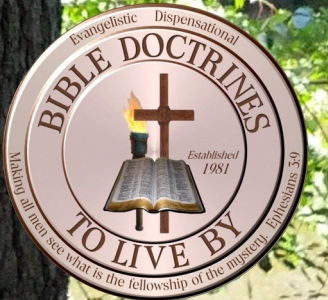


Fall 2019

TRUTH AFLAME

A ministry of Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc.



To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery.
Ephesians 3:9



Welcome from the President

Let me begin by thanking everyone for your prayers and well wishes during my struggle with a continual major headache and subsequent sinus surgery. Praise the Lord that the surgery went well and the headache is gone. As it turned out, the sinus issue was worse than we thought. The surgeon, explaining as to why he had seen us so quickly, told us that there was a very thin wall between the infection and the brain and, if left untreated, the infection easily could have passed into the brain. Again, we are simply praising the Lord for His grace.

With temperatures struggling to warm up, it's hard to believe that we are half-way through spring and that our summer travels will begin very soon. We are thankful that our schedule is completely full (as you can see by our posted itinerary). Once we depart Grand Rapids we will be in schooled meetings every week of the summer months. It is a very busy, and tiring schedule, but we are thankful for the opportunity to share the Gospel and the Word of God with children and adults through our Vacation Bible Schools and Bible Conferences. We would ask that you lift us up in prayer throughout the months ahead. Please pray for rest and strength, safety on the highways, and freedom from mechanical issues. But, most of all, please pray that the Lord will be pleased to use the ministry and His Word to reach lives for Christ. This is why we do what we do.

We are excited for all that the Lord is doing through the ministry of BDTLB. A ministry that began with the writing of Sunday School lessons and Bible study materials, BDTLB has grown over the years to become a major publisher of Biblically-based gospel tracts, Bible study books, and booklets based upon a solid mid-Acts dispensational perspective and youth oriented ministries. Our VBS ministry conducts nine to ten VBS ministries each summer, reaching hundreds of young lives and seeing many

of those coming to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. On top of that, our VBS sessions include an adult Bible conference through which we have seen many adults come to Christ, as well as many of the saints strengthened in the Word.

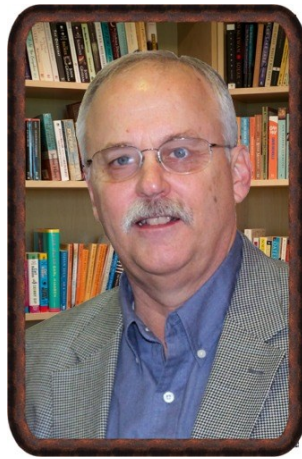
But times are changing, and at our recent board meeting we discussed plans for the future that will take BDTLB beyond the four walls of a church. I don't want to announce anything at this time, but I will say that we are excited for the unlimited opportunities this new venture will afford us to proclaim the saving Gospel of the Grace of God and the Word of God rightly divided. I would ask for your prayers as we move in this new direction.

The world and the nation are in such turmoil and it seems to get more childish, yet serious, every day. For some it brings anxiety, as their future is so uncertain outside of Christ. For the child of God, there is sadness as we watch our country fall further and further into moral decay. This once great missionary-sending nation, a nation with a strong religious character, is rapidly fading into ungodliness, as it turns it's back on the Godly principles upon which it was founded. And yet, for the child of God there remains hope, the **Hope** that this world is not our home; we're just passing through. While we are saddened by what we are seeing take place, our ears should always be listening for the sound of the trumpet at the call of our God to **"come on Home."** Let us not lose hope, but let us remain vigilant in sharing the Gospel with a lost nation, a lost world.

In closing, let me ask that you continue to lift up Lee and Darlene in your prayers. Lee continues to struggle with health issues and has a difficult time getting around. Both are in need of prayer.

Keep looking up!

In Christ,



Have You Planned Your Legacy?

For you as a Christian, there will be a great change when you die. You will be in a new home and you no longer will be able to discuss affairs of the day with your loved ones. One of those affairs will be your estate. But because death is always an imminent possibility, all of us, young or old, should set up a will or trust that clearly states how our estate should be dispersed. The spouse and children you leave behind deserve an

organized estate plan. This will make a difference in what you want to do.

At Bible Doctrines to Live By, we have always had a passion to lay up treasures in Heaven in the way of souls being saved for eternity. Hopefully, you also share this passion to lay up treasures in Heaven by way of the souls of your family, because that brings glory to Christ. So why not also have a passion to take care of your estate before you die?

Everyone should have a will. Do YOU? If not, we urge you to prepare a will now. If you do have a will, do you review it periodically? One area you might think about when reviewing your will is this: Do you have your church, para-church organization, or other worthy organization included as a beneficiary? If not, you might want to consider making a change to include one of these suggestions. It could be a percentage or a designated amount. Another suggestion would be to make one of these organizations a beneficiary or co-beneficiary on your insurance policy. You could even take out a new policy and designate the entire policy to BDTLB. Another idea would be to designate your church, missionary organization, or para-church organization to be the recipient of memorial contributions at the time of your death.

