on foot. What excitement and joy there was that day!*

*(Psalm 66:1-6 TLB)*

God does have a sense of humor. Because He lets all of us sing! He doesn't give us rules of harmony and perfect pitch. He accepts our joy in any form of noise we want to make as a form of thanks to Him. Glory! Sing forth with all your heart. God only hears the praise, not the harmony or tone quality!

He wants us to serve him gladly and joyfully. He plainly says we come into His presence with singing! Sing! Make a joyful noise! Rejoice while you work for Him! Praise Him and come into His presence right where you are right now!

*Let the peoples praise You, [turn away from their idols] and give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise and give*

*thanks to You. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You will judge the peoples fairly and guide, lead, or drive the nations upon earth. Selah (pause, and calmly think of that)! Let the peoples praise You, [turn away from their idols) and give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise and give thanks to You! (Psalm 67:3-5 AMP)*

It's time for all of us to turn away from idols (things which we want to do ourselves, instead of what God wants us to do), and begin to give praise and thanks to God. When we do this, God showers His blessings upon us. David had found fair judgment in God's hands and knew that God would treat everyone with that same mercy and wisdom. David wanted to share that overwhelming joy with everyone.

*But let the [uncompromisingly] righteous be glad; let them be in high spirits and glory before God, yes, let them [jubilantly] rejoice! Sing to God, sing praises to His name, cast up a highway for Him Who rides through the deserts—His name is the Lord—be in high spirits and glory before Him!*  
(Psalm 68:3,4 AMP)



How can we help but do anything but praise God because we are uncompromisingly righteous we will be in high spirits all the time and we will jubilantly rejoice I Sing, talk, dance, walk, lift your hands, but sing praises to His name and be full of Him at all times. Let us all and at all times, be in high spirits and glory before Him.

*For You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my trust from my youth and the source of my confidence. Upon You have I leaned and relied from birth; You are He Who took me from my mother's womb and You have been my benefactor from that day. My praise is continually of You. I am as a wonder and surprise to many, but You are my strong refuge.* (Psalm 71 :5-7 AMP)

Man can fail, can't he? Only God should be trusted 100% of the time. He never changes. He takes us from birth and looks after us. He guides us and loves us in spite of our shortcomings and problems. I would say I am "as a wonder and surprise to many." Many people from my past would never recognize me today. They would have a hard time believing what God has done to

me since I got saved. Hallelujah! God is my refuge. And I love every day with Him!

*I will also praise You with the harp, even Your truth and faithfulness, O my God; unto You will I sing praises with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. My lips shall shout for joy when I sing praises to You, and my inner being, which You have redeemed.*

(Psalm 71:22.23 AMP)

Play the harp! Sing with the lyre! And shout for joy! I can't imagine David praising God quietly in a corner of his kingdom with his head bowed in silence. He shouted! He danced! His innermost being shouted! So should ours!

Have you ever been so happy that the joy just bursts forth from within you without containment? Of course you have. We all have during our lifetime.

David's innermost being shouted God's praises as well as his lips. Imagine the complete joy that overtook David when he thought of God's goodness, His power, His love.

Can you remember that first feeling of total joy when you knew that you knew that you knew that Jesus saved you and now lived within you? Do you recall the

overflowing joy when God first healed you or a loved one? Meditate on what that experience was like the very first time you truly felt God's love and presence.

Now shout for joy!

*HOW WE THANK you, Lord! Your mighty miracle give proof that you care.*

(Psalm 75:1 TLB)

During the past years, we have all heard the lies that God is no longer on the throne, that He is dead. How can anyone believe God is not working in the world today when miracles occur on a daily basis all around us? God uses miracles — instantaneous healings to declare His power and to give proof that He is still alive and cares for us. When we tell others about His good deeds, it brings Him closer than ever, so thank Him and praise Him right now!

*Then we Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give you thanks for ever; we will show forth and publish Your praise from generation to generation.*

(Psalm 79:13 AMP)

Should we thank God once for what he has done? No, thank Him forever, forever,

forever! He directs us to write down what He has done for us and *publish* His praises for generations.

Since we publish books and materials, Charles and I are very familiar with what the word publish means.

However, most people think publish simply means putting books together. Listen to what the Thesaurus says:

*“Publish: to distribute; get out; advertise; announce; broadcast; circulate; declare; disperse; proclaim; promulgate.”*  
Promulgate? I looked that one up also.

*“Promulgate: to multiply, to generate, to create, to spawn, to parent.”*

Isn't that interesting? We aren't only to show praise to God but we are to distribute and advertise, broadcast and proclaim, multiply and generate, create and parent praise from generation to generation. When praise arises in our hearts, we aren't to selfishly enjoy it. We are to spread it, broadcast it for years and years to come.

Praise is for sharing with others. When you share your testimony, you are sharing His praises, you are spreading His hope, you are creating His power and multiplying His strength within another believer.

Another word for publish is witnessing! Share His Word! Share His miracles! The miracles of God will speak to the unbeliever and they will realize what they are searching for is Jesus!

*IT IS a good and delightful thing to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises [with musical accompaniment] to Your name, O Most High, To show forth Your loving-kindness in the morning and Your faithfulness by night, (Psalm 92:1,2 AMP)*

If we all got out of bed in the morning with praises unto God for His love and thanked Him for His faithfulness in keeping us safe all during our sleeping hours, wouldn't our day be easier? God gives us direction in the first waking hours when our minds are unclouded with the clutter of the day. Look forward to God's alarm clock every morning, to His direction. You will find delight in giving thanks to the Lord whatever time of day it is when you have His direction from the first waking hour until the last of the day.

We looked at Psalm 100:1,2 a few pages ago. Look now at Psalm 100:4 KJV:

*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise: be thankful  
unto him, and bless his name.*

Entering His gates with thanksgiving on the way to church prepares our hearts to hear God's message. The gates don't have to mean the entrance of the parking lot to the church. The "gates" can be the car doors as everyone enters the vehicle, they can be the prayer at the breakfast table, or perhaps they can be the moment you wake up in the early morning. The "gates" represent the time you have chosen to prepare yourself to receive from God.

When you are prepared coming through the "gates", then you can enter into His courts with praise. His courts are one step closer to His presence, His throne room. When you are praising Him, thanking Him for His good works and blessing His name, all the problems of living seem to float away. The pressures of the world suddenly become unimportant as you become surrounded by His being, His joy, His faithfulness, His mercy, His perfect love.

When our hearts are furrowed by praise before we even enter the building, we are in a position to receive from God!

Praise is important to God! Praise and worship is important to the believer! Enter His gates with thanksgiving in your heart! Enter His courts with praise! Bless His name! Bask in His presence within His throne room and receive His strength!

There are some portions of things to praise God for that don't even need any explanation or comments. Just relax and enjoy these for yourself.

