

WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

WILLIAM R. HUNT



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By William R. Hunt

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Introduction

This little book is not in your hand by accident. It was written by my dear friend Bill Hunt. He has a deep passion for seeing souls saved by our Lord Jesus Christ. He also wants to encourage you to wholly follow Jesus and abide deeply in Him.

Bill met me while on a casual walk one day, and gave me a little book. I was a shallow Christian, having struggled for years to live a Christian life in my own power. His prayers, counsel, and friendship pointed me to Scripture. God's Word and the Holy Spirit led me to a pure heart and such peace and cleanliness that I had never had before (Ezekiel 36:25, 26). That opened the door to a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ that grows richer every day!

Bill is 90 years old and retired from a research and public relations career. He served the homeless and less fortunate as a Kansas City Rescue Mission chaplain. In addition, he has served as pastor and interim pastor. After his wife became ill and confined to a hospital

bed, he began the ministry of writing devotional books. As you will see, his writings are based on God's Word. He immersed himself in the Bible, and has studied it almost exclusively for the last 58 years. May you be touched and encouraged by Bill's insight, but please don't stop there. Whenever a Scripture reference is given, look it up and read that whole chapter in the Bible. You will be glad you did.

Like I said, you are not reading this little book by accident. You have been prayed for. God wrote every page of your life before you were formed (Psalm 139:16). God chose you before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). My prayer is that you open the eyes of your heart and allow God's Word to speak to you. God chose you, but you have to say yes to Him.

—Kathy Marshall

Prayer of Surrender

“He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). John the Baptist had caught a glimpse in his heart of the One from above. John knew that he was earthly, but the One from above was heavenly. Here is a suggested prayer: Father, give us the spirit of John the Baptist. Also, give us the spirit of Mary, who sat at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:39, 42). Father, give us the spirit of King Jehoshaphat, who said, “O our God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You” (paraphrase, 2 Chronicles 20:12). Father, give us the spirit of Queen Esther, who said, “If I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:16). Father, thank You for the great examples You have set before all mankind. Father, help us to surrender totally to Your will in Jesus’ name.

Dependence

Prayer is an important element in the Christian life. Prayer is the language of dependency. Those who do not pray show their lack of wisdom in eternal things. Christ said, “Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). Because God wants a father-son relationship, He has given us many helpful Scriptures, both in the Old and New Testaments, to teach us to be dependent on Him. A study of the first three chapters of Genesis teaches us that God always provides before the need. “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jeremiah 33:3). “Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you” (John 16:23).

Insights on Prayer

Throughout the Bible, we read that we should depend on God. Prayer is a good place to start. The following verses give helpful insight into prayer. God said, “Them that honour me I will honour” (1 Samuel 2:30). “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). Joshua and King Solomon both proclaimed that not one word of God has ever failed (Joshua 21:45; 1 Kings 8:56). Please read these verses in your own Bible. I encourage you to saturate your mind with God’s Word. It is a great foundation for prayer. God’s Word is powerful and alive!

Father of Glory

Ephesians 1 lays out some guidelines for prayer applicable both in Paul's day and ours. "Father of Glory," give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ (v. 17). "Father of Glory," may the eyes of our understanding be enlightened to know what the hope of God's calling is, and to know the riches of the glory of the inheritance (v. 18). "Father of Glory," reveal to us the exceeding greatness of the mighty power that raised Christ from the dead, and seated Him on Your right hand in heavenly places (vv. 19, 20). "Father of Glory," help us comprehend and understand that You placed all things in heaven and on earth under Christ's feet, and You gave Him to be the Head of the church (v. 22). God wants to reveal His glory to us. We need only ask.

Invitation to Engage

“And he [Jesus] spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). We also have an invitation to “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). By divine providence, God has given us a great opportunity to be a bright, shining light in this day of spiritual darkness—a day when anger, hate, revenge, lawless, selfishness, drunkenness, and immorality are at high tide. Prayer has successfully changed the course of history before (Exodus 32:9-14). If we, the people of God, also engage in prayer, we can change the course of the USA. I urge you to pray for mercy on our nation and the churches of the United States.

