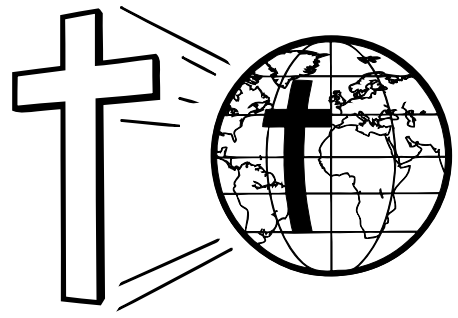


# Foundation of Faith



## *STORMS*

**He Calmed Wind and Water**

**How Do You  
Face Tests in Your Life?**

**"I Can't Believe!"**

**Longing for Home**

**Joy in God**

**A Lesson from a Squirrel**

# Content

## STORMS

- 4 The Wonderful Ways of God**  
**5 Sheltered—in Jesus**  
**Do not despair! (Poem)**
- 6 He Calmed Wind and Water**
- 8 Do Not Despair!**  
**9 Our Spiritual Battle**
- 10 Calming Life's Fiercest Storms**  
*Get to know the source of power to overcome all storms.*
- 12 How do You Face Tests in Your Life?**
- 13 When Trouble Comes**
- Radio broadcast
- 14 Tested in Storms**
- 18 I Can't Believe!**
- 24 Joy in God**  
*Serving God without this joy is hollow. Is God your greatest joy?*
- 3 Editorial**
- Youth Page
- 16 Science Is Benefited by the Bible**  
**The World without the Bible?**
- 17 Testimony of the Bible**
- Children's Corner
- 19 A Lesson from a Squirrel**
- Senior's Page
- 20 When the Years Come . . . .**
- If You Would Believe
- 22 Longing for Home (Part 13)**
- 26 Experiences with God**
- 27 Announcements**
- 32 An Unshakable Refuge (Poem)**

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## *Editorial*

*Dear Reader,*

God is good! He lets the sun rise on all people and sends rain to believers and unbelievers. However, just as nature has different seasons, and summer and winter alternate, our pilgrimage is not just about gentle meadows and flowering valleys. No, good and bad days come in every life. Joy is replaced by suffering, and tribulations and hardships can strike us quite unexpectedly.

We think of Job, how the storm came upon him and his family. In a short time he lost all his children, his wealth, and his health!

How great his need was, and how terrible his sufferings were! In spite of his prayers, the Lord did not seem to answer at first. But then we read in Job 38:1 (NIV), “the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm” and revealed His omnipotence and his wisdom. God wanted to test Job’s faith and trust in God, and therefore He promises His servant that He has power over storm and waves: “This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop” (Job 38:11).

The apostle Paul also went through severe storms, opposition, and hostility in his life. On the way to Rome, the ship, with 276 people on board, came into such a terrible storm for 14 days that we read: “All hope that we would be saved was finally given up” (Acts 27:20). And yet children of God know that the Lord is our Master and Savior in every situation!

It is in a crisis that it becomes apparent whether our faith is genuine. It is only when the storm and a mighty cloud breaks in upon us that it becomes clear whether we have built our house on sand or on the rocks. Jesus Christ must be the captain and the Lord of our life’s ship! He alone will protect us, preserve and bring us through.

*When the waves churn and toss all about me,  
When the storm clouds are dark and winds blast,  
Still I know that the sun will be shining  
When my ship’s in the harbor at last.*

*H. D. Nimz*

# The Wonderful Ways of God

God does not need us to lie in order for Him to achieve His goals.

During the French Revolution, which broke out during the reign of King Louis XVI, the French people not only executed hundreds of the nobility, but they also decided to put an end to religion in the same way that they had abolished the monarchy. Churches were plundered and destroyed. Even the Bayonne Cathedral with its beautiful stained glass windows and its elaborate oak carvings was used as a horse stable.

Among those who fled for their lives was a faithful teacher named Peillon, who distinguished himself through his piety and scholarship. Peillon, along with one of his friends, made it safely past Bayonne and on to a village on top of Urrugne Hill.

In this village, there was a small inn called the “La Reine Pedangue” or the “Queen Goosefoot.” Peillon had a letter that advised him to find the keeper of this inn because this man, for the love of Christ, was willing to help refugees. And for Christ’s sake, the innkeeper did everything that he could for these two refugees. He served them a hearty meal and he prepared for them a warm room. They had barely finished their meal when they heard horses galloping in the distance. In spite of the coming darkness, the men could still see the long, steep street of St. Jean de Luz, where a group of soldiers were approaching.

As was the custom in rural French inns, there was a huge bed in a small room next to the living room. Mr. Peillon and his friend only had enough time to hide behind the curtains of this large bed.

“If they should ask after you,” said Adrian, the innkeeper, “I will say that you were here, ate supper, and have moved on.”

From his uncomfortable position on the floor, Peillon’s friend gasped, “Yes, yes, everything will be all right.”

“No, no, that will not do,” answered the teacher, looking out from under the bed. “Listen, my dear friend. If they ask you where I am, tell them the truth. Tell them

that we are here under the bed. If you tell them anything else, I will come out and hand myself over to them.

In the meantime, some of the soldiers had reached and entered the inn. “Hello, Citizen!” shouted the sergeant. “We have followed the trail of some refugees to this place. Where are they?”—No answer.

“If you do not answer, we will shoot you,” he threatened. Poor Adrian turned deathly pale.

“So what have you decided?” thundered the sergeant. “Look! One can see that the scoundrels ate here. The remains of their dinner are still on the table. Now then, tell me where they are!”

Trembling with fear, the innkeeper replied, “Under the bed there.”

“Do you take me for a fool?” shouted the sergeant angrily. “You are trying to buy time so that they can escape. Hey, you men! Two of you go up the stairs, and you check the stables! We don’t want to let the rats escape!”

The soldiers obeyed, running here and there, but they didn’t find anyone. There were only two tired horses in the stable with their own story to tell.

“They cannot have made it very far. They are probably hiding in the bushes. Quickly, search them!” shouted the sergeant. “And you,” he said to Adrian, “it would give me great pleasure to shoot you because you have willfully lied to me.”

“You had better look under the bed,” suggested one of the soldiers.

“Nonsense! Absolutely not! So that this wretch can laugh at us after we leave? No! No! Now let’s move fast!”

When the riders had gone, Peillon came out from his hiding place. “Take heed, my friend, God can accomplish His purposes without us, and He certainly doesn’t need us to help Him by lying.”

An hour later, the teacher and his friend climbed down the steep slope and found a safe place to hide on Pheasant Island, from where they easily crossed the Spanish border to safety.

# Sheltered—in Jesus

It was a humid summer day. From my birthplace of Siegen, Germany, I hiked eight kilometers across the mountains to Oberschelden. I took a raincoat along just in case. I was way up on a higher elevation, far from human habitation, when I was suddenly surprised by a intense thunderstorm. Lightning flashed and thunder roared endlessly. A cloudburst of rain opened up as I had never experienced before. The raincoat was useless and did not help much.

I crouched down on the ground and pulled the raincoat over me. A small opening in my coat served as a lookout.

Then I saw how a small, colorful bird was hopping towards me. It was wet and disheveled and gave a few miserable chirps. I lifted my overcoat from the ground. To my great astonishment, the little bird hopped under my coat and sought shelter in the storm.

After a while, the rain, lightning, and thundering ceased, and I wanted to continue on the hike, I lifted my cloak up, and the little bird slipped out from under my coat to freedom, chirping merrily, and flew away joyfully.