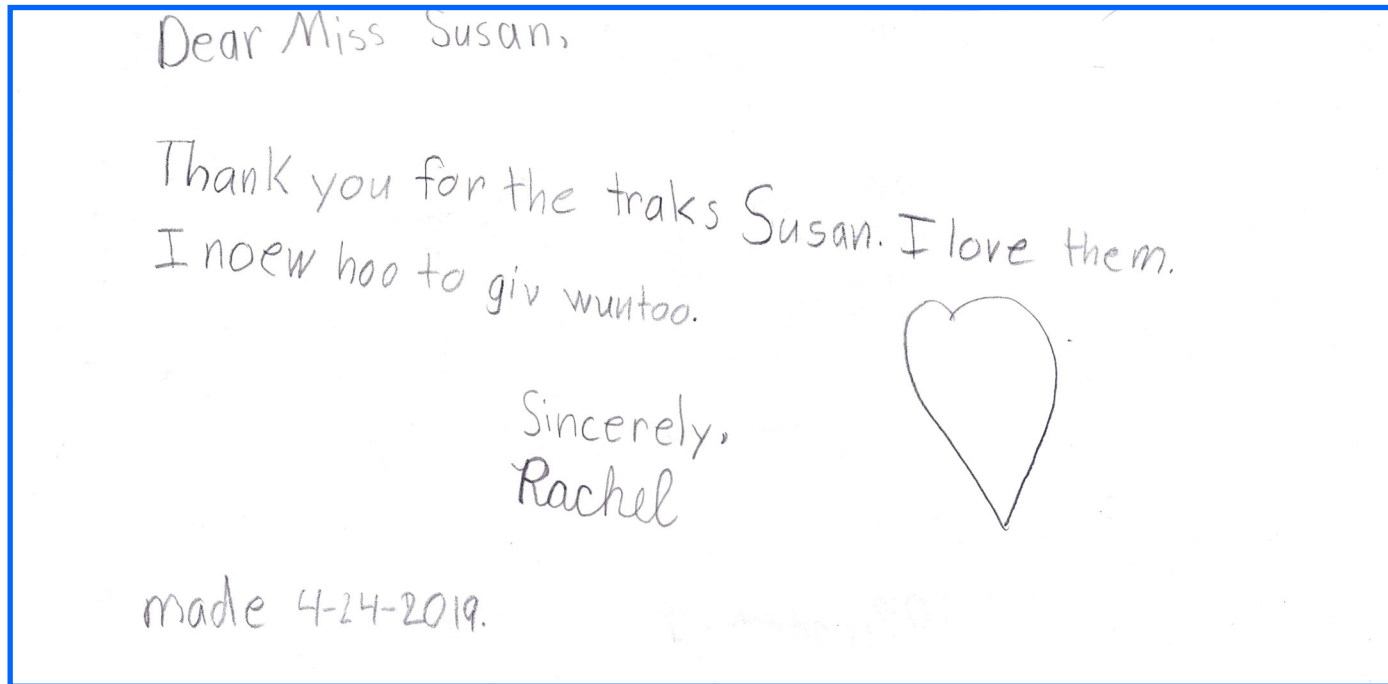
We at Bible Doctrines to Live By would like to be considered in your estate planning. Your gift from the estate would be used very carefully in proclaiming the Gospel of the Grace of God all across this great land of ours. What better way could there be to have your legacy live on after you die? Will you prayerfully consider us in your will, insurance policies, or memorials?

Call us at Bible Doctrines to discuss this very important matter. If you die without a will, it goes to the state. If you die without fully disposing of your estate the way you really want it disposed of, it may not be dealt with according to your desires.

From the Mailbag Continued

She thought that was the neatest thing! Then she asked me if she could have some to put in her purse and she was going to do that at the next restaurant she gets to go to. Aww...so sweet. IN

Keep up your good work and thank you for all you do. Praise our Lord, all ye His servants. Daniel and his three friends prove we can still teach our children to serve the Lord in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Someone taught them. Take care. OH



By: Joel R. McGarvey

We Are So Blessed

We are so blessed by the gifts from your hand;
I just can't understand
why you've loved us so much;
We are so blessed,
we just can't find a way
Or the words that can say, "Thank you Lord for
your touch"
(from the song "We Are So Blessed" by
TaRanda Greene)

**"Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us
with all spiritual blessings
In heavenly places in Christ:"**
Ephesians 1:3

Paul, we can do nothing less than **ble^ss the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**. Paul's letters are full of the many blessings that our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon His own. I am reminded of the words from a fellow pastor many years ago who shared with me, "There is nothing in the message of the Apostle Paul, his mystery, that I can share with a sick, or dying saint." I thought, how sad that this brother has so missed the joy of the Gospel of the Grace of God in his own life and his ministry. The very truth of **"...who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ,"** is so easily lost or diminished in value.

This article is a little different than most, but I would urge you to read prayerfully through to the end and decide for yourself if you are truly blessed today in your life.

The Apostle Paul opens his great letter to the saint in Ephesus with the words, **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..."** These may seem like strange words, urging the saints to bless God; how can this be? When God blesses, He confers benefits upon man, but how does man then bless God? Simply stated, man blesses God by giving to Him the honor, praise, and glory for which He is deserving. It is acknowledging God in one's life, who He is and all He has done. I am afraid that all too often we take God for granted and fail to truly recognize who He is, and all that He has done for us.

We will trace through the writings of the Apostle Paul and his glorious Gospel of the Grace of God and highlight many of the blessings he shares. These are blessings that ought to have a real impact upon our hearts and minds. And most certainly they should bring comfort to the hurting and peace to the suffering. As we make our way through these many blessings, I trust your heart will be lifted up and you will feel and know the joy that is found only in Christ.

BLESSINGS: Reconciliation, Redemption, Propitiation, Justification, Forgiveness, Saints

When we read the writings of the Apostle

Decorative border with a central cross and floral motifs. Title: **Memorials**. Text: **In Memory of Hazel Barteck by Brad Barteck** and **In Memory of Ruth Oldson by Edwin and Barb Register**. Scripture: *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15*

When looking at the blessings we have in Christ there is only one place where we can begin— at the cross. **“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”** (Gal. 6:14a). Without the cross of Christ, we would have nothing, and we would be eternally lost and without hope in our sin. But praise the Lord that, at just the right moment in time, God sent His son, made in the fashion of a man to come, to take upon Himself our form and our sin and to pay sin's price in full. Since the day Adam willfully chose to disobey his Creator and took that first bite of the forbidden fruit, sin and death have passed upon all mankind. **“Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”** (Rom. 5:12). Yes, my friend, all means all, there are none who escape this heritage. **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23).

But the Father responded in love, mercy, and grace and sent His Son to die, to pay in full the penalty of sin. **“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”** (Rom. 5:8). **“Whom [Christ] God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood...”** (Rom. 3:25a). The word “propitiation” is the act of God, motivated by his great love, mercy and grace, whereby He accepts the blood of Christ as the complete and satisfying sacrifice for the sin of humanity, thereby establishing a means of reconciliation between God and man.