For God's Glory

Mankind has always questioned why God created man, and they have come up with different ideas. Does the Bible give any hint as to the answer? In Isaiah 43, God says much about Israel. "Thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel" (Isaiah 43:22). Earlier, God said, "Every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:7). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1). The Bible reveals that God loves to display His glory. There is no question that man is more precious to God than the heavens. The question is this: whose glory are we displaying? Ouch!

Power

“Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). The Milky Way travels at the incredible speed of 1.3 million miles per hour. And God created the Milky Way. If it were possible to combine the power of a straight-down blast of wind, a 100+ mph straight wind, a high-magnitude hurricane, a tsunami, and a massive volcano, the total force would still be no greater than the point of a needle in comparison to God’s power. My mind may be unable to comprehend the power of Christ, but I do know that He left us with a special message: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). Jesus is our powerful Friend and Brother.

Day of Rest

After completing six days of work creating the world, God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:2). The example He set was for the nation He was going to develop. Soon, sin ended God's rest. For the next 4,000 years, He worked toward the redemption of man. The day came when the Creator/Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Soon after, we find Jesus resting again. He "sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19). "When he [Jesus] had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3). In the Bible, the term "sitting down" signals rest. The Creator rested this second time as an example for the entire world. Several times, Jesus met with the disciples on the first day of the week. He appeared to John on the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10). The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a special day, and is meant to be a day of rest.

Seeing God

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). I want to see God. I have made it a high priority to see God. I’ve been told many times that I am ignorant about what is going on in the world, and I cannot disagree. But my priorities are different than the world’s. I have set my face toward God. I want to see God. I began the journey to see God when I was nearly thirty-two. I not only want to see God, but I want others to see God, too. As I have traveled this path toward seeing God, I have done everything in my power to help others also develop a deep desire to see God. What about you? What is your top priority? Is it to see God?

A Perfect Plan

God “hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (2 Timothy 1:9). Before time began, God had a plan for all mankind. His plan included the birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus on the first day of the week. When the work was finished, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God. This perfect plan had a perfect purpose, and included the painful cry from the cross of “It is finished,” which perfected man’s redemption for a holy calling. “Come home, My son . . . My daughter,” He pleads. But Satan has convinced multitudes of people it is better to feast on sin than to feast with the loving Father who gave His only begotten Son for man’s redemption (John 3:16).

Where Is the Power?

Christendom in the USA has lost the power of God. We are having to fight for our Christian rights in the courts. Where are the men like Moses who can say, “Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD”? (Exodus 14:13). The sea was divided, and the people crossed on dry ground (vv. 21, 22). Where are the Joshuas who can say, “Sun, stand still,” and see the sun stand still? (Joshua 10:12, 13). Could it be that Christendom has a *form* of godliness, but denies the power of God? (2 Timothy 3:5). Proverbs 29:18 tells us that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” Let us pray that God gives us a vision, resulting in the power of God in our lives and those of our church leaders.

Source of Life

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalm 139:14). Every human being is precious in the sight of the Lord. At conception, God knew all about us. Before our bodies ever took form, God’s eyes were on us. In God’s book, “all my members were written . . . How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!” (Psalm 139:16, 17). It is a wonderful day when a person realizes God is the Source of all knowledge, wisdom, and power, and that it is the good pleasure of His own will to share His nature with His people (2 Peter 1:4). God’s Word has stood the test of time. It will never pass away.

God Will Provide

I urge you to wholly trust and follow Jesus as Caleb wholly followed God (Numbers 14:24). During a FEARFUL STORM, Jesus RESCUED the disciples (Mark 4:38-40). During a time of DISCOURAGEMENT, Jesus was near to ENCOURAGE (John 21:1-7). During a time of SORROW, Jesus came and COMFORTED (John 11:20-28). When all else FAILED, Jesus HEALED (Luke 8:43-47). When a tax collector EXERTED EFFORT to see Jesus, Jesus SAW and SPENT TIME with him (Luke 19:1-10). In both the New and Old Testaments, God teaches His people to trust and rely on Him. In the Old Testament, God led His people through the desert. He furnished water from a rock. He fed them manna and quail. He turned bitter water into sweet. He gave them shade where there was none. Glory!! God cares. God knows. God will provide.

