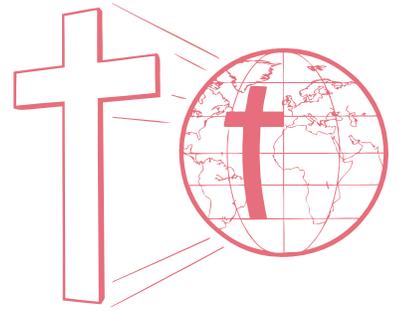


# Foundation of Faith



PENTECOST



*June 2014*

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## PENTECOST

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Pentecost is a celebration of God's rich blessings! God had already promised Abraham, "I will bless you...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3). The apostle Paul writes that the blessing of Abraham came upon the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, and that they received the promise of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:14).

There are many Scripture passages that speak of this blessing. The Lord Jesus Himself calls out the invitation: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37, 38).

Rivers of living water! Not just droplets, for God said through Isaiah: "I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring" (Isaiah 44:3). The same message was preached by Amos: "But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream" (Amos 5:24).

When Roman soldiers hung the Son of God on the cross of Calvary, the Just died for the unjust. Jesus took the curse upon Himself that you and I deserved, so that when we come to Him in faith, we can be justified, receive forgiveness for our sins, and have peace with God.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples experienced the momentous power of God through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Anointed, and filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, they preached with power and boldness, so that 3000 souls were saved. We read that all those who were saved became one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32).

We too are praying for blessings from God. Let us earnestly desire these great showers of blessings from above, so that we will be united in heart and soul, and be used by God for the furtherance of His kingdom.

H. D. Nimz

# What Does It Profit a Man?

Charles T. Studd, a missionary to China, India, and Africa, tells how he came to devote his life wholly to Jesus. He wanted to serve God, and he prayed that God would show him the way he should go. “But,” he writes, “I made a mistake. Instead of trusting that God alone would lead me, I consulted my friends. In this way, I tried to use human reasoning to discover God’s will. This approach gave me no clarity; it only brought me into deeper darkness. Overcome with fear and anxiety, my health began to suffer, and so I retreated to the countryside to recuperate.

“After three months of reading my Bible and praying that God would show me the way I should go, I returned home. I felt much better, but I still didn’t know what I should do.” However, one thing was clear to him: he could not pursue a career in the ordinary sense. His conscience would simply not allow him to think about pursuing a career for financial gain. The very idea was absurd. God had given him much more than he needed to live on. How could he spend the best years of his life working for himself and for the honors and pleasures of this world, while thousands of souls were perishing every day without having heard of Christ!

During this time, the writings of an atheist fell into his hands: “If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, religion would mean everything to me. I would cast away all earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity.

“Religion would be my first waking thought, and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the tomorrow of eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences should never stay my hand, nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach it in season and out of season and my text would be, ‘what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?’” (Mark 8:36)

The atheist’s words made a deep impression on Charles Studd. “I saw at once,” he wrote, “that this is the way a Christian’s life should be. When I looked back at my own

life, I realized how logically inconsistent it had been. I came to a firm decision that from this moment on the wavering should end. I wanted to pay attention to God's will. This time, however, I did not want to consult with flesh and blood; I wanted to wait for God to reveal Himself to me."

It was also at this time that Charles Studd learned a critical lesson regarding his future work: mere zeal would not make him a successful worker in Christ's vineyard. He needed the power of the Holy Spirit. He remembered the words, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8). When he asked for God's plan for his life, God first revealed to him his own need; He showed him that he needed the fullness of the Holy Spirit. After earnest, constant prayer, God filled him with His Spirit and made him a very blessed worker in His vineyard. This fullness of the Holy Spirit is what we all need so much today!

# Faithful in the Small Things

*In little aches and pains be patient,  
Avoiding evil situations.  
When you are grieved, continue singing,  
The blessings flow through humble beginnings.*

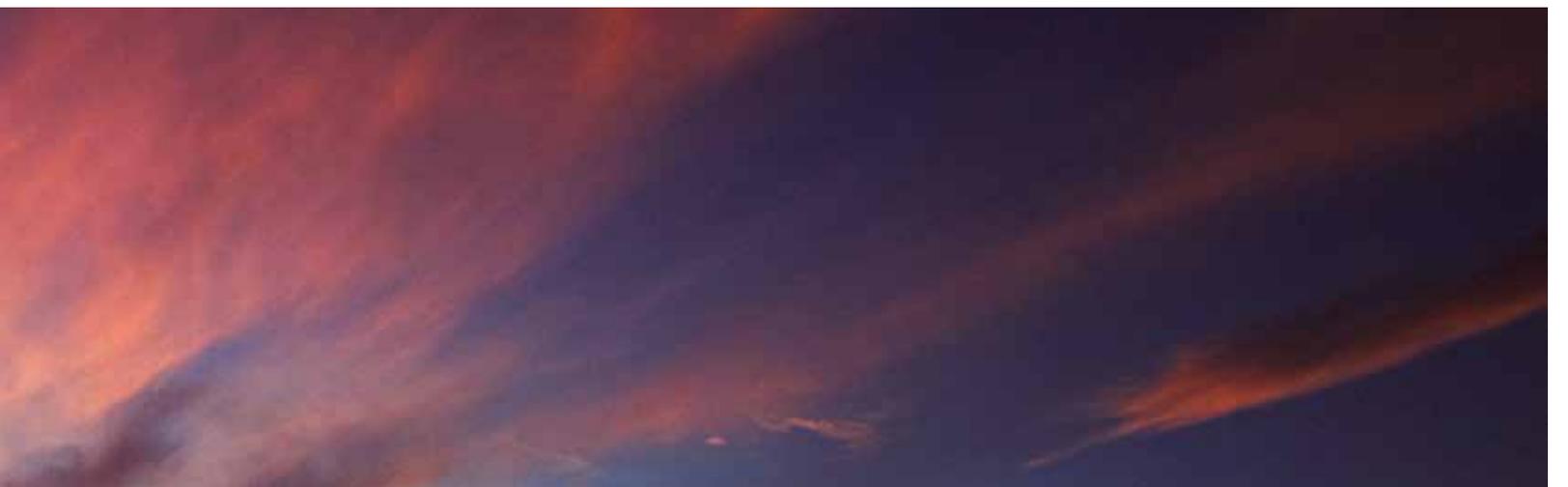
*In every task, though small, be faithful;  
For opportunities, though few, be grateful.  
Rejoice, be glad for every little joy,  
As you walk with God, humility employ.*

*Small sacrifices still are welcome,  
Though, as a rule, they may be seldom.  
So that we don't think of ourselves first,  
Let's follow Jesus, who gave us new birth.*

*Let's not destroy the little flowers;  
Take on their needs and make them ours.  
The help, though small, of others cherish,  
Don't cause their simple faith to perish.*

*In small temptations gain the vic'try,  
In moot points, don't be contradictory.  
Share even small things with your Savior,  
And for each kindness, give thanks in prayer.*

*Be faithful in the small things always,  
Be true on sunny and on dark days.  
Trusted with important things,  
Will be the one who much fruit brings.*



# A Personal Experience

At the age of seventeen years I was converted. My poor soul, which for several years had been held under the terrible bondage and darkness of sin, was now turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, and there was no room either internally or externally to question that I had received forgiveness of sins. The glory and blessedness of that "sacred hour and that hallowed spot when love divine first found me"<sup>1</sup> can never be erased from my memory. All who have come into this precious life, and have the Spirit bearing witness within their spirit that they are children of God, understand what it means to be justified by faith and to have this sweet peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

But this peace with God meant war with the enemy of my soul, and I soon learned that the battle was a serious one. The artful schemes of the enemy were planned for my overthrow, and while attending school the spirit of the world succeeded in leading me into defeat: I decided to yield myself again unto the world, and gave up the struggle against sin. I had only been saved for a few months, but the taste of true happiness I experienced had spoiled me for the empty pleasures of sin. I was often so wretched and miserable that life was a burden. But, thank God, this condition of life only lasted for about two month's duration. Through the burning tears of my precious mother, which bathed my face and neck one day as she suddenly came into my room and clasped her arms around me, I was enabled again to decide for God and heaven. This decision was so thoroughly burned onto my soul by those scalding tears that, by the grace of God, I believe it will last from that day to my latest breath. The sweet joy and peace of heaven was restored and I enjoyed salvation as much as anyone could in my circumstances.