With this in mind, is it any wonder that the Apostle would state, that he had nothing to glory in save the cross of Christ? And what did He accomplish through His finished work, His death, burial and resurrection? Through His finished work mankind is given a change in status. Whereas man, lost in sin and under the penalty of death, has now been reconciled to God; man once unsavable is now savable. **“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed**

unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:18-20; Rom. 5:10). Man is savable because the price of sin has been paid in full by the blood of Jesus Christ. **“In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”** (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:24; Gal. 3:13; Col. 1:17). Also it's the forgiveness of all sin (Eph. 4:43; Col. 2:13).

Before I go on, I know someone is reading this and thinking to themselves, wait a minute, not so fast there. Does this mean everyone is saved? Absolutely not, but what it does mean is that the way has been made possible, the price has been paid, that makes it possible for any, and all, to come to Christ. Recall the words from Paul's letter to the Romans, **“To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus”** (Rom. 3:26). **“Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference”** (Rom. 3:22). You will notice a two-fold aspect in both of these passages. First, that God is just, He cannot clear the guilty, so a penalty had to be paid. Second, he is the justifier; He paid that penalty. But also His righteousness is **unto all** or sufficient for all, **BUT** it is only **upon all them that believe**. In order for an individual to partake in the blessings of the cross, it is necessary to take the step of faith to believe and to place one's faith in the finished work of Christ. Yes, the blood of Christ was shed for all; yes, the blood of Christ paid the price of sin, but the application of the work is **only** given to those who place their faith and trust in His finished work on their behalf. Short of that, they remain under the penalty of sin and headed to a Christless eternity in the Lake of Fire. In truth, this is the saddest of all truths in that the penalty of sin has been paid, the offer of salvation is available to all, the work has been completely finished, and yet when confronted with the choice, man often chooses to remain in his sin.

The child of God is forgiven of all sin, past, present and future, through the shed blood of

From the Mailbag



Dear Ones at BDTLB,

Greetings, this another year to listen for that blessed shout.

I was given a nice surprise this new year. I received a generous check, which I was told I overpaid for the year of 2018. That doesn't happen often. Now I get to share with you. How He does bless us!

The world wrestles with much turmoil while we who are in Christ rest in His peace and blessed assurance.

Ever in His grace, **CA**

BDTLB, God bless all of you this new year. I pray all your health is good and the year brings many opportunities to serve our Lord. The Lord has blessed our family so much the last 2-3 years. We thank Him daily. (Can you tell we are grandparents?)

I pray the Lord will bless all of you in '19 and BDTLB can do many great things in our Lord's name. Thank you for all you do. **OH**

((Editor) The following three notes are from the ministry of Gary Miller of Illinois. Gary, along with his wife Lynda, are the authors of the booklets printed in English, Spanish, Chinese, Creole and more. BDTLB is blessed to have a part in this ministry printing many thousands of booklets for distribution around the country and the world.)

Hello,

Erwin, a Filipino school teacher and grace believer, received the boxes we sent containing many of our grace books and booklets.

Hello Joel and all,

The following email concerns the Saved English and Mandarin booklets you sent to the Chinese ministry www.ambassadorsforchristinc.org in Pa. The booklets will be promoted within their organization to thousands who minister to the Chinese students in both English and Mandarin.

Hello,

We forwarded your photo of the newly saved kids holding their Bibles to missionary saints in Haiti. They have ministered in their mission station/orphanage to Haitian orphans for 40 years and still going strong. We have supplied Bibles and sound grace studies to them for years and they give them to the orphans and also to the pastors at the annual conference.

Praying and thanking God for you all. Looking for our blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior. **IL**

A cute story: The BDTLB packet came yesterday, and I opened it enough to grab out a few of the Saved by a Blood Donor cards. Rachel, age 8, who was watching all of this asked, “What are those?” I explained to her what a Bible tract is and that I place these with my tip at restaurants to help people know how to get saved. And I slip them in some of my bills when I pay them, etc.

teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother saying, know the Lord: for all shall know Me." At the present time, does everyone know the Lord? Shall we tell all pastors, teachers and missionaries to get another job because their services are no longer needed? Of course not! Most people still do NOT know the Lord, as will be the case when Israel will again be regathered and the New Covenant will become a reality (Zech. 12:8-13:2).

5) When the New Covenant becomes effective, God..."Will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will He remember no more" (v.12).

The New Covenant is made with Israel as a nation; the forgiveness in view here is therefore a national forgiveness. Because of the magnitude of Israel's unbelief, God counted then ALL in unbelief, and those in unbelief were "broken off" (Rom. 11:32, 20).

God, at this present time, is NOT being merciful to them; they are still "cast away," as they have been for almost 2,000 years. They will continue to be cast away:

"Until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shalt come out of Sion the deliverer, and shall turn

away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Rom. 11:25-27).

Clearly, the New Covenant will be established when the Lord Jesus Christ sets up His earthly kingdom in Jerusalem. At that time He will take away their (national) sins.

In spite of the teaching and the traditions of men, we, the members of the Body of Christ, are NOT God's covenant people; Israel is! Neither are we living in New Testament times. Though the New Testament has been paid for, it is not presently in effect.

At the present time we are NOT covenant people, we are GRACE people! At the present time we are living in the Dispensation of the Grace of God given to the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:2).

We NOW have forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7), NOT according to Israel's covenants. Furthermore, forgiveness of sins is a personal matter, not a national one.

Are your sins forgiven? If not, trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ today.

Wayne Carver

Several studies have shown that our Junior and Senior High age young people are being led astray through an educational system promoting the various forms of evolution. This concerted attack is destroying the very foundation of their faith, the Word of God. If the opening chapters of the Book of Genesis can successfully be called into question the remaining chapters fall prey as well.

In this two volume set Pastor Wayne Carver takes a good look at the false evolutionary teaching and provides solid scientific and Biblical answers.

Parents, don't assume you know all the answers, be prepared. As a believing parent you have the responsibility to "Train up your child" make sure you are prepared to execute that responsibility.

\$10.00 Set

Plus Shipping Michigan residents add 6% tax

Jesus Christ. In Christ he is justified, or declared righteous before God. **"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"** (Rom.3:24). **"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness"...."Who was delivered for our offenses, and we raised again for our justification"** (Rom. 4:5,25). **"That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life"** (Titus 3:7). A beautiful truth contained within the meaning of justification is the thought that it is not simply that sins are forgiven and that the individual now stands righteous before God, but rather that the saint now stands before God righteous, as if sin never even existed in his life.