This experience gave me a beautiful insight into the refuge the children of God find in all of life's turmoils, so that they can declare: "I am all secure in Jesus!" Since then, the song "Sweetly Resting" (by Mary D. James) has so much more meaning for me:

In the rifted Rock I'm resting;  
Safely sheltered, I abide.  
There no foes nor storms molest me,  
While within the cleft I hide.

In the rifted Rock I'll hide me  
Till the storms of life are past;  
All secure in this blest refuge,  
Heeding not the fiercest blast.

Do not despair!

*Do not despair, even when storms are raging,  
And all around the waves are mounting high;  
And when you fear your heart is almost breaking,  
Then trust in God, on Him you can rely.*

*It's wonderful the way the Lord has led you  
And kept you safe from danger, day and night.  
Do not despair, He never will forget you;  
Though steep the way, the Lord will lead you right.*

*Do not despair in sickness, nor in sorrow;  
With eagle's wings He'll keep and shelter you.  
He knows the way. Don't fret about tomorrow.  
Oh, don't despair; your strength He will renew!*

*Though Satan tempts and wishes to deceive you,  
Should God not keep you in His loving care?  
Christ's great compassion, it will never leave you.  
For you He gave His life! Do not despair.*

*Do not despair if friends forsake and leave you,  
For Jesus Christ is faithful to the end.  
He is the One that never will deceive you,  
Stay close to Him, there is no better friend.*

*Lift up your eyes, and turn your heart to heaven;  
Accept God's help and glory in the light.  
Even in sorrow, you have a possession  
That far outweighs all temporal delights.*

*Do not despair, God made you in His image;  
Christ died for you, and shed His precious blood.  
His love for you is great and without limit,  
And for your cause all things work for the good.*

*Do not despair, to God direct your vision;  
Let come what may, and in all earthly cares,  
In every situation, thank and praise Him;  
And give God glory always. Do not despair.*

*E. M.*

# He Calmed Wind and Water

*The familiar incident in Matthew 8:23-27, of how the wind and waves obey Jesus on the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum, contains a lesson for us in our spiritual walk with Christ. First of all, it is directed to souls lost in sin, and furthermore, it wants to strengthen the faith of the disciples of Jesus.*

## **The Storm of Sin**

The natural man lives without God in this world. His lifeboat is surrounded by dark storm clouds and a roaring sea. What a picture of the inner man! In his life there is always a storm, where sin is tempting him and trying to capture him. Once he falls into Satan's trap, he no longer has defense against evil and must admit: "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice" (Romans 7:19).

When Satan appears and sends waves of temptations to capture the unsaved man, these waves spill into his life boat. Before long, the inner life of man is ruined, and his life boat threatens to sink. Satan recognizes his victory and the storm increases in order to ruin man with many iniquities. If life comes to an end in such a situation, Satan has won. Man's lifeboat sinks into the depths of sin and despair. From the lips of this threatened sinner comes the cry of distress: "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24).

However, if this sinner turns to Jesus, there is help. All personal efforts to remove the waves out of the boat are futile. What would it have helped for the disciples to use buckets to remove the waves of water? They would have spent all their energy scooping water, but their boat would have sunk regardless. All attempts of self-help and improvement are worthless. Man must be born again. All efforts of tradition, religious forms, self improvement, psychology, and philosophy in personal life

will soon be sunk in the deep sea through roaring waves.

The lost man must recognize his own need: "Lord, save me! I am going to drown!" and turn to Jesus for salvation. There is only one source of salvation, and that is Jesus, the true Son of God. Where He intervenes in a ruined life, only then will the storm that is tormenting the sinner be stilled.

"But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26). Jesus must enter our boat of life; only then will the waves of sin be removed, and the storm of life will become calm.

When the Lord heard my prayer of repentance and forgave my sins, that's when my soul became very still, and the peace of God entered my heart.— Has He entered your boat of life, and have you already experienced how He calmed the storm of sin that is threatening you?

## **The Disciples Are Threatened by Waves**

The child of God can rest securely in the arms of Jesus. Jesus stands in the center of that boat of life and is the Navigator. He will personally lead us through life and protect us from the storms of time.

Satan tries to flood the followers of Christ with worldly billows. He works through the spirit of the times in various ways. He tries to entice us through waves of worldly lusts. He wants to disturb our time with God and our participation in the worship ser-



vices by momentary temptations. Satan wants to fill our mind with non-biblical theories instead of the true Bible-based doctrine. He wants us to believe the theory of evolution, approve of divorce and homosexuality, allow abortions, and accept new teachings that do not comply with the Bible. He sends one wave after another, to drown us in the depths of the sea of sin. This is his goal with every true Christian, as well as the Church of God.

But thanks be to God for the victorious hero Jesus Christ! He arose from the dead and won the victory over Satan, hell and death. The power of Satan had finally been broken. Jesus has set His children as lights in this world, to have victory over sin and unbelief. Those who do not rely on Christ and His Word will be overcome by the waves of sin, and their spiritual life will be abolished. However, if we put our entire trust in our life's Navigator and give Him full control of our life, then the waves of sin will no longer roar into our boat of life!

Satan and his army can be raging wildly around us, however the victory of Jesus is truly ours "through Christ who strengthens us" (Philippians 4:13). Since we have completely surrendered to Him, He guides our thoughts, speech, and actions. He firmly anchors us in His Word against storms and false doctrine. He strengthens our faith against every temptation. We can say a definite "NO" to worldly pleasures and sin. And with Him we will have victory over the storms of life—and that is for certain!

Our fellow men will be amazed about "Christ living in us." What once seemed impossible, namely living a different life style, is now possible. To live a life of victory over sin, having communion with our Lord, and doing the will of God here on earth is truly a miracle of God!

Is Christ really noticeable in your life? Do not let the spirit of our time frighten you, for Jesus has

victory over all things. Be of good courage and focus on the One whom wind and sea obey.

### **The Storm of Judgment**

Now Satan is still raging, because he only has a short time left to work on earth. In these last days God's children and His Church will be threatened even more by Satan and his army. The waves of Satan will destroy many frivolous life boats, and many people will say the true, living Church of God has been lost. However, even if the number of believers is small, the Church of our Lord will remain until the end. The gates of Hades will not prevail against the Church of God, because in the midst of this living church stands the Lord, Whom wind and sea obey.

When Christ returns, then the storm of judgment will befall all people. Heaven and earth will pass away with a great noise. Satan and the children of unbelief will be in a state of fright. All who loved sin will not be able to endure judgment. They will perish with the self-righteous, the false teachers, the frivolous, the idolatrous, and all the sinners in the storm of judgment. Their call, crying "Lord, help us, we are perishing!" will be forever too late. The answer will be: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire!" (Matthew 25:41). Only those who had Christ in their boat of life will be able to stand before the almighty and holy God.

Do we have Jesus as our Navigator today? Then He will guide us through all life threatening storms of our time and bring us safely to the shore of eternity. This is the only way that we will be found worthy through the blood of Jesus and be able to enter the Gates of Glory with Jesus the Son of God. Will you be entering with Jesus, or will you perish in the storm of judgment?

H. E. Klinger  
Hamilton, ON

# *Do Not* Despair!

“Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you’” (Isaiah 35:4).

In our fight against the powers of the enemy, it is very important to enter into the battle full of trust and confidence. Despair is the reason for many of our spiritual defeats. In contrast, courage and confidence are the secret to success. A soul that is full of fear and anticipating defeat is easily overcome and captured by the enemy. Fear and despair make a person weak. Courage and joyful confidence make a person bold.

