

# Prepare<sup>the</sup> Way

*Preparing the Bride of Christ for the return of Christ*

Issue No. 108

R16,00 (inc. VAT)

Peter Pollock  
**Victor in  
the lion's den**

**God's miracle  
at Dunkirk**

**The battlefield  
of your will...**

Smith Wigglesworth  
**You SHALL  
receive power**



**Forgiveness**

**Healing the hurts of the heart**

ISSN 1814-7550





## Contents

Issue No. 108

- 3 *I go to church*
- 4 *Victor in the den*
- 6 *Shafts of Light 35*
- 7 *Greatest snare...*
- 8 *You shall receive power*
- 10 *Prayer & fasting*
- 12 *Forgiveness*
- 15 *Anniversary of events*
- 16 *Psychology & End Times*
- 18 *God's miracle at Dunkirk*
- 20 *Fearlessness*
- 22 *A Zulu apostle*
- 23 *Watch & Pray*
- 24 *Battlefield of the will*

**COVER:** "He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, 'a land flowing with milk and honey'(Deuteronomy 26:9)."

## Talk to us..

[www.prepare.co.za](http://www.prepare.co.za)

John & Helen Gardiner

Peter & Inez Pollock

Garth & Audrey Shillaw

### CONTACT DETAILS

(Please correspond by e-mail where possible)

E-mail: [info@prepare.co.za](mailto:info@prepare.co.za)

Phone: (033) 3307-135

Fax: 086-5147-404

Cell: 082-499-3174

Post: **Prepare the Way**

Box 377

Merrivale 3291

## The fine print

Yes, you can make copies of any articles in this magazine, except those that carry a copyright notice

No, we are not aligned to any church grouping, denomination or organisation

No, we don't make any money out of *Prepare the Way* (nor does anyone even earn a salary) – and that's the way it will stay.

Yes, we aim to proclaim truth rather than become entangled in debates about fads and trends – like Paul, we want to know nothing other than Christ and Him crucified, and we don't wish to see any led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ

No, unfortunately we don't accept any unsolicited articles and stories

# Subscribe for yourself... and give the love of Jesus to others

Since launching *Prepare the Way* seven years ago, many of the most precious testimonies of lives that have been changed by the living word of the magazine have come through people who picked up a copy in a doctor's waiting room, "borrowed" a magazine from a guest-house or were given a copy by a friend.

Why don't you become part of this powerful ministry by subscribing to *Prepare the Way* for yourself and, for a little extra, receiving one or more additional copies to give away or leave in a public place such as a school, library or doctor's room?

To encourage this, you will now only pay an extra R90 for every additional magazine you add to your subscription (**please note that the extra magazines need to all be sent to the same address**).

So, you pay R180 for 12 copies of one magazine, but only R90 extra for an additional magazine to be posted you

**Please fill in the form below and post it to:**

*Prepare the Way*

Box 377, Merrivale 3291

**Bank account details for internet transfers:**

Prepare the Way, Standard Bank, Howick branch.

Branch code: 058-325 Account No: 05 244 9815



Your name.....

Address.....

.....Postal code.....

Phone Number.....

### I would like:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 magazine posted to the above address at only   | R180 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R270 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R370 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R470 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R570 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R670 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R770 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R870 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 magazines posted to the above address at only  | R970 for 12 issues    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 magazines posted to the above address at only | R1 000 for 12 issues! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 magazines posted to the above address at only | R1 900 for 12 issues! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50 magazines posted to the above address at only | R4 000 for 12 issues! |

(Please contact us for quantities not listed above. Also, please contact us if you would like to pay per issue)

**I would like to send gift subscriptions at R180 per subscription to the following people:**

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postal code.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postal code.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postal code.....

.....Postal code.....

**Enclosed, please find my cheque/postal order for R..... made out to *Prepare the Way*.**

**I have deposited the amount of R..... directly into your account**





# I go to church...

by Don Wildmon

**I**N 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court said it was okay to kill unborn babies. Since then, we have killed more than the entire population of Canada. And it continues. A woman's choice? Half of those who have died in their mothers' wombs have been women. They didn't have a choice. It is called abortion.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

First it was in dingy, dirty theatres. Then, convenience stores. Then, grocery stores. Then on television. Now it is in the homes of millions via the Internet. It is called pornography.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

They called it no-fault. Why should we blame anyone when something so tragic happens? Haven't they already suffered enough? Half of the marriages in America end this way. The children suffer. The family breaks down. It is called divorce.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

At one time it was a perversion. We kept it secret. We secured help and hope

for those who practiced it. Now it is praised. We have parades celebrating it, and elected officials give it their blessing. Now it is endowed with special privileges and protected by special laws. Even some Christian leaders and denominations praise it. It is called homosexuality.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

It used to be an embarrassment. A shame. Now a third of all births are to mothers who aren't married. Two-thirds of all African-American children in America are born into a home without a father. The state usually pays the tab. That is why we pay our taxes, so that government can take the place of parents. After all, government bureaucrats know much better how to raise children than parents do. It is called illegitimacy.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

At one time it was wrong. But then the state decided to legalise it, promote it and tax it. It has ripped apart families and destroyed lives. But just look at all the money the state has raised. No longer do we have to teach our children to study and work hard. Now we teach them they can


get something for nothing. We spend millions encouraging people to join the fun and excitement. Just look at the big sums that people are winning. They will never have to work again! It is called gambling.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

Not long ago, Christians were the good guys. But now any positive image of Christians in movies or on TV is gone. We are now depicted as the bad guys – greedy, narrow-minded hypocrites. The teacher can't have a Bible on her desk, but can have *Playboy*. We don't have Christmas and Easter holidays – just winter and spring break. We can't pray in school, but can use foul language. It's called being tolerant.

Me? I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now.

Yes, all these things came to pass within 30 years. Where were the Christians? Why, they were in church. All these things were for someone else to deal with. Times have changed. Involvement has been replaced with apathy.

But don't blame me. I didn't do anything. I go to church, the minister preaches, I go home. That's what Christians do now. 





# Victor in the lion's den

by Peter Pollock

**I**N the beginning God set up the system. He made the world, the animals, the sea, the sky, and finally Adam and Eve – and He set into that system various governing biblical principles. And they work! Absolutely, God has dictated rewards and consequences that apply, whether you happen to be a believer or not.

And of course, there are terms and conditions that apply in the spiritual realm, whether we want to believe it or not. You can't play games with God, even if you might think you are getting away with something. Sooner or later there will be consequences!

Obviously we don't understand, hence the continual narrative of prophetic types like Habakkuk who are asking God if He knows what is going on and whether He is going to do something about it? "You ain't seen nothing yet," was His response to Habakkuk – but "watch and be amazed."

God's ways and our ways are hugely dissimilar but it should be a great comfort to us to know and trust that God is totally in charge of everything. His "real" church is alive and well, and nobody is going to sneak under the ultimate spotlight of a final meeting with Him.

As we sow, so shall we reap. If you are gracious and forgiving, it brings peace and tranquillity. If you are kind and loving, it certainly does benefit the soul.

God is a God of love and grace and mercy and forgiveness. We hear about that much.

However He is, at the same time, also a

God of discipline, respect, obedience and judgement. And quite naturally we don't like to hear that too much. The end time spirit of "lawlessness" which Paul writes about is pretty evident these days, and most certainly that spirit takes offence at any preaching that emphasises the need for acknowledging sin and repenting. That spirit just does not want to hear about conviction in terms of our own wretchedness and arrogance. All we want is so-called "freedom," a licence to do anything we please.

Dare I say it, but modern "freedom" would be nothing short of "anarchy" and "rebellion" in God's sight. God is a disciplinarian. It is a vital part of the system as it ties up with discipline, respect and obedience. God is also immutable, which means He does not change and does not have to change, because He does not make mistakes!

God does not need to correct Himself and He is sovereign. God is also meticulous. If we just look at the temple details, the genealogies and the timing of everything in scripture we will realise that He is meticulous and that it has been so up to now – and there is no reason to expect that it will change down the final straight.

By His own admission God is also jealous and a consuming fire and all He wants from every single one of us is everything. Yes, it is as straight forward as that! And yes, God does hate sin.

In Psalm 139 we are reminded that God knows us better than we even know ourselves, while we also read that Jesus knew

there was "nothing good in man" – and yet He was never cynical and finally died for that good-for-nothing man. We humans are stubborn and rebellious and we only learn the hard way, so the best and most effective learning institution for us is obviously the School of Hard Knocks. God is the Principal, the Rector and the Dean of this learning process. Hassles and hurdles come and go, and are necessary.

I want to define four categories of "hassles:"

The first is that "Sin reaps Consequences." This is a biblical absolute! As much as we are all redeemable, irrespective of what we might have done, this still does not stop the actual sin or infringement reaping its natural consequences. For instance, adultery might produce an "illegitimate" or "unwanted" child and while the original perpetrators will be forgiven on repentance, it does not stop the ongoing and consequential heartache and matrimonial grief!

The second category is the "Devil's normal business." Yes, it's part of his "job" to be able to administer grief, woe and suffering. And he wallows in that!

The third category is "What God allows" in the pruning process. So this group is tied up a little with the former, because God does hand us over to the consequences of sin and godlessness as so clearly set out in the first chapter of Romans.

Category four is simply "Our own stupidity." Yes, we do stupid things and quite often make fools of ourselves. With varying outworkings!

There are spiritual consequences for sin and godlessness. The shedding of innocent blood pollutes the land. And that is a huge problem in our beloved country! Abortions, rape, fornication and adultery are monsters. Sexual perversion and pornography is rife, and yet we just don't want to read that sexual sin is special because it is against our bodies, the temples of God.

Witchcraft and ancestral worship are two areas that are fearfully and spinelessly avoided and neglected, and Satan smiles hugely. All godless and evil abominations reap retribution.

---

## Don't run away

---

God also, on occasions, does allow and use evil agents for pruning and judgement. The Babylonians and Assyrians were God's retribution plan. Nebuchadnezzar was His tool in the exile and banishment of His people. Indeed, it was God's process! And the prophets warned: "Don't run away! Serve Nebuchadnezzar that it may go well with you. If you flee to Egypt your worst fears will follow you..." It was God who brought judgement.

God promises His peace but not the peace of the world. "I am with you! I will never leave you." Jesus in John 17, prayed for His own, their mission, their unity and their protection. He did not pray for the world.

Psalms 91 tells that while evil abounds, and ten thousand may fall at your side, you will be okay. God does not promise ease and comfort worldly-wise. God is more interested in His Kingdom, His people, His sheep, their character than their comfort. His Rod and His Staff are what comfort us. And I am sure I don't have to explain symbolically what the "Rod and Staff" stand for.

Okay, so all of that is out there. It's not a picture or scenario that necessarily comforts us, but it is the truth! True believers should not be burying their heads in the sand like ostriches. They should also not be hiding in "denial," not wanting to hear the bad news.

No, not at all! We should rather be turning immediately to the book of Daniel and taking great encouragement from his incredible witness. The episode of Daniel in the lion's den in chapter 6 is a strong favourite of mine – for indeed, the modern church needs a few more Daniels.

Verse 3 is pivotal, providing the simple answer, the simple clue to what made Daniel such a profound witness. It was the "excellent spirit" that was within him.

This man of God lived 69 years in a godless world, a world of pagans and utter paganism, through the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and Darius – and yet was one of the great success stories in terms of being a believers' role-model. How did he do it?

