



**JESUS,**  
**THE**  
**MASTER**  
**ENCOURGER**

**WILLIAM R. HUNT**

**Jesus,  
the Master  
Encourager**

By William R. Hunt

This material is not copyrighted by the author.  
It may be copied and freely distributed.

Old Paths Tract Society  
11298 Old Paths Lane  
Shoals, IN 47581

## Introduction

This booklet's purpose is to encourage the reader through the Word of God. At times, life is challenging due to death, sickness, divorce, loss of a job, unjust imprisonment, etc. The Bible has an answer for all circumstances of life. Jesus went through some difficult circumstances. Just before facing the cross, Jesus's response was this: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). As Christ prayed, He knew that He was soon to be sentenced and crucified. Christ's prayer displays His total surrender to the will of God the Father. The secret to a happy, joyful, and content Christian life is surrendering one's will to God. Even during challenging circumstances, God's will must still be the cry of our hearts. Earlier in the life of Christ, the devil tempted Him three times. The following are Christ's answers: #1 "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"; #2 "It is

written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”; and #3 “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:1-11). God’s will and Word were Christ’s weapons. After fifty-five years of reading and studying the Bible, I have found it a living, exciting, thrilling, and instructional love letter to all humankind from my God and my Saviour. Whatever circumstance a person is faced with in life, God’s Word is packed with encouraging promises for God’s people.

## Choose Christ

“Choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). The choices we make in life determine our eternal destination. The following are suggested choices: Lord, I choose Your will to be my will. I choose Your people to be my people. I choose Your passions to be my passions. I choose Your affections to be my affections. Lord, You said, “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). Lord, I choose to be holy by the power and work of the Holy Spirit in me. Lord, I choose to embrace You as my Bridegroom for eternity. I’m thrilled and glad You chose me to be Your bride before the foundations of the world. May Your goals be my goals. Lord, You know what is best for me. Lord, I choose to be content with Your choosing for me. Your choices determine your eternal destination.

## Go!

Jesus said, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19, 20). Christians are not to be onlookers only. Onlookers are found at burning buildings, football games, car wrecks . . . the list is long. Some are found in churches. Onlookers say, “That is not my calling.” Every Christian is called to go—to their families, the man at the filling station, the barber, their neighbors—wherever there are people. Some are called to go overseas. When God saved me, I began to tell my coworkers about Christ. Elaine and I purchased Bibles by the case, and passed them out to our neighbors. I had never had a Bible before, and only attended church maybe a dozen times. Jesus said, “Look on the fields; for they are white already unto harvest” (John 4:35). “GO” rejoicing in the King of kings!

## Precious in His Sight

You have been precious in the eyes of the Lord from the day of conception until now. God's eyes have never been off you. Make this your own as you read: The Lord possessed my inward parts; He covered me (your name) in my mother's womb. I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are God's works, and my soul knows it very well. My bones (or substance) were not hidden from God when I was made in secret and curiously (skillfully) formed. God's eyes did see MY embryo (substance). In God's book, all my members were written "when as yet there were none of them"—in the days they were being formed (gleaned from Psalm 139:13-16, KJV). God has granted all mankind a spiritual birthright (John 3:5-8). Is Christ precious to you? If not, confess your sins to Christ. Ask Him to forgive you, then place your trust and faith in Christ with total surrender.



## Get Involved

Jesus said, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Many people worldwide are experiencing anxiety, anger, frustration, and fear. At the same time, God is performing a great work in building Christ’s Church worldwide. I am full of joy along with the angels in heaven (Luke 15:10). We have a choice. We can either look at the dark and gloomy side concerning the condition of our world, or focus on the bright side of what God is accomplishing as He builds His Church. I encourage you to get involved either individually or collectively. Elaine and I recently sent Bibles to Muslim countries in the Middle East through Bible League International. Today is our day for involvement. Remember, wherever there are people, there is also a mission field because many people are like sheep without a shepherd.

## Miraculous Provision

Through miracles, God has always displayed His power to provide. They are confirmed by both the Old and New Testaments. Many people benefited from Christ's miracles. When Jesus came down to the finish line, the world preferred a criminal named Barabbas rather than Jesus. God has always favored Israel, Christ's Church, and law and order. From 2016 to 2020, the world witnessed God reaching out through the power of miracles that only He could perform. God chose the USA to show the world that He could PROVIDE. I watched the President stand behind Israel, Christ's Church, and law and order. The U.S. economy excelled. But the world rejected these miraculous provisions. Could God be weeping over the world as Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they knew not their day nor the judgment they would face? (Luke 19:41-44).

