



# Foundation of Faith

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**Who directs  
*your* life?**

***How Would We Like to  
Begin the New Year?***

***The Only Safe Haven***

***Humility—the Beauty of Holiness***

***A Happy Marriage***

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## Editorial

Dear Reader,

*Each new year is a journey into the unknown. Considering everything that could happen along the way, what will this year bring? Will it be a smooth ride, or are we perhaps facing a treacherous road?*

*As I myself have experienced, even a car trip can have its risks. One time, an older gentleman we knew well offered us a ride. He was a dear man, and we felt safe getting into the car with him. However, that soon gave way to fear as he drove far too fast and illegally passed other vehicles. We narrowly escaped an accident.*

*Another time, in the winter, I took a longer road trip with a friend. I started off behind the wheel, but after several hours, we switched seats. And just a few minutes later, we were sitting in a snow drift. He had let himself be distracted.*

*If we want to stay safe, we need to stay focused.*

*Who is steering your life? Do you want to begin this year's journey into the unknown alone? That could be dangerous. In God's Word, we read how God's servant Moses pleaded with Him, saying, "If I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way." And the Lord answered, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:13-14). Similarly, King David prayed, "Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me" (Psalm 25:4-5).*

*Dear Reader, let me ask again. Who is directing your life? In this evil world, we need God. The prophet Isaiah tells us that we can all be tricked. Even back then, he wrote, "For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed" (Isaiah 9:16). Jesus, too, spoke of "blind guides" who delude and deceive many people (see Matthew 23:16-33).*

*So one last time: Who is steering your life? We should all be able to answer without hesitation, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the only way, the truth, and the life. He alone can lead us to salvation. Let's allow Him to lead us.*

H. D. Nimz

## Under God's Leading

Once, as G. Keller worked on a sermon with particular intensity, an inner restlessness suddenly seized him. He could not shake the feeling, so on this Saturday evening he didn't know whether he should preach his message on Sunday. As he took the streetcar from his home to the meeting place, he felt an inexplicable urge to discard the text and sermon. Instead, he was led to preach about Psalm 39 on the theme of not becoming angry with our neighbor, nor giving free reign to angry words. So that is what he did.

The following week, an unknown gentleman entered his study and thanked him with a warm handshake for the sermon last Sunday. With an emotional voice, the stranger explained how he had been so angry with a business friend that he had written a letter that would have put an abrupt end to a long-standing relationship. But before mailing the fateful letter, an overwhelming power drove him to the service where he heard the sermon on Psalm 39. It made such an impact on him that he no longer found the courage to send the angry letter.

"This morning," the merchant explained, "a letter arrived from my business friend, who straightened everything out. That's why I had to rush here to thank you. You had no knowledge of my anger, yet you became God's instrument to save me from a making a rash and harmful decision."

We can easily imagine that Keller was greatly moved by this confession. More than ever before, he paid close attention to the inner voice of his heart: "Speak Lord, for Your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9). No one is too insignificant to be God's obedient servant, so we too should do likewise. ■



# The Privilege of *Genuine Christians*

**P**aul Gerhardt, dismissed from his position as minister of the gospel, fled Berlin in 1666 and not knowing where to go, stopped at an inn with his wife. Overcome by grief, his poor wife completely fell apart. Gerhardt spoke to her and encouraged her with a beautiful psalm: “Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5). He then went into the garden of the inn, sat down under a tree, and composed this inspiring, well-known song:

Thy way and all thy sorrows,  
Give thou into His hand,  
His gracious care unfailing,  
Who doth the heav’ns command;  
Their course and path He giveth  
To clouds and air and wind;  
A way thy feet may follow,  
He too for thee will find.

On Him be Thy reliance,  
As thou would’st prosper well;  
To make thy work enduring  
Thy mind on His must dwell.  
God yieldeth naught to sorrow  
And self-tormenting care;  
Naught, naught with him availeth;  
No power save that of pray’r.

Thy way is ever open;  
Thou dost on naught depend;  
Thine act is only blessing,  
Thy path light without end.  
Thy work can no man hinder;  
Thy purpose none can stay,  
Since Thou to bless Thy children  
Through all dost make a way.

In vain the pow’rs of darkness  
Thy will, O God, oppose;  
High over all undoubting,  
Thy pleasure onward goes.  
Whate’er Thy will resolveth,  
Whate’er Thou dost intend,  
Its destined work performeth  
True to its aim and end.

Right after Gerhardt read the song to his grieving wife, two delegates from Duke Christian of Merseburg entered the room and started a conversation with him. Finally, they told him the purpose of their journey. They wanted to go to Berlin to invite a certain deposed preacher named Gerhardt to Merseburg. Imagine how the fleeing family, now homeless, felt about this unexpected news.

“Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart” (Psalm 97:11). “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28a). God only has thoughts of peace for us and not suffering. For whom must the light always rise again? For the righteous man. In his deepest, innermost being, it is already light, even if his life is occasionally overshadowed by clouds. For he walks in the light, just as He (God) is in the light (see 1 John 1:7). This is the precious privilege of the righteous, and only the righteous.

Dear Reader, have you already been justified through Jesus Christ so you no longer do wrong, no longer sin against the good will of God? Thank God, the light must always rise again for the righteous, and they can confidently commend their ways to the Lord, for He will make everything well. ■

# A Guiding Star for the Entire Year

**H**ow lovely the stars sparkle in the sky on a dark night! Try gazing at the stars when the sun isn't shining and the moon doesn't light up the night sky. Even they can guide a lonely wanderer on his path, providing new courage and hope, helping him to not miss his goal. Then, as you marvel at the myriad of stars, allow them to teach you to look at even brighter and more glorious ones: the manifold promises of God's Word, which resemble shining stars.

There are many promises in the eternal Word of Truth. For the beginning of the new year, we want to choose only one of them to enlighten us on our unknown path. In Hebrews 13:5, we find this glorious star of divine promise: "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

What a rock-solid foundation we have in the expression "for He Himself has said"! If we place our faith in this Word, we hold a weapon in our hands with which we can cause the world, the devil, and sin to flee. Are there any doubts that cannot be eradicated with this double-edged sword?

Brother and Sister, if you were bombarded by many varied doubts in the past year, pick up and wield this double-edged sword in the New Year: "He Himself has said."

The temptations and trials will not be the same ones. But we will have the strength to overcome them if we lean on the certainty that He "has said." Oh, how

great the divine Word should be for us! With diligence and zeal we should search in it. Notice how our courage multiplies when we consider all the heroes of faith written in the letter to the Hebrews. They simply all depended on the God-given Word. They were all mindful of the fact that "the LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 118:6).