God often speaks words of courage and comfort to His people. When the Lord sent Gideon to fight against the Midianites, He said to him: “But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant, and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp” (Judges 7:10-11). God wanted to rid Gideon’s heart of all fear and anxiety and fill it with courage and confidence, for with a despairing heart, he could not have achieved anything against this great and mighty army.

God cannot use us in the battle against the strongholds of Satan if we are discouraged. Not only is it dangerous for us, but feeling discouraged affects those around us. The ten despairing spies caused the entire people of Israel to despair and to become rebellious. When they saw the impenetrable cities, the huge walls, the giants, and the strong people, they despaired because they forgot the One who had promised that He would help them possess the land.

Caleb and Joshua also saw the giants and the large number of people, but they believed the promises of God to fight for them and to give them the victory. Therein lies the secret. If we act on His promises, He Himself will go with us and will give us the necessary strength we need for our tasks.

We should never discourage others. The best service we can give to a despairing heart is to cheer and comfort it. We should strive to divert their eyes from the obstacles and onto the mighty God. Discouragement and despair come because we focus on obstacles and thereby lose sight of our mighty Helper.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” writes Paul to the Philippians in chapter 4, verse 13. Our enemies may be big and mighty, but God is greater and mightier than everything that can be against us. If we only cling faithfully to Him, then His promises are on our side, and we do not need to fear.

The Word of God is full of encouragement. “Though an army may encamp against me,” says the Psalmist (Psalm 27:3), “my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.” God does not want us to despair, and He speaks constant encouragement to us. Despair and hopelessness come from a different source. If we do not resist this and do not focus our faith on Jesus, we put ourselves in danger of denying God. May God keep us from doing that, and may He help us to be a blessing for and a help to others through our example and words of encouragement!

J. A. M.



# Our Spiritual Battle

One songwriter wrote: “This world is full of sorrow, but the Lord is always near.” It would be tragic if the second half of the line were missing. Sadly, there are many people who stop after the first part, because they go through life without God. How few can wholeheartedly say: “the Lord is always with me.” Yet God’s children know that though they are surrounded by various difficulties and problems, they possess an inward calm and have a sweet peace in their hearts. They are confident, even in the midst of raging storms and tumultuous waves.

How is it possible for us to attain this peace? Isaiah says: “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3). That seems simple enough. And it is really the case for all who have their thoughts and mind focused on God and put their trust in Him. But how easy it is for our thoughts, despite our good intentions, to wander off in different directions. Then doubt and fear and similar things creep in to disrupt our peace.

This peace is of very great value, and it is surely possible to keep it. Often this may involve a struggle. The soul which is born of God knows that there are powers of evil that strive against the soul and wish to lead it into perdition. However there are also good powers that lift up the soul and help to draw it closer to God.

Paul writes: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). And in 2 Corinthians 10:6 Paul says that “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

If we are attacked by spiritual powers and the weapons we use are mighty in God, then the best way to engage in this battle is down on our knees. God gives us the victory in prayer. Daniel had already won the victory before being thrown into the lion’s den; he had won it there by the open window, where he repeatedly prayed.

When we have won the spiritual battle through prayer, the results will follow. Queen Mary of England feared the prayers of John Knox. This man of God had an active prayer life. Through his prayers he was able to secure a greater victory in battle than the Queen with her whole army.

The heavenly hosts came to help the praying Prophet Elisha. They surrounded the Prophet and his servant and kept them safe. Had Elisha tried to defend himself through his own power, he probably would have been taken captive. But he gained the victory through prayer.

The apostle Peter, who was in jail, was freed by an angel. But remember the church was assembled and praying for Peter. Satan wishes to hinder us and defeat us wherever possible. But if we keep on praying and if we fight the spiritual battle on our knees, then God will come to our aid and at the right time open the doors.

Let us fight the good fight of faith and lay hold of eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12). It is worth the effort to serve God. Even if at times we may find ourselves in a dark valley, in a tempest, or in a fiery furnace, we are never alone. Let us not fight with man-made weapons! Through earnest prayer and faith we will be victorious and overcome the world as more than conquerors.

N. L. Berghaus

# Calming *Life's Fiercest* Storms

*All of us have likely gone through some sizeable storms in our lifetime, and we don't know what storms still lie ahead of us. Often storms come without any warning. Have we learned the secret of remaining at peace in spite all the turmoil around us?*

The sailor, as he leaves the harbor to begin his voyage across the deep blue sea, naturally cherishes the hope that he may be able to reach the desired haven without encountering any disastrous storms. Likewise, when we embark on the sea of life, we are anxious to reach the goal of our ambition without being overwhelmed by the turmoils of this unfriendly world. The sailor may avoid any serious calamities from adverse winds; but every mariner on the ocean of time is certain to meet, sooner or later, some fierce gale! Experience has proven that life is not always smooth sailing. Job declares that “man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7).

### **Every Life Needs a Pilot**

In view of these facts, it is evident that in order to out-ride life's storms, we need to have a Pilot on board who is fully competent to meet every emergency. To insure a

safe passage from earth to glory for every trusting soul, God gave us a Savior, Who was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

To prove to His disciples that He was abundantly able to take them through every opposing storm in safety, He arose from His peaceful slumber one night to rebuke the winds and waves that threatened destruction to the frail ship in which He had been resting, apparently unconscious of the storm. And to further strengthen their faith and more abundantly manifest His power, He went to their rescue on another occasion, walking upon the very billows that were ready to engulf them.

Jesus also knew that His disciples would meet other storms in life far more dangerous than those that He had calmed before their eyes. So, by way of warning, He said, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

### **Cause of Life's Storms**

In the natural world a storm is brought about by a violent disturbance of the atmosphere, resulting from the clashing of two or more currents of air, differing in temperature, density, humidity, or velocity. In like manner, as long as men continue to differ in morality, religion, beliefs, aims, or purposes, we may expect to find contention and commotion in the world. Our hope of safety does not rest on any possibility of avoiding life's storms, but rather on being fully prepared to meet them.

The subsequent history of the disciples reveals the tribulations that they had to face—the literal fulfillment of Christ's words. Their complete victory over these things beautifully confirms the accompanying statement that He had overcome the world.

### **Cause of Paul's Turbulent Career**

Aside from Jesus Himself, no man ever faced a more turbulent career than the apostle Paul. His very gifts and special calling as the apostle to the Gentiles frequently drew him into the very vortex of the storm-center of the religious world. His purpose was not to accelerate this strenuous contention bordering on rank fanaticism, but rather by calm and reasonable methods to help all conditions of mankind to see and accept the "more excellent way."

It was while Paul was on such a peaceful mission as this that one of the most terrible storms of all his life broke in fury upon his head. The Jews had been so thoroughly indoctrinated by their national beliefs and traditions that their hearts did not easily respond to the more gentle appeals of the gospel with its simpler forms of worship. They regarded every departure from their established custom with suspicion. The tension was so great that a mere rumor was sufficient to precipitate the impending storm.

While Paul was in the very act of performing one of their ceremonial observances, hoping thereby to reconcile more fully the Jewish and Gentile Christians, some enemy of the gospel truth started an outcry that he (Paul) had defiled the temple, and the multitude at once became an infuriated mob. The captain of the garrison came quickly to the rescue and saved Paul's life, but the angry mob was still surging to and fro. There are times when it requires more than physical force to procure silence. A word from some men will prove more effectual than a regiment of soldiers.

### **Paul's Source of Power**

As Paul began to speak to the people there was a great silence. What caused this lull in the storm? There is a reason why Paul's words wielded such a potent influence on

this occasion. The same elements of power that calmed that frenzied mob can always be relied upon as the best personal equipment one may possess in every crisis in life.