*HALLELUJAH! I WANT to express publicly before his people my heartfelt thanks to God for his mighty miracles. All who are thankful should ponder them with me. For his miracles demonstrate his honor, majesty, and eternal goodness.*

(Psalm 111:1-3 TLB)

*All he does is just and good, and all his laws are **right, for they are formed from truth and goodness, and stand firm forever.***

(Psalm 111:7.8 TLB)

*PRAISE THE LORD! For all who fear God and trust in him are blessed beyond expression. Yes, happy is the man who delights in doing his commands. His children shall be honored everywhere, for good men's sons have a special heritage. He*

*himself shall be wealthy, and his good deeds will never be forgotten. When darkness overtakes him, light will come bursting in. He is kind and merciful—and all goes well for the generous man who conducts his business fairly. Such a man will not be overthrown by evil circumstances. God's constant care of him will make a deep impression on all who see it.*

(Psalm 1 12:1-6

TLB)

*...For he is settled in his mind that Jehovah will take care of him. That is why he is not afraid, but can calmly face his foes.*

(Psalm 1 12:7.8

TLB)

*Praise him from sunrise to sunset! For he is high above the nations; his glory is far greater than the heavens. Who can be compared with God enthroned on high?*

(Psalm 113:3-5 TLB)

*He gives children to the childless wife, so that she be come a happy mother.*

(Psalm 113:9 TLB)

*May the Lord richly bless both you and your children. Yes, Jehovah who made heaven and earth will personally bless you!*



(Psalm 115:14 TLB)

*I LOVE THE Lord because he hears my prayers and answers them. Because he bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe!* (Psalm 116:1.2 TLB)

*In my distress I prayed to the Lord and he answered me and rescued me. He is for me! How can I be afraid? What can mere man do to me? The Lord is on my side, he will help me. Let those who hate me beware. It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in men. It is better to take refuge in him than in the mightiest king! Though all the nations of the world attack me, I will march out behind his banner and destroy them. Yes, they surround and attack me; but with his flag flying above me I will cut them off.* (Psalm 118:5-10 TLB)

*I shall not die, but live to tell of all his deeds.* (Psalm 118:17 TLB)

*This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.* (Psalm 118:24 TLB)

*SHALL I LOOK to the mountain gods for help? No! My help is from Jehovah who*

*made the mountains! And the heavens too! He will never let me stumble, slip or fall. For he is always watching, never sleeping. Jehovah himself is caring for you! He is your defender. He protects you day and night. He keeps you from all evil, and preserves your life. He keeps his eye upon you as you come and go, and always guards you.* (Psalm 121:1-8 TLB)

*O LORD, YOU have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment, you know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head. This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe! I can never be lost to your Spirit! I can never get away from my God! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, your strength will support me. If I try to hide in the darkness, the night becomes light around me. For even darkness cannot hide from God; to*

*you the night shines as bright as day.  
Darkness and light are both alike to you.*

*(Psalm 139:1-12 TLB)*

*I WILL PRAISE you, my God and King,  
and bless your name each day and forever.  
Great is Jehovah! Greatly praise him! His  
greatness is beyond discovery! Let each  
generation tell its children what glorious  
things he does. I will meditate about your  
glory, splendor, majesty and miracles. Your  
awe-inspiring deeds shall be on every  
tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.  
Everyone will tell about how good you are,  
and sing about your righteousness.*

*(Psalm 145:1-7 TLB)*

*All living things shall thank you, Lord,  
and your people will bless you. They will  
talk together about the glory of your  
kingdom and mention examples of your  
power. They will tell about your miracles  
and about the majesty and glory of your  
reign. For your kingdom never ends. You  
rule generation after generation*

*(Psalm 145:10-13 TLB)*

*The Lord is fair in everything he does,  
and full of kindness. He is close to all who  
call on him sincerely. He fulfills the desires*

*of those who reverence and trust him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them. He protects all those who love him, but destroys the wicked. I will praise the Lord and call on all men everywhere to bless his holy name forever and forever.*

(Psalm 145:17-21 TLB)

*PRAISE THE LORD! Yes, really praise him! I will praise him as long as I live, yes, even with my dying breath. Don't look to men for help; their greatest leaders fail; for every man must die. His breathing stops, life ends, and in a moment all he planned for himself is ended. But happy is the man who has the God of Jacob as his helper, whose hope is in the Lord his God—the God who made both earth and heaven, the seas and everything in them.* (Psalm 146:1-6 TLB)

*He frees the prisoners, and opens the eyes of the blind; he lifts the burdens from those bent down beneath their loads. For the Lord loves good men. He protects the immigrants, and cares for the orphans and widows. But he turns topsy-turvy the plans of the wicked.* (Psalm 146:7-9 TLB)

*The dead cannot sing praises to Jehovah here on earth, but we can! We praise him forever! Hallelujah!*

*Praise the Lord!* (Psalm 115:17.18 TLB)

*He heals the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds. He counts the stars and calls them all by name. How great he is! His power is absolute! His understanding is unlimited.* Psalm 147:3-5 TLB)

*Sing out your thanks to him; sing praises to our God, accompanied by harps. He covers the heavens with clouds, sends down the showers and makes the green grass grow in mountain pastures. He feeds the wild animals and the young ravens cry to him for food. The speed of a horse is nothing to him. How puny in his sight is the strength of a man. But his joy in those who reverence him, those who expect him to be loving and kind.*

(Psalm 147:7-11 TLB)

*PRAISE THE Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were*

*created. He also established them for ever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away [He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed over]. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps! You lightning, hail, fog and frost, you stormy wind fulfilling His orders! Mountains and all hills, fruitful trees and all cedars! Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers and judges of the earth! Both young men and maidens, old men and children! Let them praise and exalt the name of the Lord, for His*

*name alone is exalted and supreme! His glory and majesty are above earth and Heaven! He has lifted up a horn for His people [giving them power, prosperity, dignity and preeminence), a song of praise for all His godly ones, for the people of Israel, who are near to Him. Praise Him. Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!) (Psalm 148; Psalm 75:10; Ephesians 2:17 AMP)*

How wonderful to know that we're not alone when praising God because these verses of scripture tell the angels, the sun, moon, stars of light, heavens and waters they should all praise Him, so we're never alone in our worship of Him. Lightning, hail,

fog and frost — keep reading and you'll see that everyone and everything has been created to praise Him!

*PRAISE THE Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, praise Him in the assembly of His saints! Let Israel rejoice in Him their Maker; let Zion's children triumph and be joyful in their King! Let them praise His name in chorus and choir and with the [single or group]dance; let them sing praises to Him with the tambourine and lyre! For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation and adorn the wretched with victory. Let the saints be joyful in the glory and beauty [which God confers upon them]; let them sing for joy upon their beds.*

(Psalms 149:1-5 AMP)

***PRAISE THE Lord!** Praise **God** in His sanctuary; praise Him in the heavens of His power! Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness! Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp! Praise Him with tambourine and [single or group] dance; praise Him with stringed and wind instruments or flutes! Praise Him with*

*resounding cymbals; praise Him with loud  
clashing cymbals!*

*Let everything that has breath and  
every breath of life praise the Lord!*

*Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)*

*(Psalm 150 AMP)*



## 9 Who God Is

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*Problems, problems, problems, Is there no end, and is there no answer? This time you read this familiar story, read it with the fact that David knew who God was...*

*Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was a giant of a man, measuring over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, a two-hundred pound coat of mail, bronze leggings, and carried a bronze javelin several inches thick, tipped with a twenty-five-pound iron spearhead, and his armor bearer walked ahead of him with a huge shield.*

*He stood and shouted across to the Israelis, "Do you need a whole army to settle this? I will represent the Philistines, and you choose someone to represent you, and we will settle this in single combat! If your man is able to kill me, then we will be*

*your slaves! But if I kill him, then you must be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel!*

*Send me a man who will fight with me!"*

*When Saul and the Israeli army heard this, they were dismayed and frightened. David (the son of aging Jesse, a member of the tribe of Judah who lived in Bethlehem. Judah) had seven older brothers. The three oldest—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah—had already volunteered for Saul's army to fight the Philistines. David was the youngest son, and was on Saul's staff on a part-time basis. He went back and forth to Bethlehem to help his father with the sheep. For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening the Philistine giant strutted before the armies of Israel.*

