



“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matt. 24:4-8

3 These are very familiar verses to most Christians, for they contain a number of very prominent signs, announcing the conditions that will prevail at Jesus’ Second Advent. They are in answer to three questions the disciples had asked when Jesus announced the destruction of the temple. V. 2,3 These faithful followers wanted to know “....when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (age). They did not know that the entire Church Age lay between the time then present and the age of which they spoke, for even after the resurrection, they still asked “.....Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6 Jesus’ answer is very much applicable to the events of our day, and the verses here in our text, along with similar accounts in Mark and Luke, tell us that there are numerous signs expressing multiple conditions which prevail in this world at the present time. It is a day of deception, war, famine, pestilence, and earthquakes. Luke chimes in with many of these same signs but records additionally that there will be “.... fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars;..... Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke 21:11,25,26

Jesus asserts, in verse 8 of our opening text, that all

these things are only "...the beginning of sorrows." The word "sorrows" is the key word for our day. It means "a pang or throe, especially of childbirth: travail," and is likened unto a woman about to give birth. The contractions begin rather mild and far apart, but give way to those of greater intensity, and much closer together, as the actual delivery approaches. This pattern of "sorrows" is in itself **the sign**, for it reflects the sheer swift, repetitive, and simultaneous nature of events being manifested so clearly before our very eyes. There are many in our world today who insist that "it only **seems** that these things are happening more frequently, due to the fact that present day communications far more advanced than anything that has preceded them." Others proclaim Solomon's words "...and there is no new thing under the sun," (Eccl. 1:9) as explanation and justification for such numerous events.

We would argue that neither of these statements dismisses the evidence before us. There have been wars down through the ages. Some, like World Wars I & II, have been heralded as being the conflicts to end all others. Since that time however, we have seen wars in Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, and other trouble spots around the world. Presently, it is extremely difficult to keep track of all the simultaneous uprisings, especially in the Middle East, where the Great Battle of Armageddon will eventually be fought. Not only so, but all these present skirmishes center around Israel, as Egypt, Syria, Iran, Jordan, and Libya, are engaged in very volatile conflicts which put the entire world on alert. Many in this country have ridiculed the idea that the uprising in Libya, does not, for political reasons, qualify as a war. The fact remains, however, that the "birth pains" are not isolated events, and they are become increasingly violent and destructive. 4

These same characteristics of "sorrows" must also be applied to all the other signs that Jesus outlined. The deception of our day is rampant. Jesus describes it in a religious way as though men would announce that they are His direct spokesman, and there surely are those religious charlatans, purporting things that are in no wise scriptural. Christendom in general seems unwilling to declare the full Light of God's Word, and thus darkness is slowly but surely, descending more and more upon the entire world, bringing wide-spread deception in its wake. Paul

tells us, however, that such deception goes far beyond those who would wrest, or ignore the scripture. “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:1 Scams have long existed among mankind, but in recent years, men like Bernie Madoff, and the executives at Enron, have come on the scene in ever increasing numbers. We are now told that the current economic woes of this country actually started with many investors in the housing market “buying into” deceptive schemes that only existed on paper. The result has been catastrophic, with some even declaring that the present economy bears signs of the great depression. Officials of our day are hard pressed to account for all the schemes and scams that exist, let alone stop them.

5 The lack of moral fabric and fiber of this country is also very pronounced and surely it is not just because moral atrocities are now being “better reported.” We are quite sure that the homosexual agenda and abortion rate does not just “seem” to be higher because news media now cover it better. Are we to assume that “just living together” outside the confines of marriage” has always been predominant, or is there actually a great increase, since recent statistics show that unwed couples now outnumber married ones? The intensity and scope of all these “moral” hazards are included in Paul’s words to Timothy regarding these last days. “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;” II Tim. 3:2-4 What a summation to the motivations prevailing at this present time, when men simply disregard the ways of God, and despite the acclaim that things will improve if we only “educate” men, our world is waxing worse and worse on every level. We know that hate and crime have been with us since Cain rose up and slew Abel, but law enforcement agencies in these last days can in no wise contain the civil disobedience, incontinence, and the fierce and violent behavior of modern man. Our hearts literally break to see and hear accounts of parents brutalizing their children and children demonstrating barbaric tactics against their parents. News reporters no longer have to “pound the

streets” searching for stories, for there are so many they can in no wise keep up with them. Sadly such reports of brutality are so commonplace that this has become the norm for our day.

And then we come to the ever increasing signs which are completely beyond the control of men. They are happening simply because scripture declares that they would. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, massive snow in heretofore “mild climate” areas, excessive rainfall, and drought, have all been blamed on man-made global warming over the past few years, despite the revelation by British scientists that the data which “proved” such a phenomenon, was extremely altered and flawed. Add to that the scientific evidence showing that the temperatures on planets, which could in no wise be affected by the CO2 fallout from earth, are also rising. Thus we must conclude that “global warming” which could more correctly be defined as “universe warming,” is undoubtedly because the sun is getting hotter, even as scripture has foretold. II Pet. 3:10,12

Men would love to prove that man is responsible for these things, because if he is, it can be corrected by man. The global warming issue has also been used extensively in the last few years as a political “hammer” to exact control over societies, thus paving the way for sovereign rule of antichrist. Herein lies the problem. None of these, ever intensified, “sorrows” can be halted by the efforts of men. We have absolutely no qualm with the fact that sick earth’s fever is rising, and that is only one symptom of her very grave illness. The problem remains that all the collective efforts of politicians, religionists, environmentalists, and moralists are not sufficient to prevent her prophesied and impending demise.

The Word of God will be fulfilled, and that Word declares that all the aforementioned “sorrows,” will occur in ever increasing numbers and intensity. Weather patterns over the past few years are surely the fulfillment of Jesus’ words recorded in Luke 21:25,26. “And there **shall be** (despite all the efforts of men) signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke plainly declares that the fear of men is directly attributed to those things which happen on the earth, specifically

because “the powers of heaven are shaken.” Those powers indicate so-called “acts of God,” which are completely beyond the control of men. The following statistics are a compilation of information gathered from “endoftheamericandream.com,” and National Public Radio. Both reports indicate the volume of events experienced in a very short period of time, especially emphasizing those of 2011.