I knew I was a child of God, but it was not long until I became fully conscious that there was a deeper work of grace needed within me. Both of my parents professed entire sanctification at the time of the conversion of their four oldest children, which included myself, but I was greatly occupied in securing an education. I was absorbed mostly with my studies, then afterward became engaged in educational work for a number of years. My parents undoubtedly had a deeper spiritual life than I did, and although the doctrine of sanctification was not as clearly taught and understood as it is now, I was fully aware that this was what I needed. Sometimes I

thought I had obtained the experience, but soon unmistakable evidence showed me that I was not sanctified. I had not come to the point of a definite and absolute consecration, and really did not understand how to make this consecration. My great ambition in life was to make a mark in the world. This was so deeply implanted within me that I focused every energy in that direction. I dearly loved God and fully realized my utter dependence upon Him, but my love was not perfected. I unfortunately also had a quick temper, which I found justification had not destroyed. It was materially repressed and generally held under control, but it was there and needed only a provocation to assert its presence; sometimes, I am sorry to say, it brought me under condemnation and I needed to repent and regain the sweet peace of God.

But the manner of my life as a whole, I believe, was such that none of my most intimate acquaintances had any reason to question the sincerity of my heart or my profession as a Christian. The one who was most dissatisfied with my inward condition was me, and for more than eight years I knew that a deeper work must be wrought before I could be satisfied. Oh, how truly I could understand the prayer of David when he so longed for a clean heart, and had I been brought to the knowledge of complete consecration, I might have been living in this blessed Canaan rest of soul soon after my conversion. But God was good and full of tender mercy. He carried me along and forgave my defeats and so lovingly bore with me, even though my heart was divided between Him and some things of this world. I had forsaken all that I had to follow Jesus, but unconsciously these objects would come between Jesus, the object of my love, and myself, and thus hinder the perfect communion of the Holy Spirit.

About one year prior to my entering into this perfect rest, the doctrine of sanctification was quite thoroughly contested. There were some who made some strong efforts to overthrow the doctrine of the second work of grace. I had studied the Scriptures carefully and honestly, and while I did not have the experience of the second grace myself, I was certain that the one-work teaching was not correct; for I knew I had received all that my heart could receive in the grace of pardon, and knew also that I soon found that I needed exactly what the term sanctification implies, and what the dear ones who believed in, and were advocating the second work of grace were

testifying to by word and deed. In the winter of 1883-1884, while my dear wife and I were engaged with some sanctified ones in a lengthy meeting to rescue the perishing, we were brought face to face as never before with the need for more spiritual power and life. We were shown by the Holy Spirit that there is but one route to the Promised Land and that is by crossing the Jordan. Death was inevitable if we would come into this abundant life. We reflected, looked backward and forward, but there was no alternative—we would have to die to self.

One day while I was away from home, and my wife was alone, the Lord showed her plainly that she had one cherished idol that needed to be sacrificed. It was a God-given blessing, but must be yielded freely to Him. She obeyed and entered into the glory of sanctification. When I returned home I soon found that the work in her was done. Something marvelous had been accomplished. The change was wonderful. She told me of the death she had to pass through and I fully realized it. The divine glory which had come into her heart was unspeakable. She tried to show me how to die the same death. I was desirous to yield and cross over with her, but I found a resistance in my will which held me back. I came to my cherished treasures, some of which were God-given blessings, but unquestionably the Holy Spirit said they must be yielded up as a burnt offering unto the Lord. My will must become swallowed up into the will of God completely, even to this death. I said, "Yes, Lord, I will"; but the yes found a hesitancy. I wanted the Lord's perfect will, but also wanted just a little of my will. I wanted both, but the Lord showed that there was only one way. The life of my wife was a daily testimony which only added to my trouble. I knew she had something she had never had before. Her life before was all that I ever expected to find in a true, devoted, Christian woman: now in some marvelous manner there was vastly more heaven in her life than before, and the marked absence of everything unlike heaven. Oh why could I not just now say, "Yes!" with my whole heart, and die the death and gain the abundant life?

Weeks and months passed and my attention became absorbed in business and the cares of life, but these months were more unsatisfactory than all my previous Christian life. Some of this time I certainly lived on a very low plane of spirituality, and at last I came to the point where my justification would have been forfeited had I not gone over and possessed the land. I had come up to a chasm so deep and dark that I could not see the bottom. It was too wide for me to step across. On the other side was everything my soul longed for. Above the chasm there seemed suspended a rope securely fastened and

strong enough to hold my weight. I had taken hold of the rope and was for a long time hesitating about making the leap. The chasm was the depth I must drop into in order to reach sanctification, but it seemed awful—so deep and dark, with no assurance that I would ever see life again.

The rope was my will. I had presumed to swing across without going into the death, but God knew that would not be His way, and there I stood, gazing with fear and trembling into the immensity of this dark chasm. To leap into it meant certain death. I had taken hold of the rope, but I was now suspended above the chasm and could neither go back nor go forward. There I was hanging and swinging, holding on for life, and yet the Holy Spirit kept saying, "Let go." My sufferings increased until I began to feel that death would be a relief.

At that time God sent a brother to us who preached a sermon from 1 Peter 4:1-2, with emphasis upon, "For he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin." The Holy Spirit spoke to me and revealed to my soul the utter necessity of death to gain sanctification. The end came, I released my death grip on the rope, and said as I never said before, "Yes, Lord, Thy will be done!" God knew it, and I am certain that Satan knew it. At the close of that meeting I said, "I am now offered up." There was no conscious change only I knew my will was yielded, and I am certain that not an atom of earth existed between God and me. We went home late in the evening, and as I was retiring I knelt once more before God and simply told Him that now after these months of struggle it was all ended and I was so thankful to Him that I could say so sweetly, "Thy will be done." I knew that when I had let go of my rope, the loving arms of Jesus had caught me and I was glad to be in death with Him.

When I arose from my knees, I was filled with such joy that I was unconscious of everything around me, and felt only the nearness of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit. No mortal tongue can describe the sensation of joy! The floodgates of heaven's glory were opened upon me, and, oh, the heavenly deluge that followed can be realized only by those who have experienced the same.

Brother and sister, have you had your Pentecost? If not, tarry at Jerusalem. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Jacob W. Byers

<sup>1</sup> Hunter, William, Lyrics. "O Hallowed Spot". 1843. Public Domain.

# The Surrendered “Self”

*Christ expects us to serve Him with all our heart, mind, and soul. The “self” in us limits this whole-hearted service and devotion to God. This “self” can become a serious problem if it is not subjected to the will of God.*

## *Full of “Self”*

God is waiting to do something. Can He begin with you and me?

God can't do anything with us until we are broken. Brokenness is the beginning of revival. Brokenness is painful and humbling, but it is the only way out. “Not I, but Christ.”<sup>1</sup> The Lord Jesus can't live wholly in us and reveal Himself through us, until the proud, hardened “self” is stooped or broken.

This simply means that the “self” that does not wish to surrender, that justifies itself, that wants to have its own will, that stands up for its own rights and its own glory, finally submits to God's will. This also means that we acknowledge that which is wrong, give the Lord Jesus Christ our own will, and renounce our own glory so that the Lord can have and be everything. In other words, it means to die to oneself (Romans 6:11).

## *The “Self” Lives in Us*

If we look at our own spiritual life, we see how much of this “self” lives in each of us. So often the “self” wants to rule over our spiritual life. Often the “self” also wants to do the work for the Lord. It is always the “self” that is provoked, jealous, sensitive, critical and angry. Sometimes it is also shy, self-conscious and reserved, or perhaps also austere and unaccommodating towards others.

That is why man must be broken. As long as the “self” has control, God can do very little with us. All the Fruit of the Spirit, which is listed in Galatians 5, and with which God so gladly wants to fill us, is completely opposite to a hardened, unbroken spirit. That is why our “self” needs to be crucified.

Being broken is both our own as well as God's doing. He leads us to it, however we need to make the deci-

sion. Out of love to us and to save us, Jesus decided to be broken. He, who was equal to God, bowed down to fulfill the Father's will and became Man. He went the entire way, in order to save us. He even suffered the death of a criminal – death on a cross.

In Psalm 22:6 we find the prophetic words: “But I am a worm, and no man.” There is a great difference between a snake and a worm. If you try to beat a snake, it will rise up and hiss. This is a true picture of the “self.” However, a worm does not resist. You can do with it whatever you want. You can step on it or squish it under your feet like someone without any rights. Jesus was prepared to be this for us – a worm and not man.