We humans have a way of coming to conclusions and we do it by analysing the facts. So was it because he ate the right foods – vegetables, not the oily rich stuff that the king so loved? Was it because of his noble birth, his brains or his good looks, all of which are attributes accorded him? Was it his ability to interpret dreams, his gutsy political stances or his open defiance of authority? He read the writing on the wall, suggesting super insight. And what about his eschatology and the revelation of all that end-time theology?

Sadly, this sort of analysis produces unspiritual, religious, humanistic conclusions. The simple answer was that it all was born of God, fruit of spiritual oneness with Almighty God.

The fruits are interesting. There was no corruption, he was trustworthy, not negligent, worked hard and excelled in everything he did. He stood out and stood alone when necessary and this made him influential and full of integrity. We all have our own definitions of integrity but God's Word defines integrity in Mark 12:14: "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You are not swayed by men because you pay no attention to who they are; but also teach the way of God in accordance with the truth – His Word."

Yes, a man of integrity does not fear man and the Bible is his by-word.

The conspirators, those jealous of Daniel, could find no charge against him so that had to trump up a religious charge. This is the devil's regular *modus operandi* because he knows that religion is a curse and dogma is divisive. Martyrdom becomes the ultimate price of false accusation – a long list headed by our Lord Jesus and Stephen.

I remember once attending a Promise Keepers men's meeting at Pittsburgh, U.S.A. way back in the 1990s and hearing one of the well-known speakers whose subject for the day was unity. He invited 65,000 men to pray along with him as he asked God to forgive him and others who "through our great learning have done nothing but divide your church." Yes, all the infighting over religious and dogma issues.

Daniel was arrested for praying! How many of us would be arrested for being

on our knees? I remember once reading a survey that suggested that even pastors spent less than five minutes a day reading their Bibles and praying. I recall once asking someone I was ministering to how much time he spent praying.

Take the number of minutes in a day, divide them by the combined number of minutes you pray daily – and the "point oo" percentage you end up with is self-explanatory. The problem with prayer, and obedience, is that it requires a genuine belief in a higher authority and that, quite frankly, is what's missing.

Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego were sent into the fire, an extremely hot fire! "May your God rescue you," was the good wish passed their way. They entered with confidence but declared that "even if He doesn't, He is God."

The lions did not touch Daniel, but any suggestion that they were toothless is soon dispelled by how rapidly they devoured Daniel's detractors when they were finally made to pay for their connivances. Daniel's gifts were not just the commonly accepted church gifts but he used them and brought them in the pagan king's household, much the same as Joseph in the early days of God's people.

---


## Refusing to take the credit

---

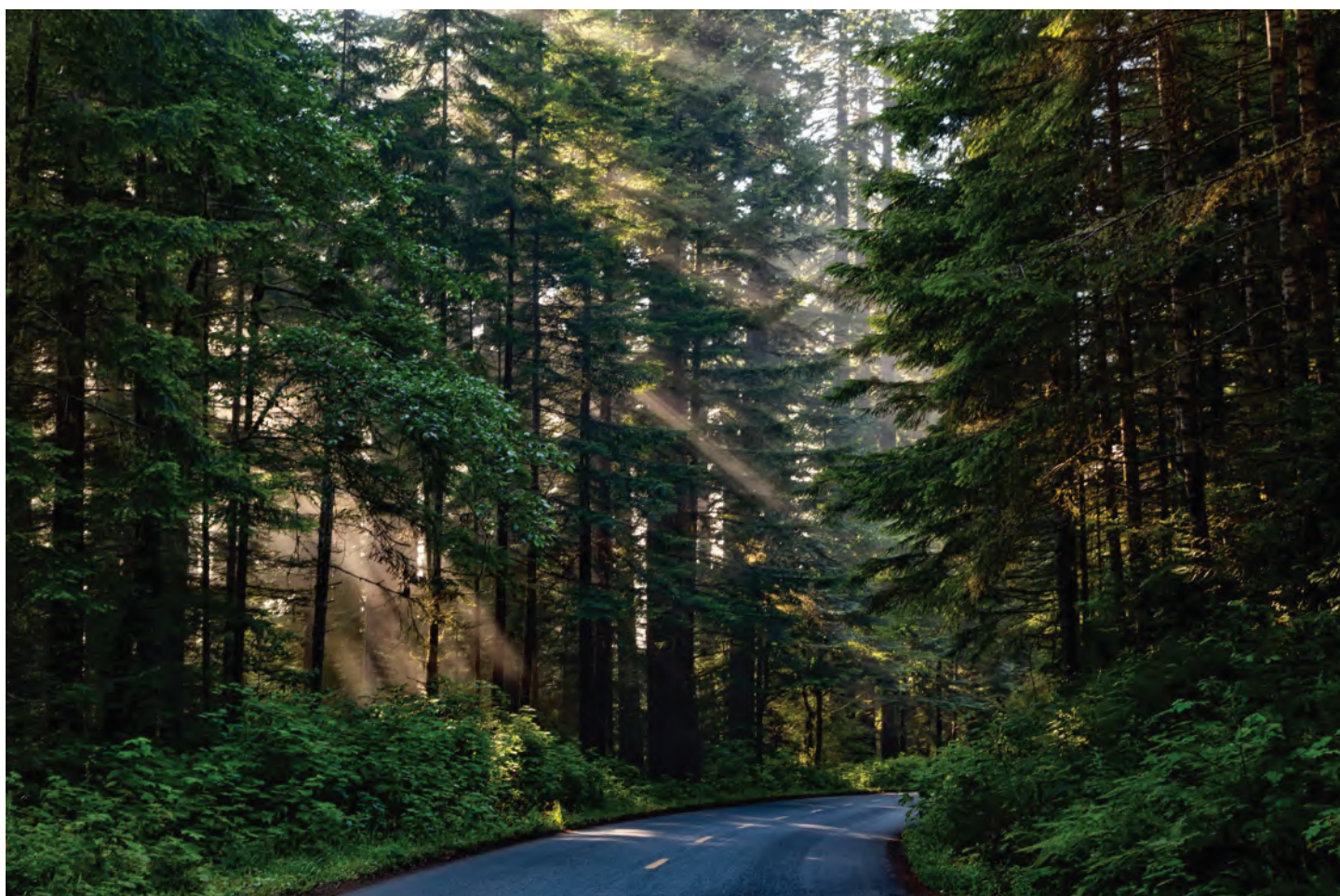
"Do you interpret dreams?" Joseph was asked. "No, but God does!" Daniel said something similar. I just love it when God's true servants refuse to take the credit!

But holiness does stir hate in unregenerate man, so it is natural to expect opposition and persecution. In 1 Corinthians 16:9 Paul talks about a great and effective door that has opened – and then immediately links it with "many adversaries."

Daniels will be persecuted but not manipulated! If you honour God He will honour you, a promise from His Word. Daniel did not defile himself with the king's meat or wine. Taken captive with thousands of his countrymen, what they saw shocked them. Surrounded by immorality in a godless country, they refused to be part of it. They stood for God! They were lone voices in their time.

The church needs Daniels! Desperate are the times and so sullied is the much of what is presented as Christian witness. Brothers and sisters, the question and challenge is simple: Are you a true victor in the lion's den in which we live? 





# Shafts of light 35

by Helen Gardiner

*"You pushed me violently, that I might fall,  
But the Lord helped me.  
The Lord is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation.  
The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
Is in the tents of the righteous;  
The right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,  
I shall not die, but live,  
And declare the works of the Lord.  
The Lord has chastened me severely,  
But He has not given me over to death  
(Psalm 118:13-18)."*

**I**T had been a hard week. I'd had three nights in a row of not sleeping. I was aware that the Lord was dealing with, and, was wanting to deal the death-blow to pride in my heart.

It was very early on Sunday morning. I had prayed and read the Word as is my usual way. I then went downstairs to open up our home for the day. As I walked I became aware of pain and almost dislocation of my right knee. "What is this about,

Lord?" I asked. His reply came promptly: *"Make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed (Hebrews 12:13)."*

As I pondered in my heart, I felt that God was really going to root out pride.

I knew that John was going to bring a powerful message on pride... Maybe the Lord would work through that.

But He did not.

He still had something in store for me.

I didn't have to wait too long for my chastening.

Words came forth and a path was set for my future course that devastated my soul.

By the grace of God I managed to bear His fruit at the time of confrontation. His overriding counsel by His still small voice was: "Walk in humility and forgiveness."

My spirit was willing, but my flesh was weak. My soul needed to be brought in line with my spirit – ultimately in line with the Holy Spirit.

I have learned over the years that the soul cannot be dismissed and in denial. I have learned to take everything to the

Lord – which I did – and I cried buckets.

I was concerned that my heart was wanting to harden, but I knew that was wrong, and so I just kept crying out to the Lord.

Finally, after two days, the strong hand of the Lord prevailed. I was able to let go.

You see, He won my heart with a word from Song of Songs 4:9: "You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse."

That is God: allowing the chastening and when we embrace it, He brings the word of comfort and upliftment.

I feel it would be fitting at this point to read Hebrews 12:1-15. This passage is one of several major portions of Scripture that we need to revisit regularly:

*"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, for consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners*



against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

*"You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.'*

*"If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?"*

*"For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

*"Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.*

*"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."*

Pride is such an abomination to the Lord. I wrote about it a few months back. He is committed to purging us of it. Yes, we need to do all that we do for the glory of God and in love. While we need to pursue excellence, we need to guard against pride.

Pastor William Carroll of Times Square Church, New York, says in one of His teachings, about pursuing the mind of Jesus Christ (as did the apostle Paul), that we will win the battle against the enemy every time, if we pursue humility.

A passage of Scripture which is close to my heart at present is Zechariah 4:6&7: *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel; 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of Hosts. 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!' And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of 'Grace, grace' to it."*

Three things stand out for me in this

passage: the work of the Holy Spirit is paramount; I believe the great mountain is the mountain of unbelief (Mark 11:22&23); God is going to bring forth the capstone or the cornerstone Jesus Christ in His church by His grace.

I have realised that the fullness of Jesus which I long for, will be achieved by His grace. It follows that Scripture tells us that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. I need to walk in humility constantly. Then maybe He will be able to release fullness of His nature, and, even His power for the benefit of others.

Ah yes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 3)." Blessed are those who know they are spiritually poor. Blessed are the humble.

Jesus Christ is baptising us with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

*"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all round Him (Psalm 50:2&3)."*

We are also called into the fellowship of His sufferings (Philippians 3:10).

Consider too...

*"Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?' But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:5-10)."*

*"Let those who love Him be like the sun when it comes out in full strength (Judges 5:31b)."*

Love the working and the moving of the Holy Spirit. Do not quench the Holy Spirit. Love the written Word; let it become a part of you.

*"The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130)."*

So ends this issue's feature known as "Shafts of Light." 🏹



## The greatest snare...

O LORD,

My every sense, member, faculty, affection, is a snare to me, I can scarce open my eyes but I envy those above me, or despise those below. I covet honour and riches of the mighty, and am proud and unmerciful to the rags of others.

If I behold beauty it is a bait to lust, or see deformity, it stirs up loathing and disdain; How soon do slanders, vain jests, and wanton speeches creep into my heart!

Am I comely? What fuel for pride!

Am I deformed? What an occasion for repining!

Am I gifted? I lust after applause!

Am I learned? How I despise what I have not!

Am I in authority? How prone to abuse my trust, make my will my law, exclude others' enjoyments, serve my own interests and policy!

Am I inferior? How much I grudge others' pre-eminence!

Am I rich? How exalted I become!

You know that all these are snares by my corruptions, and that my greatest snare is myself. I bewail that my apprehensions are dull, my thoughts mean, my affections stupid, my expressions low, my life unbecoming. Yes what can You expect of dust but levity, of corruption but defilement?