## Passion for Jesus

Do you have a passion for Jesus? Consider the following:

Jesus. The Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

Jesus. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

Jesus. "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus. The name above every name (Philippians 2:9).

Jesus. The root and the offspring of David (Revelation 22:16).

Jesus. The bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16).

Jesus. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come (Ephesians 1:21).

Jesus. All things were created by Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16).

I urge you to pray that passion for Jesus becomes the central point of your life now and forever.

## Lessons From Prayer

In Luke 11:1, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. We can learn many lessons from the example Jesus gave. “Our Father” speaks of a birth father/child relationship. “Hallowed be thy name” speaks of His holiness and the need for reverence. “Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth” (v. 2)—when a Christian prays that phrase, he should realize that God freely gave him his will. Jesus is teaching here that we are to give our will back to God. (Can a person give his will back to God? Our nature is selfish and not in harmony with God’s.) “My son, give me thine (your) heart” (Proverbs 23:26). “This is the speech of God to every human heart; give your affections to God, so as to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength” (Adam Clarke). Dying to your selfish will leads to an abundant life.

## **Breaking the Silence**

God's messenger Malachi ended his prophecy by speaking about Elijah (Malachi 4:5, 6). Then God was silent until four hundred years later when He sent Gabriel to the priest Zacharias with a message. Zacharias' wife Elisabeth would give birth to a son called John (Luke 1:13) who was to do his work in the spirit and power of Elijah. Both Zacharias and Elisabeth were righteous in God's eyes. About six months later, Gabriel was sent to Mary, a young virgin girl who had found favor with God. Gabriel's message was that the Holy Ghost would come upon Mary and "the power of the Highest shall overshadow you . . . you shall bear a son and call his name Jesus" (Luke 1:31, 35). For four hundred years, there had been nothing but the Word of God to keep both young and old true to God. I urge you to read God's Word daily. It is your love letter from God.

## Head or Tail?

Read chapters 27 and 28 of Deuteronomy. These chapters teach pertinent principles about God and His people. Great promises are given to His people when they hearken to His voice and follow His leadership. He will bless them. They will be the “head.” If they turn away from God and His leadership, He will make them the “tail.” The head is powerful. The tail is powerless and receives nothing but the bad. An analysis of the last fifty to seventy-five years reveals a decline in the power of the church in the United States. A study of 1800-1915 will reveal God’s people as the head in both righteousness and moral purity. I make no claims of being a historian, but I have studied how to bring people to Christ both from the Bible and from the experience of others.

## Kingdom Building

Good news—what God builds lasts! God does not have to have refined materials to build a kingdom or a church. God used Jacob who was a thief and a liar. God kept working with Jacob until he totally gave himself to God. God changed his nature and his name. He was no longer called Jacob but Israel. That name is well known throughout the world today. God took some uneducated fishermen and changed them into fishers of men. Some men build kingdoms, and other men tear down kingdoms. “Kingdom” may mean a nation or a church. When men lose their passion for Christ and souls, they become selfish. They begin to build their own little kingdoms, and are on the way to becoming the “tail” (Deuteronomy 27 and 28). I plead with you to die to your own will; submerge it into God’s will. Be a clean vessel. Be a kingdom builder for God.

## Free Will

I started my writing ministry in 2013. One of my goals has always been to please the Lord. Deuteronomy 27-28 explains how God's people are to live if they are to be the "head." It also tells how God's people become the "tail." Both chapters talk about what destroys God's people. The theme is selfish choices that exclude God's will and desires. Beginning with Adam and Eve, people have always had free will. They could choose what they wanted. One of the results of the fall of man was Satan's being allowed to pervert or taint the will of man, and it became selfish. But God set boundaries on Satan's power (Job 1:12; 2:6). Man can choose to submerge his will into the will of God, then God's will becomes man's will. At that point, the joy of the Lord begins to flow like a river in the inner man.