And then, in Christ, we are called saints. (This is a pronoun, not an adjective. Many saints of God do not always act very saintly.) The word saint is defined as **"holy one"** or **"godly one"**. While it is true that all members of the Body of Christ are saints by virtue of their position **in Christ**, experientially some saints are more saintly than others. This said, all believers are called saints. **"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints..."** (1 Cor. 1:2a). **"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"** (Eph. 2:19; 4:12).

BLESSINGS: Identified with Christ, Sanctification, Sealed, Seated, Indwelt, Joint Heirs

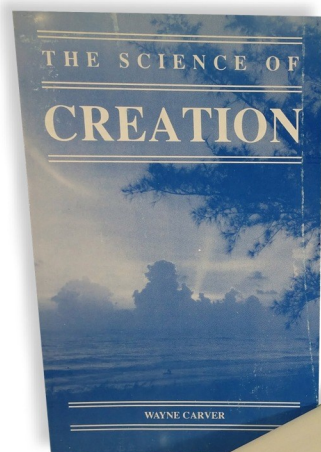
The moment one trusts in Christ he is blessed, or should I say the flow of blessings continue. The very moment one believes, he is baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit; this is his new standing **in Christ**. **"For by one Spirit are we all [believers] baptized into one body..."** [the Body of Christ] (1 Cor. 12:13). **"Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death"** (Rom. 6:3)? **"For as many of you as**

have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). Notice, this baptism is not a watery action executed through human hands, but rather is the work of the Holy Spirit (Col. 2:11-12). The believer now gains a new identity in Christ. The old is passed away and all things become new; we are a new creation in Christ. **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things become new"** (2 Cor. 5:17).

The child of God is sanctified. This means he is set apart, made holy in the sight of God. **"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints..."** (1 Cor. 1:2). **"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"** (2 Cor. 5:21). As one of the blessings laid out in Ephesians the Apostle declares, **"...that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"** (1:4b). Sanctification is more than a moral reformation of one's character; it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing about a whole new nature fully in tune with the mind of Christ.

The blessings continue with the sealing of the Holy Spirit in Christ. **"...in whom after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise"** (Eph. 1:14b). **"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"** (Eph. 4:30). Not only does the Holy Spirit baptize the new believer into Christ, but He is also the seal that keeps him secure in Christ. Since He, and not human effort is the seal, no human effort can break the seal. This surely presents the security that the believer enjoys in Christ, **"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (Rom. 8:38-39).

But the baptizing and sealing work of the Holy Spirit continues with the blessing of His indwelling presence. **"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His".... "But if the Spirit of**



Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:9, 11). The apostle is not calling into question or doubt the faith of his readers, but rather explaining to them the great change that has taken place in their lives in Christ. Their identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Chapter 6) now is expanded to include the very indwelling, constant presence of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. Truly, it is a blessing to know that there is never a moment when we have been left alone, but we can know that the Spirit of God is the constant in our lives.

Identified, Sanctified, Sealed, and Indwelt, but it doesn't end there; the believer enjoys a very special position with Christ. **"Which He wrought in Christ, when he raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places"** (Eph. 1:20). The Lord Jesus Christ, following His finished work of redemption and ascending into Heaven, was not only given a name above all names (Phil. 2:9-11), but was seated at the very exalted position of the right hand of the Father. But now you need to read another verse that concerns the believer's current position in Christ. **"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:6). Imagine that you as one in Christ are seated in Christ at this very moment at the very right hand of God. As such we are already described as citizens of Heaven. **"For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"** (Phil. 3:20). We are blessed.

But there is more, much more; in fact we've only begun to scratch surface. Let us consider yet another blessing the believer enjoys in Christ. **"The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..."** (Rom. 8:16,17). The old song, "My Father owns the Cattle On a Thousand Hills" comes to mind when I think of being a joint-heir. All that the Father has promised the Son is shared equally with each and every child of God. This is not equal shares, but rather sharing equally in all things. What a blessing! Of course blessing is

given because the believer has been made fit for the inheritance of the saints in light. **"Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light"** (Col. 1:12). This unique position is the believer's through faith in Christ's finished work of redemption and the plan of God for all those who come to Him in faith. **"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will"** (Eph. 1:4-5). **"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father"** (Rom. 8:15). Here we read of the glorious promise of God He made before the foundation of the world that all those who come to Him in faith will be received as His children, and the believer is adopted as a full-grown son sharing equally with the Lord.

Blessings: Hope

The Apostle Paul presents the greatest of all promises when he addresses the state of the dead, the dead in Christ. When he addresses, what he called, the Blessed Hope. **"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ"** (Titus 2:13). He spoke to the grieving saints in Thessalonica and while implying that grief was a genuine, natural emotion at the loss of any loved one the grief is tempered in hope. **"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren concerning them which are asleep, [dead] that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope"** (1 Thess. 4:13). He then goes on to explain of the Grand Reunion day that awaits all in Christ. **"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"** (1 Thess. 4:16-17).



Hebrews 8:8-12

What is a covenant?

The dictionary definition is: "A binding and solemn agreement made by two or more individuals or parties. In theology, the premises made by God to man in the Bible."

A covenant is a testament; they are the same thing. In the 43 times these words appear in the N.T. they are BOTH the same Greek word, no exceptions! Testament = Covenant.

The New Testament is NOT a collection of books as the term is often used to denote Matthew to Revelation. The New Covenant or Testament is a promise made by God to a certain group of people. The earning of a new covenant is first prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34, and again in Hebrews 8:8-12.

The description of the New Covenant in our text (Heb. 8:8-12) has five specific points which we will examine in this paper.

1) Who will be under the New Covenant? The New Covenant will be made with the house of Israel, and the house of Judah (v.8). (When the New Covenant was first prophesied, Israel and Judah were separate kingdoms (1 Kings Ch. 11.)

The New Covenant was NOT made with Gentiles or the Body of Christ.