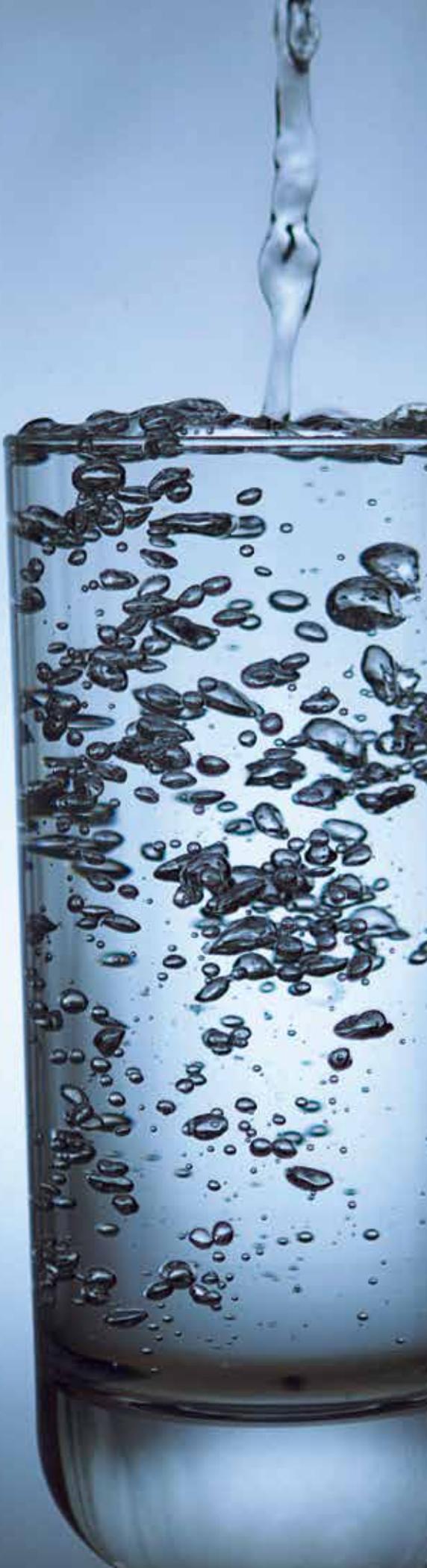
The Savior calls us to do the same, and have this attitude for His sake. The entire teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, that we should not offer resistance, that we should love our enemies and give selflessly, presupposes that we have accepted this stance. Only the love of Jesus, that He demonstrated at Calvary, can empower us to do this.

## *“Lord, break me!”*

Dying to “self” is not something that we can do only once. There may be an initial dying when God shows us these things the first time. However, after this it is a continual dying, as this is the only way that the Lord Jesus can constantly reveal Himself through us.

We will have to devote ourselves repeatedly to those around us. Our devotion to God will be measured in our devotion to our neighbor. Every humiliation, everyone that tests and exasperates us, is God's tool to break us, freeing up more room in our life for Christ.

We just need to bring our empty, broken “self” to God and allow Him to fill us. Andrew Murray said: “Just like water always searches for the deepest spot



and fills it, so God's glory and power flows in you when God has humbled you and finds you empty."

Most people think that they will be unhappy when they die to their own "self." Exactly the opposite is true. When we refuse to die to ourselves, we become unhappy. The more we are aware of our need to die to "self," the more we will experience His life in us and as a result have true peace and happiness.

#### *Filled with God*

The only thing that hinders Jesus from filling us is sin. The Lord Jesus does not fill filthy cups.

What comes out of ourselves is our own power or self-satisfaction in serving. Feeling self-pity in temptations and difficulties, selfishness in our affairs or in the work for the Lord, self-protection, sensitivity, resentment when others hurt us, unnecessary worries – all of these stem from our ego and defile us.

Jesus died for all of this. If we let Him show us what is in us, and bring our sins to Him and ask for forgiveness, then He cleanses us with His precious blood that still flows for sinners. Yes, His blood cleans all stains of sin.

We also need to surrender our "self" to Him, so that He can use us in His service, according to His will. Because it is God's desire to sanctify His people, He is pleased by our prayers requesting the Holy Spirit. He wants to fill those that ask with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The prerequisite for this however is that we have a pure heart, that we are free from sin and serving God with all our heart. He who knows all hearts will therefore give His Holy Spirit to those who ask with a sincere heart. This can only happen when we surrender ourselves completely to God.

<sup>1</sup>Whiddington, Ada, Lyrics. "Not I, But Christ". 1891. Public Domain.

# The Holy Spirit and the Church

*We need the Holy Spirit in the church, so that the church can be controlled and built by the power of God.*

When Noah was commissioned to build the ark, he was instructed to make a window at the top. The ark was different than all ships that had ever been built because it had no steering wheel or rudder. This shows that the ark was completely under the protection and care of God. Noah believed God and put himself under His control. God had allowed only one window, which always pointed upwards - towards the sky and not out to the side. Light came into the ark from above and it provided a connection to heaven. If we compare it to the church and its members, we can say with certainty that the ship of the church is controlled by God. He has brought His church victoriously through all the storms of the centuries. He will continue to protect His church.

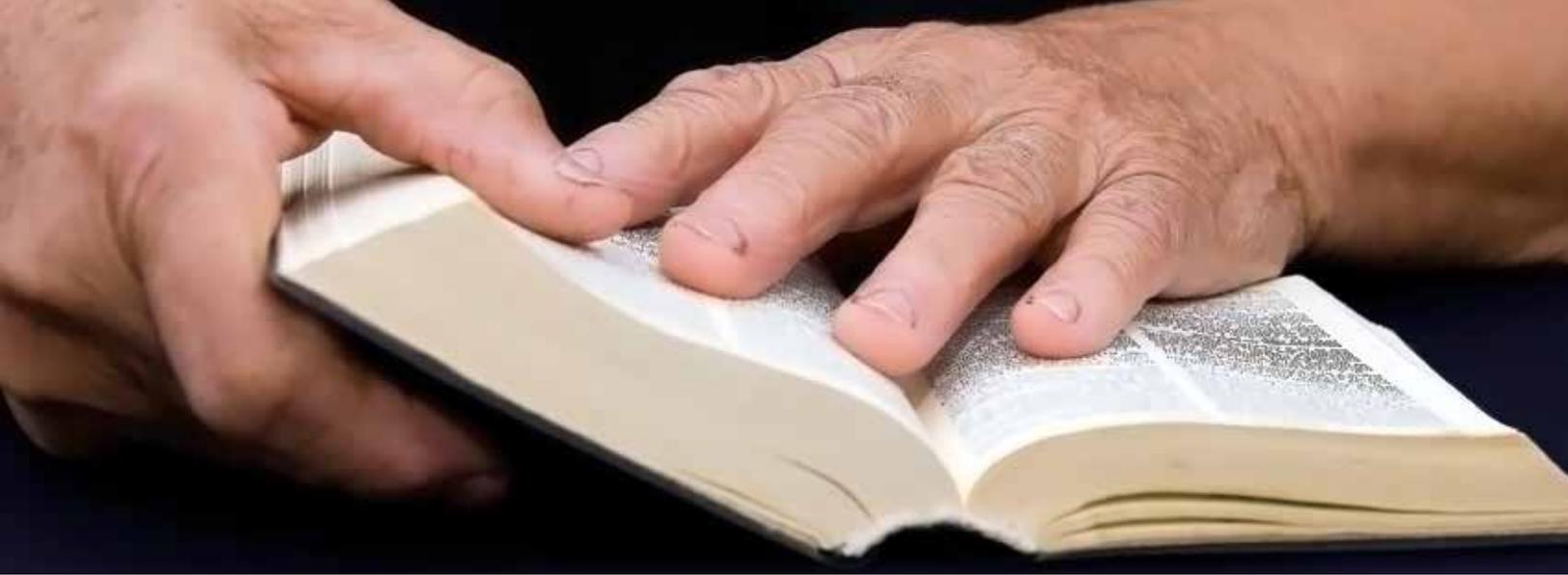
However, this church has only one window, and only one way to stay connected with God. This connection is the Holy Spirit. He is the light that falls into the church and reveals the glory of God. The tabernacle, as well as the temple, had only one source of light. Although there was no window, the golden lampstand stood in its center and lit up the entire room. In the same way, the Spirit of God is the light in the church. It is He who discloses divine truths and reveals to us the secrets of God. He leads us from darkness to light, and onto higher ground. We need the Holy Spirit to be enlightened and see the true light.