## Selfishness

Jesus was headed to Jerusalem knowing He would be spit on, beaten, mocked, and ridiculed. When He laid down the ground rules for His followers, He knew He would die a horrible death by crucifixion. Here are His words: “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). Is selfishness in control of our decisions concerning the lost and Christ’s Church? When you read Deuteronomy 27-28, you will find what qualifies God’s people as the head or the tail. Selfishness results in God’s people becoming the tail. A good step for church leaders and laymen would be taking inventory and asking if their wills are totally submerged into God’s.

## Depart From Me

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23). These are the absolute facts: these people “believed” in Christ. They were sure they were saved. They had not submerged their wills into God’s. They had ignored the instruction in Proverbs 23:26—“My son, give me thine heart.” The word “heart” carries the idea of the will and more. Giving God all your HEART includes your will, intellect, and emotions.

## **The Squirrels Knew**

From the moment God, for Jesus' sake, freely gave me His great salvation, I wanted to do the will of the Lord. But at times, my will got in the way. There came a time when I realized I must DIE to my own will by submerging it into the will of God. On October 2, 1980, I decided I was going to pray until I knew my will was completely DEAD. I was on a mountain in Colorado under a tall pine tree. As I knelt and prayed beside a rock, the squirrels at the top of the tree were very angry with me. They were letting me know it, too. When God witnessed to my heart that my will was fully DEAD or submerged into His, the squirrels came down and sat quietly on the limb above my head. They knew the Creator was present. God's will became my will. Oh, the joy of living a life pleasing to God! I have never regretted the decision I made that day.

## The Tail

Deuteronomy 27-28 gives a word picture to illustrate how God's people can become the "tail." There is no question that the United States church has become the tail. When they realize the church has become the tail, every Christian should be broken and sorrowful in heart and soul. Christ showed His love for the church when He said these words: "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:18). My heart is heavy. Christ did not volunteer to die so the church would become the tail. May every Christian keep the charge Paul gave Timothy concerning the church: "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare" (1 Timothy 1:18).

## Turn It Around

“You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed me, even this whole nation” (Malachi 3:9). As of 2022, something and maybe several things have robbed the church in the U.S.A. The U.S. church is no longer the head. It has become the tail (Deuteronomy 27-28). When on the cross, Christ did not say, “It is finished” (John 19:30) to make the church the tail. Christ died that the world might say, “These [the people of the church] have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). Pastors and Christians, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is our job to find, root out, squash, and destroy the things causing the church to become so powerless that we turn to the courts for protection. I am eighty-eight years old. I have watched the state’s blue laws be defanged bite by bite. We have a big job ahead of us, but also a mighty God. Our God is transcendent. When the earth was without form and void; God spoke, and the earth appeared.

## **Positives of Being the Head**

In Deuteronomy 28, we read that when God's people are the head, they are held in high esteem by other nations. They will lend to other nations rather than borrow from them. The families, livestock, and crops of God's people will be blessed. Their shelves will be full. The Lord will help them to win the battles against their enemies. The Lord will bless them. The Lord will establish them a holy people unto Himself. Again, the Lord says there will be exceeding growth in numbers of children, livestock, and produce from the ground. The Lord ends the blessing by saying, "If you will not keep my word and follow my leadership, your enemies will become the head, and you will become the tail." Christ said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

## **Negatives of Being the Tail**

The following are the results of church or godly nation becoming the tail rather than the head: God's people (a church or a godly nation) will be looked upon as low class. They will not win wars against their enemies. They will not prosper, but rather they will be oppressed. Adultery will be on the rampage. The shelves will be empty. The worship of things will become common. They will not be "lenders;" they will be "borrowers." Neither the old nor young men will be held in high esteem. Domestic violence will be on the rampage. There will be plagues of long continuance. Fear will grip people day and night (Deuteronomy 28:15-63).

## Be Separate

“Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:17, 18). Separation is a great truth prominent throughout Scripture from Genesis 4 to the end of Revelation. God separated Cain from his people. God called Abraham to separate from his kindred and his father’s house (Genesis 12:1). God separated the children of Israel from Egypt during the time of plagues. During the plague of flies, there were no flies in the land of Goshen where the children of Israel lived (Exodus 8:22). In John 6:66, Jesus separated true believers from professing believers. The Apostles carried on the doctrine of separation.



