

# MY SWEETHEART AND ME



BY WILLIAM R. HUNT

# **My Sweetheart and Me**

By William R. Hunt

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

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## Author's Purpose

The purpose for the book is for our family to have a record of what Elaine and I enjoyed and worked at for 69 years of being married, and nearly 70 years as having her as my sweetheart.

I am an old preacher. My religious education is from the school of “knees, the Bible, and books.” I grew up in a home where preachers and the church were taboo. God, for Jesus' sake, saved me when I was nearly 32. Shortly thereafter, He called me into the ministry. My life has had mountaintops and deep valleys. God's abounding grace has been sufficient. My prayer is that you will take time to read this. I am glad that many of you are well educated; others are like myself.

I have related the mighty workings of God through an earthen vessel that died to his own will, his ambition, his worldly goals, and his own desires. My personal goal is to be able to say with Jesus, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gave me to do” (John 17:4).

## Thanks for Divine Providence

I was not raised in a Christian home. I never knew a Christian until I was about twenty-one or twenty-two years old. When I was about 30, I attended a real estate school. I passed the Missouri test for a real estate broker's license. After receiving my real estate broker's license, I found a past president of the realtor's association to mentor me. He informed me I needed to make friends with poor people, and be bosom friends with bankers and business people. He asked me what I knew about church. I replied, "I never went to church except maybe five or six times." He informed me there was a little church about two blocks from our home which had a number of business people and bank personnel attending. He said the dues would be twelve dollars per year. I only needed to attend church once a month. A church member would pass a plate around. I only needed to drop a one-dollar bill into the plate. Looking back now, I say, "Thanks for Divine Providence."

I began attending the church. When the preacher preached, he seemed to know my past, present, and future actions and thoughts. I thought someone was telling the preacher about me. There came a day when I was walking home. Just after I crossed Belmont Street and Peery Street intersection, God got my attention. God impressed on my mind that He was speaking to me. I should have been exceedingly grateful that the Creator of all things had gotten my attention and was speaking to me, but I was not. That encounter did not convert me, but it changed my attitude toward the preacher, my friends, and the Lord's church. As time passed, I became miserable due to the Holy Spirit's convicting me of my sinful life. One morning I was determined to either go with God, or stop going to church altogether. I went to work that morning. My sitting-down job required very little thought. For about four hours I pondered whether to go with God or not. At times I said to myself, "I am going with God." Then I would change my mind, and say to myself, "No, I am not going with God." Finally,



thanks to the Blessed Holy Spirit, He helped me to say one eternal “Yes, I am going with God.” **Thanks for Divine Providence and the Blessed Holy Spirit.**

## **The Help of the Holy Spirit**

A few weeks before I turned 32 years old, while working at Hallmark Cards, the Blessed Holy Spirit helped me to say one eternal yes after debating with myself whether to go with the Lord or not after three or four hours. Oh, my eyes become rivers, not tears, running down my face. I don't remember ever crying before.

The next day I told my sweetheart, Elaine, I was going to call the preacher. She begged me not to call the preacher and con him for more information. I felt like I couldn't tell her what I had experienced at work the day before. I called the preacher, Mann Miller, and told him of my experience at work, and about the rivers running from my eyes. He told me that God, for Jesus' sake, had saved me. I was so ignorant about God and the Bible, I didn't really know what he meant. Praise the Lord, I soon found out, because old things dropped off, and new things appeared in my life. Praise the Lord.

## **My Heart Was Stirred**

When the weekend came, my sweetheart and I went to the Raytown Bible Bookstore in Raytown, Missouri, and purchased our first Bibles for our home. I began to read the Bible at the very beginning. “In the beginning God created. . . .” I soon got to Exodus 12:13, and read these words, “when I see the blood, I will pass over you.” My heart beat so fast and so loud, it made me remember that this had only happened one time before. When I was dating Elaine, she was the cashier at a theater. When they closed the ticket booth during the show, Elaine had to walk down the aisle to take the money to the office behind the screen. Each time she walked by, my heart beat so loud and so fast that I wondered if people sitting close to me could hear my heart. I don’t know how long I read verse 13. Every time I read it, my heart beat loud and fast. I kept reading that verse. I did not know for sure whether I’d ever read the rest of the Bible or not. At the time, I had no idea what it meant. I surely enjoyed the way it stirred my

heart. I did not know at that time it was pointing towards the blood of Christ given to me at Calvary for my sins.