Tornadoes

*In April, there were approximately 600 tornadoes across the country. That is the most tornadoes that have ever been recorded in a single month inside the United States.

*The massive tornado outbreak in the southeast U.S. at the end of April is being called the worst natural disaster since Hurricane Katrina. One F5 tornado that ripped through the Tuscaloosa, Alabama area was reportedly a mile wide and scientists are estimating that it had winds that exceeded 260 miles an hour.

*The tornado that ripped through Joplin, Missouri is being called the deadliest single tornado in more than 60 years. It ripped a path of destruction more than a mile wide and more than 6 miles long directly through the city. Two days later, another devastating tornado swept through Sedalia, Missouri, also leaving severe destruction in its wake.

Earthquakes

But it is not just tornadoes that are increasing in frequency and power. Major earthquakes are happening more regularly all over the globe, and the earthquake that struck off the coast of Japan in March was one of the largest ever recorded. That earthquake spawned the worst tsunami that any of us have ever seen.

*In February, a large earthquake absolutely devastated Christchurch, New Zealand.

Volcanoes

*Two massive volcanoes in the Kamchatka region of Russia erupted at almost the exact same moment when the massive magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck Japan back in March.

*One of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia, Mount Karangetang, erupted just a couple of hours after the earthquake hit Japan in March.

*The Fuego volcano in Guatemala absolutely exploded back in

late February.

*800 meter high ash plumes rose from the Santiaguito volcano in Guatemala near the end of February.”

Snow, Rain, and Flooding

* Water levels of The Mississippi River have exceeded those of the 1927 floods, and is now being called a flood that only happens "once every hundred years". “John Michael Riley, an agricultural economist at Mississippi State University, is estimating that the damage to farms alone is going to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 billion dollars.”

Upwards of 20 inches of rain, combined with snow melt, is presently causing tremendous flooding along the Missouri River, which flows into the Mississippi. The Army Corp of Engineers had to make the decision to purposely flood some areas in order to spare other more populated locales. Other communities downstream are racing against time, trying desperately to build levees or sand bag walls, to protect themselves from these rising waters. Thus we see greater consternation plaguing men in addition to the original cause of the damage, as they try to combat the potential destruction leveled against them. 8

The reports continue, announcing that two feet of snow fell in Chicago in just 24 hours. The East Coast was pummeled with “record breaking” snowfall because of six major storms in only 30 days. The average snowfall in New York City is 21 inches, but as of January 31, over 50 inches had fallen. This list could go on and on, telling exactly the same story: storms across the U.S. have been more intense and more frequent than ever before, and the same pattern applies to the whole planet.

Wildfires

Wildfires in the southwest conclude this list as drought is blamed for those ravaging Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. We may grow weary of reading all these “stats,” but must sympathize with all those who have had to endure these difficulties. We have also noticed that, not only are these devastating storms happening with greater frequency and force, but they are seen in areas that are very heavily populated. Many of the recent tornadoes would not even have been given a passing thought, were it not for the fact that they produced so much damage due to their location. In addition to that, many of us have been affected even more by them

because we know some of the victims personally, both in Joplin and Sedalia, Missouri, some who truly are looking up, anticipating Jesus' soon coming. We have often wondered just how many of these atrocities The Bridal Company will experience. The Philadelphia Church holds the promise that "I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10, but it does not promise escape from the "beginning" of these sorrows.

We know full well that we are very near the time of Jesus' return. It is rather interesting that a quote from Newsweek states that "the Stable climate of the last 12,000 years is gone." This simply means that the "instability," in all the areas Jesus mentioned, is the new "norm" for this world, and "terra firma," is no longer solid. Our only hope is in the sure promises of God, and it is high time for Christians to claim their place as sons of God, laying hold of the hope, not to improve and save this world, but rather to be transported out of it "In a moment, (in the midst of a world **marked** by sudden change) in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: (if there is a last trump, there must of necessity be a first, and that is the one for which we are listening and longing) for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1Cor. 15:52

POWER AND PRAYER

All God's giants have been weak men, who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them.

Those prayers only will be answered which are in harmony with the revealed will of God...Unless the Word of God is abiding in us, how can we be sure that our petitions are in harmony with His will?

One only Rock, one only Salvation, one only Defense is ours, and just in proportion as anything else is substituted will there be weakness and failure and loss. Power with God will be the gauge of real power with men.

--J. Hudson Taylor

Unknown Worthies of Faith

Paul N. Smith

“But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses.... as unknown, and yet well known, as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” II Corinthians 6:4-10

The Apostle Paul was a true minister of God. He was sovereignly called of God; he was taught by God; he was answerable to God and he sought approval only from God. It is no wonder then that he endured the pressures of his ministry and was willing to suffer the loss of all things, that he might win Christ and please His Master. Anyone who follows Christ may be an unknown in this world, but he is well known in the heavenly realm. It doesn't really matter whether we are successful in man's eyes; it should be our heart's desire to be rewarded with those heart-warming words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

10

We have some important people in the Bible who were not known by name. They are among the "unknowns" who won a spot in God's Hall of Fame, because they were faithful to do the little task, and be willing to be just a little part in God's great plan. The first one we will look at was important in the life of Joseph, while as yet he was just a young lad doing the wishes of his father.

"And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said, Here am I. And he said unto him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks, and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. And a certain man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?" - Genesis 37:13-15.

Joseph, a teenager, and noted for his dreaming, was sent to see how his brothers were doing. When he came to Shechem, they had left and Joseph had no way of knowing where they had taken the flocks. If Joseph was like some teenagers today, his imagination could have taken him far away from where he was to go. Picture the scene: Joseph found nothing but empty fields, and

having no idea where Reuben had led the others with the flocks, he was meandering in the fields, looking for someone familiar. It could have been a frightening experience. He was eager to please his father, but now, what was he to do? He was lost, and probably wondering what he should do. Go home feeling he had failed in his mission, or keep looking for his brothers. He did not know that it was going to be a very long time before he saw his father again, but that is another story. Logic would say, "It would have been better for him to find a whole new way of life, than to have to face what he did at the hands of his brothers. But God has plans for us, and He always directs our paths for His purposes.