Let us take a closer look at what God has said: "nor will I . . . leave you helpless." Every attribute of God is at our disposal with this sentence. He wants to make His power and might known to us if we trust Him. With eternal love, He wants to let His enduring patience and kindness shepherd us. "I will never deny you my assistance." This is a pledge validated so often by the Lord, our great God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, perhaps in this new year we may have many spiritual battles to fight and many strongholds of Satan to storm. More than ever before, let us now cling to His divine promises. Let us allow ourselves to be led by this shining star. With the Lord's help, let us rise above the petty, inconsequential things. Let us risk greater things in faith, and we will certainly be able to accomplish greater things.

The church of the Lord is called to be the bearer of the gospel to all mankind. Are we to stand on the sidelines and wait by the wayside, timid and despondent, while God's mighty work remains undone? Instead of focusing on the impossible, let us remember



what God's Word tells us: "All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23). "Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion" (Isaiah 52:1). The NIV states, "Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city."

Remember how the Lord has faithfully stood by you in the past days. There were some battles in the past year, some fiery trials, some waves of tribulation. Hasn't God proven what He says in His Word? Isaiah 43:2 says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you." We have all certainly had some experiences with God in the past. Sometimes it seemed like the waves of trials were going to drown us. But wasn't God faithful to His Word? Yes, certainly. Therefore, take courage, dear Soul. God is with you.

How confidently we can face the New Year! We can fearlessly place ourselves in the hands of the great God. Some things may even seem discouraging, but if we remain at the "fountain of living water," we shall certainly not lack anything. But we also want to be courageous. Being a child of God and feeling dejected and discouraged at the same time does not fit together very well. If you are faced with persecution, be strong and bear it. "Be an overcomer; we must never yield."

Someone told me that Christians are sometimes called "head-hangers," or despondent. The reply to that was "this may sometimes be true, but it is an insult to many Christians." Others of the world walk proudly with their heads held high, while some Christians let their heads hang. But on the day when the Lord Jesus will return, the head-hangers will lift up their heads, and the others will have to lower their heads in great shame and disgrace.

The word of assurance, "I will not leave you," gives us all cause to sing a song of joy. For "if God is for us, who can be against us?" But most importantly, we want to own this promise in faith. If God has given us this promise, and if this star is to lead us and prepare the way in the new year, we need to believe that God is faithful and that He will fulfill His promise.

Let us remember that He has said, "As your days, so shall your strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25). If the days are overcast, there will also be more strength to cheer us up and encourage us. Let us learn to look not so much at ourselves and our inability, but at Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. This star shall be our guide in the days ahead. Every day, its brilliant rays should gloriously illuminate Jesus anew. Remember that in all situations, God Himself said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ■

A. Borbe

# Who is Your Helmsman?

**W**ith a firm grip, the helmsman holds the ship's wheel in his hand. Hidden reefs lurk left and right. Should the ship veer just a little too far to the right or left, it will become a victim of the sea. The raging storm has whipped up the sea, throwing the ship back and forth like a ball. The helmsman's knowledge of the area, his skill and safety measures, are essential for the ship to reach the port safely.

If we look at the great sea of humanity, we see a large number of life's ships crossing it. Having set sail at the start of the past year, how many have been able to conquer the terrible surges? Many entered their little ship and took control themselves. Despite all their good intentions, they were overcome, and suffered shipwreck. The Bible also speaks of some whose faith was shipwrecked. In their great distress, people still cling to the planks of the shattered ship. But how bleak is the prospect of salvation when a sinking man hopes to rescue himself. Blessed are those who have learned to place the helm in the hands of the proper Helmsman, Who is familiar with the situation, knows all the cliffs and reefs, and can navigate stormy weather. The Lord Jesus alone is the right helmsman. With His help, we will safely cross the sea of life.

We cannot know which storms God's providence will allow in the year ahead. But why should we be troubled about storms and weather when we have Jesus with us? We are reminded of the disciples in their great need and danger. They struggled to help themselves as long as possible. But at the end of their strength, they failed to master the terrible storm. Then, in their great distress, they turned to their Lord and Master with the passionate plea, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" (Matthew 8:25). The Master rose, rebuked the winds and the sea, and all was calm. One word of authority from Jesus is enough; storm and weather must be silent.

Dear Soul, have you met this helmsman yet? Have you carelessly set sail? Reflect for a moment. Thank God that your life has not yet ended in darkness and horror. But take care. You cannot know what the year

ahead will bring you. You do not know if you can weather the storms or if you will reach the end successfully. Choose Jesus as your helmsman in your ship of life; then you can sing confidently with the poet:

Jesus, Savior, pilot me,  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;  
Chart and compass came from Thee:  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,  
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will,  
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"  
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,  
And the fearful breakers roar  
'Twixt me, and the peaceful rest,  
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,  
May I hear Thee say to me,  
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

A. B.





## He Leads Me in the Paths of Righteousness

One evening, not too long ago, I had to pick my daughter up from where she was visiting with some family friends. Although they lived a ways away, it was still within walking distance, so I went by foot. Night had fallen by the time we were ready to head home together.

This was the first time my young daughter was on the street in the dark of night, and this new experience naturally gave her a lot to process. “Papa,” she excitedly tugged at my hand, “look! Look at the many stars in the sky and the many lights in the windows!”

She continued sharing her observations for a while, but they soon stopped coming as her initial amazement was slowly overshadowed by fear and unease. “Papa,” she again broke the silence, now tremulously, “where are we going? I can’t see our house. I don’t know the way, and I can’t see it.”

“But I know it, and I can see it,” I replied consolingly. “And I also know where our house is. Don’t be afraid; just hold tight to my hand. I’ll lead you.”

“You know the way, Papa? Yes, yes,” she immediately continued, correcting and encouraging herself,

“Papa knows the way and holds my hand and cares for me because he loves me. Right, Papa? You love me a lot? Oh, I won’t be afraid. No, no, I’m not scared at all anymore!”

With these words, she gripped my hand a little tighter and valiantly stepped along beside me, enjoying the sights and sounds. All fear had gone.