Why are there so many errors in our time, and why do these creep into local churches? It is because the Holy Spirit cannot fully provide His light and people do not give Him room to work. That is why they fall into error and are deceived by Satan. Many a congregation has suffered because God's enduring Spirit was not allowed to flood everything with His light. Yet the church needs this divine light. She needs the Holy Spirit for the glory of God to remain in her.

We will be astonished when we look at what happened

during the Last Reformation Movement of the Church of God in the 19th Century. These people were completely convinced by the work God had entrusted to them. They did not waver and were not swayed in any way. They had complete unity in doctrine, in the work and the goal! I experienced this movement in its early days and can say one thing: the wonderful unity of the people of God that I observed then surpasses anything I've experienced since. When I visited a camp meeting of the Church of God in East Prussia for the first time, I was moved by the thought: here were preachers from West Germany, the United States of America and Poland working together in complete harmony. Their hearts were united. This became evident during their preaching. While the brother from America applied the Word like a hammer that smashes rocks, and the people were distressed, the brother from Germany came to his aid and used the Word like a double-edged sword, which penetrated the depths of the heart and revealed its secrets. The message had a tremendous impact on the audience. Afterward, the third brother went to all those who were convicted and "broken" by the Word, and like a paramedic, bandaged the wounds and led souls to Christ. I'll never forget this. The impression was too powerful. At the time I belonged to another church and the Church of God was still completely foreign to me. But I can never forget this unity of spirit nor the impression it made on me.

We need the Holy Spirit in the church so that He may enlighten and unite us, that He may melt us together to represent not only an alloy, but to give us one heart and soul. The church needs the Holy Spirit both in the local congregation, so that all members are of one heart and soul, and universally, so that the entire work of the Lord is unified. We need the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we should earnestly pray that the Father gives us the mighty work



of the Spirit in our local church. He will bring complete unity in Christ.

Next we need the Holy Spirit so that God's people may be purified and sanctified. The word "sanctification" is not only consecration, separation or surrender. These are some meanings of this word. The main use of the word "sanctification" is purification. You can find this in the Old Testament and it is confirmed in the New Testament. Sanctification includes a purification; this purification is necessary.

I want to use a theoretical example to make this idea clear. Let us assume that Adam and Eve had children before the Fall. After the Fall, more children were born to them. Would there be a moral difference between the children born before and after the fall into sin?

We will certainly acknowledge that there is a difference between the two groups. The children born before the Fall were in a different state and condition than those born after the Fall. In fact, all of Adam's descendants were born outside of Eden. However, this picture clearly shows us that mankind since Adam has something that makes them stand lower than their original state of innocence. Human nature was contaminated by the Fall. However, this contamination is not removed by conversion. What is removed by our conversion is our sins. We are purified of the works of sin. They are taken away, but this tendency by which evil enters the lives of people cannot be forgiven, nor can man repent of it. This is why God provided the way for sanctification. Jesus prays in His intercessory prayer: "Father, sanctify them!" (John 17:17). If the Father was called on to sanctify His children, then sanctification must be an act of God. Jesus would certainly not pray for this act of God if it were not necessary: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). God's Word reveals to us the truth that

we need to be sanctified. Christ suffered and died outside the gate, so that He might sanctify His people, and with this offering those who are sanctified have been made complete.

Blood is always the purifying element. Without blood there is no remission of sins and no purification of the heart. The blood of Christ had to be shed. If the blood of Christ also plays a role in sanctification, then it must be connected to a purification! Since human nature is contaminated, it must be purified or sanctified by the Holy Spirit, as Paul also describes his work to the Romans that he "might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:16). Thus it is the Holy Spirit that sanctifies. Jesus asked the Father to sanctify. Jesus gave His life so that we can be sanctified. These three elements work together to sanctify the people of God. If we want to be a church that is holy and pure we must also experience this sanctifying power of the Spirit of God. We cannot only believe that Christ died for us – which is true - but the Holy Spirit must also have space in the church for the church to be sanctified through Him. This is what we must pray for.

I have discovered that sanctification makes a big difference in the lives of God's children. People who have had this experience, who have been purified or sanctified, present themselves differently. They no longer become proud and exalt themselves. Instead, they have more humility and possess more grace to serve the Lord. They have more grace to tolerate injustice, and more grace to offer themselves to the glorious service of the Lord. By receiving the Holy Spirit, they have deepened their spiritual life. They do not see themselves as better people, but in all humility glory in the grace God has bestowed on them.

Gustav Sonnenberg (1898-1980)

# Do You Need Patience?

*Who has not sighed at some point in his life, "If only I had more patience!" It seems that our need for patience makes itself known in moments when we are the most busy or under the greatest stress.*

Have you not often heard people say, "My greatest need is more patience"? Possibly you feel just that way yourself. There is probably no lack that so quickly and persistently manifests itself as this one, which cannot exist without revealing itself, for in order to possess patience one must employ it in everyday life. Many people, although they do not understand its real nature or how to come into possession of it, still realize their need of patience.

Much of the teaching on this subject of patience proves to be ineffectual because the teacher himself does not understand the subject. Sometimes it is taught that all impatience comes from sin in the heart, and that someone who manifests a lack of patience is not sanctified. Such teaching can come only from a misunderstanding of the facts. Sanctification is a wonderful thing, and it does wonderful things for us. It purifies, softens, and refines our whole nature, but it does not perfect our natural faculties, and patience is one of these natural faculties, or qualities. There is an impatience however that has its root in sin and is sinful. The blood-cure reaches and eradicates this type. There is also a natural impatience. How much we have of this, depends largely upon our general make-up. A lack of discrimination between these two kinds of impatience often causes souls great distress.

Before we teach on the subject, we ought to be sure we have the distinction clearly drawn in our own minds.

Patience is a matter of temperament, of grace, and of cultivation. Some people are patient by nature. They can take almost anything patiently. Sometimes this is from natural calmness of disposition; sometimes it is the result of lack of spirit. But in any case, such a person will be more naturally patient when saved than will others who are of a different temperament. Salvation does not destroy our natural temperaments.

Grace goes far towards supplying us with patience, but grace alone will not always be sufficient; therefore patience must also be a thing of cultivation. We are told to "add patience" (1 Peter 1:6 KJV). This means that not all our patience comes by grace, but that some of it comes by works. In our sinful lives we cultivate impatience by acting out our feelings of impatience. The more we put our feelings into action, the more impatient we become. When we are saved we begin to act out patience, and the more we act it out the more patient we become in our nature.

Patience is largely a matter of the proper use of the will. The Bible does not say, "Feel patient," for our feelings are largely involuntary; but it says, "Be patient," that is, act patiently, for our actions are voluntary (James 5:7-8). There are those who, when waiting for a train, cannot sit still. Such an individual walks up and down the platform and looks at his watch again and again. He sits down and rises again, and turns this way and that way. Another sits quietly and is unperturbed. It does not matter to him if he has to wait a while. It is no task for him to be patient. He is of a patient temperament. The other is quite the opposite. Because of this however we cannot say that one has more salvation than the other. Both are feeling naturally. The difference is in their natures, in their temperaments, and not in their hearts.

The fact that we are exhorted again and again to be patient signifies that the acting out of patience is a matter of our wills. No matter how pure our hearts are, we have tests of patience. A pure heart is not an automatic heart, working out things independently of the will. When we have a pure heart, our will is fully set to do right, and through our will we regulate our actions so that they are right. Our feelings are influenced by the will, but



are not controlled by it. We cannot help feeling sad or joyous when there is an occasion that influences our feelings. So we cannot but feel impatient sometimes; that is, things will try our patience, and we find that our feelings respond, in some degree at least, to those circumstances. The degree of response will depend upon our temperament, and the amount of grace we have, and how much we have cultivated patience.

Do not forget that we are not told to feel patient, but to "be patient," though we should be careful to control our feelings so far as is possible by the force of will. When an impatient feeling comes, we do one of two things: we either yield, and act it out, or we resist it and act patiently. The latter is what we should always do. When we are full of joy and everything is going smoothly, it is easy to believe that we have plenty of patience. But in time of stress, of trial, when we are weak or suffering in body, when we are weary or feel discouraged, it is then that we most readily feel impatient. It is not that we have less patience at such times, but that impatience more easily manifests itself. We should at all times resist every feeling of impatience, yet we should not condemn ourselves for feeling what we cannot help. We should not think that we are not sanctified, simply because we are not as patient as we would like to be.