God had "a certain man" who "found" Joseph wandering in the field. It reads as though this man was sent to look for him. It wasn't Jacob who sent him, because he didn't know he was lost, and it wasn't his brothers, because they did not know he was looking for them. Well...it must have been God who sent this man to find him. Who was this man? We don't know, but he was used of God to further His purposes for Joseph and the children of Israel, so he was an important man of the hour.

11

This certain man asked, "What seekest thou?" He was then able to send Joseph in the right direction to find his brothers and his father's flocks.

In our own experience, there have been times when we needed direction; perhaps it was before we were saved, or when we needed to be pushed to yield to the Lord. Someone has been there to help us. Perhaps it was someone we knew, or maybe a total stranger.

One time in my life, when I was very young and trying to pastor a small church in New Mexico (my first), I became discouraged and wondered if I was ever called into the ministry. I visited some relatives in California, and while there, decided to answer an ad for a job at the Bank of America. My application was processed, and my interview went well. I thought, "Well, this is what I am supposed to do; I'll have a long career in banking." A few days later, the personnel manager called and told me that in looking over my application they saw that I had been pastor of a church, and felt that maybe some time down the line, I would feel a call from God, and leave the banking business. They did not want to invest time and money in training me, only to have me

leave. So, God pointed me back to New Mexico where I stayed for some time.

We always look back in our lives and say, "but what if?" If's are so uncertain, and God does not deal in "if's." Even though Joseph was to have a rough life for some time, yet God did not make a mistake. The "certain man" fulfilled his part in steering Joseph in the right direction. We need to be available if the Lord would use us to direct some young person toward the right way. Many of them are 'wandering' and searching for something, usually not what they want, nor what God wants for them. So, let's be a "certain man" who is ready and able to give the right word.

In Judges 9, we have the story of Abimelech, the son of Gideon by his concubine, who tried to take over as head of Israel after the death of his father. Gideon had 70 sons by his many wives. Abimelech conspired to kill all the sons of Gideon, except the youngest, Jotham, who escaped. Abimelech ruled three years in Israel, killing those who opposed him, and burning cities in his devilish rage. "Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against it, and took it.....And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. **And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to break his skull**" 9:50-53. He called for his armor bearer to kill him, "that men say not of me, A woman slew him."

12

One more illustration: In I Kings 22, we have the account of a long-standing war between Israel and Syria. Wicked Ahab was king of Israel, and he enlisted the help of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to help him fight Syria. Ahab persuaded Jehoshaphat to go to battle arrayed in his royal garments, while he would go disguised. The Syrian captain was about to slay Jehoshaphat, whom he supposed was Ahab, but when the king of Judah made himself known, he went on after the king of Israel.

Now Ahab was disguised among his army, so how were his enemies to find him? God was using the Syrians to defeat Ahab, and He had His own way of making this come to pass. We read: "**And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness (between the breastplate and the skirt of the armor).....and he died at evening**" - 22:34-35. This certain man was not aiming at

Ahab, but shot into the midst of the approaching army, and God directed that arrow into the most vulnerable spot. Some would say, "That was a lucky shot." It wasn't luck; it was God!

In these instances, God used someone unidentified, but who was there at the right time and willing to be used. So, let's not be weary in well doing, whether we are recognized or not. God is keeping records, and He knows the names of all anonymous people who are doing His will. These people are also in the Hebrews 11 Hall of Fame. We read of some: "Women received their dead raised to life again; and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourging, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" - Hebrews 11:35-40.

13

The Are Unknown But Well Known!

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#### GOD IS THERE

*When cherished hopes all crumble,  
And prospects fade or fall;  
Once sure feet slip and stumble,  
Still God rules over all.  
He lifts the heart of sorrow,  
And wipes our tears away --  
He sees the glad tomorrow  
Beyond the sad today.  
All things are for a reason --  
Though set-backs pain us now,  
They last but for a season;  
For God will not allow  
His loved ones to be tested  
For more than they can bear -  
In faith and trust be rested --  
Where you are, God is there!*

-- Frank Roberts

## **CONSIDER HIS FULNESS**

Walter S. Anderson

“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” II Tim. 2:7

This gentle entreaty by the Apostle Paul gives us solid ground for spiritual judgment in these last days. Herein we have the full confidence of faith for our assurance in the Great Mystery of Christ. In our life in Christ, we must always discern what is acceptable to Christ in our espousal to Him.

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;” Phil. 1:9,10 More knowledge (epignosis) leads to accurate discernment. The result of this spiritual exercise is to **“approve things that are excellent.”** This in turn leads to **“A MORE EXCELLENT WAY”**, (I Cor. 12:31) wherein is found a far greater depth of understanding in the word **“EXCELLENT.”** This is a translation of the Greek word - **“huperbole,”** which means **“a throwing beyond others, supereminence; (far more) exceeding.”** This surpassing excellency of the Gospel of Grace, exceeds by far, all other ministries. Its knowledge is **“.....to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,....”** Eph. 3:19 How far more excellent is **“The Love of Christ.”** Such great superiority has its most wonderful containment and fulfillment. Hereby we are given such great spiritual increase, **“...that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”** This marvelous fullness is truly unspeakable. The word **“fullness,”** from the Greek word **“pleroma,”** - means **“repletion or completion, to fill up.”** So Christ *was* fulfilled and filled up with all the **“fullness,”** (pleroma,) of the Godhead. The Father God was so pleased with His Son in all His obedience, even unto death, that He fulfilled His glorified life with all the fullness of the Godhead! This goes far beyond all measure of completeness and rulership. Col. 1:19 declares: **“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.”** Colossians 2:9 further states **“For in him dwelleth all the fulness (pleroma) of the Godhead bodily.”** What unsurpassing

excellency is now manifest in Christ's glorified body. All of the Godhead is pleased to dwell in Him! In the fulness (pleroma) of Christ Jesus, His virgin Bride is made complete, and filled up full with all His fulness. Col. 2:10 "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" Oh the increase that love gives to Christ's Bride!