## God Knew

Exodus 3:7-10 provides great encouragement for when the church becomes the tail rather than the head. Israel came into Egypt as the head while Joseph was second in command in Egypt. After Israel became the tail, the LORD said these things about Israel: “I have seen their afflictions,” “I have heard their cry,” and “I know their sorrows.” God saw. He knew the whole situation before Israel cried out in prayer. God was keenly aware of Israel’s condition. Still, He waited until Israel recognized their condition and need for the help only God could give. God waited for Israel to cry out to Him in prayer before He delivered them and positioned them as the head once again. Earnest prayer will bring God to the rescue.

## The Sabbath

Little foxes destroy vines (Song of Solomon 2:15). A great example of their destructive power is the fate of God's day of rest. It was first called the HOLY SABBATH. After the resurrection of Christ, it became known as the LORD'S DAY (Revelation 1:10). Then time passed, and it was later called the Lord's SABBATH and then SUN-DAY. Today, it is called the WEEKEND, which shows a complete loss of reverence for the Lord's Day. Oh, the power of little foxes! Think how much damage little foxes have done to the following: marriage, modesty, the concept of God and His attributes, the creation account, the authority of the Bible, and the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Some have made death the destruction of sin. "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

## Keep My Words

“Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?” (John 14:22) Jesus had given the disciples the conditions for the Father, His love, and His manifestation to His followers. To the one asking the question, it was not enough to know that Jesus would manifest Himself to His followers. He wanted to know how Jesus would manifest himself to His followers. Jesus was not offended by the question. He answered, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode [our home] with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings . . .” (John 14:23, 24). Can little foxes destroy our desire for the Word of God? It seems that little foxes are taking bites out of prayer time, church money, Sunday school time, worship time, Bible reading time, family time, etc.

## **Finding Confidence**

“The battle is the Lord’s” (1 Samuel 17:47). Israel’s enemy was a giant named Goliath. The church’s enemy is these “little foxes.” They can so easily destroy the vines which represent the Church (Song of Solomon 2:15). God demonstrated to Israel that He was still able to take care of Israel without using might, power, or sword. God used a young boy with a sling, a rock, and mega-confidence in God. The young boy was not the son of an army general. He was the son of a man who farmed and had sheep. Therefore, He did not have any experience in warfare. His expertise was in the family business, but he had a great, loving relationship with the God of the universe. Such a relationship with God always produces confidence in God.

## The Good Shepherd

“The Lord is my shepherd. . . . He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake” (Psalm 23:1a, 3b). Man’s nature is like that of sheep. Sheep are nearly helpless. In themselves, they have very little defense, if any. Yet they are very useful to mankind. They furnish food and clothing. But they need a shepherd to always provide for their needs. Sometimes, the shepherd must discipline a sheep by breaking its leg. This quickly teaches the sheep to follow the shepherd. The Good Shepherd Jesus (John 10:11) leads His sheep on paths of righteousness in marriage, business, conduct, speech, etc. for His name’s sake. Beware of the little foxes. They nibble at righteousness constantly.

## Sin's Effects

Sin is destructive to you. Sin is wiser than you.

Sin is stronger than you. Sin is smarter than you.

Sin is deceptive to you.

The following thoughts were sparked by a sermon Travis Johnson preached. Sin is a dark, gloomy enemy set against God and His creation. In the Garden of Eden, sin separated, devastated, warped, and twisted the nature of man causing it to become an enemy of God. But God was not caught off guard. Before time began, God devised a plan to redeem man and cleanse him from ALL SIN (1 John 1:7). That plan centered on Christ and the cross. When Christ died, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom (Mark 15:38). In the Old Testament, the veil was a symbol of man's separation from God. The rent veil opened the door for mankind to reach God through Christ. Praise the Lord!

## A New Path

In some states, you must have a guide to go hunting. The state officials are very concerned that hunters don't get lost. In Biblical language, the word "guide" means "leader." The psalmist (23:3) said the LORD led him "in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." The Bible says man has no righteousness of his own. He travels the path of self-centeredness. The Lord leads His children on a new path—the path of righteousness. Along that path, men will see a suffering Christ (Isaiah 53); a man worshiping God because of God's righteousness, judgment, goodness, and God's ability to create; a God worthy of the awe of all the inhabitants of the earth; a God of mercy; and a God waiting to deliver a soul from death (Psalm 33). All who follow Christ will walk in this new path of righteousness, and on it they will meet some of the greatest people in the world—people who wholly follow Christ whatever their circumstances.