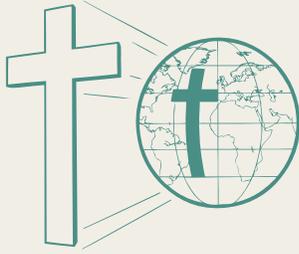
It is natural for a saved person to long for greater patience to endure and suffer. We should do all in our power to grow in patience. "But how shall I add patience?" you may ask. There are two things to do. First, pray, and second, cultivate patience. Make it a practice day by day never to yield to an impatient feeling. Let this attitude be manifested by word and act. Reflect upon the patience of Jesus and study to know what the scriptural ideal is. When your patience is tired, deliberately take hold of yourself by your willpower: make yourself act and speak as you know you should. By following this rule you will become more and more patient. This is the only possible way of adding patience.

We become in nature the reflection of our acts. Good acts repeated become good habits. Good habits followed out make good character. Good habits will not save or take the place of grace, but they are equally necessary in the formation of Christian character. "But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:4).



*For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.*

*Hebrews 10:36*



# Radio Broadcast

## The Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs  
Kitchener, Ontario

# Manifestations of Holy Spirit Power

*“When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.” (Acts 18:5)*

*“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.” (Acts 16:6)*

We are compelled to offer great and constant thanksgiving for the Holy Spirit’s acts of power. The divine work of the Holy Spirit can only be experienced where He finds sufficient space to exercise His irreplaceable effectiveness. We want to examine some biblical references about the Holy Spirit which are definitely worth our consideration.

*1. The effects of the Holy Spirit are expressly stated in the Bible.*

We find this in many Scripture references and clearly confirmed on multiple occasions. The Holy Spirit manifested Himself in full power on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2). Jesus had already prepared His disciples for this a long time before. According to Jesus’ instructions, they waited for this blessed day and prayed earnestly for the sending of the Holy Spirit. Then we read, “when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1). They experienced the anticipated event like a mighty wind from heaven, and everyone there was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Following this is the powerful sermon of the apostle Peter. Relentlessly, he first explained the grave sin of rejecting and crucifying Jesus, and then also proclaimed the fact of His resurrection. It is written, “Now when

they (the crowd) heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37) They were deeply convicted of their sins and ready for repentance and conversion. This amazing transformation had not been worked through Peter, rather it was the power of the Holy Spirit working through him! Thus it began, and thus it continued!

*2. The Holy Spirit manifested His work in the community, as well as in the surrounding mission field.*

On Pentecost, three thousand people experienced genuine conversion in Christ. How do we know that these conversions were sincere and real? This is clearly confirmed in Acts 2:42, where it says, “and they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Their consistency was not only limited to their current state but remained during the persecution that soon followed! We read of a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem. Yet the church continued to be fortified, directed, instructed, and strengthened by the Word of God in faith.

The Holy Spirit united them and provided comfort in their time of danger and suffering. The faithful believers



prayed so earnestly that the place they had gathered was shaken. Despite all danger, they testified of the resurrection of their Lord “and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33). This state had not been effected by people but by the Holy Spirit! When we consider the image of the twelve apostles, who were like a small boat rowing out into the vast sea of peoples and working through the Holy Spirit, we find confirmation of the last words of Mark: “the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs!” (Mark 16:20). We find these effective acts of the Holy Spirit throughout the book of Acts. They were so poignant and pervasive that those watching proclaimed, “These... have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6).

### *3. The Holy Spirit works in different ways and methods.*

This is clearly confirmed by our opening texts. In the first Scripture reference, Paul testifies that the Holy Spirit urged him to witness of Jesus Christ in Corinth. The second text shows that the same Spirit forbade him and his companions from continuing to proclaim the Word in Asia. The time had come to begin with the proclamation of the Gospel in Europe. That was the will of God! According to this plan the Holy Spirit led the servants of the Lord. Where people of faith recognize and follow this divine guidance, they will experience the fruits and blessings of their work, despite opposition. The ideas and instructions of the Holy Spirit are always beneficial for us. Even the most ordinary of God’s children can experience Him in their life of faith. We should all learn to pay attention to these suggestions and pray like David, “Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness” (Psalm 140:10).

### *4. The Holy Spirit works to revive and revitalize God’s people.*

He is the Spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind (1 Timothy 1:7), and Paul writes, “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17). This is not the liberty where all can do what they please. Instead, it is the freedom from all vices and sins, the freedom found in salvation and sanctification, so that we can live for God and do His will. The Holy Spirit wants to lead us into all truth and spiritual depth.

Many Christians and entire congregations suffer from spiritual shallowness and stagnation because they have not experienced a living relationship with the Holy Spirit or have lost their connection with Him. The Holy Spirit wants to awaken and enliven us in order to give us blessed and personal encounters with Jesus Christ. Simeon experienced this in the temple at the urging of the Holy Spirit. With thanksgiving he exclaimed, “for my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:30).

Dear soul, open yourself to the Holy Spirit and His healing work, so that you too can discover this important and blessed experience!



# The Effects of Sanctification

## *What changes after sanctification?*

When we talk to our brothers and sisters in the Lord about our conversion, about what we felt and experienced before, during, and after it, we find that it is a little different for each one of us. There are some specific things that will be found in each born again person, but there are other things that believers have seen and experienced differently. Our personalities resonate in wonderful and varied ways in our individual salvation experiences. Just as humans are all different, we experience this spiritual work differently.

When we talk to our brothers and sisters in the Lord about our experience as we were baptized by the Holy Spirit in sanctification, we find that the differences in the experience of this work of God are even greater. How God leads each one to this experience, what is important to one or the other, what and how strongly each one feels it, and what he perceives as a significant life change after the experience is very different for each person.

This is why we cannot set a standard and define exactly which consequences the experience of sanctification must achieve in each child of God. What we can and wish to describe here are the consequences that are named in the Bible.

### *1. Strength From Above*

Jesus' last words before He ascended to heaven were: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). And in the book of Acts we see the effect of this experience. The disciples who, before Pentecost, fearfully ran away when Jesus was arrested and who hid themselves, stand up after Pentecost and fearlessly preach the gospel. A force, an authority lies in its proclamation. It goes through the hearts of the people. They cannot be indifferent to the

Word proclaimed under the power of the Spirit. Either they repented as in Acts 2, or they forever silenced Stephen, as in Acts 7. This is also the testimony of many faithful men of God. After this experience, an authority, a transforming power exists in their lives and their preaching, such as was not there before.

### *2. Rest from Their Works*

In Hebrews 4, we read: "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:9-11). Dear reader, to better understand, take your Bible and read the complete context in Hebrews 3:7 to 4:17. Here the Scriptures speak of a rest from our own works. This is the recognition and understanding that it is about the kingdom of God in our lives. It is His kingdom, it is His work. It is not my work. I am not forced into doing something for God and His kingdom: I may. It is the recognition that I am a tool and God is working with me and through me. It is resting in God.

Interestingly, the effect of this peace does not mean that you do less for God, rather it does just the opposite. We see this in the Apostles and in the lives of the saints: they were much more effective in the hands of God after they had entered into that rest.

### *3. What Effects Sanctification Does Not Produce*

There are a number of things that are attributed to sanctification that we find neither in Scripture nor in the lives of the saints.

Some people believe that sanctification frees us from temptations and struggles. That is not biblical. James writes:

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed” (James 1:14). If the saints would be exempt from temptation, he would not write “each one.” Others believe that sanctification frees us from our human nature and makes us like angels. But we also do not see this depiction in Scripture. We see how Peter is human and is hypocritical out of fear of the Jews, so that Paul has to rebuke him.

In the beginning, we pointed out that the experience of sanctification is different for each person. Therefore, it is

not right to raise one’s own experience as a standard for others. Nor can we be making the presence of a particular gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) a condition for the authenticity of the experience.

The experience of sanctification is a promise of God to every child of God. We need it so that our life can rest in God’s will and we can steadfastly overcome by His power.