As we continued on together, I had to admit to myself what a lesson and encouragement my child’s example was to me. Despite my Heavenly Father’s faithful care, how often have I tortured myself with fear when I could not clearly see the way to the mansions in my Father’s house, behaving as though it were not enough to know that God loves me and that I can trust Him to bring me safely home. When dark hours of trial and tribulation come, I want to only hold tighter and tighter to my Savior’s hand. Then all my fear and troubles will fall away. Walking on His path and holding His hand, I can peacefully journey home, soothing my soul as I remember His plea, “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am” (John 17:24a). ■



# Lord Jesus, Lead the Way

| *“And they followed Jesus.” (John 1:37)*

**A**t the beginning of a new year, it is the greatest privilege to let Jesus lead the way and to follow Him. How is it possible that so many dare to go into the new year without God and Savior? The new year lies before us like a vast ocean. At the moment, it may seem to be calm and not foreboding, but will it be like that for the following 365 days? Can any ocean be calm throughout a whole year? It is indeed foolish to sail on the sea of life without a competent captain to guide the ship. You and I cannot do it safely. Let us ask the Lord to lead the way. We want to follow Jesus.

The song “I have decided to follow Jesus” is a fitting resolution for the new year. Yet, many who sing this song may not be willing to follow where Jesus leads. People have their own plans for the new year, and if the Lord leads differently, they may not want to follow, but choose instead to go their own way. In the past, some of our plans may have ended up differently than we anticipated, so we had to learn that “unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1). We know that everything is dependent on the Lord’s blessing, so we expect God to grant us health, protect us from ca-

tastrophes, and give us success. We walk ahead, and expect God to be so good as to follow close behind us, bless and protect us, fix things when we mess up, and be gracious when we fail.

If this is your attitude, then you want to be the lord and expect God to be your servant. You want to be the leader and expect God to follow. If God does as you wish, then you are pleased with Him; if you don’t happen to forget, you may even thank Him in prayer. But if God leads differently than you had planned, you may then realize that without the Lord’s blessing your plans cannot prosper. If God causes your plans to fail, what then? Do you humbly submit to His leading? If things do not go as you please, do you still thank Him in prayer with a heart of love, or do you find that impossible?

Jesus, the apostles, and the Old-Testament saints displayed an attitude of submission to the will of God. Jesus says, “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me” (John 12:26a). If we wish to be servants of God, we need to follow the Lord. Paul calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1). Isaiah exclaims, “The LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King” (Isaiah 33:22). Here, we see a completely different attitude than we find among those

who wish to have it their way. God is not our servant. We are His servants. We belong to Him through Jesus Christ our Savior. We do not expect Him to follow us and bless our plans, but we wish to know His will and to follow Him. This involves a dedication. We have given ourselves to Him. With childlike faith, we have put ourselves into His hands, and we let Him lead. We have let go of our own agenda and our own works and submitted ourselves fully to Him. This demonstrates genuine trust in His leading. Those who have dedicated their lives to Him will not be disappointed. Jesus will never let them down. He is their Redeemer, Savior, Lord, King, everything. He takes responsibility for your soul, for your life, for your future. He leads. You do not need to worry about anything except to follow His leading.

There may be times when it will be hard to follow in His footsteps. It is not always easy to sing, “Where He leads me, I will follow. I’ll go with Him, with Him, everywhere.” You may look around you and see an easy way out. You may say, “Lord, why are you leading me down this difficult path?” Jesus is with you and accompanies you on the way. He is not some idol of stone but the Son of Man who lovingly draws you to Himself. His

way on earth was a difficult one. Sometimes He will let you know why He leads you the way He does. At other times, He may say, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this” (John 13:7). “You follow Me” (John 21:22). “If you follow Me, I will bring you to the goal. It will be glorious. I guarantee it.” “Where I am, there My servant will be also” (John 12:26). The peace of God will fill your heart. You will stop looking around for an easier way. You will keep your eyes focused on Jesus, follow in His footsteps, and keep the goal in mind.

Have you reached the point in your life where you really let Jesus lead? That is the only way to be free of worry and to be filled with the peace of God that passes all understanding. Your peace will only be compromised when you decide to lead yourself and no longer follow Christ unconditionally. It requires self-denial to let Jesus be first in our lives and to be content to be second by allowing Him to lead. But that is the only way to honor our wonderful King, the Son of God. That is the only way to reach the goal. “If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (John 12:26). In the new year, don’t take things into your own hands but let Jesus lead. ■

G. F.

*Jesus, still lead on till our rest be won.  
And, although the way be cheerless,  
we will follow, calm and fearless;  
guide us by Your hand to the promised land.*

*If the way be drear, if the foe be near,  
let not faithless fears o’ertake us,  
let not faith and hope forsake us;  
for, through many a woe, to our home we go.*

*When we seek relief from a long-felt grief  
when oppressed by new temptations,  
Lord, increase and perfect patience.  
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.*

*Jesus, still lead on till our rest be won;  
Heav’nly Leader, still direct us,  
still support, console, protect us,  
till we safely stand in the promised land.*

N. L. v. Zinzendorf  
Translated by Jane Borthwick  
Hymnary.org

# The Only Safe Haven

“*The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms*” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

The new year has begun. How many concluded the last hours of the old year with wild and noisy celebrations and welcomed the new year in the same way? It seems as if Satan in his craftiness is trying to prevent people from thinking about the transience of this life and the seriousness of eternity.

But God, in His infinite wisdom, wants us to pay special attention to such serious hours as the transition from the old year to the new. Moses writes in Psalm 90:10, “The days of our lives . . . [are] soon cut off, and we fly away.”

In the restless changes of an eventful time, we need a safe refuge stronger than the mountains and our perishable earth. We find this refuge in the eternal, everlasting, and unchangeable God. We need the Almighty as our refuge in order not to be caught up in the whirlpool’s bottomless depths.

Like the ship searching its way through the wild storms of the roaring sea, past threatening cliffs to the safe harbor, our ship of life also needs a safe place of rest. Woe to the ship drifting on the uncertain sea of time, no longer finding a place of refuge.

Just as the soldier surrounded by the threatening, deadly ammunition hurls himself into the trench to seek refuge there, we too can find refuge in God. The fiery darts of the wicked pursue us, and the enemy, the ruler of death is on our heels, ready to attack us from behind at any moment.

But millions pay no attention to this. They do not prepare for eternity with fear and trembling. Because they do not seek the right place of safety, they will fall into the judgment of God and regret it forever.

At the start of the new year, it is good to point out to others the seriousness of eternity. Yet how few let their senses be directed toward God! In the kingdom of God, we will experience much more than a careless spirit and euphoric feelings. What counts here is refuge in the Highest, in God alone.

In this fallen world, where everything is broken and chaotic, is the sole purpose of our existence to wear ourselves out? If so, where are we to find courage when our strength is exhausted? Is our only hope and relief found in the solace of a dark grave that embraces us in the end? The only hope, refuge, and resting place for our neediness and weakness is the eternal God. In His loving care, we can regain new strength and courage. “Have you not known? Have you not heard? . . . He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength” (Isaiah 40:28-29).