Let us "consider" this fulness of Christ Jesus, as it is declared in Paul's Gospel of Grace. "And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ." Rom. 15:29 This fulness is so infinitely great in all the cosmos of God, throughout the entire universe. "That in the **dispensation** of the fulness of times **he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:**" Eph. 1:10 So "all things" created, visible and invisible, of all that is in heaven, is now the fulness (pleroma) of the man Christ Jesus!

15 It is love that inspires our faith to accept all this fulness of Christ as our inheritance! This indeed, passes all knowledge and accomplishment! This glorious conquest and inheritance, is secured in all the energy of God Almighty, Who worketh all things after the counsel of His Own will. Without any question, this is the glory of grace given to the Bride of Christ. "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:" Eph, 1:11

To make such an inheritance of all the **fullness** of Christ **secured, is in** God's predestination! By this, He reveals His "eternal purpose" in Him who "worketh all things." Oh the magnitude of God's operation through the entire universe! This is no chance happening of fate whatever. It is fully determined "after the counsel of His Own Will." This was conceived and marked out before the creation of the world! The result of such great predestination of our inheritance in Christ is for "the praise of His glory." Herein this glorious eternal purpose, that God has been working out throughout all ages, is for those "who first trusted in Christ." "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." Eph. 1:12 This, far beyond all our

works, is the glory of **GRACE!**

In His earthly life, Jesus revealed His **FULNESS** (pleroma) in grace and truth. "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace." John. 1:16 It is John, along with the other eleven disciples, who visibly beheld the marvelous Creator as the word (**LOGOS**) in His humanity among men. The Eternal **Logos**, who dwelt with His Blessed Father God, took upon Himself the "the seed of Abraham." They witnessed the "**fullness**" (pleroma) of the Creator of heaven and earth! "And the Word was **made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his **glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father**,) full of grace and truth." John. 1:14 This glorious revelation of Jesus Christ, as come in the flesh, is declared also by the Apostle Paul. "**And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**" I Tim. 3:16

For this grand and glorious life of Christ reigning in our hearts by faith, we must have "**UNDERSTANDING.**" How graciously is our need supplied; "**THE LORD GIVE THEE UNDERSTANDING IN ALL THINGS.**" II Tim 2:7 How great is this provision of grace, given to us in all our meditation and discernment! This is the heavenly calling of the Bride! So grace gives us the confidence of God, to claim so great an inheritance in Christ! How aimless our life can become without the knowledge of God's will. "**That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**" Eph. 1:17

In this manner that "The **Father of Glory**, may give you," it is all of divine grace. These untold riches of Christ's glory give our hearts the fullest enrichment of love! We have the full assurance of faith to **apprehend that for which Christ has first apprehended us for.** Phil. 3:12 It is the unchangeable purpose of God given to the Bride before the world began. "**According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.**" Eph. 3:11,12 There is nothing in the universe that succeeds like grace! It is all God's accomplishment for us in Christ! Through this means, God receives all the glory and honor

throughout all ages of the ages.

As the Bride of Christ establishes her calling and election in grace, her glorious heritage is Wisdom. **“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.”** Prov. 8:18,19

Let us **"CONSIDER"** the end of our faith in the gospel of the Glory, that was given to the Apostle Paul for the Bride. It is all the glory of grace, that must REIGN in righteousness unto Eternal Life.

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### **RESTING IN HIS LOVE**

*I refuse to be discouraged, to be sad, or to cry:  
I refuse to be downhearted, and here's the reason why:  
I have a God who's mighty -- Who's Sovereign and Supreme;  
I have a God who loves me, and I am on His team.*

17

*He is all-wise and powerful -- Jehovah is His Name;  
Though everything is changeable, my God remains the same.  
My God knows all that's happening--beginning to the end;  
His presence is my comfort; He is my dearest Friend.*

*When sickness comes to weaken -- to bring my head down low,  
I call upon my mighty God; into His arms I go.  
When circumstances threaten to rob me of my peace,  
He draws me close unto His breast and all my strivings cease.*

*When my heart melts within me and weakness takes control,  
He gathers me into His arms; He soothes my heart and soul.  
The great "I AM" is with me; my life is in His hand;  
The "God of Jacob" is my hope; it's in His strength I stand.*

*I refuse to be defeated--my eyes are on my God;  
He has promised to be with me as through this life I trod.  
I'm looking past all circumstances, to Heaven's throne above;  
I give God thanks in everything; my eyes are on His face;*

*The battle's His -- The vic'try mine!  
He'll help me win this race!*

*--Author Unknown*

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”  
John 8:32

Freedom! What a glorious word and concept. We are currently celebrating our National season of freedom, as we commemorate July 4<sup>th</sup>, our Day of Independence. We are reminded of the fact that freedom often comes at a tremendous price, and so it has for this country. All freedom, however, was in fact purchased at Calvary, as Jesus paid the price and set us free from the bondage inflicted on the human race by Satan and Adam.

The above verse is often misquoted to say that “...ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free,” giving the indication that freedom is primarily instant, rather than a process. The word “make,” means “to liberate, i.e. to exempt from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability.” The foundation for that freedom was established at the cross, but as many wars have proved, much time, effort, and even loss of life has been expended to liberate those in bondage. “Ye shall know the truth...” is the key to freedom, and knowing truth does not come with just one miraculous experience. It is rather learned day, after experimental day, “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:” Isa. 28:10 Such is the workings in our lives, and the more truth that is revealed, the greater freedom we experience.

This country was founded on glorious principles of Divine Truth, but sadly, those principles have been greatly eroded. There are those who want to take the words “in God we trust” off our currency. Prayer in schools was eliminated years ago, and the consequences experienced in these institutions of learning, is quite evident. Even the principles set forth by the ten commandments have been banned from the courts, along with the judge who refused to remove them from his courtroom, and it seems that any authoritative reference used to prove one’s point is accepted, just as long as it is not The Bible.