*One day Jesse said to David, "Take this bushel of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers. Give this cheese to their captain and see how the boys are getting along; and bring us back a letter from them!"*

*(Saul and the Israeli army were camped at the valley of Elah.)*

*So David left the sheep with another shepherd and took off early the next morning with the gifts. He arrived at the outskirts of the camp just as the Israeli army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. Soon the Israeli and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. David left his luggage with a baggage officer and hurried out to the ranks to find his brothers. As he was talking with them, he saw Goliath the giant step out from the Philistine troops and shout his challenge to the army of Israel. As soon as they saw him the Israeli army began to run away in fright.*

*“Have you seen the giant?” the soldiers were asking. “He has insulted the entire army of Israel. And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? And the king will give him one of his daughters for a wife, and his whole family will be exempted from paying taxes!”*

*David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. “What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his insults to Israel?” he asked them.*

*“Who is this heathen Philistine, anyway, that he is allowed to defy*

*the armies of the living God?" And he received the same reply as before.*

*But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking like that, he was angry. "What are you doing around here, anyway?" he demanded. "What about the sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know what a cocky brat you are; you just want to see the battle!"*

*"What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!"*

*And he walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer. When it was finally realized what David meant, someone told King Saul, and the king sent for him.*

*"Don't worry about a thing," David told him. I'll take care of this Philistine!*

*"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "How can a kid like you fight with a man like him? You are only a boy and he has been in the army since he was a boy!"*

*But David persisted. “When I am taking care of my father’s sheep,” he said, “and a lion or a bear comes and grabs a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If it turns on me I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this heathen Philistine too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!*

*“The Lord who saved me from the claws and teeth of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!”*

*Saul finally consented, “All right, go ahead,” he said, “and may the Lord be with you!”*

*Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. “I can hardly move!” he exclaimed, and took them off again. Then he picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd’s bag and, armed only with his*

*shepherd's staff and sling, started across to Goliath. Goliath walked out towards David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this nice little red-cheeked boy!*

*"Am I dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. "Come over here and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals," Goliath yelled.*

*David shouted in reply, "You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you*

*in the name of the Lord of the armies  
of heaven and of Israel*

*the very God whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you and I will kill you and cut off your head; and then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And Israel will learn that the Lord does not depend on weapons to fulfill his plans—he works without regard to human means! He will give you to us!"*

*As Goliath approached, David ran out to meet him and, reaching into his shepherd's*

*bag, took out a stone, hurled it from his sling, and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and the man fell on his face to the ground.*

*So David conquered the Philistine  
giant with a sling and a stone.*

*Since he had no sword, he ran over and pulled Goliath's from its sheath and killed him with it, and then cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.*

*Then the Israelis gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and *the gates of Ekron*. The bodies of the dead and wounded Philistines were strewn all along the road to Shaaraim. Then the Israeli army returned and plundered the deserted Philistine camp.*

*(I Samuel 17:4-53 TLB)*

*After David had killed Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. (I Samuel 17:57 TLB)*

*And remember that God will do it  
for You!*



## 10 Persistence

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*When you feel like letting down and  
giving up, keep going  
... it pays off!*

*And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.*

*Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." And Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.*

*And the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"*

*Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." And he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.*

*And the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?” So he answered, “Yes, I know; keep silent!”*

*Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan.” And he said, “As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So the two of them went on.*

*And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.*

*Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.*

*And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” And Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”*

*Don't be afraid to ask for big things  
— Elisha wasn't!*

*So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am*

*taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.”*

*Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

*Now Elisha saw it, and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.*

*He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.*

*Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, “Where is the LORD God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.*

*The first thing he did was a miracle!*

*Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.*

*Then they said to him, "Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "You shall not send anyone."*

*But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send them out." Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him.*

*And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"*

*Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren."*

*And he said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him.*

*Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, "Thus says the LORD:*

*'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.'*

*So the water remains healed to this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spoke.*

*(II Kings 2:1-22 NKJV)*

*It's when you're obedient, persistent  
and faithful that God can begin to  
work through you!*

## 11 Who You Are

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*If you have ever questioned who you are, this beautiful chapter will let you know & you will never have doubts again!*

WHEN JESUS HAD finished saying all these things he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Reveal the glory of your Son so that he can give the glory back to you. For you have given him authority over every man and woman in all the earth. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—by knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth! I brought glory to you here on earth by doing everything you told me to. And now, Father, reveal my glory as I stand in your presence, the glory we shared before the world began.

“I have told these men all about you. They were in the world, but then you gave them to me. Actually, they were always

*yours, and you gave them to me; and they have obeyed you. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the commands you gave me; and they accepted them and know of a certainty that I came down to earth from you, and they believe you sent me.*

*“My plea is not for the world but for those you have given me because they belong to you. And all of them, since they are mine, belong to you; and you have given them back to me with everything else of yours and so*

*they are my glory!*

*Now I am leaving the world, and leaving them behind, and coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your own care—all those you have given me—so that they will be united just as we are, with none missing. During my time here I have kept safe within your family all of these you gave me. I guarded them so that not one perished, except the son of hell, as the Scriptures foretold.*

*“And now I am coming to you. I have told them many things while I was with them so that they would be filled with my joy. I*

*have given them your commands. And the world hates them because they don't fit in with it, just as I don't. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from Satan's power. They are not part of this world any more than I am. Make them pure and holy through teaching them your words of truth. As you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world, and*

*I consecrate myself to meet their need  
for growth in truth and holiness.*

*"I am not praying for these alone but also for the future believers who will come to me because of the testimony of these. My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as you and I are, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.*

*"I have given them the glory you gave me—the glorious unity of being one, as we are—I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one—*



*So that the world will know you sent  
me and will understand that you  
love them as much as you love me.*

*Father, I want them with me—these  
you've given me—so that they can see my  
glory. You gave me the glory because you  
loved me before the world began!*

*O righteous Father, the world doesn't  
know you, but I do; and these disciples know  
you sent me. And I have revealed you to  
them, and will keep on revealing you so that  
the mighty love you have for me may be in  
them, and I in them.” (John 17 TLB)*

*You're loved by God!*

## 12 Strength for Fear

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*At some time in our lives, all of us have been attacked by fear. It is a normal reaction because fear often alerts us of danger. However...*

*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*  
(II Timothy 1:7 NKJV)

*Sometimes if we read the "fear nots" we can obtain victory over fear!*

*...Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*  
(Genesis 15:1 KJV)

*...fear not, for lam with thee, and will bless thee...*  
(Genesis 26:24 KJV)

*...Peace be to you, fear not:...*  
(Genesis 43:23 KJV)

*...Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today:...*  
(Exodus 14:13 KJV)

*...Fear not, neither be discouraged.*  
(Deuteronomy 1:21 KJV)

*Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*  
(Deuteronomy 31:6 KJV)

*And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee :fear not, neither be dismayed.*  
(Deuteronomy 31:8 KJV)

*Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*  
(Joshua 1:9 KJV)

*....Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name;  
You are Mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;*

*And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.*

*When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,*

*Nor shall the flame scorch you.*

*For I am the Lord your God,*

*The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;*

*I gave Egypt for your ransom,*

*Ethiopia and Seba in your place.*

(Isaiah 43:1-3 NKJV)

*Fear not, for I am with you;...*

(Isaiah 43:5 NKJV)

*Fear not, for I am with you;*

*Be not dismayed, for I am your God.*

*I will strengthen you,*

*Yes, I will help you,*

*I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

(Isaiah 41:10)

*The "fear-nots are all excellent because they will bolster your confidence in God. Some of the verses that contain the word "fear" will also keep you in time of trouble.*

## *Good Fear*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.* (Proverbs 1:7 NKJV)

*THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? When evil men come to destroy me, they will stumble and fall! Yes, though a mighty army marches against me, my heart shall know no fear! I am confident that God will save me.*

*The one thing I want from God, the thing I seek most of all, is the privilege of meditating in his Temple, living in his presence every day of my life, delighting in his incomparable perfections and glory. There I'll be when troubles come. He will hide me. He will set me on a high rock out of the reach of all my enemies. Then I will bring him sacrifices and sing his praises with much joy.* (Psalms 27:1-6 TLB)

There is probably no greater word that can keep us from fear than the entire 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalms. (Quoted from the NKJV)

*THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He makes me to lie clown in green pastures;*

*He leads me beside the still waters.*

*He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;*

*For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

*You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.*

When walking through the valley of the shadow of death in 1988, I feared no evil, because He was with me.