Praise the Lord for something that stirred my heart. And at times, after 55 years, my heart still gets stirred when I think of the blood Christ shed for my sins. Praise His holy name. Shortly after I was saved, Jesus gave me this verse: “. . . My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9a). During my sweetheart’s illness, I found His grace is sufficient for every situation.

## Working for Jesus

Later, on Highway 24 and Blue Ridge Road, the blessed Holy Spirit got my attention through the following: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (John 15:16). My wife and I taught a group of Cherokee Indians, making weekly trips for about seven years.

In 1980, while Elaine was driving west on I-90 coming home from Chicago, the blessed Holy Spirit again got my attention through the following: “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it” (Revelation 3:8a). There has always been a place of ministry since.

## **My Will Immersed Into God's Will**

Morning prayer. Romans 12:1, 2. Lord thank You for the “perfect will of God.” Lord, lead me IN Your perfect will; direct the totality of my life IN Your perfect will. Thank You for allowing me to choose by the help of the blessed Holy Spirit to immerse my will IN Your perfect will. Lord, enable me to never have any desire to move to the suburbs of Your perfect will. Lord, by Your mercy and grace, IN the center of Your will I live by faith, that all provisions were provided to live IN Your perfect will by Jesus’ cry, “It is finished” (John 19:30), at Calvary.

## Submerged into God's Will

I told you that my religious education came from the school of “knees, the Bible, and books.” I loved to read even before God revealed Himself to me. After God saved me, my wife and I purchased our first Bible at the Raytown, Missouri Bible Bookstore. I started reading at Genesis 1:1 with the words “*In the beginning God . . .*” and I continued reading until I reached Revelation 22:21: “*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*” For the next five years, I read nothing but the Bible, nearly always starting at the beginning of Genesis, and ending with the end of Revelation. I learned that the Bible is a living, exciting, and thrilling love letter from my God and my Saviour Jesus (the Christ) to all mankind. By the end of the five years, I had begun to develop a love for God, His Word, and the church. **Today, my prayer is for constant, continuous growth.**

From the time that God, for Jesus' sake, freely gave me His great salvation, I wanted to do the will of the Lord. But in serving the

Lord, there were still times when I found my own will getting in the way. On October 2, 1980, I decided that I was going to pray until I knew my will was completely DEAD, submerged into the will of God. After a considerable time of prayer, the Spirit of God witnessed to my heart that my will was fully DEAD—submerged into God’s will. Later in life, I read where the Lord said, “My son, give me thine heart” (Proverbs 23:26a). If I correctly understand it, the word “heart” is widely used figuratively to refer to the “feelings,” the “will,” and even the “intellect.” Religious people who live by *feelings* alone are like yo-yos. They go up and down, up and down. The *will* of man is by nature very selfish; it always wants its own way and rights. If we are not careful, we may substitute *intellect* for God’s anointing. God’s will is my will. Oh, the joy of living a life pleasing to God! I have no regrets regarding October 2, 1980.



## **My Praises to God on My Journey**

Shortly after becoming a Christian, I felt God was calling me to work for Him. During this time I was working both at a factory and selling real estate. I was working seventy to eighty hours each week, and I made about the same amount of money at each job. Unfortunately it was evident that the present workload would not allow me to fulfill the call. I prayed and told the Lord I didn't care which job I gave up, the factory job or selling real estate, but I could not work both jobs and work for Him also. To work for the Lord, I needed to quit one of my jobs. I had a sufficient amount of real estate homes listed for one year of sales by one person. After praying, different brokers and salespeople sold all the homes I had listed in less than two weeks. When you sell the last house you have listed, you are out of the real estate business. I departed from the real estate business, and never looked back. I went to work for my Lord Jesus.

God knew what I was going to need 50 years later. My sweetheart Elaine was in a

hospital bed for five years and five months in the living room of our home. If I had stayed in the real estate business, I doubt if we could have afforded that luxury.

I had been a high school dropout after my freshman year. When God called me to work for Him, I knew I needed more education. I hired a tutor by the name of Mrs. Brown to tutor me and prepare me for college. Praise the Lord, Mrs. Brown did an excellent job. I picked up a few hours above 60 hours of college. I learned a little about communicating, praising the Lord.