Proof of Love

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart” (Mark 12:30). The Bible reveals that love is always active. Love means one’s affections and desires are attached to an object or person. Typically, great satisfaction and contentment are the result. (A study of St. Paul’s life reveals this plainly.) If necessary, love will cause a person to voluntarily give his/her life for the object or person to which he/she is attached. Again, Paul is a great example. At Caesarea, Paul said: “I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13). A greater proof of love was revealed at Calvary when Christ voluntarily died for what He loved most—you and me.

Resurrection Power

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the greatest victory the world has ever known. Jesus' resurrection brought the hope of eternal life to all mankind. Jesus is not here! He is risen. From churches worldwide, that message has been ringing loud and clear for over 2000 years. God planned this victory before the foundations of the world, and it was finished at Calvary. Oh, the immeasurable love of God! It reaches out to the worst sinner, and offers forgiveness, pardon, and cleansing to any person who will follow Christ. From the apostles to present-day Christians, vast numbers of people have experienced the power of the resurrection of Christ.

Prayer for Humility

“Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isaiah 57:15). A great prayer is “Lord, give me a contrite and humble spirit. Thank You, Lord, for that Scripture. I know without a shadow of doubt whom You are going to dwell with.” Jesus said, “Not every one that saith into me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Thank You, Lord, for Romans 12:1, 2 which gives us the prerequisite for knowing “that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Important Messages

Our galaxy, the Milky Way, travels at a speed of about 1.34 million miles per hour, and includes 200 to 400 billion stars. Knowing this, we might ask why God took seven days for creation (Genesis 1:1-31). The answer is simple: God's wisdom. From Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 3:24, God conveyed these messages to angels and man. 1) Some things are special to God. 2) God does not always reveal everything at once. 3) God provides ahead of every need. 4) God controls His creation. 5) God is the Master over time, light, and the elements. 6) God chose to give His created spirits the freedom to make choices. The first three chapters of Genesis are the foundation for the rest of God's Word for mankind, the Bible.

Personal Revelation

God knows how to reveal Himself to men. He revealed Himself to Job through a whirlwind (Job 38:1). He talked to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:4), then later face-to-face (Exodus 33:11). To Isaiah, He showed Himself “sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple” (Isaiah 6:1-5). God used Nathan, the prophet, to reveal Himself to King David after David’s affair with Bathsheba and murder of her husband, Uriah. (2 Samuel 12:1-7). To the prophet Elijah, God revealed Himself with a still small voice (1 Kings 19:12-15). God is able to reveal Himself to you, me, and those on our prayer lists. This devotional was written with a two-fold purpose: 1) that you would watch and expect God to reveal Himself to you, and 2) to encourage you to pray for others.

What's Missing?

Four things are missing from society: integrity, honesty, loyalty, and God. These traits are missing from politics, governments, churches, businesses, and families. The Bible has a remedy for all of these. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16), "that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Jesus taught that He is the Vine, and the saved are the branches (John 15:1-8). We know that the vine and the branches have the same nature and purpose. Jesus had integrity, honesty, and loyalty both to God and mankind. From Jesus' childhood until His resurrection, all three traits characterize His life.

Star Power

“For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible” (Colossians 1:16). “He made the stars also” (Genesis 1:16). In the center of the Milky Way is a star with a black hole in its center. The mass of that star is about four million times that of our sun (NASA). That star is not visible to the naked eye. Yet the One whom we serve, the One who laid aside the splendor and riches of heaven and because of love became man amongst us, He created that super, massive star. King Jesus, our Saviour, is a powerful and mighty God. The following are a couple of His promises to His children. “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth . . . lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Storms

Mark 6:48 is a very encouraging verse. In verse 45, Jesus had “constrained the disciples . . . to go to the other side” of the lake. He spoke powerful words with authority. In verse 48, Jesus saw them toiling and rowing in the windstorm on the sea, and He went walking toward them on the stormy sea. It was about the fourth watch—in other words, near dawn. The disciples had been in that storm nearly all night, but Jesus knew exactly where they were. You may be going through a turbulent storm right now, or you may face one in the future; but Jesus knows where you are. In verse 50, Jesus said to the disciples, “Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.” Jesus can handle all the storms of your life. Place all your confidence in Him.