## Precious Souls

As true followers of Christ, we have a great but rewarding responsibility to God as well as the extremely rich, the politician, the doctor, the lawyer, the middle class, the poor, the less fortunate sleeping under the bridge, the many different races, and people of all different levels of education. Every one of them dies and leaves his estate to someone else. He can take no earthly goods with him. None can by any means redeem his brother by giving God a ransom for him. The redemption of their souls is precious (Psalm 49:7, 9). Proof? The cross. “Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his saints” (Psalm 116:15). God said, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezekiel 33:11), and “all souls are mine” (Ezekiel 18:4). Lord, help each of us to catch a vision of how precious every soul is to You, and then act on that vision.



## Faith vs. Feelings

Jesus said, “Let us pass over unto the other side.” Afterwards, there came up a great storm. The waves beat on the ship and filled it with water. Jesus was asleep on a pillow. The disciples awakened Jesus and said to Him, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Jesus arose, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still.” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Jesus said to the disciples, “Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?” (Mark 4:35-40) The disciples were living by feelings, not by faith. “My son, give me thine heart” (Proverbs 23:26). *Strong’s Concordance* lists feelings as part of the definition of “heart.” Give God your HEART because “the just shall live by faith”—not feelings (Romans 1:17). Faith in God requires action. By faith, Noah built an ark. Abraham obeyed because of faith (Hebrews 11). Has faith led you to action?

## Change

“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise” (Romans 1:14). When preachers, Christian workers, and laymen catch a glimpse of the splendor and glory Christ gave up to become total man/total God, to be born in a manger, and to later say, “Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20), they will be changed. Such a realization generates a gratitude to Christ that results in an obligation to all races, classes, and ages of people. Counting noses, pennies, and pleasures will be replaced by a focus on Christ and His Church followed by a passion to reach ALL souls, regardless of social status or nationality.

## **The Word of God**

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). “Study to shew thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15). As Christians, we are privileged to be adopted into the family of God. We have been granted approval by the Beloved. God has given us His Word to help us make necessary adjustments in attitude, affection, tone of voice, relationships, behavior, goals, motivation, actions, and words. These areas must all be in harmony with the Word of God for us to live on the high plain God has provided for His children. King David, a man after God’s heart, got a glimpse of this high plain when he said, “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

## Hell

The world would be outraged if they woke one morning to headlines that five million parents had cast their children into a fire with no thought for the torture those children experienced, and only a few people endeavored to stop the hideous crime. My fellow ministers and Christians, the above is a simple word picture of the spiritual warfare of our day. We ought to be outraged at Christendom having more concern for its own comfort and pleasure than for stopping people from casting their children into Hell. Christ alluded to a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. A place of darkness where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:44, 46, 48). It is a place called Hell, about which Christ warned, and the Holy Spirit inspired men to write.

## **A Double Cost**

No man is a sinner because he sins. He is a sinner because he was born with a nature inherited from Adam—a selfish nature that says “everything is mine,” and one that lies, steals, manipulates, and is full of anger when it does not get its own way. The Bible teaches there is a double cost for this nature to be changed. The first cost was when the Son of Man gave up His splendor and glory to serve God and others. He became homeless with no place to lay His head, yet He served God and man. He gave His life so that others might be changed. The second cost is when man, by faith, surrenders to God, asks for forgiveness, becomes a servant of Christ and others for God’s glory and honor, then lets God lead him in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake (Psalm 23:3).

## **Fountain of Life**

Christ loves you and me (John 3:16). Place all your confidence in Christ. He is eternal (Romans 1:20). He is the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16). He was not made of the earth as Adam was. He is God's only begotten Son. He was born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:27-35). He came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). He chose to die on a cross as a Substitute for sinful man rather than allowing men to suffer for all eternity in a hell created for the fallen angels. Hell has enlarged its mouth (Isaiah 5:14) because men have refused the Fountain of water which gives eternal life. Instead, they have chosen to drink from cracked cisterns, resulting in everlasting punishment. I hope you have chosen to drink from the Fountain of Living Waters, Christ our Lord.