While attending college, one day as I drove on Highway 24, and I passed under the overpass of Blue Ridge, God said, "Pull over and read your Bible." I pulled over and opened my Bible, and the first verse my eyes saw was this verse, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:16). I was thankful but not grateful that the eternal, everlasting God

had chosen me. Later I realized that I should have been exceedingly grateful that the King of kings and Lord of lords, who knew every one of my shortcomings, had enough confidence in me to choose me: who did not butcher the King's English, but literally made mush out of the King's English. Thanks to God and my sweetheart Elaine, who earned a college degree in English, and helped to improve my English some. Praise the Lord for His goodness to both me and my sweetheart, Elaine.

## **My Sweetheart's Love for Music**

Elaine loved the song on the next page, and the song "I'd Rather Have Jesus." On Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 10 a.m., I decided to sing a song to my sweetheart, "I'd Rather Have Jesus." When I got to the word "Jesus," my sweetheart's beautiful brown eyes popped open. It was the first time I had seen her eyes for a few days. Her eyes were clear and beautiful. We had two wonderful hours together. She couldn't talk, but she surely could talk with her eyes. After two hours she closed her eyes, never to open them again. She passed away on Friday morning, July 30, 2021, a little less than 48 hours after I saw her beautiful brown eyes. My heart hurts tonight.

## More Love to Thee

Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to  
Thee;

Hear now the prayer I make on bended knee:  
This is my earnest plea, more love, O Christ,  
to Thee,

More love to Thee, more love to Thee.

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and  
rest;

Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.

This all my prayer shall be, more love, O  
Christ, to Thee,

More love to Thee, more love to Thee.

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy  
praise;

This be the parting cry my heart shall raise:

This still its prayer shall be: more love, O  
Christ, to Thee,

More love to Thee, more love to Thee.

## **Learning About Prayer From Jairus**

A summary of what I have learned about prayer from Jairus (Mark 5:22-41). 1. Choose to listen to people who have the right concepts of Jesus. 2. Have confidence that Christ cares about your needs. 3. Believe God is sufficient to do the impossible. 4. Be willing to humble yourself before Christ, whoever is present. 5. Do not become discouraged: stay in God's presence when requests are delayed. 6. Don't allow people or Satan to weaken your faith or confidence by ridiculing you. 7. Your own household will say God won't answer your prayer. 8. Stay in the presence of Jesus. 9. Jesus will encourage His people. 10. He majors in the impossible.

Cold water throwers and delays are part of boot camp for praying people. But the reward is great: God's glory, God's mercy, and God's grace.

## Spiritual Helps

What do you do more than others?

Are you searching for your weakness in the light of the gospel?

Are you sorrowing over your sins?

Do you grieve over the condition sin has brought to the world?

Are you trusting alone in the atoning blood of Christ for your salvation?

Are you careful not to become stagnant in your spiritual walk with Christ?

Are you guarding and laboring for your precious soul?

Are there any defects in your motives and principles that are evident to the Lord?

Do you count the world dung to win Christ?

Do you glory in the cross of Christ?

How far short of Matthew 5:48 are you falling?

How do you regard the world in comparison to Christ?

How would you rate yourself on meekness?

Is there harmful pride in your life?

Is God's presence your chief joy?

Moses chose to suffer afflictions with God's people. What is your choice?

Reading Hebrews eleven, where do you find yourself?

Whose honor are you promoting?

What priority do God's Word, truth, mercy, faithfulness, and promises have in your decisions in life?

Whom does the world see you walking with: them, or God's people?

Whose glory are you promoting: His, or yours?

What is the main goal in your life?

I have had this many years. I do not know if these are my thoughts or from someone else. They have been a great help in our walk with the Lord.



## Study the Bible

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God . . .” ( 2 Timothy 2:15). There are two ways to study the Bible

1. Studying to justify our various lifestyles or diverse thinking. This type of studying lays the groundwork for discord, conflict, and splits. Remember—the Holy Spirit came to bring reconciliation. 1 Corinthians reveals a great picture of this type of studying.

2. Studying the Bible to have an intimate relationship with Christ. Studying the character of Christ results in seeing Him *weeping* for the lost, *seeking* the lost, *teaching* the lost, *saving* the lost, *praying* for the lost, and *being willing to lay down His life* for the lost. That type of studying will bring reconciliation, healing, and unity, resulting in the salvation of souls.

## **My Experiences With Drug Addiction**

Concerning addiction, especially drug-related addiction. I have had four excellent mentors. Dr Jerry Windsor and his wife Charlene, Doctor Claude Patterson, whose PhD was in counseling, and Joe Colaizzi. For the greatest success, meeting with the counselor is when the family becomes involved with the addicted person. The best results are obtained when counselors and both parents become involved with the addicted person. Drug addiction many times destroys family relationships.