Christ, the Rock

“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 [strength] of MY salvation, and MY high tower [safety]” (Psalm 18:2, emphasis added). The Psalm writer’s relationship with God was one of love and trust. He also had a “contrite and humble spirit” (Isaiah 57:15). Self was not a controlling factor in the Psalmist’s life. Remember, “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34). “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine . . . for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). I encourage you to place all your trust and confidence in Christ. He is the only Way to God the Father (John 14:6).

A Prayer of Blessing

Paul's prayer, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 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 1:17-21). God, thank You for this enlightening passage, and the benefits and opportunities for spiritual growth we see therein.

Reminder To Read

Since God's words have been given or written "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction," and are profitable (2 Timothy 3:16), the Lord's encouragement to Joshua is also meant for us. The LORD said to Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage. . . . Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, . . . turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper" (Joshua 1:6, 7). God was reminding Joshua to read God's Word. Jesus said something similar: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Personal Testimony—Part 1

“Blessed are the pure in heart” (Matthew 5:8).

Kathy shared the following: “After many years of craving a deeper, more intimate relationship with God and trying to reach that goal on my own, God gave me a new, pure heart and spirit on May 4, 2023. I asked Bill how he knew when God was talking to him, and Bill showed me with Scripture. We prayed and searched through more Scriptures. In an instant, I knew God had touched me. I felt an immediate peace within my spirit like nothing I had ever felt before. I have never felt as clean as I felt in that moment. Now when God speaks to me, I know it clearly and without question. His Word has become so alive and penetrating. I am in awe of God’s magnificent, abundant power. God is impressing on me the need to fear and obey Him—not to be afraid of Him, but to embrace a holy fear. I don’t ever want to infringe my relationship with Him. I want to please and obey Him. He always has more for us.”

Personal Testimony—Part 2

Kathy: “Since my heart was instantly purified on May 4, 2023, I have noticed these changes:

1) I am now keenly sensitive to the checks of the Holy Spirit. When He checks me, my heart immediately responds with a “Yes, Lord.” Oh, my heart cries for His smile and manifested presence in my life. 2) His written Word is alive, and it speaks directly to me. 3) I hunger after His Word, His instructions, His will, and His purpose for me. 4) God’s Word resonates in my spirit. 5) God’s peace and comfort abound. I have gone through some difficult and stressful times in the last month, yet I have also felt God’s deep abiding presence. 6) I used to like reading novels and watching movies. Neither holds the same enjoyment now. The Bible is much better reading.”

God Wants People

God is always searching for people willing to get involved with Him. At the wedding in Cana, Christ asked two men to fill the water pots with water (John 2:6, 7). In Samaria, Christ asked the woman at the well to give Him water to drink (John 4:7). He asked the disciples for the use of their boat so He could teach (Luke 5:3). After Christ was risen, He asked a woman to go inform His disciples (Matthew 28:9, 10). Christ, the Creator, spoke galaxies into existence. He walked on water during a storm (John 6:19). He spoke to the storm and the sea, and they obeyed Him (Matthew 8:26). Christ is still seeking and asking people to be involved with Him. I have been involved with Christ for 55 years, and I have no regrets.

Testimony

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4). One statement we read in Scripture is God’s testimony concerning Levi, the son of Jacob: “My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: HE WALKED WITH ME in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity” (Malachi 2:5, 6, emphasis added). What is God’s testimony of you? With whom are you walking—God or the world? Where is the focus of your affections—on heavenly or worldly things? Oh, God, help us place Christ front and center in our lives.

“Light Affliction”

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17). “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). “Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). All of us will face undesirable circumstances at some point in our lives, some worse than others. But no matter what happens, even though exceedingly painful, it will be a “light affliction” when compared to the glory God has planned for His people. There was a time when I did not exist, but because I was created in the image of God, I am now an eternal being, as is every person ever created. I am now ninety years old, but what is ninety years when compared to eternity? Lord, Your Word and will is my delight.