#### *1. The Storm within Paul's Own Soul Had Been Stilled*

The greatest troubles are not those from the outside, but those that originate within. We have a glimpse of Paul's former condition when the storm of carnality raged fiercely in his soul—"For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Romans 7:15). Those who incited the mob in the temple were still victims of carnality. Every storm on life's troubled sea has its beginning in the heart of carnal men. Paul, having been made free from carnality with the peace of heaven in his own heart, could calmly speak in such a way as to command respect and attention.

#### *2. His Message Was Not of Strife, but of Peace*

"All things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). No disciple should ever court persecution. Enough of this will come without willfully provoking it. When it does come for the truth's sake alone, we shall be all the more able to cope with it, having had no personal motive or intention of causing it.

#### *3. Paul Had Perfect Self-control*

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32). A real experience of salvation in its fullness helps one to exercise self-control in times of urgency. Paul had this to such a remarkable degree, that when actually in a shipwreck on his way to Rome as a prisoner, he virtually became the commander of the vessel and was the means of calming the fears of all on board the ship. So in this riot at Jerusalem, he was more composed than those who sought to protect him.

#### *4. His Motives Were Unselfish*

The more unselfish people become, the less prone to worry they will be, and as they abandon all to God and live for others, the more calmly they are enabled to face every crisis that arises. Alive or dead, Paul knew he was safe and would be cared for. "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

H. A. Sherwood  
Gospel Trumpet August 31, 1916



STORMS

# How do You Face Tests in Your Life?

In a small town in America there lived a postal clerk who faithfully fulfilled his duties for many years. He was considered to be the model of a hardworking, faultless official. That is why everyone placed their trust in him, and he was treated with honor and respect by all. But one day, something happened that brought upheaval and completely changed the public's minds about the clerk.

A letter that contained a considerable amount of money had gone missing. It was verified that the mail sack with the letter in it had been handed over to the clerk. Now the letter had disappeared! Could it be possible that this respected man had embezzled the money? This question was the topic of conversation on the streets for the next few days.—The clerk was tried in court, questioned, and sentenced to twenty years in jail.

Seventeen long years had passed. No one thought anymore about the man and about the letter that had disappeared. Everything had been forgotten until the rumor began circulating that the letter that had gone missing back then had been found!

While repairing some old mail sacks, the yellowed letter had been found hidden in the lining. The innocence of the postal clerk was proven. He was immediately released and received a large financial compensation. His former friends were truly sorry about his fate, and everyone now

respected and honored him much more than before.

This incident was once told to two young Christian women. One of them said: "Oh, I would go mad if something like that happened to me and I had to suffer so innocently!" The other young lady objected: "Certainly it is very, very difficult to bear such shame. But I believe it would be easier to bear it if I were innocent, for my conscience would be pure and silent. But a guilty person has *both* to bear: shame and the accusations of a conscience that knows its guilt. I would try to forget about the shame and be joyful that my conscience is pure and spotless before God and man."

Paul and Silas suffered shame and disgrace when they sat in the prison in Philippi. They were bound and beaten. But despite this, they could sing and thank God from their hearts.

In all the many centuries that have passed since that time, God has not lost any of His power and might. He still wants to give what He has promised in His Word to all who trust Him and believe His Word.

Not many of us are tested as much as those who we've read about here. The tests we have to endure are those that everyday life brings us and that want to rob us of our peace. If we do not pay attention, they can become so difficult that we believe we can no longer endure

them. If we do not remain close to God and grab hold of the weapon of His Word, we will not be able to “count it all joy when you fall into various trials,” as the apostle tells us to in James 1:2. If we allow ourselves to be led by God’s hand in the storms of life, every battle will become a victory.

But if we stand still in the test and do not focus on God, we will lose our joy and our sure hope in the Lord. The thought of God’s guidance and leading, His vigilance, care, and love brings us a joy that minimizes tests and even completely eliminates them.

Here is the secret that God reveals to those who know Him and who follow His voice. This little secret helps us and strengthens us so that we are able to consider everything as joyful, even tests themselves.

How do you face the tests in your life: with a heart of displeasure and resentment that infect your surroundings, or with a joy in your heart that can thank God even in the most difficult days?

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2-3).  
K. N.

# When Trouble Comes

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Psalm 50:15). In this short Bible verse, our attention is directed to three important points that show us what to do in times of trouble.

## **Call Upon God!**

God asks us to call upon Him when we experience trouble, today, just as He did in the time of the psalmist. Yes, each of us will experience trouble or adversity in our lives sooner or later. We will encounter days of joy as well as days of sorrow. In those days of sorrow we can accept the invitation of Psalm 50:15.

When Job’s life fell apart, he was determined to turn to God. He said: “But as for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause” (Job 5:8). People sometimes try to help us but their help is limited. Only God can save us out of our trouble.

## **God Wants to Save Us!**

When we call upon Him in our trouble, God has promised to save and help us. We also need to be in a good relationship with God. If we want God to help us

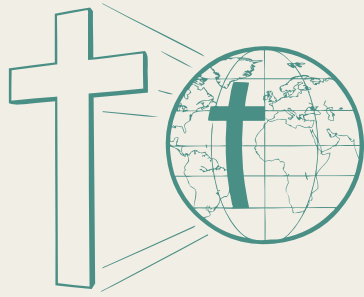
in our time of trouble, then we need to have established a solid prayer life in the good days.

When we have a close relationship with God and days of trouble and tribulation come, we can say with the psalmist, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). God gives us many promises in His Word of how He would like to help us in times of trouble. He is strong and mighty and wants to strengthen us during tribulation and adversity. “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me” (Psalm 138:7).

## **We Need to Praise Him!**

When God saves us out of our troubles, it is our duty to praise and thank Him. Thankfulness from a sincere heart is proof that we appreciate what He has done for us. We are to praise and honor God by telling others what He has done for us. Through our testimony, we can strengthen the faith of our fellow believers. By strengthening the faith of someone, we praise and glorify God.

L. Taylor



# Radio Program Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs, Kitchener (ON)

## Tested in Storms

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.” (2 Timothy 3:10-11)

This text gives us a little insight into the apostle Paul’s battles of faith. As he stated, his faith was tested by persecutions and adversity. His statement: “Out of them all the Lord delivered me” shows that he did not succumb even though his trials were at times serious and perilous. He spoke of victory over his tempestuous life when he said: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). God tested him through all those difficulties and set him as an example for Timothy and for us.

Difficulties and storms certainly exist in every life, but especially in the lives of those who take a strong biblical stand. In 2 Timothy 3:12 we read: “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

We often complain about difficulties, and of course our own are the most difficult. Perhaps we even wish to have another’s life, thinking that their life is much easier. We soon realize that their life is not without obstacles. If we could choose our own life, we would probably choose one that is comfortable and easy. Would that really be to our advantage? What would become of us and what would we have gained in the end?

Parents are often very concerned about keeping their children out of harm’s way, so that they do well and have no burdens to carry. God does not do this. He is much wiser and knows that the everyday storms

and difficulties are absolutely necessary. He exposes us to burdens and deliberately leads us into various difficulties. God places the Christian into battle so he can learn to fight and overcome.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul spoke of tribulation, fear, persecution, hunger, nakedness, the sword, and that they daily had death in their sight and were considered as lambs to the slaughter. “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). Furthermore, he firmly believed that all things work to the good for those who love God (Romans 8:28). And if it is all things, then that includes tribulations and storms. It is not only the tribulations and burdens that God gives us, but also the difficulties that people place in our path that are to be for our good.