I said, "I feel horrible, but God had a miracle at the end!"

I was healed!

*Do not be wise in our own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.*

(Proverbs 3:7 NKJV)

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* (Proverbs 9:10 NKJV)

*The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.* (Proverbs 10:27 NKJV)

*The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, To avoid the snares of death.* (Proverbs 14:27 NKJV)

*No weapon formed against you shall prosper,  
And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn.  
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,  
And their righteousness is from Me,"  
Says the LORD.* (Isaiah 54:17 NKJV)

*No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.* (Psalms 91:10-11 NKJV)

## 13 Who God I

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*Did you ever have a time when you needed to know beyond a shadow of doubt that God is all powerful and that he holds the entire universe in His hands? These are wonderful scriptures to bring you into a new heavenly realm where God's ability is concerned.*

*“God is so great that we cannot begin to know him. No one can begin to understand eternity. He draws up the water vapor and then distills it into rain, which the skies pour down. Can anyone really understand the spreading of the clouds, and the thunders within? See how he spreads the lightning around him, and blankets the tops of the mountains. By his fantastic powers in nature he punishes or blesses the people, giving*



*them food in abundance. He fills his hands with lightning bolts. He hurls each at its target. We feel his presence in the thunder. May all sinners be warned.*

*“MY HEART TREMBLES at this. Listen, listen to the thunder of his voice. It rolls across the heavens and his lightning flashes out in every direction. Afterwards comes the roaring of the thunder—the tremendous voice of his majesty. His voice is glorious in the thunder.*

*We cannot comprehend the greatness  
of his power.*

*For he directs the snow, the showers, and storm to fall upon the earth. Man’s work stops at such a time, so that all men everywhere may recognize his power. The wild animals hide in the rocks or in their dens.*

*“From the south comes the rain; from the north, the cold. God blows upon the rivers, and even the widest torrents freeze. He loads the clouds with moisture and they send forth his lightning. The lightning bolts are directed by his hand, and do whatever he commands throughout the earth. He*

*sends the storms as punishment, or, in his lovingkindness, to encourage.*

*“Listen, O Job, stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God. Do you know how God controls all nature, and causes the lightning to flash forth from the clouds? Do you understand the balancing of the clouds with wonderful perfection and skill? Do you know why you become warm when the south wind is blowing and everything is still? Can you spread out the gigantic mirror of the skies as he does?*

*“You who think you know so much, teach the rest of us how we should approach God. For we are too dull to know! With your wisdom, would we then dare to approach him? Well, does a man wish to be swallowed alive? For as we cannot look at the sun for its brightness when the winds have cleared away the clouds, neither can we gaze at the terrible majesty of God breaking forth upon us from heaven, clothed in dazzling splendor. We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty, and yet*

*He is so just and merciful that He  
does not destroy us.*

*No wonder men everywhere fear him!  
For he is not impressed by the world's  
wisest men!"*

*THEN THE LORD answered Job from  
the whirlwind:*

*"Why are you using your ignorance to  
deny my providence? Now get ready to fight,  
for I am going to demand some answers from  
you, and you must reply.*

### 102 STRENGTH FOR TODAY

*"Where were you when I laid the  
foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you  
know so much. Do you know how its  
dimensions were determined, and who did  
the surveying? What supports its  
foundations, and who laid its cornerstone,  
as the morning stars sang together and all  
the angels shouted for joy?*

*"Who decreed the boundaries of the seas  
when they gushed from the depths? Who  
clothed them with clouds and thick darkness,  
and barred them by limiting their shores,  
and said,*

*'Thus far and no farther shall you come,  
and here half your proud waves stop!'*?"

*"Have you ever once commanded the  
morning to appear, and caused the dawn to  
rise in the east? Have you ever told the  
daylight to spread to the ends of the earth, to  
end the night's wickedness? Have you ever*

*robed the dawn in red, and disturbed the haunts of wicked men and stopped the arm raised to strike?*

*“Have you explored the springs from which the seas come, or walked in the sources of their depths? Has the location of the gates of Death been revealed to you? Do you realize, the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!*

*“Where does the light come from, and how do you get there? Or tell me about the darkness. Where does it come from? Can you find its boundaries, or go to its source? But of course you know all this! For you were born before it was all created, and you are so very experienced!*

*“Have you visited the treasuries of the snow, or seen where hail is made and stored?*

*For I have reserved it for the time when I will need it in war. Where is the path to the distribution point of light? Where is the home of the east wind? Who dug the valleys for the torrents of rain? Who laid out the path for the lightning, causing the rain to fall upon the barren deserts, so that the*

*parched and barren ground is satisfied with water, and tender grass springs up?*

*“Has the rain a father? Where does dew come from? Who is the mother of the ice and frost? For the water changes and turns to ice, as hard as rock.*

*“Can you hold back the stars? Can you restrain Orion or Piciades? Can you ensure the proper sequence of the seasons, or guide the constellation of the Bear with her satellites across the heavens? Do you know the laws of the universe and how the heavens influence the earth? Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain? Can you make lightning appear and cause it to strike as you direct it?*

*“Who gives intuition and instinct? Who is wise enough to number all the clouds? Who can tilt the water jars of heaven, when everything is dust and clods? Can you stalk prey like a lioness, to satisfy the young lions’ appetites as they lie in their dens, or lie in wait in the jungle? Who provides for the ravens when their young cry out to God as they try to struggle up from their nest in hunger?” (Job 36:26, 37, and 38:1-35 TLB)*

If He can do all that, surely He can  
take care of you! Think of what He  
has done!

## 14 For Wavering Faith

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The greatest and the least have had times of questioning their own faith.