A great number of people with drug addiction have very poor family relationships. When the counselor gets the family relationships partially restored, there will be better success for the addicted person, especially if the parents are involved. Normally the addicted person will turn to one or both of the parents rather than to their siblings for help. Many times when a drug addict cannot find help, he will commit suicide or overdose on drugs, destroying brain cells.

While I was working at the Kansas City Rescue Mission, a Missouri drug addiction facility invited me to visit their facility. During the tour we entered a large room, and seated around the perimeter of the room were both men and women in their birthday suits. I asked the person giving me the tour, "Isn't there a danger of pregnancy because there are pretty young women and handsome young men seated together in their birthday suits?" He answered, "No danger whatsoever, because they had overdosed on drugs, and have no mind. They don't have any idea about sex."

No doubt there were some there who had accidentally overdosed. But from my experience, I would say there was a good possibility that there were no family members that these addicts felt they could come to in their time of despair. They purposely overdosed.

## Study on Genesis Chapters 1-3

I was nearly 32 when I gave myself to God in the middle of the week at the factory where I worked. I did not have any religious background. When Saturday came, my wife and I purchased our first Bible at the Raytown Bible Bookstore. I started reading at Genesis chapter 1—"In the beginning God. . . ." Within a few weeks we purchased Bibles by the cases, and gave one to nearly every house in our neighborhood. The Bible is a living, exciting, thrilling love letter from my God and Saviour Jesus, the Christ, to all mankind. We have had a great life endeavoring to reach people for Christ for the last fifty-six years.

The first three chapters of Genesis reveal the SUBJECTS for the characteristics and nature of God, sin, man, and Satan. From Genesis 4:1 to the "amen" at the end of Revelation is God's commentary without error on the subject found in the creation accounts in the first three chapters of Genesis. The following is a partial SUBJECT list of what we have learned in the first three chapters of

Genesis. The wisdom of God (1:1-31). The provisions of God (1:1-19). The central purpose for the creation of the earth (2:7). The mighty power of the word of God (1:3-24). The purpose for the sabbath rest (2:2, 3). God's redemption for man (3:21). Man's effort to present himself in the presence of God is unacceptable to God. To come into the presence of God, God had to furnish and slay the sacrifice (3:21). God's love for man (3:8). God of reconciliation. (3:9-21). A future judgment (3:15). God's purpose, power, and glory for the heavens (1:14-19). God's nature (1:2, 26). The plurality of God (1:26). God instructs (2:16, 17). God sets the bounds (2:17). God chooses man's and the devil's consequence for disobedience (3:14-19). The capacity of man's intelligence (2:19). Man's purity before he sinned (2:25). Man's nature after he sinned (3:8). Man's ability to choose (3:6). Man's ability to reproduce (3:16). God gave great honor and privileges to men (1:28). The conqueror over Satan (3:15). The devil's craftiness (3:1-5). The devil's consequences for his sin (3:15). All things were created for God and by God (1:1—3:24).

## A Child's Prayer

Elaine and I tried to never miss a Wycliffe translator's banquet, and we seldom missed one. We thoroughly enjoyed all missionary meetings, whatever the denomination. We wanted to know what the Lord was accomplishing throughout the world. The Lord's work is larger than any single denomination. Both my sweetheart and I have spent many hours together endeavoring to help Christ build His church. My sweetheart has spent hours on her knees praying for me out in the Lord's work. Oh!! How I miss my sweetheart and her prayers, and her desire for the Lord to give us souls for His kingdom.

Little children know how to pray. I heard two missionaries at a Wycliffe translator's banquet tell about their children's prayers. They were missionaries in another country to a tribe of people who lived surrounded by high cliffs. The river was the only ground access. A small airplane could land on a dirt runway. Their two small children prayed for God to send them a horse to ride. The parents

told them numerous times they couldn't get a horse into that place, but the little children kept praying. One day over a shortwave radio a rancher announced he was in dire need of a medicine. The missionary had the medicine. They jumped in their plane with the medicine, and went to the ranch home. While landing, they noticed an old swayback white horse. After the wife, a registered nurse, administered the medicine, they returned home. Back in the village, one day they heard the tribe making a lot of noise. Finally they decided it was not the noise of anger, but of excitement. They went out to where the tribe was by the river. Coming down the river were two canoes fastened together. In the front canoe were the two front feet of the old swayback white horse, and in the back canoe were the two hind feet. A group of men was with the canoes. The rancher called them on the radio. He thought maybe the two little children would like to have a horse to ride. Oh the power of the prayers of children!