This should lead us to the realization that we can be thankful for the storms. This is never easy and only possible if we believe and are convinced that the storms and problems are to our advantage and benefit.

God allows these storms to come over us so we can be tested and trained in faith and waiting, in forbearance and bearing, in humility and in trusting God. Are these not useful things and high values for our lives? Values for which we can be thankful for? And in gratitude lies the mystery of victory, for in the moment we begin thanking for the burdens and difficulties, the victory is won. This is a great blessing!



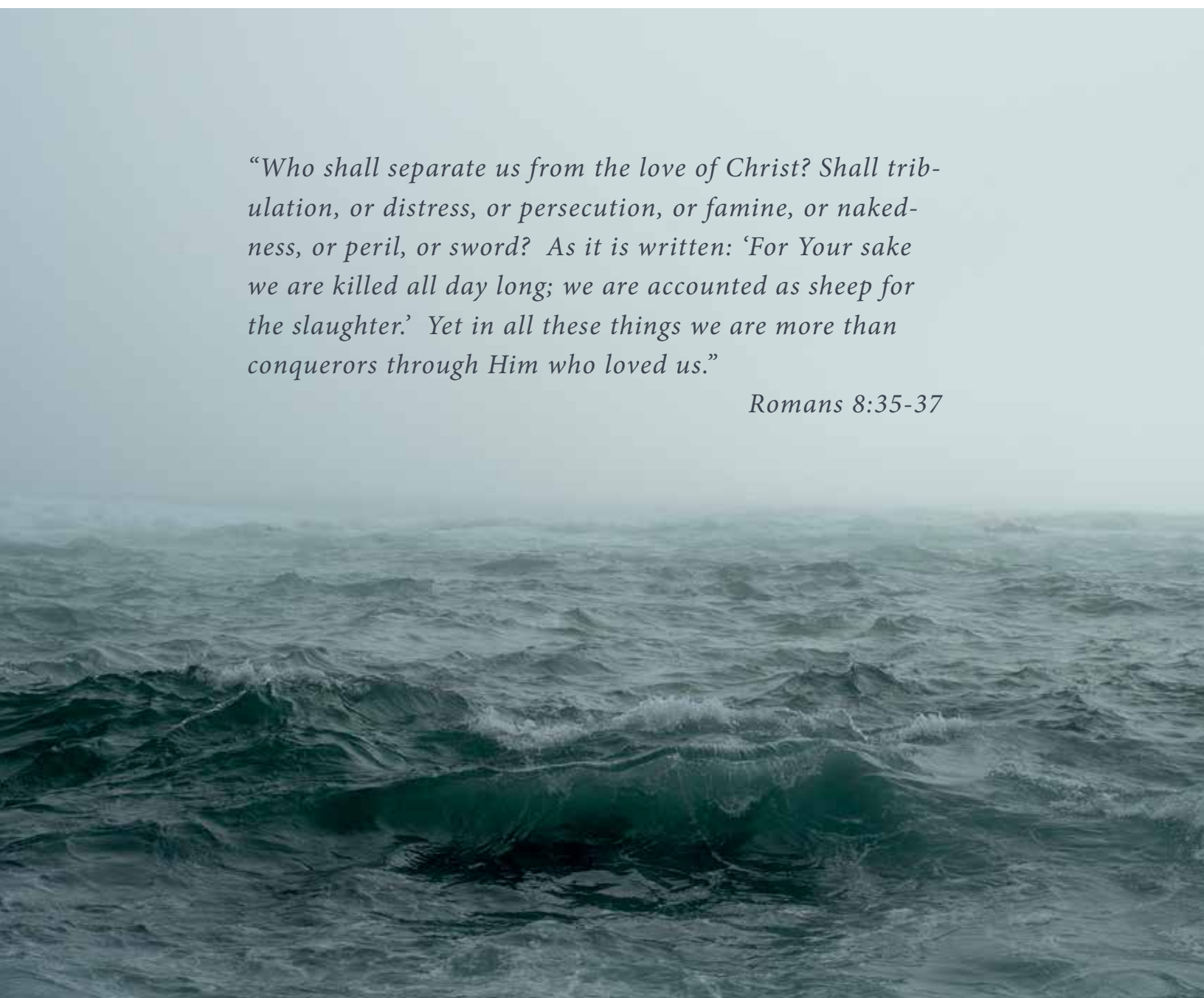
God uses storms for our salvation. He sent great hardships to the prodigal son, and these difficulties brought him to his senses and moved him to repentance. As He uses difficulties and troubles to bring people to Him from far away, He also uses them to draw us closer to Him. Be hopeful in your storms and problems! Don't fight against them or complain too much. God wants to test you, and as a tested disciple make you an example and blessing for others.

However great our problems may be, we will be able to say with Paul: "And out of them all the Lord delivered me," and thank Him for all eternity.

Friedrich Krebs

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*

*Romans 8:35-37*



# Science Is Benefited by the Bible!

Many centuries ago a man by the name of Darius lived in Babylon, a country known today as Iraq. He looked up at heaven and said: "Look at the many lights in the sky, the small and the big. That is where the gods live." Darius looked into the sky with fear and uncertainty.

Jacob, a Jewish boy, who was captured in Babylon along with his people exclaimed: "The sun, moon and stars are gods? No, our priests have told us that they are nothing more than lights that light up our world like big lanterns. Our God made them. We don't have to be afraid of them!"

In Egypt, far away from Babylon, people had great fear of the big water animals: "We cannot enrage these beasts." Once again the Jews replied: "All these animals

were made by our God. We do not have to be afraid of them."

People throughout history were afraid of many other things because they claimed to find gods in so many places. For this reason they couldn't explore nature around them. The creation account in the Bible, however, has helped the scientists. There we read: "fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28). This encourages us not to fear, but to explore, use, and care for the things of nature. Nature isn't God, God created it. Have you ever thought about the fact that the creation account, which many reject, has actually encouraged people to explore the universe, the plants, and the animals?

# The World without the Bible?

Without the Bible we would not know anything about Jesus, nor would we have any sure information about God and eternity. Without the Bible there would be no Gospel and no message of God's grace toward man. We would be left in darkness about the important questions of life, questions when suffering, questions of guilt, death, and demonic powers.

If there was no Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, the chapter of love would never have been written; there would be no Romans 8, the chapter of God's acceptance of us as children and the work of the Holy Spirit; there would be no 1 Corinthians 15, the resurrection from the dead and God's victory over all the enemies. Without the Bible we would not have the Psalms, the book of comfort that has touched countless people throughout the centuries; we would not have the Book of Revelation, the

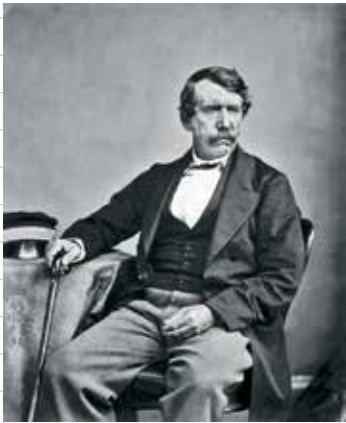
description of what the end times will be like and the ultimate victory of God.

Even more than that: The whole story of the past 2000 years would have been totally different. Even for the people who claim to live without the Bible now, life would be totally different: There would be no churches, there would be no painter, printmaker, and theorist Albrecht Dürer and Rudolf Schäfer, there would be no musical piece like the St. Matthew Passion by Bach; countless poems and pieces of art would not exist if it weren't for the Bible.

If you read this and meditate on the implications of life without the Bible, the prayer of the Psalmist echoes through the mind: "And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your ordinances" (Psalms 119:43).