Keep me ever mindful of my natural state, but let me not forget my heavenly title, or the grace that can deal with every sin.

*From a Puritan prayer*



by *Smith Wigglesworth*

*"You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you (Acts 1:8)."*

**THE** disciples had been asking whether the Lord would at that time restore again the kingdom to Israel. Christ told them that it was not for them to know the times and seasons which the Father had put in His own power, but He promised them that when they received the Holy Spirit they should receive power to witness for Him in all the world. To receive the Holy Spirit is to receive power with God, and power with men.

There is a power of God and there is a power which is of Satan. When the Holy Spirit fell in the early days, a number of spiritists came to our meetings. They thought we had received something like they had and they were coming to have a good time. They filled the two front rows of our mission.

When the power of God fell, these imitators began their shaking and muttering under the power of the devil. The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon me and I cried. "Now, you devils, clear out of this!" And out they went. I followed them right out into the street and then they turned round and cursed me. There was power from below, but it was no match for the power of the Holy Spirit, and they soon had to retreat.

The Lord wants all saved people to receive power from on High – power to witness, power to act, power to live, and power to show forth the divine manifestation of God within.

The power of God will take you out of your own plans and put you into the plan of God.

You will be unmantled and divested of that which is purely of yourself and put into a divine order. The Lord will change you and put His mind where yours was, and thus enable you to have the mind of Christ.

Instead of you labouring according to your own plan, it will be God working in you and through you to do His own good pleasure through the power of the Spirit within.

---

### **You need to have your I knocked out...**

---

Someone has said you are no good until you have your "I" knocked out. Christ must reign within, and the life in the Holy Spirit means at all times the subjection of your own will to make way for the working out of the good and acceptable and perfect will of God within.

I was holding a meeting, once, in London, and at the close a man came to me and said, "We are now allowed to hold meetings in this hall after 11 o'clock, and

we would like you to come home with us. I am so hungry for God." The wife said she, too, was hungry, and so I agreed to go with them.

At about 12:30 we arrived at their house. The man began stirring up the fire and said, "Now we will have a good supper." I said to them, "I did not come here for your warm fire, your supper or your bed. I came here because I thought you were hungry to get more of God." We got down to pray and at about 3.30 the Lord baptised the wife, and she spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. At about 5 o'clock I spoke to the husband and asked how he was getting on. He replied, "God has broken my iron, stubborn will." He had not received the Baptism, but God had wrought a mighty work within him.

The following day, at his business, everyone could tell that a great change had come to him. Before he had been a walking terror. The men who laboured for him had looked upon him as a regular devil because of the way he had acted; but coming into contact with the power of God that night completely changed him.

Before this he had made a religious profession, but he had never truly entered into the experience of the new birth until that night, when the power of God surged so mightily through his home.

A short while afterwards I went to this man's home, and his two sons ran to me



and kissed me, saying, "We have a new father." Previous to this these boys had often said to their mother, "Mother, we cannot stand it in the home any longer. We will have to leave." But the Lord changed the whole situation that night as we prayed together.

On the second visit the Lord baptised this man in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will reveal false positions, pull the mask off any refuge of lies and clean up and remove all false conditions. When the Holy Spirit came in, that man's house and business and he himself were entirely changed.

---

## Empowered to be a witness

---

When the Holy Spirit comes in He comes to empower you to be an effective witness.

At one time we were holding some special meetings and I was out distributing bills. I went into a shoemaker's store and there was a man with a green shade over his eyes. My heart looked up to the Lord and I had the witness within that He was ready to change any condition. The man was crying, "Oh! Oh! Oh!" I asked, "What's the trouble?"

He said he was suffering with great inflammation and burning. I said, "I rebuke this condition in Jesus' name." Instantly the Lord healed him. He took off the shade and cloth and said, "Look, it is all gone."

At one time a lady wrote and asked if I could go and help her. She said that she was blind, having two blood clots behind her eyes. When I reached the house they brought the blind woman to me. We were together for some time and then the power of God fell. Rushing to the window she exclaimed, "I can see! Oh, I can see! The blood is gone, I can see."

She then inquired about receiving the Holy Spirit and confessed that for 10 years she had been fighting against the baptism in the Spirit. She said, "I could not bear these tongues, but God has settled the whole thing today. I now want the Baptism in the Holy Spirit." The Lord graciously baptised her in the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will come when a man is cleansed. There must be a purging of the old life. I never saw anyone baptised who was not clean within.

I remember being in a meeting at one time, where there was a man seeking the

Baptism, and he looked like he was in trouble. He was very restless, and finally he said to me, "I will have to go." I said, "What's up?" He said, "God is unveiling things to me, and I feel so unworthy." I said, "Repent of everything that is wrong."

He continued to tarry and the Lord continued to search his heart. These times of waiting on God for the fullness of the Spirit are times when He searches the heart and tries the reins.

Later the man said to me, "I have a hard thing to do, the hardest thing I have ever had to do." I said to him, "Tell the Lord you will do it, and never mind the consequences." He agreed, and the next morning he had to take a ride of 30 miles and go with a bag of gold to a certain person with whom he dealt.

This man had a hundred cattle and he bought all his feed at a certain place. He always paid his accounts on a certain day, but one day he missed. He was always so punctual in paying his accounts that when later the people went over their books, they thought they must have made a mistake in not crediting the man with the money and so they sent him a receipt.

The man never intended not to pay the account, but if you delay in doing a right thing the devil will see that you never do it. But when that man was seeking the Lord that night the Lord dealt with him on this point, and he had to go and straighten the thing the next morning.

He paid the account and then the Lord baptised him in the Spirit. The vessels of the Lord must be clean, must be holy.

When the Holy Spirit comes He always brings a rich revelation of Christ. Christ becomes so real to you that, when, under the power of the Spirit, you begin to express your love and praise to Him, you find yourself speaking in another tongue. Oh, it is a wonderful thing!

At one time I belonged to a class who believed that they had received the Baptism in the Spirit without the speaking in tongues. There are many folks like that today, but if you can go with them to a prayer meeting you will find them asking the Lord again and again to baptise them in the Spirit.

Why all this asking if they really have received the Baptism? I have never heard anyone who has received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit after the original pattern asking the Lord to give them the Holy Spirit. They know of a surety that He has

come.

I was once travelling from Belgium to England. As I landed I received a request to stop at a place between Harwich and Colchester. The people were delighted that God had sent me, and told me of a special case they wanted me to pray for.

They said, "We have a brother here who believes in the Lord, and he is paralysed from his loins downward. He cannot stand on his legs and he has been 20 years in this condition." They took me to this man and as I saw him there in his chair I put the question to him. "What is the greatest desire in your heart?" He said, "Oh, if I could only receive the Holy Spirit!"

I was somewhat surprised at this answer, and I laid my hands on his head and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Instantly the power of God fell upon him and he began breathing very heavily. He rolled off the chair and there he lay like a bag of potatoes, utterly helpless.

I like anything that God does. I like to watch God working. There he was with his great, fat body, and his head was working just as though it was on a swivel. Then to our joy he began speaking in tongues. I had my eyes on every bit of him and as I saw the condition of his legs I said, "Those legs can never carry that body." Then I looked up and said, "Lord, tell me what to do."

---


## Bringing God's latest thought to you

---

The Holy Spirit is the executive of Jesus Christ and the Father. If you want to know the mind of God you must have the Holy Spirit to bring God's latest thought to you and to tell you what to do. The Lord said to me, "Command him in My name to walk"

But I missed it, of course. I said to the people there, "Let's see if we can lift him up." But we could not lift him, he was like a ton weight.

I cried, "Oh Lord, forgive me." I repented of doing the wrong thing, and then the Lord said to me again, "Command him to walk." I said to him, "Arise in the name of Jesus." His legs were immediately strengthened. Did he walk? No, he ran all round!

A month after this he walked 10 miles and back. He has a Pentecostal work now. When the power of the Holy Spirit is present, things will happen. 





# Prayer And Fasting

by Andrew Murray

*“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:19-21).”*

**WHEN the disciples saw Jesus cast the evil spirit out of the epileptic whom “they could not cure,” they asked the Master for the cause of their failure. He had given them “power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases (Luke 9:1).”**

They had often exercised that power and joyfully told how the devils were subject to them. And yet now, while He was on the Mount, they had utterly failed. That there had been nothing in the will of God or in the nature of the case to render deliverance impossible, had been proved. At Christ's bidding the evil spirit had gone out.

From their expression, “Why could we not?” it is evident that they had wished and sought to do so. They had probably used the Master's name, and called upon the evil spirit to go out. Their efforts had been vain, and, in presence of the multitude, they had been put to shame. “Why could we not?”

Christ's answer was direct and plain: “Because of your unbelief.”

The cause of His success and their failure, was not owing to His having a special power to which they had no access. No, the reason was not far to seek. He had so

often taught them that there is one power – that of faith – to which, in the kingdom of darkness, as in the kingdom of God, everything must bow.

In the spiritual world failure has only one cause, the lack of faith. Faith is the one condition on which all divine power can enter into man and work through him. It is the susceptibility of the unseen. Man's will yielded up to, and molded by, the will of God.

The power they had received to cast out devils, they did not hold in themselves as a permanent gift or possession. The power was in Christ, to be received, and held, and used by faith alone, living faith in Himself.

Had they been full of faith in Him as Lord and Conqueror in the spirit world, had they been full of faith in Him as having given the authority to cast out in His name, this faith would have given them the victory.

---

## Because of unbelief

---

“Because of your unbelief” was, for all time, the Master's explanation and reproof of impotence and failure in His church.

But such lack of faith may have a cause too. Well might the disciples have asked: “And why could we not believe? Our faith has cast out devils before this: why have we now failed in believing?”

The Master proceeds to tell them: “This kind only goes out but by prayer and fasting.” As faith is the simplest, so it is the highest exercise of the spiritual life, where

our spirit yields itself in perfect receptivity to God's Spirit, and so is strengthened to its highest activity.

This faith depends entirely upon the state of the spiritual life. Only when the spiritual life is strong and in full health, only when the Spirit of God has full sway in our life – then is there the power of faith to do its mighty deeds. Therefore Jesus adds: “This kind only goes out by prayer and fasting.”

The faith that can overcome such stubborn resistance as you have just seen in this evil spirit, Jesus tells them, is not possible except to men living in very close fellowship with God, and in very special separation from the world – in prayer and fasting.

And so He teaches us two lessons in regard to prayer of deep importance. The one, that faith needs a life of prayer in which to grow and keep strong. The other, that prayer needs fasting for its full and perfect development.

Faith needs a life of prayer for its full growth. In all the different parts of the spiritual life, there is such close union, such unceasing action and reaction, that each may be both cause and effect.

So it is with faith. There can be no true prayer without faith; some measure of faith must precede prayer. And yet prayer is also the way to more faith. There can be no higher degree of faith except through much prayer. This is the lesson Jesus teaches here.

There is nothing that needs so much to grow as our faith. “Your faith grows exceedingly,” is said of one church (2 Thessalonians 1:3). When



Jesus spoke the words, “according to your faith be it unto you (Matthew 9:29),” He announced the law of the kingdom, which tells us that we do not all have equal degrees of faith, that the same person has not always the same degree, and that the measure of faith must always determine the measure of power and of blessing.

If we want to know where and how our faith is to grow, the Master points us to the throne of God. It is in prayer, in the exercise of the faith I have, in fellowship with the living God, that faith can increase.

Faith can only live by feeding on what is divine, on God Himself.