These are the special times when we need to read some of God's promises. These can be the "faith" scriptures, a few of which I'm quoting first, but often it can be those special passages which might not relate to faith, but which give you peace in those wavering times.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)

*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7 NKJV)

*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

(Psalms 119:11 KJV)

*Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.*

(Psalms 119:89 NKJV)

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV)

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

(Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV)

*If God is on our side, who can ever be against us?*

(Romans 8:31 TLB)

*For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are — high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean —*



*nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.*

(Romans 8:38-39 TLB)

*We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens — always full of the joy of the Lord, and always thankful to the Father who has made us fit to share all the wonderful things that belong to those who live in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, who bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins.*

(Colossians 1:11-14 TLB)

*It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to him — all things in heaven and on earth —for Christ's death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood. This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through the death on the cross of*

*his own human body, and now as a result Christ has brought you into the very presence of God,*

*and you are standing there before him with nothing left against you — nothing left that he could even chide you for;*

*the only condition is that you fully believe the Truth, standing in it steadfast and firm, strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News that Jesus died for you, and never shifting from trusting him to save you. This is the wonderful news that came to each of you and is now spreading all over the world.*

*(Colossians 1:20-23 TLB)*

*And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done.*

*Don't let others spoil your faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of on what Christ has said. For in Christ there is all of God in a human body;*

*so you have everything when you have Christ,*

*and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power.*

*(Colossians 2:6-10 TLB)*

*SINCE YOU BECAME alive again, so to speak, when Christ arose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where he sits beside God in the place of honor and power.*

*Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have a little desire for this world as a dead person does. Your real life is in*

*heaven with Christ and God. And  
when Christ who is our real life  
comes back again, you will shine  
with him and share in all his glories.*

(Colossians 3:1-4 TLB)

## 15 Healing

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*Sickness can strike at any time, and we need to be prepared with healing scripture to ward off the devil. The Bible is full of them, but here are some of my favorites*

*Hebrews 13:8 in the New King James Bible establishes the fact that*

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

*If He healed yesterday, He is going to heal today. That is one of the most important things we can ever learn about healing is that it is for today!*

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* (III John 2 KJV)

*LARGE CROWDS FOLLOWED Jesus as he came down the hillside.*

*Look! A leper is approaching. He kneels before him, worshipping. "Sir," the leper pleads, "if you want to, you can heal me."*

*Jesus touches the man. "I want to," he says, "Be healed." And instantly the leprosy disappears.* (Matthew 8:1-3 TLB)

*Jesus wants to heal you!*

*I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.* (Psalms 118:17 NKJV)

*"Let your heart retain my words; keep my commands and live."* (Proverbs 4:4 NKJV)

*BLESS THE LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,* (Psalms 103:1-3 NKJV)

*If we truly understand salvation, we would know that healing is a part of the atonement, and we would be healed at that moment. Jesus not only forgives all of your but sins also heals all your diseases!*

*He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

*(Psalm 107:20 NKJV)*

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

*(Isaiah 53:5 NKJV)*

*Every disease that man has ever had or will have was put on the back of Jesus when he was on the cross. Your sickness is included in one of those thirty-nine stripes. There's no reason*

*for both you and Jesus having the  
same disease!*

*...If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord your God and will do what is right in His sight, and will listen to and obey His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon you which I brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord Who heals you.*

(Exodus 15:26 AMP)

*When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."*

(Matthew 8:16.17 NKJV)

*Jesus healed ALL who came to Him to  
be healed.*

*God is no respecter of persons for  
barren women:*



*He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children.*  
(Psalm 113:9 KJV)

There are “Hunter babies” all over the world where I have laid hands on women and spoken this promise of God over them!

*For the woman who has miscarriages*

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”*

(Malachi 3:10-11 NKJV)

He promises us when we tithe that the fruit of the vine shall not fall before its time in the field! Your children are the fruit of your womb, so stand on that promise!

## *Prayer Cloths*

*Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.*

(Acts 19:11-12 NKJV)

Prayer cloths work even today in the 20th Century!

## *Laughter is Good Medicine:*

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

(Proverbs 17:22 KJV)

Keep your spirits lifted up and laugh — it is one of the most inexpensive medicines known to man.

*Laughter cost you nothing, but the healing powers are phenomenal!*

*My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let*

*them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.*

(Proverbs 4:20-22 NKJV)

*Keep God's Word in your heart a all times.*

*"I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you...*

(II Kings 20:5 NKJV)

*"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"*

(Jeremiah 32:27)

*Nothing is too hard for God!*

*Be not wise in your own eyes; reverently fear and worship the Lord and turn (entirely) from evil.*

*It shall be health to your nerves and sinews, and marrow and moistening to your bones.*

(Proverbs 3:7-8 AMP)

As Jesus spoke to His eleven disciples just before He returned to be with His Father,

*he rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.*

(Mark 16:14 NKJV)

In the world we live in today, doubt and unbelief remain two of the biggest obstacles to healing. Most Christians have no question about God's ability to heal, but where *they* are concerned, they seem to have a problem. When it "hits" home, that is when it is difficult to believe for yourself or your family. We run into a realm of "hope", but beyond that it seems difficult!

We need to believe beyond a shadow of doubt that God wants to heal us!

*God wants you  
healthy,  
wealthy  
and wise!*

## 16 Who God Is

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*When you think the enemy is bigger than you are, this is the kind of a story you need to read.*

*So one night the king of Syria sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the prophet's servant got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere.*

*"Alas, my master, what shall we do now?" he cried out to Elisha.*

*"Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For our army is bigger than theirs!"*

*Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" And the Lord opened the young man's eyes so that he could see horses of fire and chariots of fire everywhere upon the mountain!*

*Remember, there were only two of them, but God let him see into the supernatural world!*

*As the Syrian army advanced upon them, Elisha prayed, "Lord, please make them blind." And he did.*

*Then Elisha went out and told them, "You've come the wrong way! This isn't the right city! Follow me and I will take you to the man you're looking for." And he led them to Samaria!*

*As soon as they arrived Elisha prayed, "Lord, now open their eyes and let them see." And the Lord did, and they discovered that they were in Samaria, the capital city of Israel!*

*(II Kings 6:14-20 TLB)*

*God gives us spiritual eyes with which to see!*

## 17 Finances

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*It doesn't cost you anything to give  
to God!"*

That statement by John Avanzini probably shocked you as much as it did me. However, meditate on it—let the fingers of your mind reach out to every “giving” scripture you know and discover that without exception when God tells you to give, He promises more in return than what you give!

*God will meet your “need”, but not  
your greed. Do we want money for  
our personal desires, or do we want  
it to spread the gospel around the  
world? God's Word tells us that it  
is ...*

*...He who gives you power to get wealth,  
that He may establish His covenant which  
He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

(Deuteronomy 8:18 NKJV)

To receive the very best from God, you must give your very best to God! I often think of the people who donated used tea bags for the missionaries in South America. The note which accompanied them said. "There's still one cup of tea left in each bag!" God doesn't honor that kind of giving, but He does when you give Him your very best.

If you've ever questioned God about giving, or unspiritually complained because someone spent too much time taking up an offering, listen to what God has to say about giving and you'll discover it's the only way to successfully walk in the abundance that God planned for us.

Both the Old and New Testament are full of the conditions of God for prosperity, but this one in the Old Testament always delights me, especially when I read it from the Amplified Bible:

*Here are the conditions:*



*If you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, being watchful to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.*

*And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.*

### *Here are the blessings*

*Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.*

*Blessed shall be the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your beasts, the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock.*

*Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading trough.*

*Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

*The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*

*God commands blessings  
on you.*

*The Lord shall command the blessing upon you in your storehouse and in all that you undertake. And He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.*

*The Lord will establish you as a people holy to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.*

*And all people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name (and in the presence of) the Lord and they shall be afraid of you.*

*You will be forced to have prosperity!*

*And the Lord shall make you have a surplus of prosperity, through the fruit of your body, of your livestock, and of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.*

*The Lord shall open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*

*And the Lord shall make you the head, and not the tail; and you shall be above only, and you shall not be beneath, if you heed the*

*commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day and are watchful to do them.*

*And you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

(Deuteronomy 28:1-14 AMP)

So often we stop there, because it's sooooo good. and we don't find out the rest of the chapter, but it's good to read, too.