Robert Witt  
Gifhorn, Germany

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# Hollywood and the Bible

Can there be anything wrong with watching Christian movies, for example, the newly-released *Noah*? We need to be very careful about bringing together the terms “Christian” and “Hollywood.” The truth is that the two are incompatible with one another. When I read what others who have watched the film *Noah* are saying about it, then I believe that I’m justified in warning people about it. Hear are a few comments picked up from the Internet:

*“God is totally distorted in this film. He does not reveal Himself clearly to Noah; instead, He taunts him with riddles (the Bible records God’s detailed instructions about the construction of the Ark). God is depicted as brutal, requiring Noah to murder his grandchildren (something Noah resists doing).*

*The Bible portrays Noah as a righteous and God-fearing man like Job and Daniel (Ezekiel 14:14, 20) and a ‘preacher of righteousness’ (2 Peter 2:5). In the film, He is portrayed as a psychopathic eccentric.*

*The order for man to bring the earth into subjection, and the idea that he, having been fashioned in the image of God, is God’s representative here on earth are referenced only by the antagonist in the screenplay, Tubal-Cain. Thus, biblical doctrine is represented as something proposed by wicked people.” (Bethany Publishers)*

*“Noah consorts with demons. The so-called guards are fictitious angelic beings that show up nowhere in the biblical record. The film depicts them as angels that were banned from heaven because they rebelled against God. We would call such beings “demons.”*

*The problem of mankind is misrepresented. In the movie, the flood punishes the people for abusing the natural environment. We know that the problem of mankind goes much deeper than that.*

*The film is rife with sorcery and pagan elements. Methuselah, the grandfather, is depicted as nothing more than a witchdoctor who has magical powers. The supernatural events in the film are not referenced to God, but are based instead on pagan sorcery.” (Danny Frose)*

Much more evidence could be presented to show that this film distorts biblical truth and is rife with mysticism and magic. Suffice it to say that with *Noah* Hollywood has produced neither a Christian nor a biblical film. All we can do is warn others about it, and discourage everyone from trying to find truth in these murky waters, while encouraging them to discover the true story of Noah in the Bible.

Robert Witt  
Gifhorn, Germany

## SERIES: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

### III TRUTH

### IV OMNISCIENCE

### V HOLINESS

#### A HOLY GOD

We sometimes speak lightly of a holy God. But what is “holy” in reference to God? If we look at the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words for holy, we will find two definitions. The first is “secluded, separated from all that is commonplace.”

This meaning makes sense if we think of the furnishings in the temple, which were purified, and were holy. They were separated from the use of the ordinary and only for the service intended. But what significance does this definition have in relation to God?

God is also separated from everything ordinary. There is a huge difference between everything we see, feel, and perceive, and God. Everything around us is created – God alone is not created. There was an eternally long time in which the Trinity existed, and nothing else did. God is completely different from anything that He has created.

He speaks through the prophet Isaiah: “‘To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?’ says the Holy One” (Isaiah 40:25). There is nothing either in the visible or in the invisible world that we can compare to God. The sun can be compared to billions of other stars. The earth can be compared to billions of other planets. I can compare myself to 7 billion people. I can point my finger at any one of them and say, “I am like him, only not as tall, or just with shorter hair.” But there is nothing to which God could point His finger and say, “I am like that, only ...” He is completely different than anything out there.

The second definition of “holy” is “owning a power superior to everything earthly.” 1 Timothy 6:16 reads: “Dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.” In a broader sense this power also means purity, clarity, and perfection, in contrast to the sinfulness of humanity. He is the absolute goodness as opposed to evil.

What impact does the holiness of God have on our lives? Does it have a practical connection to our daily lives? A very big one! Every attribute of God will have a direct impact

on our lives, if we are occupying ourselves with it and if we are growing in divine knowledge.

#### God's Holiness Produces a Reverence for God in Us

As Solomon prayed at the dedication of the temple, fire fell from heaven onto the sacrifice, and God's glory filled the temple. This had an effect. The whole nation of Israel which Solomon had gathered to Jerusalem and which now stood around Solomon as he prayed, fell on their knees with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. Everyone. As one man. No one had commanded them to, but when they saw the holiness of God, they could not do otherwise.

When Isaiah saw the glory of God in His temple he said, “Woe is me, for I am undone!” In both cases, the people did not see God, for no man can see God. It was just a tiny little moment, a teeny look at God. And the people were filled with the fear of God. **If you are contemplating God and His Holiness, it instills the fear of God in you.** If you are looking for His presence in prayer and He actually meets you, it instills the fear of God in you.

The Holy God commands us, “Be holy, for I am holy!” and that impacts our daily lives. One of the questions young people often ask is: “Can I do this or that?” The answer to this question is: “Be holy, for I am holy!” The question you should ask yourself in all things is: “Is this holy?”

Someone offers you a cigar and asks you to smoke it with him. In the Bible, it is not forbidden to smoke cigars. One cigar is not harmful to your health. None of the brothers and sisters in the Lord will see you so you will not offend anyone. So, can you now smoke a cigar with him? The question you must answer is: “Is this holy?”

It is a beautiful morning with the promise of a glorious summer day. You stand in front of the closet and are considering what to wear. Imagine this question while the item of clothing you are holding in your hand is beckoning you: “Is this holy?”

You are sitting at the computer and are on the internet.

Just pause for a moment. Look at the page you are currently on and ask yourself: "Is this holy?"

### **Does It Exalt The Holy Name of God?**

Does it exalt the name that is above all names? Do you honor His Son with it, the One that bought your salvation with His blood? Will you become more like Him through

it? Is it holy? God is holy, and the standard that He is expecting of us is holiness. Regrettably, we may fail to live up to the standard in every situation, but we must never lower God's holy standard.

Robert Witt  
*Gifhorn, Germany*

To be searching for answers to questions is something very natural in the lives of young people. Often, there are concepts or passages in the Bible that are difficult to grasp. Questions also come up about very practical matters as we seek to follow Jesus. Some of the things young people grapple with today may not have even existed in previous generations. But there are also questions that are cross-generational, questions that people of all times have struggled to find answers to.

With God's help, we would like to provide some answers to these questions in this forum. We have a list of questions and answers that we are drawing from that have come up in various youth meetings, conferences, and special Bible Courses. We would also be delighted if you would send any questions you currently have to: [contact@foundationoffaith.cc](mailto:contact@foundationoffaith.cc)

### **WHAT CAN I DO TO IMPROVE THE WORLD?**

A wise, elderly gentleman was asked this question. He answered, "When I was young, I was an idealist and imagined all the things I might do to change the world. My prayer at that time was, 'Lord, give me the strength to change the world.' As I got older, I realized that up until that point I had not changed even one person for the better. I therefore changed my prayer, saying to God, 'Lord, if you give me the grace to change those whom You have placed closest to me, my family and my few friends, then I will be content.' Now, I've grown old, and the greater part of my life is behind me. Looking back, I still have not been able to change anyone or anything. So I've changed my prayer once more. All that I pray now is, 'Lord, give me the grace to change myself.' I've realized how hard this is. If I had

made this my goal right from the beginning, my life may have been more meaningful."

The story about this old man teaches us an important lesson. If we want to change the world, we need to first be changed ourselves. Our attempts to change ourselves bring limited improvement. But there is a way that effects a complete change within us. The apostle Paul writes: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old is passed away, behold, everything is made new" (1 Corinthians 5:17).

This was a change the apostle Paul had experienced personally. It led him to ask, not about how he might change the world, but "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:6). From that moment on God was able to use him to change the world.

# *Experiences with God*

## *Freed from the Slavery of Sin*

I would like to share a few experiences from my life. I did not spend a lot of time in my early years thinking about the meaning or purpose of life. When I was 16 or 17 years old, I started to live a very bad life. I became a heavy drinker and smoker, a thief, and lived a very immoral lifestyle.

As long as everything was going well for me, I thought very little about why I was living the way I did. But over time, my lifestyle started to take its toll, and I fell deep into sin and godlessness. I tried to struggle my way through without God, living like all the rest of the world. I looked for love, but two marriages came to ruin as I abandoned wife and children. I finally came to the end of my rope and tried to end my life. I slit my wrists four times, but by God's gracious intervention never succeeded in killing myself. Twice I entered a detox facility to be rehabilitated from my addictions, but found no lasting victory there either.

When I was approximately 30 years old, I unexpectedly found myself in a church service. There I heard the Word of God preached and the stories people shared about their experiences with God. I learned that a number of them had been slaves to the same vices I was, and had lived lifestyles of wickedness. Yet, having turned to God, they were now fully, miraculously free.

This made a deep impression on me and God started working powerfully in my heart. I turned to Him weeping, for I was tired of my life of sin, and my soul longed for consolation and peace. In this first encounter with the Almighty, I was set free from alcoholism! When I realized it, I started to look for Him who had freed me and I found Him! It was God, my heavenly Father. Not only did He free me from all my addictions, He showed me Jesus Christ, who died for me and for the whole world. What discoveries I made then, having lived so long in the world of darkness and sin. I received Jesus as Savior and Redeemer, and through the new birth and baptism I found the peace and joy that I had sought for so long.