The Land of the Free, and The Home of The Brave, is very quickly going down the same path that Israel trod so long ago, when they too forsook the principles of God and were eventually taken captive by Babylon. God had promised “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:” Ex. 19:5 He said further, “For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow;” Deut. 15:6. The reason either a nation or individual should refrain from borrowing is because “.....the borrower is servant to the lender.” Proverbs 22:7 Proverbs 14:34 further tells us that “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Some national leaders have complained that America is no longer “respected” around the world, and in some cases have tried to placate certain nations with apologies. Could it be that America’s desired “exaltation” is missing because she has forsaken God’s Truth and her righteousness before God? Will her massive debt soon bring her into a bondage wherein she cannot be extricated? Israel discovered by bitter experience what happens when Truth is disregarded. Embracing it brings absolute freedom, both on a national level and in personal experience, but if men choose to ignore the fact that only “truth shall make you free,” the result will invariably be sorrow, heartache, misery, reproach, and bondage.

We can do nothing to turn this nation or any other around, but we can prove this glorious truth in our own lives and experience the total freedom it brings, simply by sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning Truth. “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

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## **THE FACT OF TONGUES**

Jack W. Bannister

"Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear." (Isaiah 28:9-12)

There are many voices in the world today, crying for this and that, in many different languages. There are many tongues in the world, but we are going to talk about spiritual tongues. There is much talk pro and con about the experience of charisma, as it is called, or the gift of speaking in tongues. This gives rise to two questions. First: Why speak in tongues? Second: What purpose does it serve, or what value is it to speak in tongues? So we feel led by the Spirit of God to answer these questions; not necessarily from our reservoir of knowledge and experience, but from the Bible which is God's divine record for humanity and from which we receive the experience of tongues.

20

The first point in answering the first question - "Why speak in tongues?" - is this: It is God's ordained way. It was prophesied by Isaiah - the most beloved, the most well known, the most expressive prophet of the Old Testament. He is called, "The prophet that is beloved" - the one that gave out the golden prophecy; and he is quoted more times in the New Testament than any other except Moses. He is a well-respected man; and God said through him that He (God) would speak to His people with stammering lips and other tongues. Now there are some commentators in Christendom who reject this experience of tongues that say, "Well, He meant that the nation of Assyria that spoke another language was going to come in and take Israel captive and lead them away, and they would be speaking a foreign tongue to them." But how does that answer the next verse which says, "This is the REST wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the REFRESHING"? It is not refreshing to be a captive. No. It is refreshing to be free. There is only one way to be free, and that is to be in Christ Jesus. We say these

people have not answered that question. Why not just simply believe the Word of God? Paul the Apostle, who is the teacher for the Church for this age, quotes that very same verse in his symposium on tongues. "In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear Me, saith the Lord" - I Corinthians 14:21.

Christendom has always presumed to speak for God instead of letting God speak. God speaks through people - that is the way He has ordained it. That is the way He does it, and that is the way He is going to

continue to do it. He is not going to change His plan. He is going to see it through. His plan is that men would speak in tongues. It has always been God's purpose for people in the Church to speak in another language. First, because we have the witness from Isaiah. He prophesied it, and Paul confirmed it. Now this man Paul wrote over half of the New Testament; and if we cannot take his word on that, then how can we take his word on anything. Paul corresponds to Isaiah of the Old Testament. He is the most well-known prophet of the the New Testament next to Christ. He confirms what the most well-known prophet of the Old Testament said. He quoted this very verse to show that we were to speak in heavenly, spiritual, God-given languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

21

Now, if that is not enough witness, let us consider the infallible witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us read from the sixteenth chapter of the book of Mark - "And these signs shall follow them that believe .....they shall speak with new tongues." These are Jesus' last words to His disciples. You know, we reverence the last words of our friends and our loved ones. Jesus was the well-beloved Son of God, to His Father and to His disciples. He said, "These signs shall follow them that believe " - not those that do not believe. Some may say, "Well, we have never had this experience in our churches, and we do not feel that it is necessary." That is because they do not believe. The signs are to follow the believers. Here is one secret about every one of the signs. There are five things there, and everyone of them borders on the supernatural if it is not literally supernatural. We are shut up to God to believe His Word. No one in the natural can cast out demons. It surprised the disciples when the Lord gave

them that authority. They were surprised that the demons were subject to them, because they did not know that it was possible. But Jesus gave them that authority. He said, "Ye shall receive power (authority), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" - Acts 1:8. Even before, they had authority, but especially, afterward.

"They shall speak with new tongues." That does not mean that people would not understand the languages; but it means that they were new in the sense that they were of the new creation. A new life they received from the Lord Jesus Christ - a new hope, a new destiny, a new Father, a new Friend, a new language. Everything is new in Christ. Nothing ever grows old in Christ.

So we have the witness of the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. We have the witness of the greatest Church prophet of the New Testament. We have the witness of the Son of God Himself. That should be sufficient for anyone who believes the Bible and wants more truth. If you want added truth, if your heart is reaching out for something new from God, you have already said, "I believe that"; and your heart is beating with anticipation now of the experience of speaking in a new language. Isn't that wonderful! That is the faith that God gives. Faith counts those things that be not, as though they were; and momentarily they become so in our lives and in our experience. There was a man named Balaam one time that rode an ass that spoke a language. If the ass had said these words, we might not believe them. But, when Jesus says them, we believe Him. 22

The second point is: The mouth is the means of communication. Let us read from the third chapter of the book of James. Notice where we are getting our references - out of the Bible. You do not have to believe anything anyone says, unless it comes from the Bible. This is God's Word. There are plenty of voices in the world today that deny the Bible, but God's Word is true. Notice verse three - "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body." Jas. 3:3

What we want to emphasize is that the tongue affects the whole body. That is one reason the Lord wants us to speak in tongues, because it affects our whole body. Our body enjoys that; it reaps the benefits from speaking in another language.

Maybe you have never given that any thought before, but it is so. We are sure people who have spoken in tongues will testify to that. God wants us to be happy. He wants us to benefit from spiritual things. He has redeemed us - spirit, soul, and body. He wants every part of our being to partake of this wonderful spiritual thing He has brought to pass through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; and it is wonderful.