## Watch and Pray

“The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (1 Peter 4:7). “Watch” and “prayer” are important words. “Watch” implies danger. “Prayer” is a reminder you are not sufficient in yourself. Watch that your love doesn’t become lukewarm toward God. Watch your attitude concerning hospitality to others. Watch your stewardship of the manifold grace of God. Watch your attitude concerning the edifying of the flock of God. Watch and be very careful what kind of example you set for God’s flock. Watch your attitude toward being subject one to another as God commanded. Watch how you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. None of the above can be done constantly without spending time in prayer (gleaned from 1 Peter 4 and 5). The listed areas have been the playground of “little foxes” for centuries, and a great danger to Christ’s Church (Song of Solomon 2:15).

## Jesus

Jesus, the Creator of all things visible and invisible (Colossians 1:16), made Himself available to all men by leaving the splendor and glory of His throne to be carried in the womb of a young virgin named Mary through the Holy Spirit's power to overshadow her (Luke 1:30-35). After Joseph married expectant Mary, the two traveled to Bethlehem. Mary gave birth to Jesus in an animal shelter there (Luke 2:7). This Jesus is the One who left the glory and majesty of the throne of God to be made available to people like you and me. Not only did He make Himself available to you and me, He also showed by His life that He would rather take our sins upon Himself than to see us spend an eternity being tortured in Hell (Luke 16:24).



## Notes on Prayer

These are Elaine's notes on prayer from the Lord's teaching on prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Characteristics of the pattern of this prayer.

It defines the spirit in which we should pray.

a: an unselfish spirit (Our)

b: a filial spirit (Father)

c: a reverent spirit (Hallowed be Thy name)

d: a loyal spirit (Thy kingdom come)

e: a submissive spirit (Thy will be done)

f: a dependent spirit (Give us this day our daily bread)

g: a penitent spirit (Forgive us our debts)

h: a humble spirit (Do not lead us into temptation)

The spirit in which we pray is more important than the words.

It is brief yet—.

End of Elaine's notes.

You choose whatever word you want to use after "yet."

## Scripture Study

“Study to show thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15). There are two ways to study the Bible: #1. Study to justify our various lifestyles or diverse thinking. This type lays the groundwork for discord, conflict, and splits. 1 Corinthians includes a picture of this type of studying. Remember, the Holy Spirit came to bring reconciliation, not division. #2. Study to have an intimate relationship with Christ. Studying the character and passion of Christ results in seeing Him weeping for the lost. Seeking the lost. Teaching the lost. Saving the lost. Being willing to lay down His life for His church and the lost. Praying for the lost. This type of studying will bring reconciliation, healing, and unity, resulting in the Holy Spirit’s being free to move on men’s hearts with conviction for sin. It points people to the salvation planned before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

## **Lessons From Leviticus**

The first three chapters of Leviticus reveal the great love God has for all mankind. They reveal the cry and the desire of God's heart from before creation concerning mankind. They reveal God's plan for redemption for every class of people, from the poorest of poor to the richest of the rich. Leviticus, the book of the law, reveals that God's desire was for man to give himself willingly, voluntarily, and totally to God. But man didn't. Instead, he chose not to accept God's authority and Word. Chapter four states the results for a man who acknowledges his sin and accepts the sin sacrifice which figuratively pointed to Jesus. That man voluntarily placed himself under the authority of God and His Word. People who accept the sin sacrifice of the Jesus now become new creations and joyfully find glory in the cross!!!

## World Changers

The church of our day must have men and women who are willing to face the crises of our day; people who have studied the passion of Christ and have learned the business of prayer; people who are willing, like Jacob, to wrestle with the Lord in prayer until the Lord gives them power with God and an example set before them. The world's analysis of the praying church of the first century was this: "These . . . have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Those who turned the world upside down had an absolute transfer of trust from themselves to Christ. They believed that Christ committing the future of His church to them was the highest honor that could be conferred on them. Their chief business was to make prayer a controlling factor in their lives (Acts 6:4).

## **A Sure Thing**

We all face questions about what is safe or dangerous for our health. New diseases create the need for new medicines. But questions arise about whether the medicine is safe. Who should take it? Should it be limited to a certain class of people? Should it be given to the young with restrictions? Should it be given to the old? How safe is it? WHAT IS SAFE? I know something that is absolutely safe. God is a Refuge (Psalm 9:9). God's Word records over and over that "God is a refuge" (60 verses or more). The earth and the heavens will pass away, and all things will be made new (Revelation 21:1). But God's Word will not pass away (Luke 21:33). It is safe. The ones who have access to God's refuge are those who confess their sins and believe in their hearts that God raised Christ from the dead (Romans 10:9).