Dear friend, maybe you have never descended to the depth of sin that I did, but if your heart is looking for true peace and joy, then turn to God! You will find the One you seek. He invites us to, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will have rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

Peter Barnowski  
*Steinbach, MB*

# Love One Another!

Eva really had no reason to be sad. Tomorrow was her birthday, and Mom had said she could invite a few of her girlfriends to her birthday party. But Eva was not happy. She was upset with her best friend Marie.

"I'm not going to invite her," Eva said crossly to herself. "She's not going to like that, but it was very mean of her to push me into the mud puddle. My white shoes got all dirty, and this will serve her right!"

Mother was calling. "Hurry up, Eva! Time to go to Sunday School. You're running late!"

Moments later Eva was rushing along the sidewalk to church. On other Sundays, she would have walked together with Marie. Not today! In the classroom, she took a seat as far away from her friend as possible. When Marie turned to look at her, Eva looked the opposite way.

The teacher was just as kind as always, but Eva was not listening to what she was saying. All she could think about was her birthday party and her friend Marie. When the teacher asked her a question, she didn't know the answer. Embarrassed, Eva decided to pay attention.

"Let's recite our Scripture passage for this week," said her

teacher. Eva stood with the rest of the class and began to say:

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:34).

Then the teacher explained to the children how much Jesus loved them. And, if they loved Him in return, then the way to show that was to love and forgive one another.

"Should we ask God together to always help us to love one another?" she asked the class with an encouraging smile.

Now Eva had tears in her eyes. She really did love the Lord Jesus! Now she realized how wrong her attitude toward Marie had been. She had tried to get even with her friend for being mean to her.

After the lesson was over, Eva went straight to Marie. "I'm so sorry," said Marie, "for pushing you into the mud puddle."

"Oh, that's okay," said Eva. "I don't think you did it on purpose anyway. Do you want to come to my birthday party tomorrow?"

Arm in arm the two friends walked towards home. Love for the Lord Jesus had won the victory.



## Prayer Walk

Mrs. Berger had remained faithful all her life to the religion she had been raised in. It wasn't until her late years that she came to realize that salvation required more than religion, and she came to a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The experience changed her into a happy, content person who was able to smile even when a long period of illness kept her confined to her bed and her little room. She used these periods of solitude for earnest prayer. Everyone who came to visit was astonished at her energetic spirit, and the deep peace that seemed to envelop her soul.

One day when I was there to visit she said to me: "I took my walk already this morning."

"Your walk?" I replied. "How is that possible? You can't even get out of bed!"

"I'm talking about my prayer walk," she replied with a smile. And when she noticed a quizzical look cross my face, she explained: "I take this prayer walk often, actually. I begin by praying to God for my children. Then, having been challenged by Ephesians 6:18-19 to make intercession for all the saints, especially in these dark days, I pray for God's children, including those who preach the Word of God. I ask that God would protect His servants, give them strength, bless them, and supply them with the grace they need to share the gospel boldly and freely wherever God sends them. I want the Word to run free and for God to be glorified when it produces much fruit! Then, I continue on my prayer walk to ask for the many

heathen nations whose eyes are still darkened to the truth. I pray that God would open their eyes so that they could be converted, so that they would come out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. I then stop in my mind to pray for the sick and suffering, as well as for those who are burdened by grief. And I remember to pray for the elderly, the weak, and the bereaved. My prayer walk takes me to all kinds of places!"

As I sat quietly listening to her, I contemplated what a tremendous river of blessing flowed from the life of this frail little woman. Without a thought about her own predicament, she pleaded for others at God's throne of grace.

Today, Mrs. Berger is no longer with us. She is enjoying her eternal rest in heaven with the Lord. But her prayers continue to produce. A deep, long-lasting revival sprang up in the area where she lived. Approximately 50 people confessed that they had found Jesus by placing their faith in the power of His blood. The believers in the area that were familiar with Mrs. Berger were especially delighted and blessed. Thus, the prayer labor that she had wrought in the stillness of her room, but with all the intensity of her heart, yielded wonderful results.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if more people decided to take a daily "prayer walk?" We are living in days when there is a great need for God's people to lift up holy hands of prayer, intercession, and supplication.

## Sad Testimony

One point of interest for tourists in Ocean City on the coast of New Jersey is the wreck of an old ship, the *Sindia*, half buried in sand. The captain had brought his load a long way from Japan via Cape Horn. He reached America around Christmastime in 1901, and as he had had a successful journey, he wanted to reward his sailors for a job well done and

for their faithfulness in their duties. He gave them so much alcohol that the entire crew became drunk. The stranded ship tells the rest of the story – they were lost, and so close to the end of their long and dangerous journey. Oh, you who are elderly, you grandfathers and grandmothers, and all others: Remain true to the end!

# Contentment

He sat by the fireplace, his wrinkled face in desolate darkness while outside lay a true spring day.

“Now why have you buried yourself inside under a roof?” his pastor asked him.

“Dear Pastor, I can explain it in one sentence. Nobody should ever get old. Old means lonely, and lonely means miserable! A few days ago I saw a picture painted by a man named Ludwig Richter. The picture was of a man sitting by the grave of his wife, with the fall breeze tousling his white hair. And under this was written, ‘I wish I were at home and no longer in this world.’ That is exactly how I feel today.”

“Yes, but listen!” the pastor replied. “This artist, Ludwig Richter, was a man who spent much time with his children and grandchildren, and every time he came, they rejoiced. It was as if the sunshine came into the house when he did. You see, the man kept his grief and his homesickness in his heart and said to himself: ‘As long as I am on this earth, I need to be at least a little useful. So I must bring as much sunshine into homes and hearts as there is room.’ That is what you can do. Hold your homesickness for heaven in your heart and let sunshine glow on your face – as if you were already in heaven. Can’t you agree that getting old could be a great blessing?”

# Still Productive

Plato penned “Laws” at age 74 and died still writing at 81; Socrates, his contemporary, wrote his eulogy of Athens at age 94; Aeschylus and Sophocles wrote their master plays when they were between 65 and 90 years old; Goethe still created in his 80’s; Humboldt completed his “Cosmos” as a 90-year-old.

Ranke began his main work “World History” at age 85. Michelangelo worked on the arches of St. Peter’s Cathedral at 85 and finished his fresco at 89. Titian completed his “Last Supper” at 77 and continued drawing until he was 89. Handel composed between 54 and 74; Haydn composed in his 60’s; Rossini composed “Messe Solenne” at 73. Austrian General Radetzky achieved his great victory over Navarra at 83. Moltke and Zeppelin only became famous after they turned 70. Hindenburg became president of the German Reich at 78 and governed Germany until he was 87.

Moses became the messenger of God at age 80. John, the disciple of Jesus, received the Revelation on the island of Patmos at 96. Hermann Menge published his new Bible translation at 81. We could continue naming God’s blessed witnesses from the past until the present! In their stories we see how God used them for His Kingdom only after they had reached old age, after they had experienced times of adversity, need, and refining.



# Thoughts about Father's Day

We celebrate Mother's Day and thank mothers for the love, care, and effort they invest in their children. Father's Day is not as universally celebrated. But what about the father? Does he not carry any responsibility? Does he not care for his family? In many families, the spiritual responsibility in raising the children falls to the mother.

But what do the Scriptures say of Abraham? "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has spoken to him" (Genesis 18:19). God also expects an exemplary life from fathers, and transfers the duty of raising his children to him.

And what does the Lord say to the children: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3). Here is God's command: "Honor father and mother!" The father is mentioned first. Therefore he carries, before God, the main responsibility for the family and the training of his children.

But the Lord has not just given fathers rights and duties that he can haphazardly or tyrannically carry out. God has set boundaries for us fathers. It is written: "And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Let us pray for all fathers, that the Lord may guide and bless them!

H.D. Nimz  
Kitchener, ON

## "I'm Going Where My Daddy Goes..."

Little Richard, the son of our elderly family doctor, is a lively boy with bright blue eyes and glorious blond curls. He attends my class in Sunday School regularly and, generally speaking, I am happy with his attention.

I was once speaking with the children about the return of the Lord and the joy with which all those who are saved are awaiting Him. With the hope that Richard loved the Lord – he has a devout mother and also believing sisters – I asked him: "So Richard, who are you most looking forward to seeing in heaven?"