## Mexican Chicken Recipe

While Elaine and I were traveling for KCCBS, Elaine asked Jennifer Nelson (Phoenix, Arizona) for this recipe.

Boil chicken until cooked through. Debone and cut up meat into small pieces. Save the broth for later.

Add to meat and stir together:

1 10-oz. can of diced tomatoes with green chilies (Rotel)

1 cup cheddar cheese

1 teaspoon garlic salt

1 teaspoon chili power

1 small onion (diced)

Dip 12 corn tortillas into chicken broth. Cut into quarters, and cover the bottom of a 9-inch x 13-inch pan. Place the chicken mixture on top of tortillas.

Mix together 1 can of cream of mushroom soup and 1 can of cream of chicken soup. Spread on top. Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees or until heated through. Enjoy.



## Corn Bread Recipe

Heat oven to 425 degrees.

Mix the following ingredients thoroughly in a medium-sized saucepan or bowl:

2 cups flour

2 cups yellow cornmeal

1/2 teaspoon salt

2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tablespoons baking powder

1/4 cup of Sugar Twin, or 1/4 cup of sugar, or 4 packets of Sweet'N Low

Add to above:

3 large eggs

1/3 cup canola oil or vegetable oil

2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cups water

Beat vigorously or use a mixer.

Pour 1/3 cup of oil in 9-inch x 13-inch baking pan (metal or pyrex), and coat the pan. Pour the batter into the baking pan. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes.

Elaine Hunt

## Green Tomato Mincemeat for Pie

- 2 pounds green tomatoes
- 3 cups water
- 3 pounds tart cooking apples
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds seedless raisins
- 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cups light brown sugar, packed
- 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons salt
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup 5% cider vinegar
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pounds finely chopped suet
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 3 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Choose tomatoes that are whitish just before ripening. Wash well, remove core and blossom scar, cut into quarters and put into a chopping bowl. Chop medium fine, or if more convenient put through a food chopper, using coarse blade. Turn tomatoes into colander, press out the juice. and discard. Turn tomatoes into a 5-quart kettle, add 1 cup of water, heat to boiling, then drain off water. Again

add 1 cup water, heat to boiling, and drain again. Now add 1 cup water, the apples (pared thinly, quartered, cored, and chopped finely and put through food chopper), raisins, sugar, salt, vinegar, and suet. Mix thoroughly and cook slowly until tomatoes and apples are transparent in appearance, or about 45 minutes. Stir often to prevent scorching. Add the spices, lemon juice, and lemon rind the last 5 minutes of cooking. Pack in hot sterile jars. Tap jars as they are filled to exclude air bubbles. Seal with glass or enamel-lined lids. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> quarts.

Elaine Hunt

## A Letter to a Grandchild

A few years ago I asked your aunt Vicki “what she remembered about her dad and mom getting saved.” Without one thought, instantly, she said, “Our home was no longer a war zone.” Before Vicki was born, Grandpa and Grandma’s fights were worse than Vicki remembers. In fact, once it was so bad that the neighbors were involved. After Vicki came along, the fights were a little better, but our drinking became worse. Later we moved to 1115 Fremont, Kansas City, Missouri, where we rented a house. More children came along: Maureen, Bill and Greg.

Grandpa and Grandma were party people. We would be sleeping a hangover off from the night before. Vicki was little, but she would get up and dress herself and go to church. It is a long story, but when I started going to church once a month, I went where Vicki was going. I did not go to church for the right reason. I went for monetary reasons. Sometime maybe I will tell you all about it. Many people go to church for reason other than food for their soul.

I was in the hospital in 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, and 1964, all because I drank too much. That is another long story; sometime maybe I will tell you all about it also.

I left home when I was 15 years old. I did not run off. I asked my father if I could leave. With tears he asked me not to leave, but he said I could if I would remember that if I was old enough to leave, I was on my own. I picked up a lot of bad habits before I met your grandma three years later. I am not proud of my past, but I wanted you to know why I love my Lord.