What Is Love?

“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come” (Romans 5:14).

Who is this “figure of him to come”? It is Christ. Eve was deceived, but Adam was not (1 Timothy 2:14). Adam died because he loved his wife. Christ died because He loves His bride. Ladies, remember Eve was loved before she had any children, enough that Adam chose transgression. Ladies, you were created to be loved. Sex is a by-product of love, but intended only for marriage. Satan and the world teach that love is sex. The Bible teaches that love is an act of the will. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25).

Contentment

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Philippians 4:11). It is wonderful when a person realizes that contentment results from allowing God’s will to control his every circumstance. What Scriptures lead to contentment? Answer: “My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways” (Proverbs 23:26). *Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary* says a “heart” is comprised of these three components: feelings, will, and intellect. A stony heart always hinders contentment. When a person submerges these three components of the heart into God’s will for eternity, this is God’s response: “A new heart also WILL I GIVE you, and a new spirit WILL I PUT within you: and I WILL TAKE away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I WILL GIVE you an heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Curve Balls

In the worst possible circumstances, when there was no evidence of future help (the fig tree had no blossoms), when there was no food to eat (no fruit on the vine), and when the livestock were all gone (no herd in the stalls), still Habakkuk made a wise choice. He said, “I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habakkuk 3:18).

Often, circumstances throw us curve balls. Some may be plagued with sickness. Others face financial problems. For many, domestic problems create stress. Jesus warned us about the such things when He said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Place your confidence in Christ. Make Him front and center of your life.

Landmarks

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16). What a sad commentary on Israel. Unfortunately, many modern churches in the USA are following those same paths. Why? Because today’s modern churches have removed the ancient landmarks of prayer, the Word of God, heart purity, sanctification, and the sacredness of the Lord’s day—all standards that God set for living in a world of sin. Two root causes for removing the ancient landmarks are pleasure and greed.

Scripture commands, “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set” (Proverbs 22:28). When God’s people forsake the old paths, a nation becomes the “tail” as described in Deuteronomy 28:13-19. The head moves upward and forward. The tail moves downwards.

Ask and Walk

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16). One of God’s great attributes is His decision to let people choose, but they *must choose*. God said, “*Ask* for the old paths,” and then He revealed the benefits of asking. In telling us to “ask,” He implies He will respond with an answer. Jesus said, “*Ask*, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). Asking is a principle found both in the Old and New Testaments. Two prerequisites are in place: 1) ask, and 2) walk in obedience. In John 15:10, 14, Jesus taught total obedience to God’s Word. We are God’s workmanship on display to the world (Ephesians 2:10).

Freedom of Choice

People often ask, “If God is so good, why evil is present in the world?” The question is valid, so let’s look at God’s goodness. God created the angels as His servants, but He also gave them free wills. They can choose to whom they are loyal. God also gave mankind a free will. God didn’t want humans to be robots forced to obey. He desired servants and men who would *choose* Him. God hasn’t changed. Both angels and men can make choices, but they can’t choose the consequences. Sin always brings curses and evil. This principle is throughout the Bible from Genesis 1:1 to the “amen” in Revelation. God knew He could build a nation and a church in a place where evil reigns. Because of the gift of free will, God knew there would be people like Enoch (Genesis 5:22), Noah (Gen. 6:9), and Abraham (Gen. 18:16-19) who would *choose* to walk with God.

Spirit, Soul, and Body

A prevalent attitude in many churches today is this: “God only purchased my spirit and soul, not my body; that belongs to me. No one can tell me what I can see, what I can wear, what I can listen to, where I can go, or how I fix my hair.” If not spoken, this belief is played out through actions and choices. But, “The LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14). Your body (eyes, ears, mouth, feet, and hands), soul, and spirit were all created to glorify God. You were purchased by the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:19, 1 Corinthians 6:20). In His love letter to man, God speaks about every aspect of man’s life. Unfortunately, many churches do not teach that God also purchased the body. We need to keep Romans 12:1 in mind: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

It's Not Mine

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). Satan, the world, and even our country’s laws all declare that our bodies do not belong to the Creator. Through their actions, many are saying, “My body belongs to ME!” Because of God’s goodness in allowing free will, they may choose *not* to believe God’s Word. Scripture says, “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people” (Psalm 100:3). We can choose our own way, but we don’t choose the consequences of that choice. God does. The Holy Spirit led me to make these words of Jesus my life’s verse: “Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:14). The choice is not easy, but it is of eternal importance.