# Testimony Of the Bible

**Friedrich Nietzsche**, the notorious philosopher and atheist once issued a remarkable statement about the Old Testament: “In the Old Testament of the Jews, the book of Divine righteousness, there are men, events and words so great that there is nothing in Greek or Indian literature to compare with it.” (From “Beyond Good and Evil,” Sec. 52, Germany, 1885.)



**David Livingstone**, the great explorer of Africa, after many odysseys and strenuous experiences in Africa, once was lying in a straw hut for eighty days, plagued with hunger and fever. During this time he read his Bible, which he already knew well, four times front to back. Later he reflected on this time and concluded that only the strength he received from reading the Bible enabled him to survive.

**Lobegott Friedrich Constantin (von) Tischendorf**. In 1844 the great German researcher Constantin von Tischendorf traveled to Egypt. For many years he had studied Hebrew, Greek, and Latin and had become a famous man. In Egypt, he rented camels, drivers, interpreters and traveled into the desert with his caravan. Was he looking for gold? He was looking for a treasure that was more important to him than gold. He was looking for ancient parchments that he assumed would be found in the old monasteries.

In ancient manuscripts of an Egyptian library, he found a reference to the monastery of St. Catherine on the Sinai Peninsula. Finally, the day came for Tischendorf when in a dusty storeroom of this monastery he found half rotten parchments, torn and crumpled in a basket. Excited, he took the parchments and overjoyed, he examined his find. Soon the whole world heard it: in a monastery in the Sinai mountains, Tischendorf had found the oldest manuscript of the Bible.

For many years he worked to decipher the faded letters of the parchments. Together with his friends, he wrote it down word for word. The manuscript became so famous that the English government paid over one million Deutschmarks for it, and it can still be seen today in the London museum.

Is the Bible just a book of fairy tales for children and people of low intelligence? Absolutely not! For scientists like Tischendorf, it was the most interesting and most important book of all.



HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY.  
MATTHEW 24:35

*\*Source for Images: Wikipedia - Public Domain*

# I can't believe

D. L. Moody once said: "Today, it seems to be the 'in thing' to say: 'I am agnostic, I can't believe!'"

Moody added: "I once spoke with a man who told me: 'I cannot believe.'"

"Whom can you not believe?" I asked.

"But I cannot believe." "Whom can you not believe?" "But I can not believe." "Whom?"

"You do not understand my situation: I cannot believe!" "Whom can you not believe?"

The man began to blush with shame, began to feel embarrassed and repeated again: "My case is a very unusual case; I cannot believe."

"But whom can't you believe?"

The man became more and more embarrassed and said: "You don't understand my condition at all. I have many intellectual difficulties; there are a lot of things that I can not believe." I went on to ask: "But whom is it that you cannot believe?" Finally he gave in and said: "I can not believe myself!"

"Thank God for that!" replied Moody.

Many people today react just like this man. They say they cannot believe, they cannot understand this or that, they look to themselves and their own heart, and the consequence is that they are quite discouraged and everything remains hidden and obscure for them. Many are continually occupied with themselves and confuse their feelings with faith. They are of the opinion that faith is a certain emotion or feeling. They hope from day to day that certain feelings will take possession of them, so that they may believe, but it never comes.

When it comes to faith, many people mistakenly look for the following sequence: feelings, belief, fact. But God's order is this: fact, faith, feelings. This is the correct and biblical way to believe. The fact is that Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead and has purchased our salvation. The human responsibility now is to repent and accept the gift of Christ by faith. If this faith is real, sooner or later the feelings will also come.

You can't feel faith, but it causes feelings. Faith is something spiritual and must be planted by means of the Word and the Spirit of God in our hearts. Everyone can believe if they want to. He can believe if he is willing to remove the obstacles to faith. To believe simply means to believe—just taking God at His word. How do we know that we have the eyes?—Because we can see. How can we know that we have faith? Because we really believe and trust. We believe many things in the natural life, even though we do not see or understand them. Why should we then not believe the spiritual things? Why should we not believe God and His Word?

The Lord doesn't say: "He who feels it has eternal life," rather "he who believes in Me has everlasting life." The eternal life is not in the faith, but in the Lord Himself. He is the life. Faith is only the hand which receives this life. Faith is the chain which connects us to the Lord.

We must therefore not bank on feelings, or on ourselves or on the circumstances. Trust the Lord and His Word alone. Let go of all else and surrender to Him. This is true faith that will produce fruit in our lives.



# A Lesson from a Squirrel

One morning Emily and her mother were sitting on the back patio. "Have you memorized your Bible verse for Sunday School?" Mom asked.

"No, not yet," replied Emily. "Why do we have to memorize Bible verses anyway? We will probably never need them again."

Mom sat quietly thinking about how best to answer her daughter. Just then a squirrel scurried across the back yard to the pecan tree. The squirrel discovered a pecan and quickly picked it up and ran across the yard, under the fence and buried it in the neighbor's yard. Mom smiled as she realized how to answer the question.

"Emily, watch that squirrel that's running to our pecan tree." Emily and her mom sat together quietly as they watched the squirrel scurry once again to get another pecan and carry it to the neighbor's yard to bury it. "Do you know what that squirrel is doing?" Mom asked.

"Yes," replied Emily. "It is storing food for the winter."

"That's right," Mom replied. "And it is starting before the winter storms hit and it cannot find any food. Those pecans will help it to survive." Mom looked at Emily. "Someday you might face storms in your life, and you will not know what to do. But if you store up those Bible verses in your memory now, you will have them to fall back on during the stormy times in your life."

"I understand now," said Emily. "Even if I could not find a Bible, and needed help in times of trouble, I would be able to remember what the Bible says."

"That is right," said Mom. "There are places in the world that do not allow people to have Bibles, and if that ever happened to you, you would be prepared because you memorized

many important scriptures that God has given us to help us survive."

"Mom, I am going to study my Bible verses now. Thanks for helping me understand." Emily gave her Mom a kiss and ran off to memorize her Bible verse.

When Jesus lived on earth, He faced temptations and trials. It was His knowledge of Scripture that protected Him and helped Him obey His heavenly Father. If Jesus needed the Scriptures, we need them too! Verses you learn now will help you in the future.

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).



# When the Years come . . . .

There have never been as many elderly as there are today, thanks to advancements in medicine and hygiene. Although whether we reach an old age is not in our control, every person does carry a certain responsibility for his direction.

There has also never been so much that was done for the care of the elderly as now. Yet never have older people felt as superfluous and disregarded as in today's modern world. Arthur Richter once said: "Old age is devalued and feared today, and youth is absurdly overrated and coveted. To remain young has become an actual desire for life. If you want to say something nice to a middle-aged man, then assure him how young he looks."

## **Our Life Takes Place in Stages**

It is no secret that man must go through many stages in his life, which should be enjoyed, but also made use of. One cannot live in constant haste and conversely be unwilling to let go of a previous stage.

A fifty-year-old should no longer live in the illusions of youth, which is irretrievable, but rather make timely adjustments to the approaching stage in which he belongs. This is the reason why so many people are afraid of old age and do not know what to do with it, because they have not adjusted in time.

In this not inconsiderable need of our day, every Christian should especially know: Old age has been promised the special providence of God, as Scripture regards old age as a blessing of God.

## **Our Life Is in God's Hand**

The past as well as the future lies in God's hand. Through Isaiah, the Lord spoke to His people saying: "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been upheld by Me from birth, who have been carried from the womb: Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Isaiah 46:3-4).