When I reached the age of 32, Jesus Christ changed my life, my home, my goals, and my purpose. He taught me to love my wife, my family, my neighbors, and the less desirable. I tell you what Jesus has done for me and our home, hoping you will understand why I want others to experience what Grandpa and Grandma, along with many others, have experienced. There is a difference between being religious, and having a relationship with Jesus who created mankind. He

will change anyone's life that will follow Him with all his heart, life, and soul, BUT JESUS THE CHRIST FORCES NO ONE TO FOLLOW HIM.

Love,  
Grandpa Hunt

## My Testimony

Many people talk about “the good old days.” To me there’s something better than the “good old days.” I would like to tell you about something BETTER than “the good old days.”

I have no desire for “the good old days,” for I found a “new day” just before I was 32 years old. When I said one eternal yes to God, that I was going with Him, I was forgiven of my sins, I was given a pardon, and I was made accepted in the Beloved. The Beloved was the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16, 17). Hallelujah. All of my righteousness was as filthy rags in the sight of God (Isaiah 64:6). But when I yielded to His embrace, He gave me a new wardrobe. He gave me new eyes and a new language that was not filled with dirty words. He also changed my desires, my goal, and the direction I was traveling from following after the worldly entertainment to following Christ, who leads me part of the time, and part of the time, especially when the road becomes rough, He carries me.

The Bible says the pigs return to their mud puddle (2 Peter 2:22). If I know my heart, I have no desire for the “good old days” where there was fighting, anger, words meant to hurt, drinking, and carousing. I found the pure water of life, and the exceeding joy of walking with God. I have enjoyed His presence, His glory, His provisions, and His protection. Let the pigs return to their mud hole. I want to stay under the fountain of cleansing water 24/7/365. One of the great things I have found is a crowd just like I am about this “new day.” God has allowed me to cross the path of many who want the same things and enjoy the same things I enjoy today. Praise the Lord.

Though many are living with fear and anxiety, I am excited to serve my generation by pointing and encouraging people to follow Christ. Remember, His name is called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God. That name today is Jesus the Christ, who is the spitting image of God the Father. I think about the blood of Christ, and the pain He suffered, yet He had the power to come down



off the cross, but He chose to stay there for me. God forbid that I should ever want to turn back with the pigs to the mud puddle of sin this world offers. **I am thoroughly enjoying my walk with Jesus.** A songwriter wrote:  
“I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hand  
Than to be the king of a vast domain.”

Me, too.

## **The Despair of Depression**

I know a little about depression. My wife was run over by a gasoline truck. The dual wheels went down over her head and body. She lay in a coma for 97 or 98 days. If you drew a circle with a two-inch diameter on the very back of her head, there were three busted cracks coming to that circle. After she came to, they had to break the bones in her body and reset them.

Because of the skull damage, my wife later in life went into deep depression. I made an appointment with a good psychiatrist. I took her to that psychiatrist for 10 years. For the first seven years, my wife never said one word to the psychiatrist. The psychiatrist told me that was the first patient that he had ever doctored who would not talk to him after a short time. But during all those years, my wife would say on Saturday, "Please, Bill, get me to the church on Sunday." I learned a great deal from the psychiatrist about depression. I have told the family my phone is always on 24/7, and to feel free to call me at any time. Thank you for your prayers.

During the time of deep depression my wife experienced, God gave us a great blessing. On top of our piano was a stack of unpaid bills. We had no money. I worked in research for a large Fortune 500 company. We had a profit sharing plan for the employees. There was a provision for hardship withdrawals. I applied for a withdrawal. If they accepted your application for withdrawal, their normal procedure was to call and say, “Come down and pick up your check.”

The senior vice president called me and said, “I need to talk to you.” That meant they had rejected my application. After about an hour or so, I realized that as a Christian, I must go down and talk with the vice president. I knew I had been rejected. I went to see the vice president. Lying on his desk was my application. He said “Bill, I talked to the owner of the company. We looked over all of your medical expenses. We applied to the RB foundation for a grant for you.” At that very moment God said to me, “Send \$700 to Paul Trotzke in Guatemala.” I do not remember exactly what I said back to God. All I know is

that it was not, “Okay, Lord.” The senior vice president gave me a check written on a bank in the very extreme northeastern part of the USA. It took a number of weeks for a check to be cleared. (That was many years ago.) When the check finally cleared and we paid all of our bills, there was exactly \$700 left. I wrote a check to Paul Trotzke, and mailed it to him in Guatemala. Unknown to me, Paul had been working at a job eight hours a day, and doing four hours of mission work. The Lord had said to Paul, “I want you to do eight hours of mission work and four hours of secular work.” Paul had told the Lord, “You send in a certain amount of money by a certain date, and I will switch.” The day before the final date, my check arrived along with another small check, making a total of what Paul had asked for. Paul switched to eight hours for missions and four hours of secular work. OH!!!! What a great blessing to Elaine and me while we were going through some deep waters!