Sowing Seed

In Mark 4:4-20, Jesus talked about sowing seed. He later explained to the disciples that the “seed” is the Word of God. In the parable, some seeds fell on the wayside, some on stony ground, some among the thorns, and some on good ground. Only the good ground produced a crop. A few years ago, God spoke clearly to me as I read this account. I knew many people would reject *my* words as I reached out through ministry. God reminded me, “But I gave them *all* a chance.” Since then, I have endeavored to give *everyone* a chance to respond to God’s Word by giving them a booklet. Are you giving everyone you meet a chance?

I use the little booklets I write as ministry tools. They are packed with Scripture. You can find them on my website.

Zambia—Part 1

God always has a people who choose God over comfort. The following quote is from Dr. Randall McElwain after some time spent ministering at a large refugee camp (10,000 people) in Zambia. “The leader of the group is a refugee himself. Last year, he was given the opportunity (which is rare) to be resettled in Sweden. After praying about it, he and his wife decided that God was calling them to voluntarily remain as refugees in order to minister to other refugees. Hearing his testimony gave me a whole new understanding of what it means to ‘take up your cross and follow Jesus.’ He and his wife are living in unimaginably difficult circumstances in order to answer God’s call.”

Zambia—Part 2

Dr. McElwain also gave this report about his time in Zambia: “I was so thankful for God’s help in our training sessions. The teachers are committed to serving God through this ministry. God also helped in the pastors’ conference at the Mayukwayukwa Refugee Camp. A wonderful group of refugee pastors are serving inside the camp. I was humbled by the opportunity to minister to them during the conference.” This is a fulfillment of God’s promise to Abram made around 2126 B.C. when He said, “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:3). In 2023, we see God keeping His promise to Abram by commissioning teachers and pastors in a large refugee camp in Zambia, Africa. GOD’S PROMISES are more solid than the Rock of Gibraltar.

Zambia—Part 3

Do you remember the pastor who turned down an opportunity to leave the Zambian refugee camp to serve God? Here is more of the story. As this pastor and his wife began to pray, they both felt God's leadership. "You are to stay in the camp. You can serve refugees who have been forgotten by everyone else. You are My refugee missionary to other refugees." So, the pastor stayed—in a hut without running water or consistent electricity, and with no regular means of income. What an unimaginably difficult life.

But this pastor is happy! He talks about his calling with so much joy. His wife has a beautiful smile that testifies to her joy as well. They are living out Jesus' promise that "whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." God may not call you to live as an African refugee, but He will call you to some service. Will you say "Yes"? Will you be committed?

Prayers

Scriptures that bring peace and rest as we walk with Christ:

“The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way” (Psalm 25:9). Lord, give me a meek spirit. I have a deep desire to be taught Your ways. Lord, help me apply Your teachings to my daily life. Lord, guide my judgment, for I must be guided by You, not by the world and its wisdom.

“Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:5). Lord, we desire Your leading and teaching. Lord, most of all, place within us a deep desire to apply Your Word daily to our lives.

From Elaine Hunt—Part 1

These notes are from my late wife, Elaine:

#1. I recognize that there is only one true and living God (Exodus 20:3) who exists as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that He is worthy of all honor, praise, and worship as the Creator, Sustainer, Beginning, and End of all things (Revelation 4:11; 5:9, 10; Isaiah 43:1, 7, 21).

#2. I recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14). I believe that He came to destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8), that He disarmed rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them (Colossians 2:15).

From Elaine Hunt—Part 2

#3. I believe that God has proved His love for me because when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Romans 5:8). I believe that He delivered me from the domain of darkness, and transferred me to His kingdom. In Him, I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:13, 14).