ALL of God's covenants were made with Israel, **"To whom pertain the covenants"** (Rom. 9:4). At Pentecost, Peter addressed his hearers as: "Ye men of

Israel," and later, as: **"The children of, the prophets and the covenants"** (Acts 2:22, 3:25.)

At some future time, God will again gather and join together all the scattered of Israel and Judah and make of them one nation (Ez. 37:15-28). AFTER those days, the New Covenant will be made with the house of Israel (Heb. 8:8-10).

2) At that time, God will put His laws in their minds and in their hearts (v.10). Let me ask you a question, can you recite the Ten Commandments? If they are in your mind and heart you should be able to. If you can recite them, how did they get into your mind? Did God put them there supernaturally, OR did you have to expend the effort to put them there? God has made His laws known in His Word, but He is not, at the present time, putting them into our minds and hearts; it is up to us to put them there (Ps. 119:11).

3) At the same time that God causes His law to be in their mind and heart, also: **"He will be to them a God, and they shall be to Him a people."**

Is God, at the present time, Israel's God? The answer is NO. At the present time Israel is in unbelief. When Jesus was on the earth they rejected His deity (Jn.10:30-33), and they continue to reject Him as their God to this day, so He is not their God. Neither are they His people. By A.D. 57, God had temporarily rejected Israel; they are "fallen," also "cast away," "concluded in unbelief" (Rom. 11:11, 15,32). They are Lo-ammi; not My people (Hos. 1:9). The present state of Israel exists as the result of a U.N. mandate, not because of God's miraculous intervention (Isa.11:10-12:6).

4) Under the New Covenant, **"They shall not**

atonement blood, the bodily resurrection, dispensational truth, and the verbal inspiration of Scripture. It is because we do not have *the power of God* upon us!

We have lost the power of God, so we cannot keep the youth who are under our care from the influences of the humanistic, atheistic, secular, materialistic, drug and rock music-oriented culture. We have let the devil get our children. It is because we do not have *the power of God* upon us!

We have lost the power of God to see Christians dedicate themselves to putting Christ first and to making whatever sacrifice necessary to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, to advance the cause of Christ by the giving of themselves: their time, talent and money. The cause of Christ so often goes begging and receives only a token of the last, least, and the leftovers instead of the first fruits. It is because we do not have *the power of God* upon us!

Where is the power of God that would allow us to rejoice with King David in the thrill of Christian brotherhood? David said, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life ever more" (Psa. 133:1-3).

We are killing ourselves! We "bite and devour one another" and are "consumed of one another" (Gal. 5:15). "We render evil for evil," and "railing for railing" and have completely forgotten that "He that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and pursue it" (1 Pet. 3:9-11). Why are we like the carnal Corinthians (2 Cor. 12:20)? It is because we do not have *the power of God* upon us!

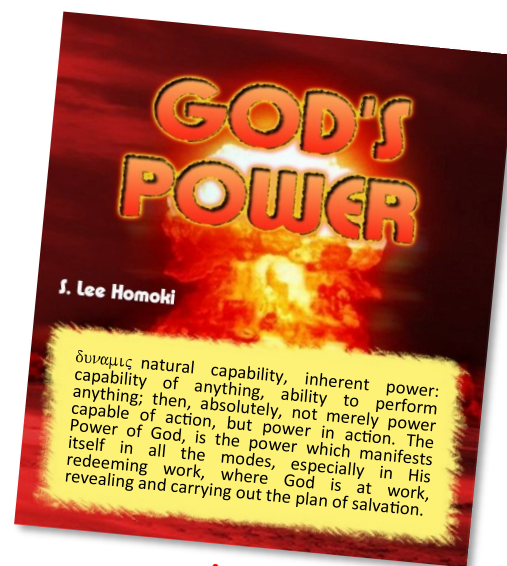
Where is the power of God to see souls saved and lives changed? We are not wanting for trained preachers; we have brains and culture and personality for the pulpits. We have no lack

of gospel literature as an outreach through every conceivable media in America, and yet we do not have the power to win them to Christ!

Sinners do not tremble and repent. Saints do not turn about in confession and holy re-dedication to God. Drunkards are not made sober. Prostitutes are not made pure. Infidels are not made believers. Drug addicts are not made whole. There is no God consciousness. There is no fear of God before our eyes. Why? Why? Why? It is because most of our preaching, most of our singing, most of our living, and most of our testimony is *without power!* We do not have the breath of God upon us. Heaven is shut up so that there is little spiritual blessing.

God, give us a heart that is hungry for God's power, a heart that refuses to be satisfied until we know that the *mighty power of Christ* rests upon us and our service for Him. May that hungry heart be satisfied ONLY when our barrenness is removed and Christ is glorified with "fruit that shall remain" (Jn. 15:16). Oh, the awful shame, sin, defeat, reproach, ruin, and death because of our *powerless lives!* May it drive us to our knees.

(This article is available from BDTLB in tract booklet form.)



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For the child of God, death is not the end but merely a glorious passageway that each individual in Christ passes from this life to a glorious life with Christ. **"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"** (2 Cor. 5:6-8).

What a day that will be when we stand face to face with our Creator, with our Savior, and He says, "Welcome Home." What a hope!

Is there anything here that can be shared with a loved one who is suffering in illness or loss? What about the saint that drifts astray and is lost in anxiety? But wait; there is more and, in the space permitted, we will attempt to present more of the blessings found in Scripture.

Freedom from the Law: **"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace"** (Rom. 6:14).

Freedom from sin: **"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.... "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness"** (Rom. 6:6-7; 18).

Freedom from condemnation: **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ, who walk not after the**

flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1)

Delivered from the power of darkness: **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son"** (Col. 1:13).