As a matter of fact, a friend of mine who forgot to tithe, had suffered many years from psoriasis until she read the balance of Deuteronomy from verse 15 to verse 47:

*What happens when you disobey?*

*But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God, being watchful to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command you this day, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you:*

*Cursed shall you be in the city and cursed shall you be in the field.*

*Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading trough.*

*Cursed shall be the fruit of your body, of your land, of the increase of your cattle and the young of your sheep.*

*Cursed shall you be when you come in and cursed shall you be when you go out.*

*We don't want this!*

*The Lord shall send you curses, confusion, and rebuke in every enterprise to which you set your hand, until you are destroyed, perishing quickly, because of the evil of your doings by which you have forsaken me (Moses and God as one).*

*The Lord will make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from off the land which you go to possess.*

*The Lord will smite you with consumption, with fever and inflammation, fiery heat, sword and drought, blasting and mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.*

*The heavens over your head shall be brass and the earth under you shall be iron.*

*The Lord shall make the rain of your land powdered soil and dust; from the heavens it shall come down upon you until you are destroyed.*

*Just the opposite*

## *of when you obey Him!*

*The Lord shall cause you to be struck down before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them, and you shall be tossed to and fro and be a terror among all the kingdoms of the earth.*

*And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.*

*The Lord will smite you with the boils of Egypt and the tumors, the scurvy and the itch, of which you cannot be healed.*

*The Lord will smite you with madness and blindness and dismay of (mind and) heart.*

## *Disobedience*

*And you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness. And you shall not prosper in your ways; and you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to save you.*

*You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but not live in it; you shall plant a vineyard but not gather its grapes.*

*Your ox shall be slain before your eyes, and you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away before your face and not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to help you.*

*The curses never end.*

*Your sons and daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all the day; and there shall be no power in your hands to prevent it.*

*A nation which you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your land and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually,*

*So that you shall be driven mad by the sights which your eyes shall see.*

*It get worse and worse.*

*The Lord will smite you on the knees and on the legs with a sore boil that cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.*

*The Lord shall bring you and your king whom you have set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have*

*known, and there you shall (be forced to) serve other gods, of wood and stone.*

*And you shall become an amazement, a proverb, and a byword, among all the peoples to which the Lord will lead you.*

*You shall carry much seed out into the field and shall gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.*

*You shall plant vineyards and dress them but shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them.*

*You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory but you shall not anoint yourselves with the oil, for your olive trees shall drop their fruit.*

*You shall beget sons and daughters but shall not enjoy them, for they shall go into captivity.*

*All your trees and the fruit of your ground shall the locust possess.*

*The transient (stranger) among you shall mount up higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.*

*He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.*

*All these curses shall come upon you and shall pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you do not obey*

*the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.*

*They shall be upon you for a sign (of warning to other nations) and for a wonder, and upon your descendants forever.*

*Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness of (mind and) heart (in gratitude) for the abundance of all (with which He had blessed you).*

*...I have set before you life and death,  
blessings and cursing; therefore  
choose life, that both you and your  
descendants may live.*

(Deut. 30:19 NKJV)

*The choice is yours!*

Remember, it costs you nothing to give to God! But it costs a lot NOT to give to God!

I know this is long, but it's worthwhile reading, and even though we all know that we have the new covenant, the advice in this chapter is most certainly worthwhile reading,



because many times it can show us why we are wallowing in poverty.

As I was writing this book, I talked to a woman who had been married and divorced. Throughout all her problems, she tithed. Then she remarried and got back her children, but there just wasn't enough money to tithe and put shoes on all of her children. She got some bad advice when someone told her to forget the tithe temporarily and clothe her children.

She did just that, and immediately she lost her job, lost her home and her car and ended up on welfare. The principles of God work whether you think you can afford them or not and often it is God seeing if we will really trust Him all the way down to the wire. We have had to do that so many times in the ministry, but each opportunity God has given us to trust Him, He has gotten there at just the right time. He has never failed!

There are so many Stories of giving in the Bible that lead to a surplus, I'd suggest that you read them again and see how the surplus came about. I found this exciting summary in a book entitled "Tithes and Offerings, God's Way to Success" by Dr. Solomon M. Aordkian, a family chiropractor.

We have to remember first of all that God gave His only begotten Son so that you

and I might have eternal life. Had it not been for His wonderful gift, you and I would not be where we are today. He was and always will remain the biggest giver of them all.

A good summary on how Jesus gave: *“The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”*

(Matthew 11:5 KJV)

Someone gave Jesus the water which He turned into wine (John 2:6-9).

A Little Boy gave Jesus his lunch (John 6:9).

Mary Magdalene gave Jesus a footbath with her very expensive perfume and wiped His feet with her hair (John 12:3).

Someone gave Jesus a donkey (Matthew 21:2-3).

Salome bought sweet spices for Jesus' burial tomb (Mark 16:1).

Someone gave Jesus the use of their Upper Room for the Last Supper (Matthew 26:18).

Joseph of Arimathea gave his tomb to bury Jesus (John 19:38).

Elisha gave to his enemies food and safety (II Kings 6:22-23).

Jesus highly commended the poor widow who gave her last 2 mites for an offering (Mark 12:42-44).

Peter gave Jesus the use of his empty boat for a temporary pulpit (Luke 5:3).

Peter's mother-in-law, right after Jesus healed her, gave Jesus hospitality (Matthew 8:14,15).

Zaccheus was a giving person and he showed Jesus hospitality (Luke 19:7-8).

The Good Samaritan was a very giving person (Luke 10 :30-35).

Giving takes on many forms and whatever we do as unto the Lord is not forgotten; it is remembered and brings eternal rewards (Matthew 25:31-46).

The Early Church was a giving church at birth (Acts 2:44-45 and 4:34-35).

The Church at Antioch was a giving church (Acts 11:29).

The Philippian church was a very giving church (Philippians 4:15-16).

The Centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant had a well-known reputation in the community as being a giving, generous person (Luke 7:4-5).

Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Suzanna – Three women who showed Jesus hospitality (Luke 8:1-3).

Barnabas, co-missionary with Paul, was a giving person before he was called to be a missionary (Acts 4:36-37).

Cornelius was a giving person which God said led to his salvation (Acts 10:4).

Dorcas was a giving person, “full of good works and almsdeeds”; she was a disciple. She became sick and died. Paul raised her from the dead and then that whole area (Joppa) heard about the Gospel (Acts 9:36-42).

You’ll never know where your giving will lead to.

Lydia showed Paul and Barnabas hospitality (Acts 16:15).

Paul and Silas, in prison in stocks and bonds, found something to *give* to God; they sang praises to God. God provided a mighty miracle for their jail release (Acts 16:25- 26).

The Philippian Jailer, a brand new convert, showed hospitality and tender care to his former prisoners, Paul and Silas (Acts 16:32-34).

Paul was a giving person (Acts 24:17).

The Corinthian Church was a giving church (I Corinthians 16:1-3).

Feeding the poor, maimed, lame and blind (Luke 14:13-14).

Paul preached “giving” to all his churches that he founded and he was most

proud of the Philippian church for their knowledge of this spiritual truth and the fact that they practiced generous and faithful giving. (Philippians 4:14-19).

The new converts on the island of Melita, former barbarous natives, blessed Paul with their generous giving. They loaded Paul down with everything he needed for his trip to Rome. (Acts 28:10).

In every one of these instances of *giving*, the act was recorded in God's Word. That's how important He thinks giving is. Read of each of the stories in any version of the Bible that you want to, and you will see that the *giver* always received back more than they gave. I often think of the little boy who gave Jesus his lunch. He had so much left over he probably started the first bakery in Israel, and all because he gave what little he had!