This refuge is the best place of refreshment and the greatest source of strength for life’s burdens and travails. If there were no such place, many afflictions would simply be too excruciating or even unbearable. Courage, hope, and patience would then be just empty words.

How many are tired, despondent, desperate, and therefore easily break down? How many have been embittered and even destroyed by life? They are desolate souls who know only loneliness, abandonment, grief, and misery, who have no hope and even believe that these things belong to the fate of mankind, like daily bread. They know no way out of this dark fate. They do not know the refuge in the shadow of God’s wings, a place where they are able to rejoice (see Psalm 63:8). They are wretched souls for whom the sun has set so early and who end up in the great burial grounds of the hopeless.

Do you believe this should be your lot as well? No, never believe this. “The eternal God is your refuge.”

There are always people who do not collapse, despite disappointments and hardships. They always mount up again with wings like eagles. Ask them how they have become strong again from their weakness. Ask them how they can walk the long, dark road of suffering, and still sing, “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your

hand against the wrath of my enemies and Your right hand will save me” (Psalm 138:7).

Go ask them all why they can still remain courageous and confident in the shadow of death and rejoice with heart and mouth: “The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1) All of them will answer you, “We found everything in Jesus. We have it all in Him. God is our confidence and strength, our help in the great needs that have struck us. Yes, the Lord is always our only refuge.”

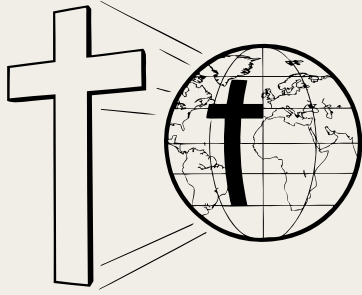
Of course, if you only hear glorious testimonies about others’ experiences and blessings, this cannot give you safe refuge in your own struggles in life. You must experience this yourself. The eternal God wants

to receive you and save you too, so you will remain protected and safe from all the fiery attempts of the devil. Therefore, go into the offered refuge of your God, which opens wide for you through Jesus Christ. He shelters you in His haven, and His strong arms will carry you through all the suffering and pain here on earth. This is where you can build your own haven to experience living well.

Life will be worth living when we abide in the Lord Jesus Christ, in the shadow of His wings. Under the eternal arms of God, we have nothing to fear, even in the new year. We will not lack anything. ■

*Heinrich Begemann*





# Radio Program Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs  
Kitchener, ON

## How Would We Like to Begin the New Year?

*With the Lord thy task begin:  
Childlike faith in Him possessing,  
Prospered only by His blessing,  
Fight all sinful pride within:  
With the Lord thy task begin.*

When this song was sung in a worship service, someone told me that the text was incorrect. “You can’t possibly begin everything with God,” he explained. In a certain sense, this is true. Of course, all unjust things must be excluded here. After all, the spiritually-minded person does not deal with them. But what is true, what is noble, what is just, what is pure, what is lovely, what is harmonious, what is pleasing to God can absolutely begin with God.

“The start determines the race,” is a popular saying. The church father Augustine is believed to have said, “The early morning sets the rudder for the day.” In reference to this, a young preacher stated that the first hour of the year could also set the rudder for the year. He then explained how he began the New Year: “I had a quiet year-end celebration with a number of young people. When the clock had struck twelve, we went out into the night. The brass players quickly lined up in an orderly fashion, and we began to sing and play, ‘Holy God, we praise Thy name!’ Praising God

in the first minutes of the new year was glorious, even overwhelming. All around us, where there had been shouting and fireworks, it suddenly grew quiet. I have to think: This is how I want to live through the new year, filled with the praise of God, so stirring that it drowns out all the ugly noises of the world.”

When we stand at the beginning of an unknown path, we usually have many worries and need to think them through thoroughly. This is part of the preparation. If we are consciously facing difficult paths, we are also aware of the possible dangers. Since we are once again facing a year’s journey completely unknown to us, we want to be aware of a particularly serious, but unfortunately little-noticed danger.

I came across Malachi 2:16 as the verse of the day once, and it made me very thoughtful. “Therefore take heed to your spirit.” The scribe calls it a “warning sign,” meaning “be careful.” We are often warned of danger. I read this at the entrance of a medical clinic: “If you have a cold, please do not enter.” But there are far more



serious warnings: high voltage power lines, cars driving too fast, infectious diseases, etc.

But Malachi warns, “Therefore take heed to your spirit.” This tells us that our spirit really can be a danger to us. This warning needs to be taken very seriously because it comes from God. The spirit or the mind of man is indeed capable of all kinds of things. In Proverbs 16:9, we read, “A man’s heart plans his way.” How ruinous these ways can be! As long as a person does not know the Holy Spirit, he is driven by his own spirit, and this can have dire consequences.

The spirit of man distracts from God. He makes men great and God small. He begins to determine for himself what is right or wrong, good or evil. And when transgressions accuse a man, his own spirit looks for a way out and tries to excuse everything.

The spirit of man has even devised its own way to salvation. One theory states that Christ is not the only way to God. This spirit leads many people away from God and divine truth and cheats them of their eternal

salvation. Take heed, therefore, of your spirit, of what it thinks and how it instructs you.

In contrast, God offers us the power and assistance of His Spirit. This Spirit leads us on a straight path. Jesus called Him “the Spirit of truth” and said, “He [the Spirit of truth] dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit wants to guide and preserve us, comfort and strengthen us, and keep us constantly connected with God. Let us therefore pray with David, “Do not take your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11).

How do we want to start the New Year? We want to make the resolution to remain in Jesus’ footsteps and hold His hand. We want to grasp this hand in faith and let it guide us. There is no better guidance!

*Choosing Him to rule and guide thee;  
Whether good or ill betide thee,  
Thou art sure thy goal to win:  
With the Lord thy task begin.* ■

## I Lift Up My Eyes To The Hills (7)

### 7. Calvary–Mountain of Self-Denial and Following Jesus

It seems that Jesus' goal and purpose in life was always set upon the mountain of Calvary.