#4. I believe that I am now a child of God (1 John 3:1-3), and I am seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). I believe that I was saved by the grace of God through faith, and that it was a gift, not the result of any works on my part (Ephesians 2:8).

The Shepherd

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young” (Isaiah 40:11). Notice the words *feed*, *gather*, *carry*, and *lead*.

In this word picture, God describes Himself as a loving Shepherd. Remember: it was written for us. About 700 years after the Isaiah passage was written, Jesus (who is very God) said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. . . . I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (John 10:11-14). It pays to choose Jesus to be your Shepherd. Jesus promised His followers, “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish” (John 10:28).

An Excellent Way

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12). In 1856, Elizabeth Payson Prentiss wrote these words in a hymn, “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.”

The Apostle Paul wrote about love, and, when compared to God’s other gifts, he called love “the more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31). Lord, give me more of Your love that I may love You more and have the passion to love people as You do.

The Greatest Need

Our doctrine, traditions, dress codes, methods, creeds, programs, committees, education, and great orators may have their places in our churches, but the greatest need is for a divine manifestation of God's presence. It should begin in the churches. Wherever God manifests His presence, a conviction of sin results. People turn from sin and make wrongs right. Consider this Biblical example, "Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold" (Luke 19:8). I urge you to pray for a manifestation of God's presence in the USA.

Go Forth

Statistics show that 67,000,000 people die each year. If my figures are correct, that means 7,648 people die each hour while the church sits very comfortably within its four walls. Also, too many of God's people spend money on luxuries while souls are starving for spiritual food due to the lack of Bibles and Christian workers. The Lord's orders were "Go," not "Sit inside your luxurious four walls."

No wonder Jesus said, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). I urge you to get out and go where sinners are gathered. Be a friend to every sinner. If nothing else, give them one of my booklets. Most of them are packed with Scripture. Also, pray God will manifest His presence to every person in the United States.

Truth and Wisdom

The needs of mankind are many, but there are four which are stabilizing factors for man's journey on earth. They are found in Proverbs 23:23: "Buy the TRUTH, and sell it not; also WISDOM, and INSTRUCTION, and UNDERSTANDING" (emphasis added). God said man needs His Word—the truth! The account in Matthew 2:1-12 showcases one such search. These men had wisdom and instructions from God. These "wise men" came seeking Christ, and found Him who later said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Christ holds the key that opens the door for the Holy Spirit to come in, teach, and give understanding to His redeemed children.

For Meditation

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Hebrews 9:24).

My heart beats faster when I meditate on the love of God, the bloody cross, and the nails that pierced Christ’s hands and feet because of our great need. We needed someone to appear in God’s presence as our representative. Oh, how great was the love of God offered to mankind when Christ cried out, “IT IS FINISHED” before the world, the angels, God the Father, and the blessed Holy Spirit. Then, “He bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30). Considering this great gift, let each of us choose to be either a Caleb or a Joshua, for they “wholly followed the LORD” (Numbers 32:12).

Beauty?

“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). The Christian church has never questioned that this passage is referring to Christ Jesus. What is the message God has for you and me today in describing Jesus as a Person boasting no beauty that we should desire Him? Could it be that God is saying the beauty of this world is not one of His tools for building the church? In looking at the church, we see people endeavoring to make themselves and their surroundings all sparkle with beauty. Yet Deuteronomy 28 clearly teaches that the USA is experiencing God’s curse. The beauty of this world is not the answer to the problems of today.

A Letter to You

I am now ninety years old. If I were to write a Christmas letter to you, it would contain this prayer to our heavenly Father.

“Our Father in heaven, I pray in Jesus’ name. Please do not answer any of my prayers that do not honor, glorify, and please You. Father, give me a greater passion and deeper love for those who are lost. Help me to be like my brother Joe C., walking the alleys in 10°F weather, seeking the lost. And thank You, my God, for the love letter You sent me, titled ‘The Holy Bible.’ ”

Help for Seekers of Salvation

Question: 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!

Question: 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).

Question: 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).
- “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).
- “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).

For more books by William R. Hunt:
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