## **A Letter to a Dear Lady and Others**

This Thanksgiving I personally thank the Lord that He chose me. He convicted me of sin, and He forgave me of all my sinful ways 56 years ago when I told Him I wanted to go totally with Him. He not only gave me a deep hunger to communicate with Him, but also gave me a great invitation to come boldly to the throne of grace, and find mercy and grace to help in time of need, through God's providence and communication with Him. He has allowed me to pray for people much greater than I. I have a priority prayer list: a group of people who are far greater than I will ever be. I endeavor to pray every day at least once for those on my priority prayer list. I have a very small part in the body of Christ. I give Him thanks this Thanksgiving that I am in the body of Christ.

**Your name is on the list.**

## The Fire Is Burning

On August 15, 2021, I, Bill Hunt, wrote an email to a couple of men to encourage them. While writing the email, God through the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart. My response was, *“Thank You, Jesus, for the fire burning in my heart at this moment.”* It makes me weep as I write this, that God would consider me at nearly eighty-eight years old, and keep the fire burning in my heart. Oh, how rich are the rewards of living for the Lord through His answers to my prayers! May I urge you, the reader, to make a central focus in your prayers. I believe you will never be sorry under any circumstances that you made prayer a high priority in your life.

## An Open Letter

Dear Brother John Doe,

I wrote the following for my personal use and for a project I'm working on for the future.

I was praying a week or so ago, and I felt the Lord wanted me to send it to you.

I may be wrong, but I gave the Lord the benefit of the doubt.

From the time that God for Jesus' sake gave freely to me His great salvation, I wanted to do the will of the Lord. But at times I found that my will got in the way. There came a time in my life when I realized I must DIE to my own will by submerging it into the will of God. One day, I decided that I was going to pray until I knew my will was completely dead or submerged into the will of God. I was on a mountain in Colorado, under a tall pine tree. As I was kneeling and praying beside a rock, the squirrels in the top of the tree were very angry with me. They were letting me know that, also. When God witnessed to my heart that my will was fully dead, sub-

merged into His, the squirrels came down and sat on the limb above my head, and did not make any noise. They knew the presence of the Creator had come. God did not destroy my will. I still have my will submerged into His. I have had to pray at times, “Lord, help me to keep my will submerged into Your will.” God has been faithful to me! God’s will is my will.



## **Elaine's Prayer Life**

My purpose for writing this booklet is to help motivate people to be prayer warriors and have a love relationship with both Christ and His Word. Lord, teach me and all who read this booklet to pray with the intention of glorifying the Trinity. The church as a whole is in crisis, and many people are unaware of it. That is due partly to the lack of prayer warriors. But God is not surprised. He is still the Pilot of the “prayer ship.” He has the wisdom and knowledge to pilot the ship through the crisis.

This booklet on prayer is dedicated to Elaine—my wife for sixty-nine years, and my sweetheart for seventy. Elaine did not like to pray in public, but she knew how to pray in private for her family and for her and her husband's ministry—especially that the Lord would give them souls for the glory of Christ. Once, Elaine was facing around twelve hours of cancer surgery prep. The night before, I heard her praying for God to give us both

souls. She prayed this prayer while asleep, as she would sometimes do.

Elaine and I had devotions together most nights right up to the time she went home to be with her Lord. One night a few weeks before her death, she followed me in prayer. Parkinson's disease wreaked havoc on her brain, and this short prayer took her ten to fifteen minutes. She would stop speaking for a bit, then she would pick up and start again where she had stopped. On this particular night, that happened a number of times, so I wrote my sweetheart's prayer down so you might know what her heart was fixed upon. She said, "Lord, I am so tired. I don't know where we are at, but I know You know. I don't know where we will stop and stay all night, but You do. Lord, we will need You tomorrow." *I knew that in her mind we were still traveling as field representatives for Kansas City College and Bible School.*