God's unchangeable faithfulness gives these words substance. Carried on the heights and depths of life, from the beginning to the end! The examples in Scripture testify to this, when the Psalmist says: "Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing" (Psalm 92:13-15). We think of Moses, Caleb, old Simeon, the widow Hanna, or the apostle John.

## **Even Old Age is Fruitful**

There are people who created their most beautiful and mature works in old age. Hermann Menge (1841-1939) began his Bible translation at the age of 60 and worked as a 90-year-old on the 11th edition. At the age of 69, Josef Haydn (1722-1809) composed his "Creation." Of 77-year-old Heinrich Jung-Stilling (1740-1817) it was reported: "With the reading of Christian books and edification from the Holy Scriptures and spiritual songs, he used his time, which never grew long."

## **Needs of Old Age**

However, the majority of the aged can no longer work like that, due to the gradual diminishing of physical and cognitive strength. At first this requires major adjustments upon retirement. One feels written off. Then comes a lot of leisure time with which some, especially in urban settings, do not know what to do with. This leads to boredom and grumbling.

Some are sick and have a burden to carry. Others suffer from terrible loneliness. They are exposed to tribulations and can easily become melancholic. Then one complains: "Why am I still here?"

## **Important Duties of Old Age**

Our life could be filled with meaning and substance in old age. Many recommend that the elderly should definitely be active, do a bit of gardening or read good books, etc. This is certainly true. But there are other, more important tasks.



We should first make peace with God and others, if this has not been done yet. How many carry around unfulfilled things that encumber the final stretch of the journey!

Then come the duties. How many small and auspicious services in the family, at the hospital bedside, in the church could happen if there was more willingness! A man of God said: “We lack fathers and mothers in Christ. We have enough officials. Young people do not need us for technical issues, but they often seek our experience with God and want to know how we have coped with sin.”

Does not man have to work to the end? Dora Rap-pard (1842-1923), the blessed mother of Chrischona, expresses much in her book “Happy Age,” about what is possible in old age in change, maturity, and blessing. She writes in the beginning: “What a sum of di-vine benefits is a long life! How is it so rich in experi-enced joys and completed struggles! What a treasure of memories is stored in the mind! One feels lifted up and carried by the grace and faithfulness of God in all one’s personal worthlessness!”

### **The View to the Destination**

Eternity is the goal of children of God. Daniel Schäfer (1889-1954) writes: “As you grow older, the world on the other side comes ever closer. Fear of death breathes down the neck of all men, and children of unbelief have every reason to fear death. Christians take care—or they should, in any case—that they have arranged all earthly, family, and professional affairs. They especially make sure that they can always profess: ‘If my end comes today or tomorrow, I know that I am happy with Jesus.’ Death comes quickly, even in our homes and families. Therefore, a wise father bears care about the eternal destiny of his family.”

Christians leave their own blessed and looking forward to a reunion in the great family home above.



# If You Would Believe

## Part 13

*Compiled by Hartmut Sonnenberg*

### **Longing for Home**

"A fine young lady like you shouldn't have to spend the night in jail," observed the young warden standing outside the locked jail cell where mother was being held following her arrest for participating in evangelistic services in Poland. "I could have papers processed to arrange your release, and then we will go dancing tonight."

"Please no," answered our as yet unmarried mother! "I don't dance."

"Well in that case, maybe we could go to the theater together?"

"I'm sorry, but I don't frequent the theater either."

"Are you not a young lady? You don't dance! You don't go to the theater! What do you do for entertainment?"

"You know sir, I have found the Lord, and since I found Him my greatest desire is to spend time with Him. It is incredibly precious to study His Word and to speak with Him in prayer. Before I found peace with God I often lay awake at night as the question of my eternal destiny weighed heavily on my mind: If I were to die tonight, where would I awake? What would my eternal destiny be?" But now I have assurance of salvation. I know that if I were to die now, I would see Jesus in heaven. I can barely wait for the moment when I shall see Him face-to-face," she continued enthusiastically.

This was getting much too uncomfortable for the warden. He turned abruptly and called over his shoulder, "Young lady, you speak too much of death and dying! Good bye!"

Going home to Jesus! That was her life-long yearning. To see Him who suffered and died for her sins. Face to face with the One Who gave her peace, assurance of

salvation, and abundant joy. What a day that will be! "You are acting like the lazy servant," admonished an experienced pastor as our mother frequently expressed this desire. "The Lord has much work for you to do, but you keep checking if it isn't time to come home yet." Well, a lazy servant she did not want to be!

But now, more than 50 years later it appeared that her longing was to be fulfilled. Her work for the Lord here on earth was completed. Almost daily she expressed the desire to go home, and yet we continued to pray for her recovery. Even though she was just shy of her eightieth birthday, we were unable to let go. From her sickbed on the living room sofa, she made one final plea: "I do not wish to be admitted to the hospital where my life would be artificially prolonged. I would like to die here at home in the presence of my loved ones." And so the days passed. Many friends still arrived at her bedside to say farewell - some from afar.

One Thursday evening, she called us to her bedside. "Children," she said, "I have such a desire to go home to my Lord, yet my life continues. Why can't I die?" Answering her own question she added, "I think you will have to stop praying for my recovery. God wants to take me home but He is unwilling to do so as long as you continue to pray for me like this. I think you need let go." Hard as it was, that evening we prayed, "Lord, your will be done. Send your angels to take mother home, if that is Your will." Finally we had let go!

In the early hours of the following afternoon, on September 28, 1977, her deep longing was finally realized. Mother had gone home to be with Jesus.

The church was filled beyond capacity at her funeral. Slowly the long column of attendees passed the open



casket. And then the church resonated with mother's favorite song as the entire assembly sang the hymn, "My Jesus, I Love Thee." The scene in heaven that unfolded spontaneously in the mind was this:

*In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*  
(William R. Featherstone)

Clutching the feet of Jesus, mother rejoiced: "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine!"

What a Savior!



SONNENBERG FAMILY IN WETASKIWIN (CA 1951)

# Joy in God

“Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.” (Psalm 100:2)

Even today God looks for people who consecrate themselves and fully surrender to Him. He searches for people that are full of zeal and who fight, pray, and serve. Therein Jesus Christ is glorified. For this task, however, a person needs joy in God. Indeed, joy is needed for his or her personal life and for this task.

## **Joy for Our Personal Life**

### *Children of God Rejoice in Creation*

They find joy in nature and the many wonders that are related to it. Many psalms speak about these. True Christians correlate creation with their personal lives. They admire the Lord of creation and worship Him. They honor Him as their Creator. The wise of this world attempt to explain everything and claim to understand everything and consequently they cannot believe. For children of God, creation remains a miracle in which they believe. As a result, creation brings them joy after joy for their personal journey.

### *Children of God Rejoice in God's Word*

Psalm 119 is full of joy over God's Word. “I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure (Psalm 119:162). With many other words the great joy of having the living Word of God is expressed. That however, is not only joy for the psalm-writers, but it is also the joy of all God's children. The scoffers say the Bible is a book of sadness. Whoever says that does not know the Bible. Every child of God has experienced the Bible as a book of joy. It brings us great joy when we read it. We find joy when we live it out and obey it. It gives joy that makes us rich. Yes, it is a joy that is real and lasting—a joy in God.

### *Children of God Rejoice in Their Redeemer*

In Psalm 89:16-17 we read: “Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the

light of Your countenance. In Your name they rejoice all day long.” Whoever knows Jesus as his or her personal Savior rejoices in Him daily. Why do we find so little rejoicing over the Redeemer and redemption in the church? Is that how it is for you as well? Do you rejoice over the crucified and risen Savior? And is this joy expressed so that others can see it? It seems that too little joy in the Savior and in salvation is experienced. The only possible reason for this must be that individuals look for other joys in the passing things of this world. No, do not seek joy in these things, but “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).