It is in the adoring worship of God, the waiting on Him and for Him, the deep silence of soul that yields itself for God to reveal Himself, that the capacity for knowing and trusting God will be developed. It is as we take His Word from the Blessed Book, and bring it to Himself, asking Him to speak it to us with His living loving voice, that the power will come fully to believe and receive the Word as God’s own Word to us.

It is in prayer, in living contact with God in living faith, that faith, the power to trust God, and in that trust, to accept everything He says, to accept every possibility He has offered to our faith, will become strong in us.

Many Christians cannot understand what is meant by the “much prayer” they sometimes hear spoken of. They can form no conception, nor do they feel the need of spending hours with God.

But what the Master says, the experience of His people has confirmed: men of strong faith are men of much prayer.

This just brings us back again to the lesson we learned when Jesus, before telling us to believe that we receive what we ask, first said, “Have faith in God (Mark 11:22).” It is God, the living God, into Whom our faith must strike its roots deep and broad. Then it will be strong to remove mountains and cast out devils. “If you have faith... nothing shall be impossible to you.”

Oh! If we do but give ourselves up to the work God has for us in the world, coming into contact with the mountains and the devils there are to be cast away and cast out, we should soon comprehend the need there is of much faith, and of much prayer, as the soil in which alone faith can be cultivated.

Christ Jesus is our life, and the life of our faith, too. It is His life in us that makes us strong, and makes us simple to believe. It

is in the dying to self which much prayer implies, in closer union to Jesus, that the spirit of faith will come in power. Faith needs prayer for its full growth.

And prayer needs fasting for its full growth. This is the second lesson. Prayer is the one hand with which we grasp the invisible, fasting is the other, with which we let loose and cast away the visible.

In nothing is man more closely connected with the world than in his need of food, and his enjoyment of it.

It was the fruit, good for food, with which man was tempted and fell in Eden. It was with bread to be made of stones that Jesus, when He hungered, was tempted in the wilderness. And it was in fasting that He triumphed.

The body has been redeemed to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. It is in body as well as spirit, it is very specially, Scripture says, in eating and drinking, we are to glorify God.

---

## Not a reality

---

There are many Christians to whom this eating to the glory of God, has not yet become a spiritual reality. And the first thought suggested by Jesus’ words in regard to fasting and prayer is, that it is only in a life of moderation and temperance and self-denial that there will be the heart or the strength to pray much.

But then there is also its more literal meaning. Sorrow and anxiety cannot eat. Joy celebrates its feasts with eating and drinking. There may come times of intense desire, when it is strongly felt how the body – with its appetites, lawful though they be – still hinders the spirit in its battle with the powers of darkness, and the need is felt of keeping it under.

We are creatures of the senses. Our mind is helped by what comes to us embodied in concrete form. Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, to sacrifice ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.

And He who accepted the fasting and sacrifice of the Son, knows to value and accept and reward with spiritual power the soul that is thus ready to give up all for Christ and His kingdom.

And then follows a still wider application. Prayer is the reaching out after God and the unseen. Fasting, the letting go of all that is of the seen and temporal.

Ordinary Christians may imagine that all that is not positively forbidden and

sinful is lawful to them, and seek to retain as much as possible of this world, with its property, its literature, its enjoyments. But he truly consecrated soul is like the soldier who carries only what he needs for the warfare. Laying aside every weight, as well as the easily besetting sin, afraid of entangling himself with the affairs of this life, he seeks to lead a Nazarite life, as one specially set apart for the Lord and His service.

Without such voluntary separation, even from what is lawful, no one will attain power in prayer: “this kind goes out only by prayer and fasting.”

Disciples of Jesus who have asked the Master to teach you to pray, come now and accept His lessons.

He tells you that prayer is the path to faith, strong faith, that can cast out devils. He tells you: “If ye have faith... nothing shall be impossible to you.” Let this glorious promise encourage you to pray much.

Is the prize not worth the price? Shall we not give up all to follow Jesus in the path He opens to us here? Shall we not, if need be, fast? Shall we not do anything that neither the body nor the world around hinder us in our great life work – having interaction with our God in prayer – that we may become men of faith, whom He can use in His work of saving the world?

*O Lord Jesus! How continually You have to reprove us for our unbelief! How strange it must appear to You, this terrible incapacity of trusting our Father and His promises. Lord! Let Your reproof, with its searching, “Because of your unbelief,” sink into the very depths of our hearts, and reveal to us how much of the sin and suffering around is our blame. And then teach us, Blessed Lord, that there is a place where faith can be learned and gained – even in the prayer and fasting that brings into living and abiding fellowship with Yourself and the Father.*

*O Saviour! You Yourself are the Author and the Perfector of our faith. Teach us what it is to let You live in us by Your Holy Spirit. Lord! Our efforts and prayers for grace to believe have been so unavailing. We know why it was. We sought for strength in ourselves to be given from You. Holy Jesus! Do at length teach us the mystery of Your life in us, and how You, by Your Spirit, undertake to live in us the life of faith, to see to it that our faith shall not fail. O let us see that our faith will just be a part of that wonderful prayer life which You give in them who expect their training for the ministry of intercession, not in word and thought only, but in the Holy Unction You give, the inflowing of the Spirit of Your own life. And teach us how, in fasting and prayer, we may grow up to the faith to which nothing shall be impossible. Amen.* ✠



# Forgiveness

## Healing The Harboured Hurts Of Your Heart

by Bill Elliff

**S**TOCKPILING hurts in our heart brings about the development of bitterness. Like a poisonous vine, bitterness can wrap itself around our emotions, penetrate our thoughts, and choke the life from our soul. Bitterness robs us of joy and peace.

It hijacks us: taking us places we never wanted to go, doing things we never wanted to do, and making us people we never wanted to be.

Bitterness is subtle. I have rarely met a bitter man who realised his condition. No one wants to think of himself in this way. The very word “bitter” sounds appalling to our ears. It is a label none of us wants; yet by my own experience, I can tell you that many more of us are bitter than care to admit it.

Passing through a bitter season in my life, I was oblivious to my condition. All the while, I counselled people who were bitter, and even preached about bitterness. I could recognise it in others, but not in myself.

Sometimes bitterness is misdiagnosed because there has been no massive tragedy or great pain. We erroneously think that only those who have been gravely hurt become bitter.

In reality, the smallest particle of harboured hurt carries deadly potency, just as one cancer cell has the potential to fell the strongest of men.

Would you be content to do nothing if you knew that just a few cancer cells had been found in your body? Are you also willing to look with indifference to the hurts of your heart? If Satan can keep you blinded to the presence of bitterness, however small and harmless it may seem, he has an open door.

Would you, before the Lord, keep a humble heart and mind as you read on? If you have been hurt at some point in your life, would you be honest enough to pause and sincerely pray, “Lord, if there is any bitterness in my heart, would You reveal it to me today?”

Although we often cannot see bitterness in ourselves, its effects disclose its presence to others. The writer of Hebrews uncovers for us three of the most damaging results of bitterness: “See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many

be defiled (Hebrews 12:15).”

### **Bitterness Always Springs Up**

Even if we are aware of some hurt brewing inside us and intentionally try to hold it in check, it will find a way to seep through our soul. Hurts have a life of their own; and true to their nature, will always break through the surface and manifest themselves in some form.

Several years ago, a friend volunteered to mow my lawn while I was out of town. Before leaving, I forgot to mention to him that I had been nurturing a tiny sapling in our yard. When I returned, I discovered that he had accidentally stripped its tender bark with a power trimmer. The sapling appeared to be so badly damaged that I simply mowed it down. However, throughout the rest of the summer small sprouts continued to break through the soil. Even though I had cut away everything I could see above the ground, there was still life in its root system. The sapling kept trying to grow.

When hurts are not dealt with God’s way, bitterness roots itself in our soul. Like the sapling that refused to die, bitterness will continually spring up.

### **Bitterness Always Causes Trouble**

A bitter root in your heart will manifest itself in troublesome attitudes, such as depression and despair, anger and resentment, or fear and worry. Your reactions may become typified by criticism, slander, gossip, sulking, retaliation, or other caustic behaviour.

Nobody likes to get hurt, especially for the second time. If a dog were to bite you, you would probably do your best to never meet that dog again! After being bitten by a painful experience, we sometimes develop strategies and adjust our behaviour, thinking this will protect us from future hurt.

Repeated often enough, this habitual behaviour ingrains itself in our character. It becomes who we are and what we do.

Are you the type of person who has to control every situation? Do you frequently lash out in anger? Are you manipulative?



Have you become so over-sensitive that others feel they must “walk on eggshells” whenever they approach you? Do you keep up a facade so others cannot really get close to you, or know whom you really are?

All these behaviours, and others, are methods we sometimes develop to shield ourselves from further hurt. As you can see, they are brimming with destructive consequences. The very strategies we use to avoid hurt only multiply the pain to others and ourselves.

When we harbour hurt – perhaps for years – it has the capacity to drive our every decision, and sour our every relationship. It will always make its presence known. And we will regret it.

### **Bitterness Always Defiles Many**

Bitterness cannot be quarantined. Like an epidemic, it spreads. One bitter person has the capacity to infect an entire classroom, corporation, or congregation. Hurting people hurt people.

Entire families can be poisoned. Harboured hurts and bitterness can literally be passed from one generation to the next (Numbers 14:18). I once knew a very bitter man. Upon investigation, I discovered a wound in his heart that was still festering after 40 years. His life



manifested all the fruit of a bitter root. It did not surprise me when I witnessed his son and grandson also carrying a bitter spirit.

Could there be any harsher judgement against the sin of bitterness than being guilty of infecting the ones we love the most?

Bitterness will always spring up, always cause trouble, and always defile many. You may think you can hold on to your hurts and not be adversely affected, but you are wrong. You cannot fathom how a root of bitterness will influence your thoughts and decisions, and your attitudes and actions. Much of your life will be driven by bitterness if you permit it to develop in your heart.

Is it really worth holding on to your hurts? Is the pain worth the price? How much of your life are you willing to exchange simply to hold on to your hurt?

Who among your friends and loved ones are you willing to risk defiling with the poison of your bitterness?

## The Remedy for Harboured Hurt

Having faced the options available to you – harbour your hurt, or heal it God’s way – you may have already decided to do nothing.

Hopefully though, you have realised the potential fallout from that response and are ready to pursue God’s remedy.

So, where do you go from here? How do you overcome the hurts you have been harbouring? What must you do to alleviate your bitterness and neutralise the acidic effects it has left in your soul?

God has a wonderful plan for **complete** freedom and healing. You will be amazed to discover (if you will fully follow His leadership) that God can take you beyond the mere removal of bitterness into the realm of genuine thanksgiving.

He can even give “beauty for ashes” by using the pains of your past as a springboard of ministry for the future. Not only can the hurts be overcome, they can be a means of ministering to others for their good and God’s glory. Only God could do something like that!

The following principles can transform your life as they form God’s path to bring deliverance and usefulness, even in the midst of great pain. You cannot take these steps on your own. They are only possible through God’s enabling grace, which He gladly gives as we humbly cry out to Him.

Ask Him right now for grace to understand and grace to obey.

### 1. Recognise and admit your own sin.

“Admit my sin?! Don’t you know it was the other person who sinned against me? If anyone needs to admit their sin, it’s them!”

You are right, they do. However, your healing does not depend on their response. You cannot change the offensive person or the hurtful situation; but you can, by the grace of God, change your attitude. If in the midst of being hurt you have become bitter, angry, resentful, retaliatory, or critical, you have sinned.

You can hold on to this – all the while shouting words of self-justification – and never find relief. Not only will you continue to suffer the results of bitterness, you will increase your burden with the guilt that comes whenever you cover and hide your sin. You will do nothing more than add to your pain. Instead, you could turn to the Lord in genuine humility and cry out for His cleansing.