23 Notice James 3:8 - "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." The tongue is the most unruly member of our being. We may yield our spirit to the Lord, and we may yield our soul to the Lord; but there are many, many thousands of Christians the world over who have yet to yield their tongue in full surrender to the Lord. Now Jesus Christ in Luke 6:45 says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." In the natural, our tongue is connected to our throat; but, in the spiritual, our tongue is connected to our heart. What we think in our heart, eventually comes out of our mouth. When our heart has really, completely, absolutely been surrendered, then we will speak in another language. That is God's order, and that is God's way, and that is our experience. If we really are following God with all our heart, we will yield our tongue to the Lord. Isn't that wonderful! Yes, it is full of wonder.

The third point is: It is one of the nine official gifts given to the Church. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal"- I Cor. 12:7. We are not speaking about gifts, as much as we are the languages - tongues themselves - not as a gift but as an experience. Now there are nine things mentioned which we call "the gifts of the Spirit," by which we are enabled to glorify our blessed Savior. In some meetings they dispense with the healing, in some places they leave out the tongues, and in others the interpretation of tongues; and they do not have them in operation in their churches. Now we would like to know - if we can take out two or three of those gifts, why not take them all out? What hinders us from taking them all out? If we have authority to take out one, then what good are the others? By the way, who is man that he can take away one of these gifts of the Spirit, when God says they are for us? They are not man's gifts to

give or take away - they are the gifts of the Spirit. One of them is speaking in tongues, and then there is the interpretation of these languages. They are given that ALL may profit - not just some. God wants ALL Christians to profit from every one of these gifts. Wherever there is a well-ordered Christian Assembly anywhere in this world, all these nine gifts should be in operation. They will be, if we believe God to the uttermost. Now that answers the question, "Why speak in tongues?" It is God's ordained way, it is a means of communication; and it is one of the official gifts given to the Church by the Holy Spirit.

Now let us answer the other question: "What value do they have, what purpose do they serve?" In the great fourteenth chapter of First Corinthians, speaking in tongues is regulated. Some churches seem to be afraid of it, but let us go into "tongues-land" and see what it is like there. Notice verse two - "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." The same thing is found in verse twenty-eight - "Let him speak to himself, and to God." That proves that there is nothing wrong with speaking in tongues, because we speak to God. We would that more men and women were on speaking terms with God in this way. Some people never speak to God. God understands all languages, so we do not need to be afraid that God is going to have to get an interpreter. He knows what we are saying - He puts those things in our hearts. He puts those tongues in our mouths, if we let Him.

We have three points to consider: The first point in answering this second question is: It edifies the speaker - "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself" - I Cor. 14:4. Now who does not like to be edified? That is decent and in order. As we said, what we speak in the natural affects our whole body. What we speak in the spiritual also affects our body. It makes us feel good. When we are praying, we know how the devil comes in with many thoughts, and tries to disrupt our prayer; and we wish the top of our head could come off so he could not get into our mind. Well, when we are speaking in tongues as we pray, the devil cannot butt in. He does not understand those languages. How do you like that? Only God understands those languages, unless someone interprets them. That is right. Did you ever stop to think about that? The devil does not understand

those languages; and, therefore, he does not know what we are saying and he cannot enter into our conversation. Oh, he understands the tongues of men, but not of angels - I Cor. 13:1. So let us speak in tongues more, when we pray. "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth" - I Cor. 14:14. Now, who would be against prayer? Is any Christian against prayer? Well, you can pray in a tongue, too. What is wrong with speaking in a tongue, if you can pray in a tongue? Sometimes we come to the end of our language, and not know how to express ourselves. I have many times come to a place that I did not know what to say to God. I remember what David said as he was overwhelmed with the goodness of God, and he came into the temple and said, "Who am I, and what can I say, that You have blessed such a man as I?" - II Samuel 7:18-29. Sometimes we feel that way, and we have to speak in a tongue in worshiping the Lord; especially when we realize how nothing we are, and how great God is. That brings us to the end of our language. He has to enable us to speak in another language to express ourselves in worship and adoration of Him. What is wrong with that? That is in order, is it not? Paul says so. Now you believe what Paul says, do you not? He is a follower of Christ. He says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" - I Cor. 11:1. Three times he says that. It refers to each part of our being - our spirit and our soul and our body. Follow me, as I follow Christ. In verse fifteen he says, "I will sing with the spirit." So we can sing with the Spirit, too. You never sing off key, when you sing in the Spirit. We have known different ones that have sung in the Spirit off times. Maybe we ought to sing more often in the Spirit. We knew a woman who was on a bed of affliction and she could not get out to meeting, so we took the meeting to her. As we were there worshiping and praising the Lord, she began to sing in the Spirit. She normally could not carry a tune, but she sang so beautifully. God was there in His people. God was manifesting Himself. So we speak to God, and we pray and sing, and we are edified by speaking in another language. The second point is: It is a sign to unbelievers. This is a day when people believe in signs.

There are signboards all along the highways. There are signs to direct us where to go, and signs directing us where not to go; signs to tell us what to do, and what not to do; signs telling

us what to buy, and what not to buy - what a certain product will do for us, how much Brand X is not as good as this one. This is a day of signs. Well, God is a believer in signs. He has lifted up a sign for men to see, and it is the sign of speaking in tongues. It is a sign to the unbeliever, that God is among us. When we speak in tongues, they say, "Oh, something is different here." Some people are frightened and go away; but, when people are searching for the things of the Lord, they say, "God is here." It is also a sign to the unbelieving believers. Sometimes believers are not believing God as they should, and it is a sign that there is more for them. So we enter, to coin a new word, into "tongues-Land"; and it is a new experience. Everything is new. It is like a new birth of language.

Then the third and last point - and we believe the most important — is the one the devil hates most of all: Speaking in tongues is a proof of Christ's resurrection. Christians did not speak in tongues until after Jesus was raised from the dead. Jesus said in John 16:7 - "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you." Now, notice in Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and BEGAN (and we continue) to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit (the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, the One that Jesus promised) gave them utterance." This was in direct answer to the prayer of the Son to His Father, that He would send the Holy Spirit upon them. Also, notice verses 32 and 33 - Peter, on that day of Pentecost, said "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now SEE and Hear" (because Jesus had been raised from the dead). Every time we speak in tongues, it glorifies Jesus Christ. Tongues is a resurrection language. It says in the face of the devil and in the face of all his followers, that Christ is his eternal Conqueror and that he is defeated and that we are resting in the Lord. Next to the Cross, the devil hates this experience most



of all because it proves that Christ has defeated him forever. They say, in some circles, that God is dead. Every time we speak in tongues, we prove that God is not dead. We prove that Christ is alive. We saw a sign one time that said, "My God is alive; sorry about yours." We subscribe to this heartily.