Here 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."*

## **Note of Thanks**

A message from a friend: “Bro. Hunt, the night you called, I told you about hurting my leg. I couldn’t stand it at all. You said, ‘Let’s just talk to God about it right now.’ You started praying, and it was just like God was right there on the phone. It felt like I could feel a bottle of oil (pouring) on my head and going down through my body. Immediately, I felt the pain getting less and less. I could even walk on it some the next day. It felt stronger each day, and it wasn’t any time until I didn’t need my cane at all!! I keep getting stronger, and can walk as fast as I can. I know it was God who touched me. Thank you, Bro. Hunt, for your prayer! Thank God for healing me. I had company coming for Christmas, and I could get around just fine. Thanks be to God!!!!” Donna

## **Prayer for Guidance**

Shortly after I was saved, the Lord called me to work for Him. I prayed and said, “Lord, I have two jobs. Between the two jobs, Lord, I work between seventy and eighty hours a week. I make approximately the same amount of money at each job. I do not care which job I give up so I can work for You. Please, Lord, show me which job to give up.” I was a real estate broker, and I had enough homes listed to equal a decent year’s salary for a good real estate salesman. Within two weeks after I made this request to God, every house I had listed was sold. When a real estate broker has sold all his houses, he is out of business until he obtains more listings. What happened to me was unheard of in real estate! That ended my career in real estate. It was all due to the mighty power of prayer! I stayed with the other company I was working for, and eventually retired with a full salary.

## A Miracle

Reverend Ross Query and I were traveling east on I-70 near Denver, Colorado, fighting a head wind. I had only enough money for gas to get home, but I also needed to take Ross to his car in Bluejacket, Oklahoma. I asked Ross how much money he had. He said he had one dollar. I said, "Ross, we're in trouble. My car gets bad gas mileage in head winds." Ross said, "I'll take care of that. Lord, You know I haven't wasted Your money foolishly. I have been a good steward. Lord, send that wind down our tailpipe. Amen." In a short time, the wind changed and was going down our tailpipe. When we turned south on I-35, the wind changed directions with us, and still went "down our tailpipe." Later, we turned east. So did the wind! We then turned south. Still the wind was blowing "down our tailpipe." We made it to Bluejacket, then we headed back north. The wind changed, also, and still blew "down our tailpipe!" The extra cost for the additional almost three hundred miles was-one dollar!

## Answered Prayer

After preaching one Sunday night, my father rode home with me. On the way, I noticed I had forgotten to fill the gas tank the day before. I told my father we had only enough gas to drive to Harrisonville. We would park there, and then I would fill the tank Monday morning. Dad said, "Son, we're going home." Then he began to pray. He prayed for a considerable time. At Harrisonville, I told him we could make it to Peculiar. Dad said, "We're going home." About that time, a semi-truck passed us then slowed down to 55 mph, the speed limit. I pulled up behind the semi, and tailgated it. Later I said, "We can make it to the Blue Ridge Mall." Dad said, "We're going home." The semi-trailer turned off the road then, but a huge bus passed us and slowed down to 55 mph. So, I tailgated the bus to I-435 and Truman Road. That left two more miles before we were home. My gas gauge was sitting on "empty" for the last two miles. Oh, the power of prayer!!

## Confidence Rewarded

Here is another example of the power of prayer. This is a memory from forty-plus years ago. I am acquainted with the parents and children in this account. This family had two very small children. They loved their uncle, who was a career Marine. He served in the Fleet Marine Amphibious Unit. His desire was to serve wherever the action was. The two small children wanted their uncle to come home. They began to pray for their uncle's return. The parents explained to the children several times that their uncle could not come home, yet the two children continued to pray. One day, a chaplain boarded that uncle's ship. At the time, it was in a hot spot. The chaplain asked the ship's captain in charge to release the uncle to him. The captain explained to the chaplain that no one was allowed to leave his ship due to the circumstances they were facing. The chaplain saluted the captain, and returned to his vessel. Later, the chaplain returned with the fleet commander. The fleet commander requested that they call the uncle



to the deck. The uncle came to the deck. The fleet commander requested the ship's captain to come to the deck. The fleet commander commanded the captain to send the uncle home. The ship was an aircraft carrier. The fleet commander told the captain to immediately place the uncle on a plane, and send him home. The captain immediately sent the uncle to Australia, and from there to Tahiti, Los Angeles, and then home to Kansas City. That Marine then spent several months working at a Marine recruiting center. He was eventually honorably discharged. Oh, the power in the prayers of little children!

Lord, help me to have the confidence children have when praying to God for their needs.

Jesus said some rather strong words, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15).

Remember, little children are totally dependent on their parents.

## 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-soever" 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 31:34). 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 1:18).

*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).