### 2. Embrace God’s sovereignty.

At some point you must release your rights over the situation, accept the circumstance, and embrace the fact that God has the right to do whatever He desires in your life.

If, in the economy of God, He desired to allow such a hurtful experience, then He had also promised grace to survive... and to thrive. He was big enough to bring purpose in the midst of pain.

How are your fists... still clenched? Are you willing to believe that God is bigger than your problem and can work it out for your good and His glory?

### 3. Forgive – release the debt.

If your bitterness has a face behind it, you will need to take the step of unconditionally forgiving the one who has offended you. There is no other way to remove the harboured hurt.

Paul tells us in First Corinthians 13:5 that genuine love “does not take into account a wrong suffered.” This is one of those word pictures in Scripture where something familiar is used as a metaphor. Here Paul uses an accounting term describing a merchant who keeps tally of what each customer owes him. He keeps these records because he fully intends to collect payment.

Many of us keep a ledger-book in our hearts. When someone hurts us, we enter their name in our ledger. We think they should not have treated us as they did (and we may be right),



# Forgiveness

## Healing The Harboured Hurts Of Your Heart

**Continued...**

so we hold them accountable. "They owe me," we reason, "and I will make them pay." Then we set out to exact payment.

But listen to what God has to say about this practice. "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord... do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17-21)."

When we are hurt, we have only two choices:

**We can enter the hurt in our heart's ledger and plan to get revenge.** We are amazingly creative at how we collect our debts. We might withdraw from the relationship, criticise or slander the one who hurt us, erupt in anger, plot ways to hurt them or ruin their reputation, attempt to thwart their success, question their motives, ignore them, spread rumours – our options are endless. We can even put a mask on our revenge with a closed mouth and pious smile. If our heart is angry though, we have already murdered our enemy (Matthew 5:21&22).

The irony of record-keeping and revenge-seeking is that we end up hurting ourselves more than the one we hold liable. A vengeful attitude aborts the development of Christlike character, shackles us with chains of bitterness and anger, and can ultimately destroy our lives. Furthermore, it can cause God to "stand down" from disciplining and correcting those who hurt us. When we attempt to seek our own justice, we may obstruct God's.

God does not need vigilantes.

A friend once told me, when I was tempted to seek revenge from a person who had wronged me, "Bill, God only allows two people at a time in the boxing ring. If you want to get into the ring and try to fight your own battles, God will let you. But He will get out. If you want God to fight your battles for you, then you must get out of the ring... and stay out."

**We can release the debt, and transfer collection rights to God.** Forgiveness is not an act of our emotions, but a choice of our will. Just as a merchant can cancel a debt

from his ledger, you can erase every debt you are holding against those who have wronged you... regardless of how you feel.

Essentially, forgiveness is an act of faith. When we choose to abandon the role of judge, jury, and executioner, we are acknowledging that God is sufficient to handle those who have hurt us. We transfer all collection rights to Him. The case is no longer in our hands, but entirely in His.

If we choose this biblical path, we will never be disappointed. God is good enough, just enough, and wise enough to deal with our offender in the proper manner.

He always does it right! We seldom do.

To your amazement, you may discover God's name recorded in your ledger. Are you angry with Him over some injustice done to you? A good indicator would be to check your proximity to Him. Have you withdrawn from His fellowship? If so, it may be because you have wrongly concluded that He is not to be trusted.

God could have prevented the hurt from coming your way, but for whatever reason He did not. Now He may be the one toward whom your bitterness is aimed. As you release your debts, you must fully repent of what you are holding in your heart against God.

As you review the ledger-book in your heart, what names are entered there? Perhaps there is one that appears many times, with several documented offenses. Their debt to you is great. How long do you plan to hold them in contempt?... Until they die?... Until you die?

What must someone do, what price must they pay, in order to be restored to your good graces? Or, have you already determined that whatever they do will never be enough? Full repayment cannot be achieved.

Will you, by a choice of your will and as an act of faith, release every debt in your heart?

**4. Ask God to fill your heart with His purifying love.**

We are clearly commanded to love everyone, even our enemies (Matthew 5:38-48). You may think this is impossible, and it would be if God were not involved. If you have come into a genuine relationship with God through faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit resides in your heart.

All the love that He dwells within you (1 John 4:7-8). Therefore, if you are willing to fully surrender to Him, in addition to removing the hurt, God can miraculously pour out His love in your heart. Love is a "fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)," and can replace the acid of bitterness with the sweetness of compassion. What an amazing and healing exchange!

Would you ask God to fill your heart with

His love – particularly for the individual who hurt you? If you co-operate with God, you will discover an outpouring of His power in your life. You may find yourself looking and acting very much like the Christ who lives within you!

**5. Thank God for the experience.**

There is a difference between "thanking God" and "being thankful." Thankfulness is an emotion that we sometimes feel and sometimes do not. We may not feel thankful about a situation that has come into our lives, but we are called by God to continually give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:4).

Why would God make such a seemingly impossible command?

Our Great Physician knows that thanksgiving has amazing remedial properties. Giving thanks reminds us of God's might, and lifts us up to view the situation from His perspective. The obedient response of thanksgiving takes our mind off the pain and focuses our thoughts on the purposes of God.

Such faith-based thanksgiving is able to say, "Lord, even though I do not understand it, and may not feel like it, I believe You are sufficient for this situation... and I thank You. You have not left Your throne. This did not take You by surprise. You have ample grace and sovereign purposes for me in the midst of my hurt."

**6. Keep continually and instantly forgiving.**

Do not think for a moment that your enemy, the devil, will take defeat lying down. You may encounter a multitude of additional opportunities to exercise faith and forgiveness – sometimes involving the same person. Satan may even parade the past hurt through your memory and try to revive your former emotions of anger and revenge.

When this happens, you could choose to relive the situation and pick up the hurt of the past. Or, you could realise that God is developing you into a godly man or woman, and that your character is strengthened by every act of the common day. Each hurt that comes your way is a fresh opportunity to forgive and love like He forgives and loves (Ephesians 4:32).

The continued presence of difficulty is an indication that God has not given up on teaching you how to be like Him. And if you have any desire to be like God, you must learn to forgive. ☞

*Taken from Forgiveness: Healing the Harbored Hurts of Your Heart by Bill Elliff with Tim Grissom. Copyright © 1998 by Dr. Bill R. Elliff.*



# 2017 Anniversary of Four Historical Events

by Gary Fisher

**WE** celebrate four major developments in world history this year. They all have major spiritual importance and all have huge prophetic significance!

## **One: Protestant Reformation in 1517**

The Reformation is 500 years old now and is ongoing. The historic ramifications of the Reformation are huge! The Reformation was responsible for the correction of many Church corruptions.

In addition, many different denominational expressions of Christianity were birthed. Millions have been saved from these resulting denominations and missionaries sent all over the world.

## **Two: Balfour Declaration of 1917**

Perhaps more sobering and prophetically impacting was the Balfour Declaration. This was the document in which the British Government recognised the need to establish a Jewish homeland. The Jewish people had been scattered all over the world since 70 AD by the Romans who renamed their homeland "Palestine."

Subsequently, the empires of the Old World absorbed the area into their boundaries. The latest, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey), controlled "Palestine" for 400 years, but had just been defeated in World War I. This left the British Government to decide the fate of the Middle East and the territory now known as Israel. As a result of Balfour, Britain declared "Palestine," later named Israel in 1948, as a homeland for the Jewish people.

There was no Israel for Jewish people to return to until the 20th-Century Balfour

Declaration. Students of Bible prophecy were greatly enthused by this development! Why? Scripture calls for a restoring of Israel from all over the world in the last days (Jeremiah 23:8, Ezekiel 36:24).

The Messiah, Jesus, promised to return to a restored Israel (Zechariah 14). We are the first generation in almost 2 000 years that has seen one emerge. Now that one is developing, it is a logical conclusion that the Messiah is about to return. Today would be good! Are you ready?

## **Three: Reclamation of Jerusalem – Entry of General Allenby into Jerusalem in 1917**

Jerusalem and Judea were taken into captivity twice, first in the Babylonian captivity of 587 BC, and then by the Romans (70 AD). The Turkish Ottoman Empire was the last of many to control the area including Jerusalem from 1517 to 1917.

The Turks sided with Germany in World War I and found themselves fighting the British in the battles for the Middle East. On December 11, 1917, General Edmond Allenby and his forces marched into Jerusalem. The day before the battle, Allenby had fliers delivered instructing the inhabitants of Jerusalem that the allied forces were coming into Jerusalem the next day. The flier was signed by General Allenby.

Allenby bore resemblance to Allah Bey (Arabic for son of Allah). The Turks, thinking they had received a message from Allah, surrendered. Allenby marched into Jerusalem the following day without firing a shot and Jerusalem passed from Muslim control for the first time in many centuries.

The Jewish people had been absent from Israel and Jerusalem for 19 centuries. The

British were now opening a more friendly door for the return of the Jewish people. Was this a coincidence or did God orchestrate it for His regathering of the Jewish people?


## **Four: Return of Jerusalem to Jewish Control**

This year is the 50th anniversary of the reclamation of Jerusalem by the Jewish army. In June of 1967, during the famous Six-Day War, the Jewish army took control of the old city of Jerusalem and prayed at the Western Wall for the first time in 1 897 years.

This raised considerable interest among prophecy students because Jesus said Jerusalem would be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled (Luke 21:24). Something very interesting about this is to consider the old Jewish tradition of Jubilee. Jubilee in Jewish history occurred every 50th year. Debts were forgiven, servants were set free, the property was returned to the original owner, etc.

Basically, the reset button was pushed every fiftieth year. 2017 is the 50th year since the Israeli army liberated Jerusalem from Arab control, in 1967. What will happen?

Ultimately, the complete end of Gentile power over Jerusalem will come when Jesus returns to establish his throne in Jerusalem (Micah 4:1&2). The reclamation of Jerusalem by the Jewish army suggests that His day of ruling as King of Kings and Lord of Lords is very soon.

Until then, He desires to rule in our hearts. Welcome Him to do so today (Romans 10:9&10). 





# Psychology in End Times prophecy

by T.A. McMahon

**I** recently gave the title of this article as the topic for one of my messages to a man who was putting together a prophecy conference. An obvious pause on his end of the phone line told me that he was trying to imagine how psychology might possibly fit in with the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, the Great Tribulation, the Battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and other events and individuals that are common subjects at prophecy conferences. When his lack of response began to approach that awkward stage, I slowly and deliberately quoted 2 Timothy 3:1&2: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...”

“Go for it!” was his immediate response.

Although the conference organiser didn’t know exactly how I was going to treat the subject, he immediately recognised the fit from the phrases: “the last days... perilous times... lovers of their own selves.”

It’s very disturbing (yet understandable, as we will see) that most evangelicals (especially pastors) have missed the Apostle Paul’s very clear, even strident, warning about the perils of self-love and its connection to psychology in the last days.

To better understand what Paul’s concerns were, we need to start with a definition of the term “self.” It simply means the person himself. It’s me – and all that comprises me. Being a lover of my own self, then, means that I love me, first and foremost. Self fills up my heart, my mind, my will, my consciousness. Self, prior to

salvation in Christ, is an autonomous being doing its own thing in rebellion against God. For believers in Jesus who are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), self should be in submission to Him. A true believer denies himself daily, takes up his cross, is crucified with Christ – and yet he lives, with his life being in Christ by faith (Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20).