When the devil tempted Him during His time on earth and led Him onto a high mountain, promising Him all riches and kingdoms of the earth, Jesus rejected him firmly and refused to worship him (Matthew 4:8-10). The prospect of riches, power, and recognition on this earth was not appealing to Him when His worship and service towards the Heavenly Father was on the line. His self-sacrificial work on this earth and His relentless pursuit of the lost, poor, and sick of society did not culminate in a celebratory awards presentation or a medallion of honor for His special service to humanity. No, Jesus consciously chose the hill of Calvary and the cross for His death, and accepted for Himself rejection and lack of gratitude, in order to set free from their sin everyone who believes in Him, allowing them to experience forgiveness. Golgotha teaches us as followers how deep Jesus' love for us was and how we

should love our neighbor: "Forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). It is not surprising that the hill of Calvary left a lasting impression on the songwriter Karl Gerok:

And greater than the mountains  
That on the earth I see,  
There is a quiet hilltop,  
The mount of Calvary.  
For there, oh weary pilgrim,  
You'll find sweet peace and rest;  
Unload your sins and burdens,  
And get them off your chest.  
Then go and praise God's mercy,  
Because He set you free.  
The road to heaven's glory  
Goes over Calvary.

Therefore Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). ■

*Andreas Schell, Hetzerath, Germany*

## Verse of the Month

### "Be Strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10)

Do you know how it feels to be utterly exhausted? Whatever the circumstances, it is not the most pleasant feeling. The best-case scenario is that we find a solution and can recharge our batteries, so to speak. However, it is common enough that we get to a point where we just don't know what to do. And then we sometimes feel that there is no way out.

The Bible disagrees. God always has a way for us; we only need to let Him give us strength. He is God. Through His great power, He is able to strengthen us. He can change any situation, and nothing is hopeless to Him. And if you are wondering how this is supposed to work, the Bible has a wonderful answer at the ready: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15).

*Niko Ernst  
Herford, Germany*





## Study Notes (9)

### We All Must Die Eventually

When a hospital encounters an unexpected situation, much discussion is initially required. Therefore, with the first few cases of COVID-19, it was hardly noticeable how the command structure in the hospital changed. Those who usually made decisions (our head physicians) were suddenly involved in various COVID crisis meetings or were on calls with the health authorities most of the time. The responsibility was then rolled onto the next highest person in charge, and responsibility continued trickling down to the interns. Meanwhile, some of us had the uncomfortable feeling that no one was really responsible nor taking the time to learn how to face the crisis.

Finally, the day came when I went on rounds with a resident and a student (a fully qualified doctor from abroad, but without German certification). Although I knew the least, I did the speaking. It proved successful, for both men discussed the medical issue, and I passed the decision on to the often hard of hearing patients with a loud voice, sometimes even correcting the grammar of my colleagues. It was a time of growing and learning because I had to take on more responsibility than usual, but it wasn't what I had wished for during my training.

When the first COVID-19 tests had to be done, a new problem arose. "Do a swab," one of the doctors urged the student. The student refused, as he said the doctor needed to do it. The doctor was unrelenting. Without a head physician, there was no one who would have the final word, and a democratic solution was not in sight. I listened for a while, then shared my discontent about this delay and put on the protective equipment myself. Both men were caught off guard. The student apparently had the opinion that I

had not understood the severity of the situation. "You could die!" he exclaimed to me urgently. "We all must die eventually," I replied with a smile and walked over to the patient to do the swab. There was no more discussion during the following swabs. Without a word, we alternated swabbing the patients. I left the unit shortly after, so there was no further opportunity to delve deeper into the topic. But the thought occupied me for some time, what grace it is to be able to finish my work in peace without fear of being infected or of dying. I know my Heavenly Father holds everything in His hands and that there is nothing I need to worry about. ■

*Corinna Kowalski, Hamm, Germany*



## Oh, a Faithful God!

*When I consider all Thy ways,  
Thy wisdom, o Creator,  
The love that guides me on my way,  
Thy blessing and Thy favor,  
Then overwhelmed I don't know how  
Enough to praise You, as I bow,  
My Lord, my God, my Father!*

**M**y birth in January 1939 came at the most inopportune time one can imagine. My parents lived in the former USSR, and shortly before my birth, many men, regardless of education, origin, or religion, were taken from their homes, even at night, and put in prison. It took many men to build Siberia. From our village alone, 74 men were arrested and taken away. My dear father was not spared either. He knew that whoever walked through the prison gates would not walk out again unless a miracle occurred.

Our mother, though not yet a Christian, believed firmly that God could perform this miracle. So she begged and prayed to God to have mercy on her and to free her dear husband from the dreadful prison and bring him back to her and her four-year-old daughter, Lilly.

As she prayed and cried like this once again, God spoke to her: "In one year your husband will come home again." Now she knew for sure that God had heard her prayers."

Full of joy, she immediately ran to the neighbor and told her what God had said to her. Very angrily, the woman said, "What kind of thoughts are you allowing into your head? All our men are sitting in prison, and

no one is coming back! Do you think your husband is better than the others?"

My mother replied calmly, "You'll see. When he comes home, I'll run right over and knock on your window, even if it's in the middle of the night."

During this time of fear and uncertainty, I was born. Papa was still in prison and did not know he had another little daughter. This was a very difficult time for my mother. The only thing that kept her going and made her strong was her certainty that in one year, her dear husband would be back home. God had promised her.

One night around 2:00 a.m., there was a knock on the window. Very carefully, Mama pushed the curtain to the side a little, looked out, and immediately recognized Papa. He had been released in the middle of the night without going to court! But she left him standing outside and ran with joy to the neighbor first, as agreed, and knocked on her window. "Come quickly, my husband is here!"

Now Mama ran home as fast as she could and let the long-awaited man into the house. What a reunion it was! Then the neighbor came running. When she saw Papa, she clasped her hands together over her

head and cried in amazement, “Almighty God, it’s really him!” Yes, God had kept His promise. It was exactly a year and three days later!

When Papa saw me sleeping in the cradle, he was so grateful and happy. Now our little family was together again.

But this joy did not last long. The Second World War broke out. When the German soldiers occupied our village, Josefstal, the officers were stationed in our little house. They were very good to us and very grateful for the good food. When they had to leave, they gave our father a bicycle as a thank you.

But soon, the retreat to the west began, and we citizens joined in the procession of the Wehrmacht (German Army) to flee. I was still so little. The bicycle was a great help to us. Whenever the road went downhill, I sat at the front on the handlebars near Papa, and my little feet could rest a little. But we always had to keep going, eventually walking hundreds of kilometers on foot, often hungry and freezing. Only occasionally did merciful people take us in for one night. Sometimes we couldn’t find a night’s lodging and had to sleep somewhere in the forest.

Once, a bomb exploded not far from us, but not even a fragment hit us. God’s eye visibly watched over us.

Another time, when we were walking through a village, our mother suddenly pointed to a house across the street and said to me, “Erna, do you see that house over there? Run quickly across the street and knock on the door. If someone opens the door, politely ask for something to eat. They are much more likely to give children something than adults.”