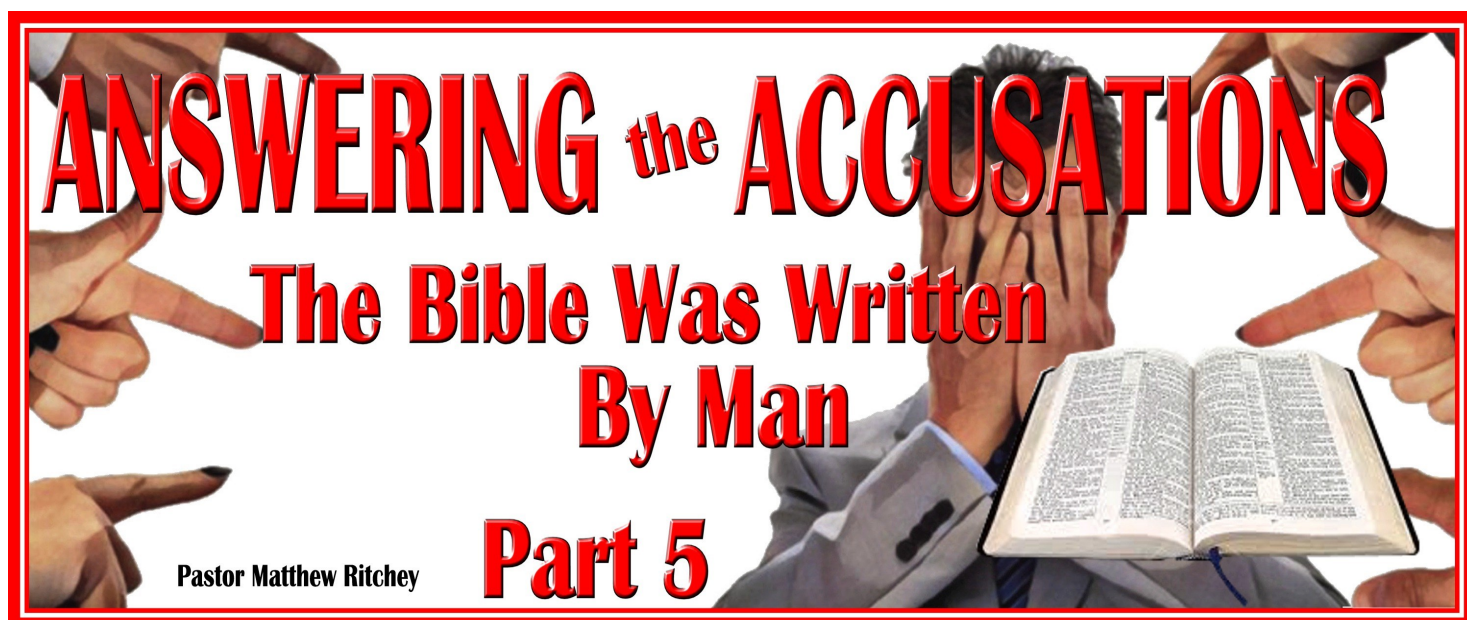
Objects of His love: **"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us"** (Eph. 2:4).

Objects of His purpose: **"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).

Are you blessed in your life? Do you sense the blessings of our great God and Savior in your daily walk? If the answer is no, then I would urge you to prayerfully consider the passages contained in this article and apply them to your life. Remember the words of Paul to the saints at Philippi, **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of god, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"** (Phil. 4:6-7).

Of course, if you have not trusted in the finished work of Christ, His death, burial and resurrection **alone** for your salvation, then all of this is not for you. **BUT**, if you would believe today that Christ paid the price of your sin, that He was buried and rose again victorious over sin, death, and the grave, and that He did it all just for you, you will be saved, and all of these blessings will instantaneously become yours. Will you trust Him today?

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."
1 Timothy 4:12-13



Atheists and accusers seem to think our faith is a blind faith without any evidence. It is difficult for them to believe the Bible's claims, since much of it cannot be tested through physical science and exists beyond our daily experience. In addition, the Bible records unnatural happenings like "Jonah and the big fish" and "Daniel and the lion's den." Yet, I do not believe the Bible simply because someone told me to do so. I have looked at the evidence. The accuser may interpret the evidence as insubstantial or not important, but I see the same evidence as reaffirming my faith in God's Word.

The Bible was recorded by man, but the content didn't originate with man. As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." This verse tells us that the holy writings arrived from God. We call the Bible "God's Word" because they are the words God wanted man to write down. The Bible is truly an amazing book. Written by at least forty different authors over a period of (give or take) 1,500 years, the Bible has harmony that is unexplainable outside of divine inspiration.

The Bible's use of the term "inspiration" is not the same as we commonly use it today. An author may take a walk in the woods to get inspiration for his next book. A musician may feel inspired to write a song. An influential person in your life may have inspired you to follow in their footsteps. Today, we use inspiration to apply to something that influences us, but the Bible word means "God-breathed." The Bible claims to be the very breath of God. This is all the child of faith needs to be convinced of the Bible's accuracy and relevance. However, the accusers aren't going to accept this as evidence. They will point to the book of Mormon and the Koran making similar claims, so I will briefly lay out some of the internal evidences for you to consider.

Reliability of the Content

The books of the Bible were not written by a secret

society that met in a secret lair somewhere to record facts. Most of it was **verifiable information** dealing with circumstances anyone could personally fact check. The authors were not like Mohammad or Joseph Smith, where the information was revealed to only them in a closed door meeting in a language only they could understand. Most of the events of the Bible were done in public (Matthew 21:8). The words were spoken to crowds (Matthew 13:2). They were not trying to hide anything; they wanted people to know the information and where it originated. As a result, skeptics believed (Matthew 15:39), believers doubted until proof was given (John 20:24-28), and enemies created false stories to keep people from the truth (Matthew 28:11-15). Miracles were performed in front of large audiences (Matthew 15:31). Jesus didn't go into hiding after His resurrection. Paul says He appeared to five hundred people at once (1 Corinthians 15:6), most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote those words. If they didn't believe Paul, they could go ask them personally. The Bible was all written so that people living at the time could verify the evidence.

The **historical character** of the Bible also proves its trustworthiness. It is not Greek mythology, tall tales, or Grimm's fairy tales. The Bible records historical events and is not vague in its historical detail. Any recorded event could have been debunked very easily when written in real time. It is the difference between writing the book on the current president versus George Washington. It is much easier to verify the facts on the current president; in contrast, you could probably slip a few erroneous details into a book about George Washington, because it is much more difficult to verify information for ourselves. The Bible was written in real-time, which means the people living could easily stand up and cry out, "liar!" The



Power (dynamis, δύναμις) natural capability, inherent power; capability of anything, ability to perform anything; then, absolutely, not merely power capable of action, but power in action. The power of God is the power which manifests itself in all the modes, especially in His redeeming work, where God is at work, revealing and carrying out the plan of salvation.