### *Children of God Rejoice in the Church*

They rejoice because they have the opportunity to fellowship with other children of God. Joy in fellowship is joy in gathering together, in uniting in prayer, in mutual planning, in helping along, in bearing the load, and in suffering together. One must be involved! One cannot stay in idle comfort at home while the church family gathers together or is involved in other ministry. We read a lot about the joy that the first Christians had when they gathered together in the book of Acts. They were united together, praised God and rejoiced in Him. Did they not experience persecution and suffering? And yet, this great joy of the early church is repeatedly expressed throughout the Bible. The Psalm writer prayed: “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” (Psalm 51:12). We too must be equipped with this joy. The spirit of joy drives away the spirit of worry, the spirit of discouragement, and the spirit of carelessness. The spirit of joy drives us to attend the services so that we can join in prayer, help carry the load, and suffer alongside with others. We have reason to rejoice. For the church of the new covenant is permitted to boast: “With joy [we] draw water from the wells of





salvation” (Isaiah 12:3) and “The joy of the Lord is our strength!” (Nehemiah 8:10).

### **Joy for the Task**

Paul writes the following to the children of God in Corinth:

“[We] are fellow workers for your joy” (2 Corinthians 1:24). Even today, God’s children are to be purveyors of joy. The joy that we receive from God must be passed on.

The Israelite girl in Naaman’s house was actually in a sad situation. Kidnapped from her home, she was a slave in a powerful man’s house in a foreign country. We could easily understand if she had been distraught. But no, she became a channel of joy. She must have had her own battles and temptations. But she did not stray from God. Through her testimony she brought true life-giving joy to the heathen house. She served God even in the foreign country and could not conceal the reason for her joy. Consequently, she became a light and help for Naaman and his house.

Another example is the rich young ruler in Luke 18. He came to Jesus with the question: “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him: “Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor . . . and come, follow Me.” But the rich young ruler did not want to and

so he went away sorrowful. He did not want to listen and let go of his riches. As a result, he did not receive true joy and could not pass on that joy to others.

The Psalm writer said: “In your presence is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11). This joy is inexhaustible. Joy in God moves the soul to focus on spiritual and heavenly things. It is given to us as comfort and strength. It is also a foretaste of eternal joy. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). This word can be applied in two ways: first of all, it refers to salvation, and secondly, to glorious eternity.

The greatness and depth of this joy in God is revealed through the following incident: There was a wealthy man in India who became a Christian. When he was baptized, his houses and lands were taken from him. Even his wife and children left him. When someone asked him: “Are you able to bear this misery? Aren’t you going to be crushed by this great load?” His answer was: “I am asked this question by many, but no one asks whether I can bear this great joy. I’ve experienced this great joy in my heart since I have found Christ. And this joy no one can take from me.”

Do you have this joy in God?

Otto Sommerfeld (1922-2008)

# Experiences with God

*In Genesis 18:14, after Sarah laughed that she would give birth at her ripe age, the Lord asked Abraham, “Is anything too difficult for the Lord?” (CEB). Since hindsight is always 20/20, I can honestly say, “that nothing is too great for the Lord.” Without the prayer support and my sovereign Savior I would most likely not be here today.*

*My life changed on June 29, 2016. After breakfast, I experienced discomfort in my chest, that quickly escalated into excruciating pain with uncontrollable coughing, resulting in my wife, Hanna, driving me to the hospital. Once at the hospital, they immediately placed me in their trauma room, hooking me up to the ECG—electrocardiogram.*

*Pain levels were now so high that I started convulsing, and I could not sit or lay down, holding my chest. I kept removing the mask, which I had to cover my mouth and nose, feeling I was suffocating. My body was in such severe pain that my sweat had completely soaked my jeans. Ironically, nothing showed up on the ECG.*

*Looking back, I see God’s plan in each step along this journey. How awe-inspiring, that here on Planet Earth, where an estimated 7.37 billion people live, God has a specific plan for me, just as He does for you. “Nothing is too difficult for the Lord.”*

*In Sherwood Park, we only have an emergency hospital. On that day, at that hour, during that shift, a cardiologist was the emergency doctor. While being sent for x-rays, he informed my wife and daughter that my pain was unrelated to my heart, since the ECG was normal. However, upon returning from x-rays, I started experiencing pain in my shoulders and arms.*

*After a second ECG, the cardiologist quickly gave instructions to the medical staff, who began preparing me for surgery. They attached a portable defibrillator and began managing the pain through intravenous medicine. An ambulance was already on standby, which normally is not the case, and transported me to the first available hospital that had an open operating room. Again, “nothing is im-*

*possible for God.”*

*Despite these interventions, my pain was so severe that I could only pray, “Lord, help! Father, help!” Hanna rode along in the ambulance, phoning family and Pastor Henkelmann. My sister Iris posted a prayer request on Facebook, for which I am forever grateful.*

*Entering surgery and into recovery, something changed. As God’s children prayed, His arms encompassed my body, lifting and carrying me. I never once experienced any fear. Never before had I felt this strength and power that prayer was providing me. “Nothing is too difficult for the Lord.”*

*During surgery, the surgeon discovered two blockages: the left main artery, 100% blocked and a collateral artery, 90%. They inserted two stents. From the moment the pain in my chest began until the surgeon inserted the stents was less than four hours. With a few other complications, my entire stay in the hospital was ten days.*

*Looking back, I can only be thankful. I have had an almost complete recovery. Yes, I am still on some medication, and things are different in my life than they used to be. However, even medical staff are amazed, first of all that I survived the heart attack, and by the rate of my recovery. At my latest visit to the Heart Function Clinic, which monitors you for at least two years with regular monthly/bi-monthly checkups, they said that I do not need another appointment until October, 2017. Also, after meeting with the Occupational Therapist, I am scheduled to start working part-time on November 7th and full-time on December 5th, about five months after my heart attack.*

*It is my Heavenly Father that I thank. It was He who carried me and brought me all the way through. It was also all the prayers that supported me during this time. To Him be all the glory, and to all the prayer warriors my thanks. “Nothing, absolutely nothing, is too difficult for the Lord.”*

*Gilbert Steinke, Edmonton*



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## Special Services 2017

*Youth Meeting in Kirchberg, Germany*

MARCH 3-5, 2017

*Easter Conference in Hamm, Germany*

APRIL 14-17, 2017

*Fest in Winnipeg, Manitoba*

MAY 20-22, 2017

*Pentecost Fest in Herford, Germany*

JUNE 3-5, 2017

*Fest in Aylmer, Ontario*

JULY 1-2, 2017

*Camp Meeting in Blaubeuren, Germany*

AUGUST 20-27, 2017

## **An Unshakable Refuge**

Do you trust in times of trouble  
When all human help seems vain?  
Do you trust the Lord, who's mighty,  
Who will always be the same?  
Let the Lord God be your refuge;  
Trust in Him, His arm is strong.  
In the deepest of afflictions  
He can give your heart a song.

God is love and has compassion,  
Offers mercy from above;  
Those who seek His face in pardon  
He will favor with His love.  
All who bring their sin and sorrow,  
Tired of strugg'ling and are lost,  
They will find sweet peace in Jesus  
And redemption at the cross.

When the storms of life are raging,  
There's a refuge for the soul;  
When your restless heart is aching,  
There is peace, though billows roll.  
All who labor and are weary:  
Come to Jesus! He'll impart  
Rest to those who seek with longing,  
Place of refuge, God's own heart.