So I ran right across the village street and knocked on the door. A kind woman handed me a slice of bread. I thanked her and was about to go back to my mother, when I was startled by a long line of German prisoners of war coming. They took over the whole street. I couldn’t cross over until they had passed. Suddenly a soldier stepped out of the line at lightning speed and held in front of my eyes a homemade bird made of wood shavings. He had probably seen the piece of bread in my hand. Carefully, he touched my bread with two fingers and looked at me so pleadingly. He had probably not had anything to eat for a long time. But when I noticed that he wanted my piece of bread, I quickly pulled my hand back, and he went back to his place in the line just as quickly. When the procession

was finally gone, I ran across the street to Mama, and with a sob I told her what had just happened.

“But Child,” she said, “you are still little and could have asked for food somewhere else. That man, however, has probably not had anything to eat for days. You should have given it to him!” I have never forgotten that experience. It has shaped my whole life ever since.

Despite much hardship and danger, we finally arrived in Hüttenbach, near Nuremberg, in April 1945. When we heard a little later that the war was over, we simply stayed in this beautiful village. Here, too, there were dear people who again showed us many good things that we will never forget. The Lord Jesus will not leave these acts of love unrewarded. He Himself said in Matthew 25:40, “Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Now the hard years of war were over; flight to the West with its fears and trials was finally behind us. Only one kilometer away from our village, a family we knew from Russia, who had been refugees together with us, had settled down. Every Sunday, we got together with this family, so we were not completely alone. You would think we would have been completely happy by now. That was more or less true, but there was still a deep longing in our hearts, especially in my mother. What was it all about? What must a person do to become saved? Who could tell us that?

God saw this unquenched longing and sent us very dear people from Nuremberg, who explained to us quite simply the way to the Savior, so that both parents immediately recognized, “For years, this is what we have been longing for.” It didn’t take long before Mama and Papa were happy children of God. Their hearts’ longing was finally satisfied. At the age of about 12 years, I was also able to seek and find God.

Although I was doing very well at school, I often felt alone. I longed so much for other young people who also loved and served the Savior.

One day we heard that a small youth meeting would take place in Kesselfeld, in the district of Öhringen. Immediately, I longingly exclaimed, “Oh, if only I could go there too!” We had heard that many young people would be there.

How happy I was that my parents granted me this secret wish. Therefore, I drove with my friend to this meeting, where we had wonderful, blessed hours of fellowship with these believing young people. Surprisingly, there was also a baptismal service, and both ►

my friend and I were baptized. I would have been about 13 years old at the time. This joy is almost impossible to describe. I felt as if the sky above me was open.

But when I returned home and went to school, I missed this fellowship with other Christian young people even more.

Our parents felt the same. They too had the great desire to move to a place where children of God gathered. Then we heard that it was now possible to emigrate to Canada. We submitted the application, and our papers were processed. During this time, there was a lot of prayer because my father was not healthy. He had a spot on his lung. At that time, only healthy young people were allowed to immigrate to Canada. But hadn't we already experienced God's intervention many times in a wonderful way? So we prayed for it this time as well.

We waited with anticipation for a decision, and, lo and behold, we were invited to Bremen for physical examinations. With trepidation we drove there. Mother had a rock-solid faith. After all the x-rays and examinations, we were finally called to the room of the officer. Even before the door opened, my mother said to us aloud, "Children, today the Lord will do a miracle for us!"

When we entered, my father immediately saw a close-up of his lungs standing on the officer's table. A shock went through him when he saw this. Now the officer would say, "I am sorry to have to tell you this, but because of your sick lung, we cannot give you permission to emigrate to Canada."

But his response was quite different. Surprisingly, he said, "Mr. Henkelmann, will you promise me, the first thing you will do when you arrive in Canada is to report to the Health Department?"

"Yes, I would be happy to promise you that." So the official signed the document and put his stamp on it.

One more handshake and a final "I wish you and your family a safe journey and all the best in Canada. You may emigrate." What joy! Once more, our Lord had done a miracle for us.

It was not long before we stepped onto Canadian soil for the first time on June 1, 1953. Oh, how grateful we were for God's guidance to this point! Through the Lord's leading, brothers and sisters from the church of God, whom we did not even know, sponsored us, and we arrived in Wetaskiwin in mid-July.

A camp meeting was just taking place there. All services were still in the German language. We could

understand everything well and were so blessed. However, as winter was approaching and the job opportunities in the city of Edmonton were better, we moved to Edmonton.

How astonished we were when we went to the service there for the first time. There was a large crowd of young people, choirs, instrumental groups, youth sessions, and above all, God's tangible presence. We were overwhelmed. In Germany, we only had house meetings where we were already blessed. But now we almost felt like we were in heaven.

Here I also met my future husband, Sam, and the Lord blessed our marriage with two healthy, dear children. We had a beautiful, happy family.

Through the years, we faced many worries, failures, storms, and darkness, but God's grace and faithfulness were always there. Often we could find no way out, but God always had one. Every now and then, He put it on the heart of one of His faithful children to help us. May the Savior bless them for this and reward them for their love! I look back full of astonishment at how God helps us and makes paths where there are none.

Then my dear husband died suddenly and unexpectedly in April 2019. The Lord was gracious to me and noticeably helped me. I felt the prayers of the brothers and sisters carry me.

But gradually, a deep heartache came over me, a longing. If only I could go somewhere again for a while! I spoke to no one about it, except to the loving Father in heaven, Who saw my longing. A short time later, a sister from Germany called me and said, "Tante Erna, we would be so happy if you would visit us now!"

It moved me to tears. I was so overwhelmed by the way our heavenly Father so delicately responds to the needs of His children. I then received so much love from faithful brothers and sisters in Germany, so that I came home strengthened and encouraged. Oh, how faithful is God!

I also want to thank my Savior once again from the bottom of my heart that He has given us faithful, steadfast shepherds and watchmen here in the local church. The Lord will certainly reward them in eternity. I also want to thank the Lord and the brothers and sisters who work on the *Foundation of Faith*. I have been richly blessed and encouraged by it. ■

Your Sister,  
Erna Krebs  
Edmonton, Alberta

## *Faith is Rewarded*

In Sunday school, the teacher explained the phrase, “Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’”

Anna had listened well and understood everything. While on her way home, she kept thinking about the phrase. Her mother was a poor widow. A long time ago, she had said to her little daughter, “You absolutely must have a new dress and also stockings and shoes. Now, I can’t buy those things yet, but I might be able to buy them for your birthday.”

Anna’s birthday was the day after tomorrow. But her mother could hardly buy the food they needed. It was impossible to think about clothes.