Why did Paul put such an emphasis on self as an issue of critical concern in “the last days?” Hasn’t “self” been mankind’s common problem ever since the first act of disobedience against God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3)? Wasn’t Satan’s seduction of Eve a lying appeal to enhance her “self?” Satan: “For God knows that in the day you eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil (3:5).”

And didn’t Eve fall for his lies of self-gratification and self-deification? And wasn’t self-preservation an obvious product of Adam and Eve’s sin as they shifted the blame away from themselves? Adam: “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree...” Eve: “The serpent beguiled me (3:12&13)...”

Obviously, self took centre stage in the life of mankind from the first act of sin on earth and thereafter!

Yet Paul indicates a special emphasis on self in the “last days.” Although self-seeking and self-serving have been dominant characteristics of mankind as far back as the Fall, it has only been since the rise of modern psychology that self has been proclaimed as the solution to all of our mental, emotional, and behavioural ills.

This was a new development of the

19th century that became inevitable as Darwinian “scientists” began promoting their own theory of man’s origin. Why inevitable? Well, as God “lost” His position as mankind’s Creator, He eventually was replaced altogether.

Evolutionary theory eliminated any necessity for God, since all life, we were told, came about through natural processes. Taking God out of the picture of life left us with only “Self, resulting in humanity becoming the measure of all things.

That, however, has left evolutionists/humanists with a dilemma. On the one hand, man has been “relieved” of his accountability to his Creator; on the other hand, he’s left by himself to solve all of his problems. This evolutionary and humanistic belief suggests that within man is the ultimate and necessary potential for coming up with these solutions.

The Humanist Manifesto declares, “Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the realisation of the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement.” If the solutions are not within self, then godless mankind has nowhere else to turn, and, consequently, humanity has no hope.

## The cure within

But we are assured by today’s psychotherapists that the cures for humanity’s ills are indeed found within mankind. Thus, Paul’s prophetic warning regarding the “last days” being “perilous times” and characterised primarily by men being “lovers of their own selves” is more fitting to our time than any other period in history.

Replacing God with self leads to the central dogma of the religion of psychology: mankind is innately good.

Psychotherapy is an exercise in futility unless innate goodness resides within man at his very core. Here’s why: if man has an evil nature, as the Bible teaches, then it’s impossible for him to change himself.

In other words, if I’m innately evil, I will always be evil because there is nothing within me to enable me to change. But if I’m good within but am experiencing problems of living, then through various psychological methods or techniques, I should be able to tap into, utilise, or realise that goodness and thus remedy the adversities I experience.

All the psychotherapeutic selfisms, from self-love to self-esteem to self-image to self-actualisation to self-realisation – and ultimately to self-deification – are based on the innate goodness of one’s nature.

Humanistic psychology – to which

all psychotherapies are related – is the pseudo-scientific belief system of the Antichrist, who is the personification of human evil. The basics of his religion were introduced to mankind by Satan in his seduction of Eve (turning her away from obedience to God and toward her own self-interests, even godhood – Genesis 3) and culminate in a man, the Antichrist, setting himself up in the temple of God to be worshiped as God (2 Thessalonians:2:4).

It's **all** about the worship of self.

This Humanist/Selfist religion of the Antichrist does not just suddenly appear on the scene when the Antichrist is revealed. As noted, the religion of selfism has been in development since the Garden of Eden. Moreover, it can be seen in the Tower of Babel and the idolatry of the Gentiles throughout the Old Testament and is prevalent in all the religions of the world today.

Only biblical Christianity stands against the exaltation of self that ties all other religions together. The Bible declares self to be evil and hopeless and says that man's salvation can come only from God as it is received by faith in Jesus alone, who satisfied divine justice by His full payment for the sins of mankind, according to the Scriptures.

All other religions look to self to obtain salvation, ultimately through one's own efforts, whether by rituals, sacraments, meditation, liturgies, good works, and so forth. Human achievement versus Divine accomplishment – this is the critical difference between man's way of salvation and God's way.

The Apostle Paul's warning about the "last days" is directed at believers, urging them and indicating the peril that will follow the practice of loving themselves. Therefore, it's rather shocking to witness the humanistic "self" concepts of the apostate religion of the Antichrist taking hold in unprecedented fashion within evangelical Christianity.

A well-known Christian psychologist has credited humanistic psychologists and New Agers Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow for helping evangelicals to recognise their "need for self-love and self-esteem." That certainly cannot be derived from the writers of Scripture!

Nevertheless, there have been many influential professing Christians who have wittingly or unwittingly sown the seeds of the humanistic self-love teachings so far and wide and for so long among Christians that the heresies have taken

root and their deadly fruit has been eagerly consumed throughout the church.

Norman Vincent Peale is widely recognised as the one who pioneered the merger of theology and psychology that became known as "Christian psychology." Consistent with his humanistic beliefs, which he spread through his nationally broadcast radio sermons and his highly popular *Guideposts* magazine, he explained that people "are inherently good; the bad reactions (sin?) aren't basic."

Robert Schuller, whose "Possibility Thinking" reflected (his mentor) Peale's "Positive Thinking" – both of which mirror the teachings of the Mind Science cults – sent 250 000 copies of his book, *Self-Esteem: The New Reformation*, to pastors all around the U.S.

Schuller's "Hour of Power" was at one time the world's most popular religious television programme. Yet to millions, his humanistic views presented under the guise of Christianity were not recognised for their blasphemy: "Jesus knew his worth, his success fed his self-esteem... He suffered the cross to sanctify his self-esteem. And he bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem. And the cross will sanctify the ego trip!"

Could the Antichrist himself add anything more unbiblical?!

Sadly, many conservative evangelical preachers and teachers of note bought into, taught, Christianised, and further popularised the concepts of self-love, self-esteem, self-worth, and self-image. It is the "new priesthood" of Christian psychologists, however, with credentials that falsely imply the anointing of science, that has convinced both shepherds and sheep of the legitimacy of the theories and methods of humanistic psychology.

## Ungodly counsel

Among the swelling numbers of highly regarded, degreed professionals who teach the church what they have gleaned from "the counsel of the ungodly" is Dr James Dobson, who, no doubt, is and has been the most influential individual among evangelicals for the last quarter-century.

Concerning self-love and self-esteem he writes: "In a real sense, the health of an entire society depends on the ease with which its individual members can gain personal acceptance. Thus, whenever the keys to self-esteem are seemingly out of reach for a large percentage of the people, as in 20th-Century America, then widespread 'mental illness,' neuroticism, hatred, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence,

and social disorder will certainly occur... If I could write a prescription for the women of the world, it would provide each one of them with a healthy dose of self-esteem and personal worth (taken three times a day until the symptoms disappear). I have no doubt that this is their greatest need."

Right behind Dobson in terms of his influence in the church today is Rick Warren. His article in *Ladies' Home Journal* titled "Learn to Love Yourself" is classic Schuller – and pure humanistic psychology.


Warren lists "five truths," none of which is either a "truth" or biblical: 1) Accept yourself; 2) Love yourself; 3) Be true to yourself; 4) Forgive yourself; and 5) Believe in yourself.

Yet these humanistic, antibiblical doctrines have been taught so often from so many pulpits that most Christians, when presented with what the Bible actually teaches about self and the selfisms, are either shocked that they've been misled or bitterly resent hearing the truth.

Although I could not adequately cover in this brief article the details of how terribly subversive and destructive humanistic psychology (especially as championed in "Christian" psychology) is to Bible-believing Christians, here are a few concerns that we all need to seriously and prayerfully consider:

One, humanistic psychology's theories came from the atheistic, anti-Christian founders of psychotherapy, whose concepts qualify for what the Scriptures condemn as "the counsel of the ungodly (Psalm:1:1); Two, the humanistic emphasis upon loving and esteeming self rejects the biblical commandment to "deny self," which Jesus admonished us to do in Matthew:16:24; Three, the increasing focus on esteeming one's self gradually distorts a believer's understanding of the truth regarding the sinful nature of man and hides conviction of sin in a morass of humanistic rationalisations; Four, the subjective feelings orientation of humanistic psychology undermines the absolutes of God's objective truth; and Five, as the leaven of humanism grows in the mind of a believer, his interpretation of the Scriptures gradually shifts from what God has indeed said (Genesis:3:1) to "a way which seems right unto a man (Proverbs:14:12)..."

Scripture tells us that man's ways – i.e., all his self and humanistic teachings – "are the ways of death," a death that separates a believer from the truth and robs him of his faith and fruitfulness.

How "perilous" will all of this become in these "last days?" 





## *God's Hand in History*

# The Miracle of Dunkirk

*This article was written by a British clergyman who died in 2002. It was extracted from a trilogy of books titled *The Trumpet Sounds for Britain*. While serving in the Royal Navy during World War 2, an emergency in a submarine caused the author to recognise that God still performs miracles. This personal realisation later helped him to understand what God had done for the people of Britain as a whole, many times in their history.*

**by David E. Gardner**

**I**N what is still called “the Miracle of Dunkirk” the story is told of how more than 300 000 British troops were snatched from the beaches of France in an operation that was so fraught with dangers that success can only be attributed to a miraculous combination of circumstances.

Dunkirk on May 1, 1940 was a time of grave crisis for Britain and for the whole civilised world.

On May 10 Hitler had launched his blitzkrieg attack against the Low Countries and France. By the end of the second week in May the French defences had been broken. German panzer forces, led by Rommel and his 7th Panzer Division, burst through, and with lightning speed began a rapid advance across France and Belgium.

Very soon Rommel’s armoured pincer movement was threatening the British army with encirclement, and our forces were being obliged to withdraw.

Back at home, Mr Churchill feared that it would be his hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our long his-

tory, whilst on May 27 the German High Command went so far as to boast that “The British army is encircled and our troops are proceeding to its annihilation.”

With the entire front collapsing rapidly, the decision was reached at home to evacuate our forces from the Continent. But the only port from which to evacuate the British Expeditionary Force was Dunkirk, and it was already being seriously threatened by the Germans.

Taking stock of the predicament, Churchill later wrote, “I thought – and some good judges agreed with me – that perhaps 20 000 or 30 000 men might be re-embarked. The whole root and core and brain of the British army... seemed about to perish upon the field, or to be led into ignominious and starving captivity.”

All, therefore, seemed about to be lost.

But Britain had a godly Sovereign. Seeing this situation developing, His Majesty King George VI requested that Sunday, May 26 should be observed as a National Day of Prayer.

In a stirring broadcast, he called the people of Britain and of the Empire to commit their cause to God. Together with members of the Cabinet, the King attended Westminster Abbey, while millions of his subjects in all parts of the Commonwealth and Empire flocked to the churches to join in prayer.

Britain was given inspiring leadership in those days, and her people responded immediately when this kind of initiative was taken. The whole nation was at

prayer on that Sunday. The scene outside Westminster Abbey was remarkable – photographs show long queues of people who could not even get in, because the Abbey was so crowded! So much so, that the following morning the *Daily Sketch* exclaimed, “Nothing like it has ever happened before.”

In its hour of deep distress a heart-cry from both monarch and people alike was going up to God in prayer. And that cry did not go unanswered. For very soon, at least three miracles were seen to happen.

### The First Miracle

The first was that for some reason – which has never yet been fully explained – Hitler overruled his generals and halted the advance of his armoured columns at the very point when they could have proceeded to the British army’s annihilation. They were now only 10 miles away!

Later, Mr Churchill asserted in his memoirs that this was because Hitler undoubtedly believed “that his air superiority would be sufficient to prevent a large-scale evacuation by sea.” That is very significant in terms of the second miracle.