The Apostle Paul's life and ministry were characterized by *the power of God!* In commenting about his ministry among the Corinthians, he said, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of *the Spirit and of power*" (1 Cor. 2:4). It seems that Paul was saying that *the mark* of a preacher, who is approved of God is *the power of God* on his life. In 1 Corinthians 4:19-20, Paul says again, "I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up [the eloquent, sophisticated, cultured preachers who were approved of men] but *the power*, for the Kingdom of God is not in word, but *in power.*"

It would be hard to imagine Paul without *God's power* in his life! He saw himself as an "earthen vessel", in which the "excellency of the power" of God was made to dwell (2 Cor. 4:7). Paul considered the power of God in his life a

thing to highly treasure saying: "I rather glory in my infirmities, *that the power of Christ may rest upon me*" (2 Cor. 12:9). Paul gladly took whatever were his own personal assets and abilities and counted them "but loss" (Phil. 3:7-8). "That I may know Him and *the power of His resurrection*" (Phil. 3:10).

This same power is available for us today (2 Tim. 1:7). The trouble is, we *do not have the power of God resting upon us!* We are dangerously like those "last-day" believers described by Paul as, "Having a form of godliness, but denying *the power thereof*" (2 Tim. 3:5).

We have lost the power of God! Where is the power of God to keep Christians from the degradations of worldliness?

Shame on us all for the Christian people who drink and curse and fill their minds with lewdness and filth of the dirty novels, movies, TV, and magazines. Christians who not only approve of this world's "barnyard morals," but, in many cases, practice them.

It is because we do not have *the power of God* to stem the ever-increasing flood of the cults, who are growing by leaps and bounds and largely filling up their ranks with disillusioned Christian people. It is because we do not have *the power of God* upon us!

We have lost the power of God to stand against the subtle and not so subtle attacks, often made in our churches from the pulpit, pew, and literature, against the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, the

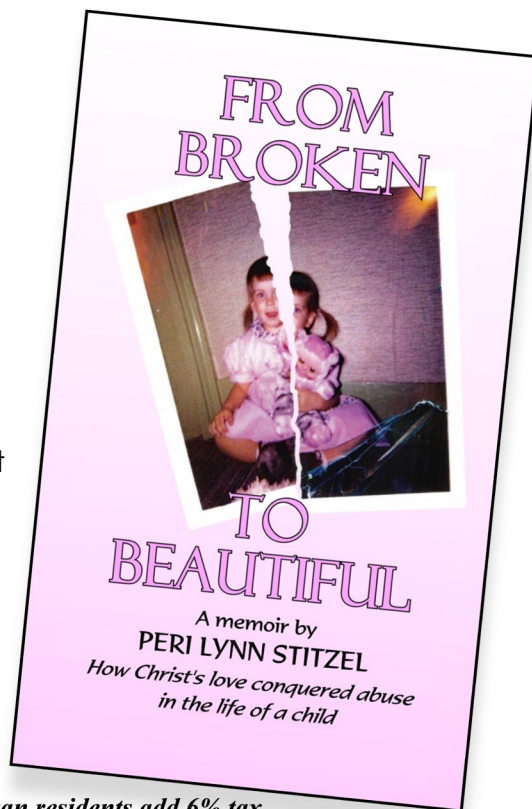


Peri Lynn Stitzel

What happens in the life of a child when the people they naturally look to for acceptance, comfort and safety only offer pain, rejection and fear? Without an intervening event, the false view of life may never be corrected. Healing may never take place. Peri Lynn Stitzel gave her life to Christ when she identified with His pain—the kind of pain she had known throughout her childhood. Her salvation was the point when emotional healing and forgiveness began.

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Apostles, or whoever was writing, would instantly lose credibility.

Fulfilled prophecies also endorse the truthfulness of the Bible. This point is a little trickier today, because we live in the unprophesied Dispensation of Grace. However, we can look at the claims of the Old Testament and see they were accurately fulfilled. While modern day fortune-tellers predict events in a general way, the Bible records very specific prophecies. This should not surprise us. As God said of Himself in Isaiah 46:9-10, "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." One of the facts about a sovereign, all-knowing God is that He knows what is going to happen, tells us what will happen, and then it happens.

The Bible is also unique in that it **presents people as helpless and immoral**. There is a reason most movies have a happy ending — it is what people want to experience. We love the story of a billionaire who loses his parents and fights for justice. We are captivated by the tale of the awkward, clumsy teenager who gets powers and uses them to help people. We love the cowboy that saves the damsel from the bad guy. We get all gushy over the girl who finds love with the perfect man. There is no hero among humans in the Bible. The circumstances are bleak, but no one could do anything about it. God had to save us. Psalms 14:2-3 declares, "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

No man writing a book, not to mention over forty men, would write a book that presents all human beings in such a negative light. Meanwhile, our society tells us to believe in ourselves, for we have the power within each and every one of us to solve our problems. Only the Bible presents people in their full depravity. Praise the Lord, "...when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). Thank God that He took action to save us from our bleak existence. You are not saved by your behavior, but by trusting that God was gracious in sending His Son to take your punishment on the cross and that He rose again to give you new life. Have you trusted in Him? Or, are you still listening to the accusers?

The Most Important Evidence

I have not taken the time in this article to consider external evidences regarding inspiration, but the proof is abundant. Take, for example, the copyists of

the Scriptures; they were a group of scribes who believed every word of Scripture was of divine authority and took meticulous care to make sure the words they recorded were accurate. While I could point to the number of on-hand manuscripts far surpassing any other writing of antiquity, or the relatively short time span between manuscript copies, or the lack of honest contradictions, I want to focus the remainder of my space on the most important evidence of the Bible being God's Word.

While I know the accusers will claim this is inadmissible as evidence, the most important and convincing evidence is the **lasting contributions and changed lives** that are a result of the truth of the Bible. We will look at contributions Christians have made to society in another chapter, but new life in Christ is evidence enough that the Bible is the power of God unto salvation.