Since it was evening, Anna went to bed. Silently, she said the prayers she had learned in Sunday School:

“Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.  
If I should live for other days,  
I pray the Lord to guide my ways.

Lord, unto thee I pray,  
Thou hast guarded me all day;  
Safe I am while in Thy sight.  
Safely let me sleep tonight.

Bless my friends; the whole world bless;  
Help me to learn helpfulness.  
Keep me ever in Thy sight,  
So to all, I say good night.

Thank You, God, for the world so sweet;  
Thank You, God, for the food we eat;  
Thank You, God, for the birds that sing;  
Thank You, God, for everything!”

Anna had prayed quite fervently. But then the worries about her dress wanted to creep into her heart. She could not let that happen. Quickly, she stood up once more and prayed very loudly, “Dear God, You told us not to worry. Now I beg you, give me a dress, a pair of stockings, and a pair of shoes by the day after tomorrow.”

Anna’s mother heard her words. She shouted angrily to her, “Don’t say such silly things! If I don’t get those things for you, you’ll never get them!” But little Anna said, “Oh, Mama, don’t talk like that. I believe our Savior is looking after us.”

The next evening, Anna went to bed early. She prayed quietly, “Dear Savior, remember that tomorrow is my birthday.” Then she quickly fell asleep. She smiled happily in her sleep, and in her sleep she dreamed that an angel came in and placed the gifts on her chair.

As soon as the sun shone into her room, Anna awoke. Immediately, she looked at the chair. Exactly as she had believed it, it had happened. A red dress hung over the back of the chair, and on the chair, next to the shoes, lay a pair of stockings. “Mama, Mama,” cried Anna, “come here! My prayer has been answered! I have the dress, the shoes, and the stockings!” Mother had wet eyes. She, too, knew now that God hears those who trust Him.

God had helped wonderfully. The previous evening, He had told the neighbor’s wife, “Don’t keep your late Lina’s things any longer. Anna over there is just as big as Lina was. Bring them over; she can use them.”

While Anna was asleep, the neighbor came by with the beautiful presents, and her mother was amazed. No, it couldn’t be a coincidence that the neighbor had come so late. God had orchestrated each detail so graciously. With the hands of an angel, the neighbor quietly spread out the gifts on the chair, where Anna, to her great joy, had found them. ■

# *Humility—the Beauty of Holiness*



*“Humility” is a subject we don’t hear too much about, even in Christian circles. What is humility?*

**T**here are three great motives that urge us to humility. . . . The first we see in the heavenly hosts, in unfallen man, in Jesus as Son of Man. The second appeals to us in our fallen state, and points out the only way through which we can return to our right place as creatures. In the third we have the mystery of grace, which teaches us that, as we lose ourselves in the overwhelming greatness of redeeming love, humility becomes to us the consummation of everlasting blessedness and adoration.

In our ordinary religious teaching the second aspect has been too exclusively put in the foreground, so that some have even gone to the extreme of saying that we must keep sinning if we are indeed to keep humble. Others again have thought that the strength of self-condemnation is the secret of humility. And the Christian life has suffered loss, where believers have not been distinctly guided to see that, even in our relation as creatures, nothing is more natural and beautiful and blessed than to be nothing, that God may be all; or, where it has not been made clear that it is not sin that humbles most, but grace, and that it is the soul, . . . occupied with God

in His wonderful glory as God, as Creator, and Redeemer, that will truly take the lowest place before Him.

In these meditations I have, for more than one reason, almost exclusively directed attention to the humility that becomes us as creatures. It is not only that the connection between humility and sin is so abundantly set forth in all our religious teaching, but because I believe that for the fullness of the Christian life it is indispensable that prominence be given to the other aspect. If Jesus is indeed to be our example in His lowliness, we need to understand the principles in which it was rooted, and in which we find the common ground on which we stand with Him, and in which our likeness to Him is to be attained. If we are indeed to be humble, not only before God but towards men, if humility is to be our joy, we must see that it is not only the mark of shame because of sin, but, apart from all sin, a being clothed upon with the very beauty and blessedness of heaven and of Jesus. We shall see that just as Jesus found His glory in taking the form of a servant, so when He said to us, “Whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave,” He simply taught us the blessed truth that there is nothing so divine and heavenly as being the servant and helper of all. The faithful servant who recognizes his position finds

a real pleasure in supplying the wants of the master . . . . When we see that humility is something infinitely deeper than contrition, and accept it as our participation in the life of Jesus, we shall begin to learn that it is our true nobility, and that to prove it in being servants of all is the highest fulfillment of our destiny, as men created in the image of God.

When I look back upon my own religious experience, or round upon Christ’s church in the world, I stand amazed at the thought of how little humility is sought after as the distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus. In preaching and living, in the daily intercourse of the home and social life, in the more special fellowship with Christians, in the direction and performance of work for Christ, alas, how much proof there is that humility is not esteemed the cardinal virtue, the only root from which the graces can grow, the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with Jesus. That it should have been possible for men to say of those who claim to be seeking . . . . holiness, that the profession has not been accompanied with increasing humility, is a loud call to all earnest Christians, however much or little truth there be in the charge, to prove that meekness and lowliness of heart are the chief mark by which they who follow the meek and lowly lamb of God are to be known. ■

*We want to start a new series this month entitled “Humility—the Beauty of Holiness.” The author of this book is Andrew Murray, who was born in South Africa in 1828 and died in 1917. As a preacher and missionary, he was also an inspiring writer who authored a number of books and tracts.*

*In this series he covers the subject of humility. Humility is the opposite of pride and arrogance. Humility is also a great part of Jesus’ wonderful offering: “Come to Me, all . . . . learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-29).*

*Murray would like to show us the importance of humility in his remarks, just as a songwriter writes:*

*Less of yourself  
and more for Jesus,  
less of people,  
more for Him,  
is the prayer  
of the consecrated,  
who journey to  
their eternal home.*

*In this regard, the writer expresses his concern in a prayer: “Almighty, loving God, let us see with full clarity that being humble and small in your presence means the greatest happiness and greatest blessing.”*

## A Happy Marriage

*Do you have the courage to lead a marriage according to biblical order regardless of the spirit of the times' demands? If so, divine blessing will not be lacking in your home.*

**T**he Holy Scripture says to the husband, “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself” (Ephesians 5:28).

I read this quote from George Mueller: “I have never seen my wife enter through the door of my room without rejoicing in her.” Ah, that we show this love, bound to God, always fresh, growing into old age, to our wives!

What a privilege it is to have a believing wife who gladly bears the whole burden of home! Such a woman is entitled to the gratitude of her husband. Yes, dear brothers, what thanks we owe our wives who surround us with faithful love and who sacrifice their lives for us! I say, he who does not see in his wife the “Chancellor,” given to him by God, is missing out.