### The Second Miracle

A storm of unprecedented fury broke over Flanders on Tuesday, May 28, grounding the German Luftwaffe squadrons and enabling the British army formations, now eight to 12 miles from Dunkirk, to move up on foot to the coast in the darkness of the storm and the violence of the rain, with scarcely any interruption from aircraft, which were unable to operate in



**FORD Cars**  
FORDSON  
Commercial  
Vehicles  
Tractor  
Only Genuine  
FORD Spares  
See Ford's Big Book of Values

# Newcastle Journal

AND  
**North Mail**

No. 29,310—230th Year  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1940  
One Penny

**Open All Day**  
*Tenwick*  
**Wednesdays**

**6AM**

**LAST SCENES OF  
DUNKIRK "MIRACLE"**

**Withdrawal Now  
Completed;  
Port Made Useless**

THE ALLIED EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK WAS COMPLETED YESTERDAY. A FEW HOURS BEFORE MR. CHURCHILL TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT MORE THAN 335,000 BRITISH AND FRENCH SOLDIERS HAD BEEN CARRIED "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH."

**NORTHERNER TOOK  
THIS PICTURE OF  
STRUCK WARSHIP**



This picture by a North-Mail member of the crew of H.M.S. Warspite, which was lost during the evacuation operations off Dunkirk, shows a ship just before the water-line caused by enemy attack.

**PREMIER WARNS THE NATION**

**Every Nerve Must  
Be Strained  
For Victory**

From Our Political Correspondent

THE stirring speech of the Prime Minister made a big impression upon the House of Commons yesterday and was generally regarded as the greatest of his career.

The messages in which he pointed out the gravity of the position resulting from the German occupation of the Channel ports were not to be specially necessary in that the country should appreciate the realisation of the situation and the dangers which it entailed.

It is probable that the secret will take place next Tuesday, and that it will be a very important one.

**SWISS  
SHOOT DOWN**

such turbulent conditions.

The Fuehrer had obviously not taken the weather into his reckoning, nor the One who controls the weather! And the third miracle?

### The Third Miracle

Despite the storm in Flanders, a great calm – such as has rarely been experienced – settled over the English Channel during the days which followed, and its waters became as still as a mill pond.

It was this quite extraordinary calm which enabled a vast armada of little ships, big ships, warships, privately owned motor-cruisers from British rivers and estuaries – in fact, almost anything that would float – to ply back and forth in a desperate bid to rescue as many of our men as possible.

### The Little Ships

There were so many ships involved in the evacuation that this is the way in which Douglas Bader, the Spitfire fighter ace, who sped over with his squadrons from the fighter base at Martlesham, near Ipswich, to help cover the operation, described the scene in his book, *Fight for the Sky*:

"The sea from Dunkirk to Dover during these days of the evacuation looked like any coastal road in England on a bank holiday. It was solid with shipping. One felt one could walk across without getting one's feet wet, or that's what it looked like from the air.

"There were naval escort vessels, sailing dinghies, rowing boats, paddle-steamers, indeed every floating device known in this country. They were all taking British soldiers from Dunkirk back home. You could identify Dunkirk from the Thames estuary by the huge pall of black smoke rising straight up into a windless sky from the oil tanks which were ablaze just inside the harbour."

Yet still, to a very large extent, the German air squadrons were unable to intervene. Certainly not in force, nor in the way Hitler had anticipated, for so many of

these squadrons still remained grounded. So much so that General Haider, Chief of the German General Staff, three days after the High Command had so proudly boasted that the British Army was about to be annihilated, was obliged to record in his diary on May 30 that "Bad weather has grounded the Luftwaffe, and now we must stand by and watch countless thousands of the enemy getting away to England right under our noses."

### A Strange Immunity

Even though some squadrons did get through, it seems that yet another miracle happened.

Many of the troops on the beaches were favoured with a strange immunity. When about 400 men were being machine-gunned and bombed systematically by about 60 enemy aircraft, one man who flung himself down with the rest reported that, after the strafing was over, he was amazed to find that there was not a single casualty!

Another man, a chaplain, was likewise machine-gunned and bombed as he lay on the beach. After what seemed an eternity, he realised he had not been hit, and rose to his feet to find that the sand all around where he had been lying was pitted with bullet holes, and that his figure was outlined on the ground.

### Amazing events

Truly, amazing things were happening. There were signs on every hand that an intervening Power was at work. Officers and men alike had seen the hand of God, powerful to save, delivering them from the hands of a mighty foe who, humanly speaking, had them at its mercy.

And they were not slow to say so. Even Fleet Street placed it on record that two miracles had made possible what had seemed impossible.

### A Day of National Thanksgiving

So grateful was the nation for this mighty deliverance that Sunday, June 9, 1940 was appointed as a Day of National Thanksgiving. On the eve of that day, C.

B. Mortlock stated in an article in *The Daily Telegraph* that "the prayers of the nation were answered," and that "the God of Hosts Himself had supported the valiant men of the British Expeditionary Force."

"Two great wonders stand forth," he said. "On them have turned the fortune of our troops. I have talked to officers and men who have got safely back to England, and all of them tell of these two phenomena:"

The first was the great storm which broke over Flanders on Tuesday, May 28. The second was the great calm which settled on the English Channel during the days following.


Officers of high rank do not hesitate to put down the deliverance of the British Expeditionary Force to the fact of the nation being at prayer on Sunday, May 26, two days before that great storm in Flanders and the calm that came over the Channel.

The word, "miracle," was soon being heard on all sides, and a consciousness of a miraculous deliverance pervaded the camps in which the troops were being housed back in England.

Mr Churchill, when he chose June 4 as the occasion for making a statement to the House of Commons, spoke with a voice charged with emotion. He reported that, rather than 20 000 or 30 000 men being re-embarked, "335 000 men had been carried out of the jaws of death and shame to their native land." He referred to what had happened as "a miracle of deliverance."

### Psalm 124 Sung in the Churches

When the services of national thanksgiving were held in all churches on the following Sunday, June 9, it was with great feeling that many a choir and congregation sang the words of Psalm 124, for they were seen to apply to that situation through which the nation had just passed: *"If the Lord Himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say: if the Lord Himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us; they would have swallowed us up quick; when they were so wrathfully displeased at us. Yea, the waters had drowned us: and the stream had gone over our soul. The deep waters of the proud would have gone over our soul. But praised be the Lord: Who has not given us over for a prey unto their teeth. Our soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken, and we are delivered. Our help standeth in the name of the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth."*

No other passage of Scripture could have better described the nation's experience on that day. The words seem to have been especially written for the occasion. 





# »FEARLESSNESS«

by R.T. Kendall

**G**OD has not given us a “spirit of fear” said Paul to the fearful young Timothy (2 Timothy 1:7). The NIV translates this “spirit of timidity,” which I think misses the real meaning.

A person may have a personality tendency to be timid or shy – and probably always will be. Paul is not speaking of a personality tendency. The Holy Spirit does not change our basic temperament. If you were an extrovert when you were converted, you will be an extrovert afterward. The same would be true with melancholy, choleric, or phlegmatic type of people.

The Greek word translated “fear” is *phobos* – from which we get words such as claustrophobia (fear of being closed in). Second Timothy 1:7 may be put alongside Romans 8:15: “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”

Paul here contrasts the spirit of bondage – which comes from living under the Mosaic Law – with our loving heavenly Father. You do not need to be afraid of your heavenly Father or fear you will not

come up to His standard. Our Father accepts us as we are, and we don’t have to prove anything to Him, unlike what many fear with their parents.

In any case, a spirit of fear is alien to the Holy Spirit. Dr Lloyd-Jones used to say, “God never oppresses us.” Satan does.

A spirit of fear is a perpetual anxiety that governs a person – worrying that something will always go wrong, that you will displease someone. You are always looking over your shoulder. People governed by a spirit of fear have a constant dread of disapproval.

It comes down to this: the fear of man. “Fear of man will prove to be a snare (Proverbs 29:25).”

## OBSESSED WITH WHAT PEOPLE THINK

If you are obsessed with what people think of you, this is a spirit of fear; it did not come from God, says Paul. Apparently Timothy was governed by a spirit of fear (1 Corinthians 16:10).

Paul did not moralise him for this, but merely pointed out that such an attitude did not come from the Holy Spirit. We all

have attitudes that come from the flesh, not the Holy Spirit. Even Paul was once so depressed that he “despaired even of life (2 Corinthians 1:8).”

There is not a single one of us who has not had an off moment – a time we would die a thousand deaths for anyone to see us. The point is, such feelings do not come from the Holy Spirit. It certainly does not mean we are not Christians; it does not even mean we are not spiritual or pleasing God generally.

Were God to hide His face from us – even for five minutes – most of us might get all kinds of thoughts and attitudes that would make the angels blush.

Fearlessness is not courage. Of course one seems to have courage when there is no fear. But you can have courage when you are scared to death. You just press on.

We have reason to believe that Martin Luther was filled with great anxiety when he stood before the Diet of Worms in 1521 and said, “Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.” He was showing courage.

Fearlessness is when there is simply no fear. I wish I felt this way every day. But I

have known this – at times. There is nothing like it. It is when the Dove comes down and the whole landscape changes, like a sunrise that reveals what was hidden in the night. Fearlessness. As the hymn *Like a River Glorious* puts it in verse two:

*Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,  
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,  
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.*  
Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879)

Fearlessness is a state of mind that can only be achieved by the Holy Spirit. You can't work it up. You can work up courage. But you can't make yourself feel no fear.

If you have fear, admit it; just say, "I'm afraid. I'm anxious. I'm nervous. I don't know what is happening."

It is no disgrace to feel like that. But when the Holy Spirit comes down, all fear is gone. At least for then. It may not last forever. But when this calm sets in, you know God has come. It's the real thing. Only the Holy Spirit can bring this about.

One reason the devil cannot produce fearlessness is that he is full of fear himself. He is the embodiment of fear. He is running scared 60 seconds a minute, 60 minutes an hour. He knows that his time is short (Revelation 12:12).

The next time Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.

All those who oppose us – mark it down – are the ones who are afraid. "Do not fear what they fear (1 Peter 3:14)." So if you have been given the grace of fearlessness, you have an inner strength for which there is no natural explanation.

Total fearlessness is what Peter had on the Day of Pentecost. No fear. He was not the slightest bit bothered by thousands of intimidating Jews around him – some of them high ranking.

It was what he later felt when he said to the Sadducees, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:19&20)."

It was what Peter and John felt when they left the Sanhedrin having to pinch themselves that they were chosen to suffer the shame of Jesus' name (Acts 5:41).

## NO RAIN UNLESS GOD SAID SO

It is what Elijah felt when God swore an oath to him: he knew there would be no rain unless God said so (1 Kings 17:1&2). It is what he experienced on the top of Mount Carmel when poking fun at the desperation of the false prophets (1 Kings 18:27).

When you have no fear, you do not need

to raise your voice. You will not panic if you think you are losing an argument or lacking the exact words. The greatest freedom is having nothing to prove.

This freedom – fearlessness – can only be produced by the Holy Spirit. When this fearlessness has set in, you know it is the Holy Spirit and not you. And when you find yourself governed by fear, accept the plain truth: God did not give you that fear. The flesh or the devil can never manufacture this fearlessness.

These things said, the word fear can be tricky in this discussion. In the days following Pentecost, everyone was filled with fear or awe (Acts 2:43). Strange as it may seem, the same Holy Spirit who imparts utter fearlessness in a person can simultaneously impart an astonishing awe of God.

Indeed, the greater the measure of the Spirit in us, the greater will be our genuine fear of God. You will respect God and His Word more than ever. Never forget that the "eternal gospel" is a command: "Fear God and give him glory (Revelation 14:6&7)."