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*  
(III John 2 NKJV)

*"Prove Me," says God!*

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,  
That there may be food in My house, And*

*prove Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:10 NKJV)*

*God wants you to even prove Him to  
see what He will  
do for you!*

*To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. (Ecclesiastes 2:26 MV)*

Isn't it wonderful to know that God is allowing the money of the sinner to accumulate just for you? Remember, every time you go by a sinner, he's working for you! God does, however, put conditions on His actions, so notice very carefully those first six beautiful words. "To the man who pleases Him." If the sincere desire of our life is to lovingly please God above all else, we can take that scripture for our very own and know that we're going to see the day that the

sinner walks up to us and hands over his money!

*A good man leaves an inheritance (of moral stability and goodness) to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner (finds its way eventually) into the hands of the righteous, for whom it was laid up.* (Proverbs 13:22 AMP)

These two scriptures blend together so well I had to put them together because they emphasize the fact that the wealth of this world is going to sneak right into the pocket of those who love God. I can hardly wait for the day when some sinner comes up to me and hands me a garbage sack of \$100 bills and says. "Here, it's yours for the ministry — it has belonged to the devil long enough!" You'll hear me shout from here to eternity!

My heart cries for the sinner who toils and sweats to amass wealth and doesn't even know that all the wealth of the world belongs only to God. God allows him the privilege of having it for a while, and then whoops — it's gone, right into the hands of a righteous man!

*Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later.* (Ecclesiastes 11:1 TLB)

You can believe for the return. *It costs you nothing to give to God.* God says He is our source, so we can give as He directs and our needs will be met. It does not cost you to give to God because His word promises that He returns when we give!

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)

God gave that wonderful verse of scripture to me when I fell in love with Charles. I was having such a wild, mad love affair with God that I didn't think He would ever want me to marry. But when my heart flipped for Charles, God said, “Because you have sought first My kingdom and My righteousness, I am giving Charles to you to love you, to protect you and be a father to your children!”

There is no way you can ever out give God in any area of your life, and remember, it costs you nothing to give to God! The return is always there. And it's so much bigger and better than you gave.



Read the verse again and you will see when he says to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. and all these things will be added to you. Yes, it is a direct command from God. We are to obey His commands at all times if we want to walk in His blessings. He doesn't say to seek Him last after everything else has failed, but to seek Him first.

Many people seek God when all other avenues have failed such as borrowing from your family, loan companies, juggling your credit cards, but seek Him first and see what happens.

God is the very best friend we have. He is far closer than a loving spouse, an obedient child or a special earthly friend. He is always there and communicates with us all day long if we will only listen to Him, If we have any questions at all, we only need to share our heart with Him and know He hears and will answer us from His loving heart!

The general of an army always supplies his troops with supplies, with moral support, with food, with clothes, and with military support of air power and ground cover. Our Supreme Commander has the greatest of air power and the best weapons available! We simply have to be obedient and seek Him at

all times. He will joyously add all these things unto us so we can continue to fight the battle outfitted in God's very best armor.

*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

(Luke 6:38 NKJV)

Here again is proof that it costs nothing to give to God. His unbreakable promise to you is that you will get it back. I have often said if I can't trust God with my money, I certainly can't trust Him with my soul, and I do!

*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 AMP)

Let go of what you are holding onto — roll your works upon the Lord in the same manner you would let a bowling ball go. You can't get it back once it is laid down on the bowling alley and once you roll your works upon the Lord, you shouldn't try to

recover them! Don't run down the bowling alley trying to get your problems back, but watch God do the supernatural instead!

Give them completely to Him, and when you can accomplish what seems to be an impossible feat of releasing everything, then He will cause all of your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, not YOURS, and when you can sincerely do that, your plans will be completely and positively established and because God is the one who is doing it, they will succeed!

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.* (Psalms 23:1 KJV)

Because the Lord is truly our shepherd, we will not be found in want or need. A shepherd provides all things for his sheep. He protects them from the enemy. He provides food and shelter. He leads His sheep to water when they need to be refreshed. And even though the sheep don't like the shearing they receive in the spring, the hot summer would certainly be more miserable if they had to wear their heavy winter coats all year long. The wise shepherd knows what is best for His sheep and will certainly not let them go hungry, be

left in the cold or go without comfort. So it is with God and you!

*Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures* (Proverbs 8:18-21 KJV)

How thrilling it is to know that God is going to force you to prosper when you love Him! We can't run from Him, we can't hide from Him, we can't claim we love Him and not be genuinely in love with Him and expect to receive His promises, but when you love Him, you open the windows of heaven to receive all His blessings, and He will cause you to inherit substance.

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.* (Proverbs 3:1-2 MV)

God is again emphasizing His teaching and commandments. He is telling us to keep them in our heart and not our head. This is a

prescription for a long and prosperous life. Let's lock His teaching and all His commands in our hearts right now.

After I minister salvation I tell baby Christians to lock Jesus inside their hearts and throw the key away so He can't get out of there. Right now, let's find the key, open our hearts and bury all His teachings and commands right in there next to Jesus! His Word needs to be locked inside our own personal computer — our heart where we can draw on just the perfect words He would have us minister in every situation.

*There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right,*

*But it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.*

(Proverbs 11:24,28)

Once you understand God's return system, it is easy to understand why the person who holds back from God always has a problem with his finances, but the generous person will always have more than enough!

*[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings.*

*Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].*

*And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient (possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation).*

*As it is written, He (the benevolent person) scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever! (II Corinthians 9:6-10 AMP)*

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (III John 2 KJV)*

God wants us healthy, wealthy and wise. He doesn't single out one or the other of these as more prominent. The way he wrote it, all three areas are equal. That also means they can't be divided or separated from one another. As we gain knowledge, our soul will prosper. Even the world knows we will be healthier and wealthier with wisdom. With God's wisdom, we will be even more so.

Give with a loving heart and God will not only supply your every need, He will bless you abundantly.

*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:19 NKJV)

Since our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and everything we see (and can't see), why do we doubt that He can supply our daily bread, school clothes for the children, transportation to work, or friends with whom to share our deepest feelings. Sometimes we can believe God for love, peace and joy, and then turn around and doubt that He can provide material things. He can provide all our needs, not part, not most, but all! However, He said He would supply our need, not our greed!

Another good verse in Proverbs is found in the third chapter starting at the first verse. *My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity* (Proverbs 3:1-2 NIV).

God is again emphasizing the need to keep His teaching and commandments securely locked in our heart. He is giving us the prescription for a long *and* prosperous life.

*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.*  
(Proverbs 10:22 NKJV)

*Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*  
(Proverbs 3:9-10 AMP)

When you honor God with your possessions, it means to willingly, joyously and excitedly give them to Him with absolutely no regrets or sorrow about parting with what He has given you in the first place. Always the first part — not what is left over when you have bought and spent what YOU want to spend, but the first fruits belong to



God. When you do that, then He will always provide everything that you need!

*It doesn't cost you anything  
to give to God!*

When you read all those scriptures carefully, it's easy to understand why giving to God should be a natural, normal, simple procedure because we can know, that we know, that it will be returned to us. Never should it be given grudgingly, but always cheerfully because it's coming back with interest and blessings!

One of the things that excited me the most when I read this scripture for the first time was to discover that God is “unwilling to abandon or to do without a cheerful, joyous, prompt-to-do-it giver—whose heart is in his giving.” To think that God cannot do without you just because of your giving — isn't that a powerful thought?