A prince said of his Chancellor, “I have never regretted having followed the advice of my Chancellor, but I did regret it where I have not followed it.” Dear Husband, do not disrespect the wisdom and intelligence of your wife, for there may be many decisions in which she grasps the heart of the matter faster and sees the solution more clearly than you do. There are stormy days in the lives of believers. Blessed is the man who stands as God’s witness in the storms and struggles of life, who has a wife who consoles him with the Word of God when he comes home tired.

When I was still active in my profession, I once came home at a time of great difficulty. As I stepped into my room, there on the table was my opened Bible with a note: “My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock

and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved” (Psalm 62:5-6). It is delightful to be pointed by the hand of love to the saving, sure foundation on such a difficult day. A woman, founded in Christ and faithfully devoted to her husband, is a pillar of strength, helping her husband be victorious in the battle of faith.

Anyone who has read about the pain the well-known missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, felt, torn apart at the deathbed of his Mary, will understand what a marriage united with the Lord and experienced in God represents for children of God. Therefore, Brother, love your wife.

When I made a gift for my bride during the time of our engagement, a colleague at work said to me, “My wife and I no longer need such external proofs of love.” How loveless their marriage looked! There will never come a time in marriage where the husband does not need to prove his love and thankfulness to his wife tangibly, so their love remains fresh. How many men lack such proofs of love, a kind word, a loving look. Oh, that none of us would remain indebted to our wives, for the hour may come when we can no longer pay off the debt. How many have placed flowers on their wives’ caskets but have not blessed them with bouquets of flowers in the vibrancy of their daily lives? Brothers, bring the trinkets of a new, tender love into your home.

Now I will be praised by the women. But we are not finished yet. The apostle continues, “Let the wife see that she respects her husband” (Ephesians 5:33). On the greatest day of misfortune ever on earth, the day



of the fall of man, God said to Eve, “He shall rule over you” (Genesis 3:16). Other than work, marriage is the only thing that was salvaged from the Garden of Eden. It is a divine thought: “He shall rule over you.”

The New Testament praises Sarah: “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror” (1 Peter 3:5-6). Even with a facility to rule, if women have the desire to exert a deep influence on their husbands, there is only one way to do so: they must wrap themselves in deepest humility. Then they will have an unlimited influence on the man. If a woman contradicts a man, then the basic orders of God in a home are upset. It is not justifiable when women desire to have the last word. Sister, acknowledge your sin. You have not honored your husband as you should. Much of the blame for so few happy marriages lies in the fact that there are so few truly humble women.

The best advice life has given me is that husband and wife should never end a day disgruntled. Let not the sun go down on your wrath. If there is anything that separates hearts, do not go to sleep until every cloud, every mist of the day, is cleared away. For how great is the danger that many small displeasures and moods can disturb love, or even become sin and kill love.

Our current culture desperately needs to see holy and happy marriages lived before the eyes of children and communities. For the Christian home is first and foremost the place from which divine rays of eternal light shine into a lost world, through which the world can be convinced that the children of God have access to God’s divine power which the world lacks. ■

EP

## Responsibility of Husband and Wife

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

*Ephesians 5:22-33*

# Edmonton Church of God Building Update

“[B]eautify the place of My sanctuary; and I will make the place of My feet glorious” (Isaiah 60:13).



It is an awesome task and a humbling privilege to build a house of worship to our God. He has provided the vision, the land, the laborers and all the materials needed to erect this building where His people will gather in love and unity to make His praise glorious.

The construction is advancing rapidly. We are grateful God has provided safety and success in the process and pray He will continue to protect everyone involved in this building project.

The exterior of the structure is almost at close-up phase. The roof is being put on and made watertight. Concrete floors have been poured and walls are being

framed and drywalled. Stucco is going up on the exterior and excitement is mounting.

The sanctuary will have a seating capacity for 550–600 worshipers. Administrative offices, Sunday school rooms, a kitchen, and boardroom, will be amazing assets for all aspects of ministry.

This year will bring exciting opportunities to volunteer for landscaping, and for participating in the move from the old church building to the new.

We are grateful for all the prayers, encouragement, support and donations. We thank our God for every contribution, for the planners, designers, workers, overseers, and for everyone who in any

way participates in the construction of this house of God.

There is only one reason this facility is being built: for the glory and honor of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. We know the church of Jesus Christ is not made of steel and beams, but of living stones, the children He has redeemed, forgiven and saved. The church building is a sanctuary where God's Word is proclaimed, His people are nourished, encouraged, refreshed, edified, built up, trained and equipped to live, love and serve like Jesus. It is a sanctuary to draw apart from the hustle and bustle of the world into a quiet, reverent atmosphere, to hear the Holy Spirit speak, and to bond with the family of God.

To His disciples, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you" Luke 17:21. And, what a kingdom it is! Think about this. The glorious kingdom of God is within YOU and ME. It is the kingdom of light and life, a kingdom built on the Solid Rock; it is the living, unshakable kingdom of God. As those anchored in this Rock, we throw out a lifeline to those in great darkness. To those without God and without hope in the world, we hold forth the living and active, life-giving, hope-breathing, Word of God in the local church, in our community, and via electronic communication, to all the world. The Word of God still changes hearts and lives. And by His Spirit, changed hearts and lives can still change nations through the message of the cross. There is no force in heaven or on earth that can stop His church. For Jesus Christ, the risen Lord and Head of the Church has said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all" (1 Chronicles 29:11). ■



# *The Captain of the Ship*

Life is like an ocean journey  
On a ship that sails with ease,  
Subject to the weather's mercy  
And great dangers on the seas.  
It needs a captain who can sail  
Past the rocky mountain cliffs,  
Familiar with the wind and gales,  
As commander of the ship.

If you sail upon the ocean  
On your own in wind and gale,  
You'll be subject to the motion  
And the crashing of the waves.  
Before you're shipwrecked, lost indeed,  
Oh, let Jesus take command.  
As captain of your ship, He'll lead  
Safe to harbor and to land.

If the winds and waves are raging  
And the ship is tempest-tossed,  
Or the sun is hot and blazing,  
Either way you won't be lost.  
You won't be spared adversity,  
But still in the woes of life,  
He'll guide you safely o'er the sea,  
Be there calm or be there strife.

If in night, fog, and confusion  
You can never see a way,  
No afflictions are exclusions,  
He will never go astray.  
He knows the sea, so night and day  
Leave the ship in His command,  
And He will guide you, come what may,  
Safely home to gloryland.