Jesus is at the right hand of God, interceding for you and me. He is praying for you right now, that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you have a need, no matter what it is, He will meet it. Have you been saved? You can accept the Lord Jesus Christ right now. If you have not experienced speaking in tongues, He will fill You with the Holy Spirit right now. That is the sign that The Holy Spirit has come. Tongues are not the Spirit; but, when you are filled, you will receive a language. That is the Bible record. If you want a refreshment, God will supply that also. If you need a deliverance in your life, God will give it to you. If you need a rededication in your life, God will give it to you. If you need a revelation about the Bible, God will give that to you. He will not withhold anything from one who comes with an open heart, and in his own tongue worships God. Then that one will speak heavenly languages.

27

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FILLS ME NOW

**Oh the Spirit hovers o'er me,
Bathes my yielding heart and brow.
Fills me with His joyous presence;
Yes, He comes and fills me now.**

**He can fill me and control me,
Though I cannot tell Him how.
For I need Him, greatly need Him,
Oh, He comes and fills me now.**

**I am weakness, full of weakness;
At His sacred feet I bow,
As I rest upon His promise,
With His pow'r He fills me now.**

**Oh, such peace and joy and comfort;
How can Jesus this allow?
In another tongue I praise Him;
For He fills, and fills me now.**

--E. H. Stokes

PAUL'S GOSPEL

IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Alice S. Mooneyhan

Ch. 7 THE BRIDE UNVEILED, Continued

“Thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.” In Scripture, the nose corresponds with the gift of discerning of spirits. This woman has learned to discern truth from error. Oh, how wonderful it is, that we discern spiritual truth when we hear it. This woman has had her “senses exercised to discern both good and evil”- Hebrews 5:14. Because she has come to that place of maturity, her “nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.” Damascus means “silent is the sackcloth weaver.” Who is it that weaves the sackcloth? It is the old man. He is always moaning and complaining and worrying, always weaving sackcloth, dressing in mourning garb. But, thank the Lord, when she is dressed in this resplendent glory of the Bridal garments she can look toward Damascus and see that the sackcloth weaver is silent. “There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” - Revelation 21:4.

28

7:5/ “Thine head upon thee is like Carmel.” The word “Carmel” means a “fruitful field.” I have heard that “An idle brain is the devil’s workshop.” This woman does not have an idle brain. She has the “mind of Christ.” her head is full of good things, good ideas that she received from the study of the Word of God’ and it makes her mind fruitful. She is a real helpmeet for her husband. In the Old Testament, the first marriage was made because man needed a helpmeet. There is another Man, the Man Christ Jesus, who needs a helpmeet, and He will have one who will be fit to be His companion. “And the hair of thine head like purple.” Purple speaks of royalty. Her long hair symbolizes her weakness and her dependence upon her Head, by which she becomes a royal Queen. When Christ becomes the King over all of the world, she will be sitting beside Him. He says of Christ that He is worthy to reign and to open the seals. This woman will

be worthy of that place, because the Lord will make her worthy. She will be His workmanship.

“The King is held in the galleries.” In the Revised Version, this verse reads, “The King is held captive in the tresses thereof.” This same spiritual truth is taught by the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12:10: “When I am weak, then am I strong.” Jesus said to him, “My grace is sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in (your) weakness.” Christ’s strength is given to us when we are weak in ourselves. The King is amazed, one might say, at her dependence on Him, and her leaning on Him, and His strength has actually become her strength. Twice in chapter six, this woman is described as “terrible as an army with banners.” She has learned to overcome, nevertheless, she does not overcome in her own strength but in the strength of the Lord. If we do not overcome in His strength, we will not overcome at all, because our strength is too small.

29 7:6. “How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights! The Lord Himself is going to be completely satisfied with this group of believers described as a woman. These saints will be fully mature and spiritually developed. They will be worthy to reign with Him, and He will be delighted in them. In Hebrews 12:2 we read: “.....Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” He surely did endure suffering for us. In Ephesians 5:25, we read that Christ gave Himself for the Church, as though there were no other people in the world to be redeemed. She was the one special group that He was looking forward to, that would be perfected in the things of God. No other people in all the world have had the privilege which has been accorded the Church, to be come perfect in Christ and let Christ come to full perfection in them. Because of the joy that would be his as a result of redemption. Christ endured the cross and despised the shame. “He was crucified through weakness” - II Corinthians 13:4. He was doing that to redeem us from our sins, and to purify a people that are zealous to please Him. Praise the Lord! He will be fully satisfied in His Bride. He says, “How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!” His love sent Him to the Cross. Our love for Him will enable us to win the Prize.

7:7. “This thy stature is like to a palm tree.” In Psalm

92:12-14 we read, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing." Is that not a description of the Bride company! Praise the Lord! Now she has come to full maturity. Ephesians 4:13 also describes the growth and full maturity of this woman: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." This verse does not speak of one individual, but of the whole group.

Eve, who represents the Bride Company, was made from Adam's rib. She was builded into a woman who would be equal with her husband in stature and in mentality and in every qualification that was needed to make her a helpmeet for Adam. So will this woman come to that fullness. She is described as a "palm tree." This tree in the East, is called "the bread tree." The natives use the fruit of it as bread. The saints are bread for God. There is a parable in Isaiah about the preparation of bread. First the farmer plows the ground, then harrows it; after that, he plants the seed. After the grain has ripened, it is gathered, ground into flour, made into bread and baked, before it can be eaten. The many processes which are required to prepare bread, symbolize the various phases of transformation which are required to prepare the saints to be bread for the Lord. The Lord will be strengthened by her dependence upon Him. That is the way it is in the natural. If a woman depends upon her husband and exalts in Him as her head, it strengthens him, gives him stability, courage and ambition to provide the things that she needs.