## 18 Living "His" Way

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*God's Word plainly speaks as to the way we should conduct our lives, we should never have any doubt, but these are my favorite scriptures for reminding me of how to walk in victory, which is God's way!*

*Away then with sinful, earthly things; deaden the evil desires lurking within you; have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust and shameful desires; don't worship the good things of life, for that is idolatry. God's terrible anger is upon those who do such things. You used to do them when your life was still part of this world; but now is the time to cast off and throw away all these rotten garments of anger, hatred, cursing, and dirty language.*

*Don't tell lies to each other; it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing; now it is dead and gone. You*

*are living a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right, and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ who created this new life within you. In this new life one's nationality or race or education or social position is unimportant; such things mean nothing.*

*Whether a person has Christ is what matters,*

*and he is equally available to all.*

*(Colossians 3:5-11 TLB)*

*Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of heart which comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of his body. And always be thankful.*

*Remember what Christ taught and let his words enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts.*

*And whatever you do or say, let it be  
as a representative of the Lord Jesus,*

*and come with him into the presence of God  
the Father to give him your thanks.*

(Colossians 3:14-17 TLB)

*And if you don't do your best for him, he  
will pay you in a way that you won't like—  
for he has no special favorites who can get  
away with shirking. (Colossians 3:25 TLB)*

*Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it;  
watch for God's answers and remember to  
be thankful when they come.*

(Colossians 4:2 TLB)

*You can see that I am not trying to please  
you by sweet talk and flattery; no, I am trying  
to please God. If I were still trying to please  
men I could not be Christ's servant.*

(Galatians 1:10 TLB)

*...for it was through reading the  
Scripture that I came to realize that I could  
never find God's favor by trying — and  
failing — to obey the laws. I came to realize  
that acceptance with God comes by  
believing in Christ.*

*I have been crucified with Christ: and  
I myself no longer live, but Christ  
lives in me.*

*And the real life I now have within this body is a result of my trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not one of those who treats Christ's death as meaningless. For if we could be saved by keeping Jewish laws, then there was no need for Christ to die.*

(Galatians 2:19-21 TLB)

*Now we are no longer slaves, but God's own sons. And since we are his sons, everything he has belongs to us, for that is the way God planned.* (Galatians 4:7 TLB)

*I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just*

*the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures.*

*When you are guided by the Holy Spirit you need no longer force yourself to obey Jewish laws.*

*But when you follow your own wrong inclinations your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group — and there will be wrong doctrine, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.*

*Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there.*

*If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.*

(Galatians 5:16-25 TLB)

*If anyone thinks he is too great to stoop to this, he is fooling himself. He is really a nobody.*

*Let everyone be sure that he is doing his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work well done, and won't need to compare himself with someone else. Each of us must bear some faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!*

*Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.*

*Don't be misled; remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it: a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows! If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the*

*everlasting life which the Holy Spirit gives him. And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up. That's why whenever we can we should always be kind to everyone, and especially to our Christian brothers.* (Galatians 6:3-10 TLB)

*Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us;*

*He decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault — we who stand before him covered with his love.*

*His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us.*

*And he did this because he wanted to!*

*Now all praise to God for his wonderful kindness to us and his favor that he has poured out upon us, because we belong to his dearly loved Son. So overflowing is his kindness towards us that he took away all*



*our sins through the blood of his Son, by whom we are saved; and he has showered down upon us the richness of his grace — for how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all times.*

*God has told us his secret reason for sending Christ, a plan he decided on in mercy long ago; and this was his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together from wherever we are — in heaven or on earth — to be with him in Christ, forever. Moreover, because of what Christ has done we have become gifts to God that he delights in, for as part of God's sovereign plan we were chosen from the beginning to be his, and all things happen just as he decided long ago. God's purpose in this was that we should praise God and give glory to him for doing these mighty things for us, who were the first to trust in Christ.*

*And because of what Christ did, all you others too, who heard the Good News about how to be saved, and trusted Christ, were marked as belonging to Christ by the Holy Spirit, who long ago had been promised to all of us Christians. His presence within us is God's guarantee that he really will give us all that he promised; and the Spirit's seal upon us means that God has already*

*purchased us and that he guarantees to bring us to himself. This is just one more reason for us to praise our glorious God.*

*(Ephesians 1:4-14 TLB)*

*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share.*

*I want you to realize that God has  
been made rich because we who are  
Christ have been  
given to him!*

*I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him, for it is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heaven, far, far above any other king or ruler or dictator or leader. Yes, his honor is far more glorious than that of anyone else either in this world or in the world to come. And God has put all things under his feet and made him the supreme Head of the church — which is his body, filled with himself, the Author and Giver of*

*everything everywhere.*

(Ephesians 1:18-23 TLB)

*When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God — some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth — that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it.*

*And So at last you will be filled up  
with God himself.*

*Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of— infinitely beyond our*

*highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the church through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 3:14-21 TLB)*

*Let me say this, then, speaking for the Lord: Live no longer as the unsaved do, for they are blinded and confused. Their closed hearts are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds against him, and they cannot understand his ways. They don't care anymore about right and wrong and have given themselves over to impure ways. They stop at nothing, being driven by their evil minds and reckless lusts.*

*But that isn't the way Christ taught you! If you have really heard his voice and learned from him the truths concerning himself, then throw off your old evil nature — the old you that was a partner in your evil ways — rotten through and through, full of lust and sham.*

*Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person holy and good. Clot he yourself with this new nature.*

*Stop lying to each other; tell the truth, for we are parts of each other and when we lie to each other we are hurting ourselves. If you are angry, don't sin by nursing your grudge. Don't let the sun go down with you still angry — get over it quickly; for when you are angry you give a mighty foothold to the devil.*

*If anyone is stealing he must stop it and begin using those hands of his for honest work so he can give to others in need. Don't use bad language. Say only what is good and helpful to those you are talking to, and what will give them a blessing.*

*Don't cause the Holy Spirit sorrow by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who marks you to be present on that day when salvation from sin will be complete.*

*Stop being mean, bad-tempered and angry. Quarreling, harsh words, and dislike of others should have no place in your lives. Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.* (Ephesians 4:17-32 TLB)

*Follow God's Example in everything  
you do just as a much loved child  
imitates his father.*

*Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him.*

*Let there be no sex sin, impurity or greed among you. Let no one be able to accuse you of any such things. Dirty stories, foul talk and coarse jokes — these are not for you. Instead, remind each other of God's goodness and be thankful.*

*You can be sure of this: The kingdom of Christ and of God will never belong to anyone who is impure or greedy, for a greedy person is really an idol worshiper—he loves and worships the good things of this life more than God. Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the terrible wrath of God is upon all those who do them. Don't even associate with such people. For though once your heart was full of darkness, now it is full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it! Because of this*

*light within you, you should do only what is good and right and true.*

*Learn as you go along what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless pleasures of evil and darkness, but instead, rebuke and expose them. It would be shameful even to mention here those pleasures of darkness which the ungodly do. But when you expose them, the light shines in upon their sin and shows it up, and when they see how wrong they really are, some of them may even become children of light! That is why God says in the Scriptures, Awake, O sleeper, and rise up from the dead; and Christ shall give you light.”*

*(Ephesians 5:1-14 TLB)*

*And you slave owners must treat your slaves right, just as I have told them to treat you. Don't keep threatening them; remember, you yourselves are slaves to Christ; you have the same Master they do, and he has no favorites.*

*Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against*

*persons without bodies — the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.*

*So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up.*

*But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God.*

*Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.* (Ephesians 6:9-18 TLB)

*His way is the only way!*



In the beginning ...

God

... and also at the end