The more I love God, the more I fear Him; the greater my measure of the Holy Spirit who instills calm and joy will be matched by the greater my desire to glorify God. ☞

# Will you help us be a blessing?



Did you know that *Prepare the Way* is sent free of charge to church leaders in many African countries, as well as overseas missionaries and prisoners? But this **only** happens through the support and donations of people just like you.

If you have a heart for the nations and a desire to see churches built up through sound, Biblical teaching, then please would you consider supporting this ministry?

*Prepare the Way* is a 100% non-profit ministry. No-one associated with the magazine draws **any** form of salary or income from the magazine – so, very simply, every cent you give goes straight towards sending out more magazines! The more gifts we get in, the more magazines we give away – it's as simple as that.

If you are able to help, please fill in the form below, or simply do a direct deposit into the magazine's account (Prepare the Way, Standard Bank, Howick Branch, Branch code 058325, Account number 052449815)

TO: Prepare the Way, Box 377, Merrivale 3291

Name.....

Address.....

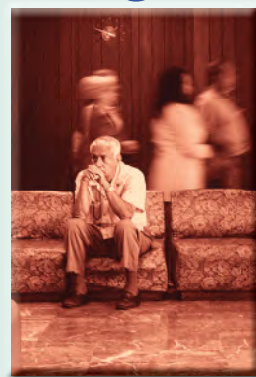
.....Code.....

I'm giving a one-time gift of R..... towards the ministry of Prepare the Way. I am

giving a monthly donation of R..... towards the ministry of Prepare the Way.

I would like this gift to go towards ☐ Prison ministry ☐ Leaders in African countries

☐ Overseas Missionaries ☐ Other (please specify).....





# Mbambo Matunjwa, a Zulu apostle

by Lex Loizides

**O**N November 22, 1891 Allister Smith and four Salvation Army volunteers arrived at the Amatikulu River in Natal. After several days of visiting peoples' homes they organised a series of evangelistic meetings.

On the first night Smith preached the gospel, and although they had decided not to make an appeal for responses after the first sermon, he couldn't help himself, and asked, "Are there any here who will give themselves today to this God who gave His only Son to die for us?"

Immediately, a young Zulu warrior stood to his feet and declared, "I am willing!" After he prayed with Smith and gave his life to the Lord he went back into the crowd and urged his best friend to do the same.

His name was Mbambo Matunjwa. In a relatively short time he became a respected young preacher of the gospel. Within a few years he was winning hundreds to Christ and was gradually promoted through the ranks of the Salvation Army until he became a Major.

Matunjwa's story is a deeply challenging one. His father was the chef to Prince Sitegu, and experienced both the favour and the dangers of serving in the royal court. After a sickness had swept through the royal family a sangoma was called in to determine if any foul play had taken place. The cause was determined to be malicious and four of Matunjwa's family were slaughtered as a result of the sangoma's finding.

He wrote, "This is my earliest recollection – seeing my relatives lying on the ground, clubbed and pierced to death, their gaping wounds crying for vengeance." Later, his parents, both spared, became sangomas, and Mbambo became a skilled warrior, part of a resistance that almost wiped out the British 24th Regiment in 1879. Matunjwa was wounded in battle, being speared through with an assegai. He said it felt like a fire passing through his body.

Matunjwa survived the wound, married, and at the first evangelistic gathering of the Salvation Army described above, he responded and gave his life to Christ.

He was so successful at planting churches that he was moved to a region further north. However, soon after the move he and his wife encountered the shocking loss of both their sons in quick succession. The younger boy died from natural causes and the elder son from what was strongly suspected to be food poisoning.

They were heartbroken. After their initial successes in evangelism this was an almost insurmountable blow. Nevertheless Matunjwa continued preaching and continued to see fellow Zulus responding to the gospel.

On one occasion after he'd finished his message, he made an appeal for those who wanted to repent to do so by



coming forward. A young man came forward and asked to speak with him privately. He confessed that he was a sinner and needed forgiveness and asked Christ into his life. Matunjwa urged upon him the truth that God does indeed forgive sin.

But then, to his horror, the young man confessed that he had been the one who had deliberately poisoned the preacher's son. He begged to be forgiven. Matunjwa turned away in agony. With a heart aching with sorrow, yet knowing the reality of God's grace, he turned to face the young man and offered to forgive him.

It didn't end there. With a maturity that challenges all our impulses toward revenge, Matunjwa decided to begin a discipling relationship with the young man, teaching him the basics of living the Christian life.

Matunjwa's wife, Nomalanga, also had to face the reality of both the discovery of her child's murderer and the forgiveness her husband had offered him. And – astonishing though this may sound – this godly couple invited the young man to live with them in their home, effectively adopting him as their own son.

He went on to become an effective gospel preacher, and, like his adoptive parents, also served in the Salvation Army.

I have no more words.

# WATCH & PRAY

Thanks to  
Elizabeth Kendal

## KENYA: MORE CHRISTIANS SLAUGHTERED

At around 3 am on September 6 some 30 heavily armed Islamic al-Shabaab militants entered Bobo village in Lamu County, accompanied by a number of local Kiswahili speakers. Dressed in military gear and armed with AK-47 rifles, they surrounded the homes of known Christians before calling them out by name.

Upon hearing their names, three Christians – Guchu Peter, Jared Maiko and Josph Kinuthia – emerged, only to be seized by militants who then slit their throats. Terrified families fled into the bush.

## CAR ABANDONED TO CHAOS AND KILLINGS

On September 1 dozens of Islamic militants from Sudan invaded Zemio town in the Central African Republic (CAR). They looted and ransacked the Catholic Church compound, forcing the 15 000 people sheltering there to flee across the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo. The attack was allegedly perpetrated in the presence of UN troops believed to be from Morocco. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) laments that Zemio has become a “ghost town” of looted shops and burnt houses. The population has dropped from 21 000 to less than 1 000, the only people left being “those who could not run away – the elderly and the disabled.”

On September 2, at a farm in Zambagua village on the outskirts of Zemio, Father Louis Tongagnesi was hacked to death by Islamic militants believed to be from the Fulani-dominated and ironically named Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC).

On September 3 Father Robert Wiczorek, a Polish missionary who has been serving in CAR for more than 20 years, was kidnapped by Islamic militants who attacked his parish in the north-western town of Ndim. He was tortured but released alive. Wounded and having lost a lot of blood, he was hospitalised for treatment. Pray for the Church in CAR.

## EGYPT: CRITICISM OF MUSLIMS NOT ALLOWED

On May 26 (Ascension Day) 28 Coptic Christians were massacred and some 23 wounded in Minya Governorate when their bus was ambushed by Islamic jihadists while en route to the Monastery of St Samuel the Confessor. In the wake of the terror, Bassem Abdel-Malak Fahim (25), a Copt from the village of Ezbat El-Sheikh Nageim, Minya Governorate, expressed his frustration on Facebook.

Bassem accused Islamic leaders of inciting the killings and criticised the Egyptian government for failing to crack down on Islamic militants within Egypt's borders. He later deleted the post, but not before it had been shared by his friend Younan Samuel (25). On

September 6 some Muslims in his village discovered the post. Feigning “offence” they shared the post widely and incited Muslim rage against the Copts. Tensions soared.

On September 7 Bassem and his father visited local Islamic leaders to whom they apologised and explained that no offence was intended. Tensions eased. However, late on September 14, after security officials withdrew, a mob formed and attacked the Christians, hurling bricks, smashing windows, looting homes and destroying property. Security forces returned and restored calm; however, Bassem and Younan are now facing charges of inciting sectarian strife and insulting Islamic leaders. Please pray.

## NIGERIA: MUSLIM YOUTHS ‘BEAT DRUMS OF WAR’

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), also known as the Biafra War. This was a war in which Nigeria's mostly

northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani-dominated military junta crushed a separatist rebellion by the mostly Christian Igbo of Eastern Nigeria.

Frustrated and marginalised by the government of President Muhammadu Buhari, pro-secessionist Igbo groups have again been escalating their secessionist rhetoric. In response, a coalition of Northern Muslim youth groups held a Press conference in Kaduna on June 6 in which their spokesman, AbdulAziz Suleiman, issued a chilling ultimatum: Igbos would have until October to leave the North, after which time they will be forcibly ejected.

As all Nigerians know, this threat has a precedent because in 1966 an ethnic cleansing campaign targeting Igbo in the North left 30 000 Igbo dead, more than 1.3 million Igbo displaced and millions more convinced they had no future in a Hausa-Fulani dominated Nigeria.

## Manna for mahala!

If you'd like to receive Peter Pollock's Daily Manna devotional, which will also take you through the whole Bible in a year, then go to our website ([www.prepare.co.za](http://www.prepare.co.za)), and on the home page go to the “Daily Manna Sign-up” at the top, fill in your details and we will e-mail it to you every morning. What's more, it's absolutely free!



KZN's premier piano people for  
 ♪ tunings ♪ restorations ♪ repairs  
 ♪ sales ♪ removals

**Midlands Piano Services**

083-77-77-135, [info@midlandspianos.co.za](mailto:info@midlandspianos.co.za)  
[www.midlandspianos.co.za](http://www.midlandspianos.co.za)

## Prepare the Way Day: November 5

This is the date for this year's remaining *Prepare the Way* day at 9.15 a.m. at Mount Zion Church in Merivale (near Howick). Peter Pollock will be preaching – and, what's more, you're invited to stay for lunch, too!





# The battlefield is the will

by Oswald Chambers

**WE all have to learn that surrender is not the surrender of the external life, but the surrender of the will to God. When that is done, all is done. If the rest of the life is not right, the reason is that the will has never really been surrendered.**

There are very few crises in life. What we are apt to call crises are not crises. The great crisis is where we surrender the will. God never crushes a man's will into surrender. He never beseeches him. He waits until the man thoroughly yields up his will to Him.

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself (Matthew 16:24)..." The surrender here is of myself to Jesus. "If you would be My disciples," Jesus is saying in effect here, "then give up your right to yourself to Me (see Galatians 1:15&16)."

This is not done by praying or longing. It is done by a sharp battle where the surrender of the will takes place.

After you have gone through the full surrender of the will, you will always re-

member the time. But do you remember how long it took God to get you there? Do you remember how you weighed up all the circumstances, and how you found that your heart or mind or body or sentiments, or other ties and friendships held you down here and there?

For a time you seemed to get peace, and you thought it was all done. But the battle came back – again and again – because you had not surrendered to Him the central citadel which is your will. The remainder of the life is nothing but the manifestation of that surrender. The battle for the will is the great point where Jesus Christ wins or loses in your life and mine.

Once the full surrender of the will has taken place, you need not care what your circumstances are. Once you have got through the crisis of surrendering your will to God, wherever you are placed, on the home or foreign field, the Lord can rely on you, because your surrender has allowed the supernatural work of God to fully identify your life with that of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The surrender of your will to God has always to be made in cold blood. Beware of the surrender you make to God in an ecstasy, for you are likely to take it back. It is not a supernatural vision of God that does it. It is not being taken up on a mount of transfiguration.

It is a quiet, commonplace moment when God puts the thing to you so clearly that there is no misunderstanding that He is asking of you the full surrender of your will.

Some have gone through with this surrender of the will, and no matter where God places them there is no fear that they will turn back, because the central citadel of their will is possessed by God. Unless the central citadel of your will is held by the Lord, you may go down at any second, anywhere, no matter what the devotion of your heart may be.

After surrender, what? The whole of the life is an aspiration – the aspiration of an unbroken life of communion with God, and it does not matter if the life is dark or bright. ☩