As evidence for this point, I point to the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Some in Corinth had been questioning Paul's position and authority as an apostle. Paul is writing to confirm his apostleship. In his defense, he writes, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (2 Corinthians 3:10). We are living proof of the life-giving and life-altering power of the truth of the Gospel of the Grace of God. The very fact that we are saved, secure, and citizens of Heaven bears out the reliability of the Bible.

In order to convince the doubters of His apostleship, in the very next verse (3:11), Paul specifically points to the indwelling Holy Spirit who would authenticate to the believers in Corinth that what Paul was writing was true. Romans 8:16 states matter-of-factly, "The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." The Holy Spirit indwelling each believer is evidence that we belong to God. I possess the Holy Spirit, or more accurately, the Holy Spirit possesses me. This is the main reason that I have no doubts that what God's Word, the Bible, says is true.

Accuser, I empathize with your unwillingness to accept this as evidence. Since the Bible is true, so is 1 Corinthians 2:14. It reads, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The natural man (that is you) cannot understand spiritual things, because he (you) are without the Holy Spirit. One receives the Holy Spirit upon believing the good news of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:13-14), and you haven't trusted in the message of Jesus Christ yet. I am not asking for your blind faith. I am begging you to take an **honest** reassessment about what you have heard about the Bible. It makes all the difference in the world, including eternity.

Bible Doctrines To Live By

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This
Little
LIGHT
of
MOON

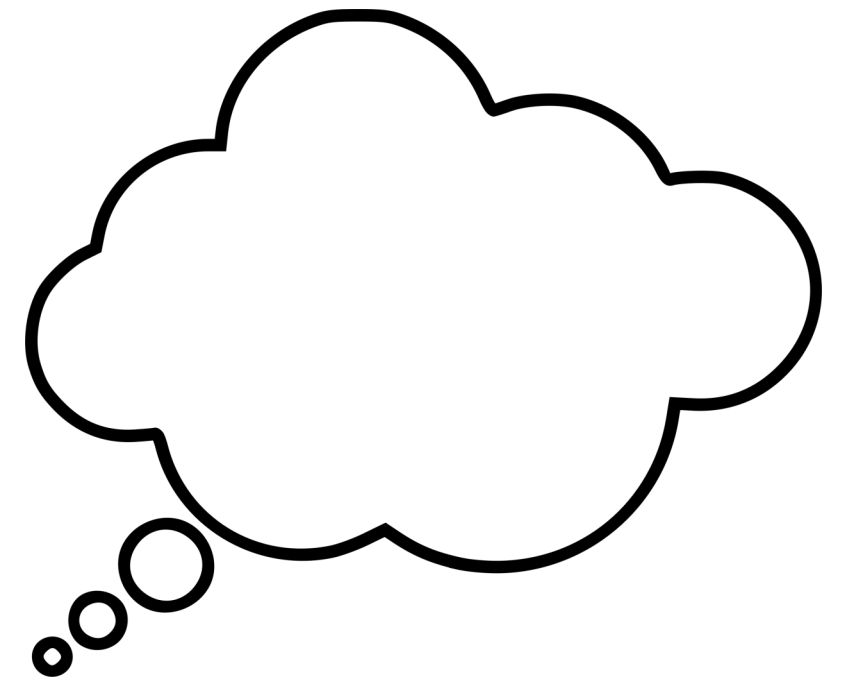
By Dave Green

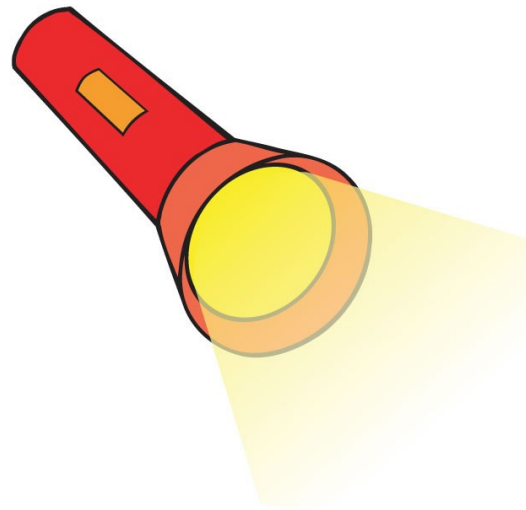


The dark can be a scary thing. Shadows move. Weird shapes. Strange sounds. The things that scare us at night do not scare us in the light. In the light we can see that the shadow was just a tree branch outside our window, blowing in the wind. The weird shape is just our coat on the chair. The strange sound was just Dad getting a drink of water. The Bible tells us that we were once in the darkness of sin, but now Jesus Christ has given us light. We can shine for Him!

Many kids have enjoyed summer camp. Dave Green is the writer of this month's Truth for Youth. He directs Northern Grace Youth Camp in Wisconsin. He says many campers say that one of the best parts of camp is the campfire: sitting in the dark, singing songs, praising the Lord.

Draw yourself around the campfire below. In the bubble, draw something you can praise the Lord for.





It is a high calling to walk in the light and shine as examples. Others may be quick to point out our faults and failings. The light, however, doesn't come purely from us. It is Christ who has shone in our hearts. Many Christians are still living in the dark because they prefer to sin or don't want to share Christ. God is calling us into the light and to be a witness for Him in our actions and words.



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6.

Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine,
This little light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Don't let Satan blow it out!
I'm going to let it shine,
Don't let Satan blow it out!
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Don't put it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine,
Don't put it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!

Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
All the time!



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:15-16.



Most young kids learn a song at church called *This Little Light of Mine*. The idea for the song comes from Matthew 5:15-16 in which Jesus commands his disciples to let their light shine before men with good works that God would be glorified. Jesus talks about how it makes no sense to have light and hide it under a basket. In the same way, Paul says we are light in the Lord. It is part of our identity now that we have been saved and come out of the darkness of sin.



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "For you were at one time darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8.

In the Bible, light is a symbol of good and right, while darkness is a symbol of sin and evil. Most of us think we are getting away with sin, like hiding in the dark, but God calls us to live in the light and to be a light to others. We are to shine as lights in the world.



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." Philippians 2:15.