## Christian Character

“Go into all the world. Begin at Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and then go to all parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8, paraphrased). The Christian life is not a life of isolation. It is a life of conquest. The early church demonstrated conquest. “These have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). This conquest cost the early church. They faced persecution, death, and imprisonment. Those conquerors displayed Christian character. Here are a few characteristics of Christian character: 1. faith; 2. virtue, valor, courage, and moral stability; 3. knowledge or moral discernment ordering and ruling one’s life; 4. temperance or wise life management—never allowing the world to mold one’s life; and 5. godliness or the passions of Christ.

## **Church Under Attack**

Israel was facing some great and mighty enemies, and Moses prayed, “RAISE UP, LORD, AND LET THINE ENEMIES BE SCATTERED; AND LET THEM THAT HATE THEE FLEE BEFORE THEE” (Numbers 10:35). The church in the United States of America is also facing great and mighty enemies, both within and without. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). We have a Scripture-based prayer given in Numbers 10:35 when Moses said, “Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.” Moses understood that prayer changes things! I urge you to pray continuously for Christ’s Church and America.

## Christ on the Cross

What is your first thought when you meditate on Christ and the cross? Maybe Christ's bleeding back from the scourging Pilate gave Him. Maybe His mother, or Mary Magdalene. Maybe you think of one of Christ's sayings from the cross: "Father, forgive them"; "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise"; "Woman, behold thy son. . . . Behold thy mother"; "I thirst"; "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"; or "It is finished." The combination of these seven sayings on the cross is a great revelation about Jesus as a man and about Jesus being very God. They most certainly reveal three important attributes of God—His justice, mercy, and grace. Jesus was fulfilling God's justice and opening the door to mercy and grace.



## Two Types

The following is the essence of a message I heard on the radio. The preacher said there are two types of people in the church. One type admires Christ. They rarely miss attending church. They are religious on Sunday. During the rest of the week, they live a different lifestyle. They are selfish. They never make much real sacrifice for Christ, if any. True followers of Christ make up the second type of church people. No sacrifice is too great for them. They live their lives to always reflect Christ no matter what circumstances cross their paths. The first group is found seated in many churches. Could the first group be the reason the LORD God wants us to apply Deuteronomy 27 and 28 today? Those two chapters clearly teach the U.S. church has become the tail.

## Lights in the World

Jesus taught that those who are faithful in what God has given them will hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). Faithfulness is continuous action. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” He said that when a candle is lit, it is not put in a secret place. A candle that is not burning is like an ornament sitting on a shelf. One who voluntarily allows Christ into his heart, and who receives forgiveness of sins from God, is no more like an ornamental candle: but a candle which is immediately lit, giving light to the world. God needs faithful candles continuously giving light to light a path to Christ. Many have a good start, but like the foolish virgins, they allow their light to go out (Matthew 25:1-13).

## **Mega Prayer Power**

Jesus said, “If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). Oh!! What a great possibility and mega-power promise. The conditions are an intimate relationship with Christ, a love for God’s Word, and a set time to read God’s Word. There is mega power in prayer. The Holy Spirit through James (5:17, 18) said that Elijah prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain on earth for three and a half years. Then he prayed again, and the heavens gave rain. There is not only mega power in prayer, but also power in God’s Word. “Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (John 15:3). “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

## Precious Prayer Times

Moses' prayer: "Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee" (Numbers 10:35). Moses believed that prayer changes things. Amen! On November 9, 2021, while praying for the people on my priority prayer list, the Lord manifested Himself to me. I prayed for every name on my list. Then, I prayed for my list again. I prayed for my family and for about thirty Christian preachers and workers including a long time Christian friend who is a medical doctor. I wish I could say God has manifested Himself often to me during prayer time, but He doesn't. When God manifests Himself to me in prayer, I am very grateful. Cornelius, a devout man who gave of his finances to help others, prayed always. His prayers and alms were precious to God (Acts 10:1-4).

## **Recipe for True Peace**

People pursue peace through different avenues: pleasure, wealth, fame, travel, sports, gambling, etc. The end results are not satisfying. But it is written, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee [God]: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength” (Isaiah 26:3, 4). To keep one’s mind stayed ON God requires the following: 1. a confidence in God’s promises, 2. a love for the living God and His Word, 3. discipline of the mind—this takes practice and work, 4. desiring God for more than escaping Hell and entering Heaven, and 5. the work of God in a person’s heart that will allow him to do the will of God whatever the circumstances (Romans 6:6, 7).