You can imagine my astonishment when he calmly and decisively answered: "Mister, I'm not going to heaven."

"You're not going to heaven?" I asked.

"No," he replied, "Mom and my sisters are going to heav-

en. But I'm going where my father goes." For the sake of the other children, I ended the conversation for the moment and continued the lesson.

When after a few days, the doctor paid me a visit, I told him what his young son had said and earnestly asked him the question: "Doctor, where is your life leading? To where is your son following you?" He did not know how to answer. He paced back and forth across the floor uneasily, barely keeping his agitation in check. Visibly moved and affected, he said goodbye and left.

Fathers and mothers, where are you going? Where will your children end up if they follow in your footsteps? It is only when you yourselves are on the way to heaven that you can direct your children onto the right path!

# Tips from a Father

From the “last will” of the hymnist Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), for his 14 year old son Paul Friedrich:

1. Do no evil with the hope it will remain secret, for nothing is so finely spun – it will come to light.
2. Do not become enraged. If you notice that anger has a hold on you, be completely silent and do not speak one word before you have earnestly prayed.
3. Be ashamed of fleshly, sinful lusts and when you reach the age when you can be married, seek God's guidance and the good advice of godly, faithful, and wise people.
4. Do good to others, even if they cannot reciprocate.
5. Flee greed as you do hell; be content with what you have earned with honor and a clear conscience, even if it is not much. If God bestows more upon you, ask Him to protect you from the grievous abuse of earthly goods.

In Summary:

Pray diligently, study what is honorable, live peacefully, serve honestly, and remain steadfast in your faith and testimony. Then you will also die one day and leave this earth willing, happy, and blessed. Amen.

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## “And then, Lord, about my son Helmut...”

Helmut was an obedient boy who made an effort to please his parents. It bothered him, though, to have to hear these words again and again at home: “Helmut, when will you finally give your heart to the Lord Jesus?” To this question Helmut had no answer. Wasn't he obedient? Didn't he daily say his morning and evening prayers? Wasn't he a good boy, a lot better than some of the others he knew?

Finally, the day of freedom came for Helmut. He could leave his parents' strict home in order to study in a faraway city. Now he could believe what he wanted and establish his life the way it suited him.

During the first holiday break from school, Helmut went home. And, of course, one day he again had to hear the question: “When will you finally give your heart to the Lord?”

Now it became too much for Helmut, who felt mature and grownup. “Listen, Father, I cannot stand this question. It's always the same old song. I don't want to hear it anymore. It has ultimately spoiled my visit at home.”

The father replied: “My son, I love you, and that is why I'm asking you this question. But I will not direct this

question toward you anymore. I will, however, continue to do one thing: to call every day to God for the soul of my boy who does not want to come to the Lord Jesus.”

Months passed by. Once, while Helmut was at home for a few days, one very early morning he heard the voice of his father who was praying in the room next to him. A thought suddenly struck him: “Hold on, I want to listen to see if Father kept his word to pray for his ‘prodigal son.’” He pressed his ear to the door, and sure enough, his father prayed. He poured his heart out to God as he did every day. There were many things that moved this father's heart. Finally there came a pause. Then Helmut clearly heard his father speak these words full of emotion: “And then – O Lord – about my son Helmut...”

That was enough for the hardened boy. He was deeply moved. God had finally reached his heart, and he turned remorsefully to the Savior and begged for forgiveness from his sins.

What joy it was for the parents when they found out about this! Helmut was full of joy, and from then on, his parents' home was the favorite and most blessed place for him to stay at.

# Experiences with God

## Anointed for Healing

*“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)*

I am very thankful to the Lord that I can be His child. I am also thankful that He always gives me new strength to continue on.

In July 2012, our second daughter was born. We observed that she was a completely normal child. But when the pediatrician examined her on the first morning, he noticed a strange motion in her body. So she was transported by ambulance to a hospital in Edmonton for further tests. She had to stay there for nearly two weeks. It was a difficult time for us.

During the pregnancy, the doctor hadn't noticed that the baby might be missing something. But as our child grew older, we noticed that she wasn't healthy.

In January of 2013, she had to go to the hospital again for further tests. Then my husband and I felt we should let her be anointed. The Lord didn't heal her the way we had hoped, but her condition improved from then on. We are very thankful to the Lord for that.

Almost a year later, I lay awake one night and prayed to the Lord. I asked Him why He hadn't made our daughter healthy, why He hadn't answered our prayer. Very clearly I received an answer from Him. He said: “I heard that prayer. I was there as she was anointed. And I have a better way for you, and this is the best way.”

How comforting it was for me to know that the Lord is going with us. He gives us new strength every day, as it states in the Bible verse above. And so we want to go this way, even when we don't understand it. I would like to encourage everyone to willingly follow the Lord as He leads, for His way is always the best.

Maria Knelsen  
Wetaskiwin, AB

## Sensing God's Direction

*“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:6)*

I received the above verse on New Year's Eve 2013. It has proven to be true in my walk with God. Looking back on the years that I have had the privilege to be His child, I can only agree that He has directed me in wonderful ways.

About three years ago, my husband I and were faced with the decision of whether we should go to Bolivia for a time and teach in the school there. I felt in my heart that this was God's will for us, yet my will battled against His. In my prayers and in my thoughts I fought against this way for my life, yet I knew that God wanted me to obey. Praise God, He won the battle and I acknowledged His will for me.

The two years we spent in Bolivia were truly a blessing for my life. I am so thankful that He directed my path there. I learned many lessons and my faith was strengthened. God taught us to trust Him for everything, and we learned that He is able to provide.

As we neared the end of our time in Bolivia, we were once again faced with a path that

was unclear. Where should we live? Where would we work? My husband and I applied for jobs in multiple cities and multiple provinces. We looked for homes and asked family and friends for advice. We also spent much time in prayer and fasting, asking God to direct our path.

Most of all, we wanted to acknowledge Him in our decision. The answer did not come quickly, or easily. In waiting on Him, we learned to have patience and to trust that He would lead. We are thankful that He answered our prayers and directed us to serve in the congregation in Chilliwack.

I once heard a missionary speak about his experiences. He told his listeners that anyone wanting a life of adventure should offer himself to God. Following God's path is truly the most exciting life one could imagine. We do not know where God will lead in the future, but we want to acknowledge Him in all our ways and we trust that He will direct our path.

Karina Knelsen  
Chilliwack, BC

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Church Conventions 2014

## Germany

*Pentecost Conference in Herford: June 7-9*

*Bible Study Conference for Youth: August 3-8*

## Canada

*Fest Services in Winnipeg: May 17-19*

*Fest Services in Aylmer: June 28-29*

*60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Fest in Chilliwack: August 2-4*

*Fest Services in Edmonton: October 11-13*

## FOUNDATION OF FAITH

### *Editor*

Hans-Dietrich Nimz

### *Editorial Team*

Dieter Jeske

Sieghard Schulz

Ron Taron

Hermann Vogt

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Questions and suggestions can be sent to:  
[contact@foundationoffaith.cc](mailto:contact@foundationoffaith.cc)

Please address all other correspondence and subscription requests to:

Christian Unity Press

Post Office Box 527

York, NE 68467-0527

Tel.: (402) 362-5133 Fax: (402) 362-5178

or email us at

[cupress@thechurchofgod.cc](mailto:cupress@thechurchofgod.cc)

[www.christianunitypress.com](http://www.christianunitypress.com)

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### *All for You*

All for You, Lord, I am giving;  
Fully Yours I want to be,  
All my strength, while I am living,  
Dedicated unto Thee.

All I have and all my being,  
Comes from you, o blessed Lord.  
Lead me so I shall be seeing,  
Heaven's glory, rich reward.

Lord, You know my deepest longing,  
Make my life a blessing here;  
Help me others to be calling,  
Home to You, the Savior dear.

There are storms and battles raging,  
That Your people must go through.  
Help us to be thus engaging,  
That they bring us home to You.

Help us Lord, to meet the challenge,  
Keep us from all apathy;  
That we bury not our talents,  
Which we have received from Thee.

Give us grace and give us wisdom,  
That we stand in unity,  
For Your truth and for Your kingdom,  
That no harm cause injury.

Though all hell may rage against us,  
As the tempter spreads his lies.  
We rejoice in Thee, Lord Jesus,  
For we know You're on our side!

Lamb of God, in exultation,  
Your pow'r and glory we proclaim!  
Only You can give salvation,  
That we may be born again.

*Arnold Schmidt*