30

"And thy breast to clusters of grapes." This speaks of affection and love which will be like wine to Him. Her love will intoxicate Him to the greatest degree. Oh, it is wonderful! What an opportunity we have, to please the Lord and to intoxicate Him with our love. She will be His sustenance and His delight, His joy in fellowship. Their fellowship will be perfect, and He will be completely satisfied in her love.

7:8. "I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof; now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples." She had been sitting under the apple tree and "His fruit was sweet" to her taste.

The breath from her nose is like delicious apples.

7:9. "And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my Beloved, that goeth down sweetly. She has been drinking too, probably wine from the apple tree, but this is the best wine – the kind that Jesus made in Cana. This wine is the fullness of joy which comes from close fellowship with the Lord. And the Bride adds, saying "For my Beloved." She will not allow anyone but herself to call Him "my Beloved." It will be for Him, too. Surely He will drink of the wonderful wine of her fellowship.

"Causing the lips of those that are asleep (or, of the ancient) to speak." What does this mean? We have a verse in Hebrews 11 that gives a little idea of what this means. Speaking about Abel it reads, "He being dead yet speaketh." All those Old Testament prophets are speaking in fulfillment of this prophecy of Christ and His Bride. It is true that the Old Testament prophets had no revelation of Church truth, but think of what Solomon was saying when he was writing this song that we are studying! This is inspired prophecy which is being fulfilled now in the courtship of Christ and His Bride. The words of those prophets, who spoke of the consummation of this wonderful redemption, will be speaking through the fulfillment of the Scriptures when the marriage of the Lamb is come – and "His wife hath made herself ready" - Revelation 19:7.

31

7:10. "I am my Beloved's, and His desire is toward me.." This is her statement after she is married to this wonderful Man. At last she can say, "I have won the Prize." The Apostle Paul said that just before he was executed, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" - II Timothy 4:7. And he knew that a crown would be laid up for him. But here she has really won the crown. She knows of a truth that His desire is toward her. We have a few verses in Psalm 45 that are good instruction for us: "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; so shall the King greatly desire thy beauty; for He is thy Lord, and worship thou Him" Psa. 45:10,11 If we hear and heed the Word of the Lord, we too may be in this chosen company who will receive a crown of righteousness.

(To Be Continued)

Rescue the Perishing

Author-Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Composer-William H. Doane, 1832-1915 Meter-11 10. 11 10 with Refrain Scripture Reference-Luke 14:23

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn. Isaiah 61:1,2

Fanny Crosby, the blind American poetess, has often been called the queen of gospel song writers. Although she did not begin writing gospel songs until she was forty-four years of age, from her radiant heart and prolific pen flowed more than 8,000 gospel hymns before her home-going at the age of ninety-five, on February 12, 1915.

The authoress has left the following account of the writing of this hymn: 32

It was written in the year 1869. Many of my hymns were written after experiences in New York mission work. This one was thus written. I was addressing a large company of working men one hot summer evening, when the thought kept forcing itself on my mind that some mother's boy must be rescued that night or not at all. So I made a pressing plea that if there was a boy present who had wandered from his mother's home and teaching, he should come to me at the end of the service. A young man of eighteen came forward and said, "Did you mean me? I promised my mother to meet her in heaven, but as I am now living that will be impossible." We prayed for him and he finally arose with a new light in his eyes and exclaimed in triumph, "Now I can meet my mother in heaven, for I have found God. "

A few days before, Mr. Doane had sent me a theme for a new song, "Rescue the Perishing," based on Luke 14:23. While I sat in the mission that evening, the line came to me "Rescue the perishing, care for the dying." I could think of nothing else that night. When I arrived home, I went to work on the hymn at once,

and before I retired it was ready for the melody. The song was first published in 1870 in Doane's Songs of Devotion.

This hymn, like so many of Fanny Crosby's soul-stirring songs, has been greatly used of God to bring conviction of repentance to many. Ira Sankey, who used this hymn continually in his evangelistic campaigns with D. L. Moody, tells this story in his book *My Life and the Story of the Gospel Hymn*:

33 On a stormy night a middle-aged man staggered into the Bowery Mission. He was intoxicated, his face unwashed and unshaved, with clothes soiled and torn. He sank into a seat, and, gazing around, seemed to wonder what kind of place he had come to. "Rescue the Perishing" and other familiar gospel hymns were sung and seemed to interest him and to recall some memories of his youth long forgotten. As the leader of the meeting told the simple story of the Gospel and how the Lord had come to seek and to save sinners, the man listened eagerly. The leader in his younger days had been a soldier and had seen hard and active service. In the course of his remarks he mentioned several incidents which had occurred in his experience during the war, and he gave the name of the company in which he had served. At the close of the meeting the man staggered up to the leader and in a broken voice said:

"When were you in that company you spoke of?"

"Why all through the war," said the leader. "Do you remember the battle of ---?"

"Perfectly. "

"Do you remember the name of the captain of your company at that time?"

"Yes, his name was ---"

"You are right! I am that man. I was your captain. Look at me today, and see what a wreck I am. Can you save your old captain? I have lost everything I had in the world through drink and don't know where to turn. "

He was converted that evening and was helped by his friend to a life of usefulness and respectability. The captain often retold the story of how God used his former soldier in a mission service to rescue his perishing soul.

William H. Doane was born in Preston, Connecticut, on February 3, 1832. He was a prosperous factory president who was interested in music only as an avocation. Yet he was known as one of the leading gospel musicians of that era. He wrote and published more than 2,000 gospel songs and tunes. Doane was a close personal friend of Fanny Crosby and collaborated with her on many of her hymn texts. Throughout his life Mr. Doane was an active Baptist layman in the Mount Auburn Baptist Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served as Sunday School superintendent and choir director for a number of years.

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## Rescue The Perishing

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.  
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,  
Tell them Of Jesus, the mighty to save.

34

Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,  
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;  
Strength for Thy labor the Lord will provide;  
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;  
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.

Refrain: Rescue the perishing, care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save .

*Fannie J. Crosby*