## Delight

“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psalm 37:4). What will ignite delight? 1. The influence of another source, 2. the development of a relationship, and 3. an indestructible substance given by a higher authority. I believe the Holy Spirit summarized these three points when He inspired Paul to write, “God commendeth [demonstrated; clearly proved] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ [the Messiah; the Anointed One] died for us” (Romans 5:8). When the Holy Spirit opens one’s blinded eyes and reveals the magnitude of Romans 5:8, the delights will change from THINGS to the Eternal Self-existing One, the LORD. “Lord, open the blinded eyes of Your people. Amen.”

## Grace and Power

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). The foundation for salvation is God’s grace alone. Faith is the key to the door of grace. Baptism is the outward witness of this great salvation to mankind. My mind is flooded with the megapower or the super-abounding power that is made accessible to all mankind when a person by grace through faith is saved! Grace brings power for every circumstance. Power is given to us—power to understand God’s Word and to have an intimate relationship with the Creator of all things—both tiny and large, seen and unseen. And all things are kept by the power of God’s Word because of God’s mercy and grace.

## **Ezra's Prayer**

In Ezra 9 and 10, we find Ezra's prayer. Ezra was faithful to his call even through great opposition. He had a passion for God's name and honor as well as God's people, Israel. In his prayer, he expressed thankfulness for God's mercy, but wept because Israel's sin dishonored God. After Ezra prayed, God convicted the hearts of the leaders and the people of Israel for their abominations against Him. They came to Ezra for instructions on what to do. Ezra told them to make confession unto the Lord God, and do God's pleasure according to His Word. The leaders of Israel were the first to follow Ezra's instructions. Christians, please pray until our leaders in the U.S.A. also follow Ezra's instructions.



## God's Delight

People talk about things in which they find delight. They want to be in the presence of their delight. Their minds become occupied with that object. Some people delight in sports, and others in guns, fishing, hiking, cruises, parties, etc. Two people do not have to talk very long before they know each other's delights. If a person delights in another person, he will endeavor to be in that person's presence, and open his choice treasures to him. "My delights were with the sons of men" (Proverbs 8:31). God delighted in the creation of man. When Adam sinned, God demonstrated His delight in men by initiating reconciliation. Time and time again, God has demonstrated His delight for mankind. BE GRATEFUL! He delighted to reconcile us to Himself through Christ's death and resurrection. Praise the Lord! HE IS RISEN!

## Help for Seekers of Salvation

*What does Jesus offer to ALL people?*

*Answer: Forgiveness from sins*

To be saved, you must acknowledge that you are a sinner. You must believe you are created by God and have enough faith to believe God's Word. Forgiveness is for "who-so-ever" shall confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in his heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead. The Bible says *that* person "shall be saved" (Romans 10:9). St. John confirmed this when he said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Whosoever believeth in him [Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15). The gospel of Jesus Christ is for you!

*What does Jesus have to offer to the world?*

*Answer: Removal of sin*

If a person travels straight north until he reaches the North Pole and then he keeps moving, he will begin going south. If a person travels straight east, though, he can continue indefinitely, never meeting the west. “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). God will “subdue our iniquities” and cast all our sins “into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19b). God said, “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34b). Not only does God remove sin and remember it no more, but God also said, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18a).

*What must I do to receive God's salvation?*

*Answer: Believe that God will forgive you of your sins when you ask Him.*

Reader, you, too, can be saved and have a personal relationship with Christ. Here is a suggested prayer. "Lord, I know I am a sinner and need to be saved. Lord, I know Jesus arose from the dead and that His blood was shed for my sins. Lord, I'm asking You to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me. Lord, help me grow in Jesus and develop a love for Your Word. Lord, above everything, help me to keep my eyes focused on You and not on people. Lord, Your Word has confirmed that You would save me; I believe You *have* saved me. Please give me a witness from Your Spirit to my spirit that I am Your child. By faith I believe Your Word; still, my faith is weak. Lord, increase my faith. Amen."

Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

“. . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

## Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

## Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day” (John 6:37-39).

“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” (Psalm 46:11).

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2).

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears” (Psalm 18:6).

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).





