

Plain Truth

MCI (P) 132/05/2013

A Magazine Of Christian Understanding

Jul-Aug 2014

Falling upwards

p.5

Is God fair?

p.18



Living by faith

p.14



PP 12573/03/2013 (032108)

Claim your identity!

The devil has hijacked your identity and you are not even aware of it! He has stolen your true identity and given you a fake one and you have accepted it as true. This has prevented you from experiencing the abundant life that God created you for. It has robbed you of your joy, peace, passion and creativity. It has shackled you to a boring, mundane existence.

It's time you woke up to your true identity!

Image and likeness

Genesis—the first book in the Bible—tells us that God created Adam and Eve in his *image* and *likeness*.¹ What does that mean?

Image has to do with your genes, DNA, origin, species—your identity. Created in his image means you have your identity in God. You are his offspring, his children.

Likeness has to do with your quality of life—how you live your life. Created in his likeness means you have God's quality of life—his joy, peace, passion, kindness, goodness. That's the life you were created for.

When God created Adam and Eve, they lived in absolute bliss in the Garden of Eden. *Eden means pleasure*—that's what they experienced. They had *dominion* over the earth. But that life changed when they sinned.

Sin took a heavy toll on them. Their minds became warped and twisted. They lost the knowledge of God and of themselves. Their perceptions changed. They saw a different god—a god who was a strict judge, a god who was distant, a god who was very unlike them. And they saw themselves as *mere man* (naked), not as his offspring. They painted God and themselves with toxic colors drawn from their fallen, darkened mind. They no longer saw God as he truly was and they no longer saw who they truly were. It was a great fall.

Their story is also our story. We inherited false ideas about God and about ourselves. That's the root cause of much suffering today.

Likeness was compromised

We inherited Adam's sin.² *Sin compromised our likeness, but it did not change our image. Sin compromised our behavior but not our identity.* While we will always be God's children, we do not always exhibit his quality of life—his goodness, kindness and compassion.

by
Dr. P.
Sellappan

In the prodigal son's story,³ the younger son demanded his share of wealth from his father and squandered it all in licentious living. After he lost everything he came to his senses and returned home to his father and offered to work as a *hired* servant. But the father rejected his offer and welcomed him as his own *son* as he truly was. Sin compromised his behavior but it did not change his identity. It's the same with us. Our sin may compromise the quality of our life, but it does not change our identity. We will always be God's children even if we have messed up our lives.

Our sin compromised God's likeness in us. But Jesus came and restored it through his redemptive work—through his life, death, resurrection and ascension. He has *recreated* us in his image and likeness (as he originally created us).

Repent and believe

Religion has confused our *identity* with our *behavior*. It has confused *who we are* with *what we do*. It has

mistakenly labelled our behavior as our identity. That has produced all sorts of negative results. We see ourselves as sinners—failure, inferior, worthless, hopeless. It has reinforced our belief that we are useless and therefore God does not love us. It has created an identity crisis which is the root cause of much suffering today.

God asks us to repent—*change our mind*—about our false identity. He asks us to believe our true identity, that we are his offspring. Our identity is in him, not in our behavior. That's why God

changed the names of certain characters in the Bible. For example, he changed the name of Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (of God).⁴ Jacob pictured what he did (his actions); Israel pictured his true identity (who he was).

Let's summarize: Our identity is based on who we are, not in what we do. Our identity is in God, not in our behavior. Carrying correct identity produces positive results; carrying false identity produces negative results. That's why we must repent of our false identity and believe in our true identity.

Faith is seeing what God sees and believing what he believes about us. When we embrace our true identity we will see breakthroughs in our lives. *We become (experience) what we believe.* Proverbs tells us that as we think in our heart, so we become.⁵ May this truth transform your life. □



¹ Genesis 1:26–27

² Romans 5:12

³ Luke 15:11–32

⁴ Genesis 32:28

⁵ Proverbs 23:7

THE Plain Truth

A Magazine Of Christian Understanding



19



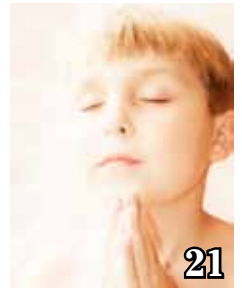
20



12



16



21

Issue No. 2	Volume No. 13
July–August 2014	PP 12578/03/2013 (032108)
Editor	Dr. P. Sellappan
Managing Editor	Low Mong Chai
Co-ordinator	Susan Low
Editorial & Advisory Committee	Ben David
	Devaraj Ramoo
	Stefanie Tai
	Tan Ten Lee
	Wong Mein Kong
	Wong Teck Kong
Editorial Adviser	John Halford
Design	Richard Low
Design Adviser	John D. Stettaford

Malaysia

Office Address:
No.98, Jalan Zapin 3A/KU5,
Mutiara Point (off Jalan Meru),
Bandar Bukit Raja, Batu Belah,
41050 Klang

Website: www.gci-malaysia.org
Email: ptasiamy@gmail.com

Postal Address:
P. O. Box 2043,
Pusat Bisnes Bukit Raja,
Pos Malaysia Bhd.,
40800 Shah Alam.

Singapore

Jurong Point Post Office, P.O. Box 054, Singapore 916402

The Plain Truth is published four times a year as funds allow, and is sponsored by Grace Communion International, which is a member of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship of Malaysia. It follows a non-denominational editorial policy and provides a message of practical help, hope and encouragement from a Christian perspective. - For Non-Muslims Only -

DONATIONS: Although we do not put any subscription price for THE PLAIN TRUTH, we gratefully welcome donations from readers who support our desire to bring spiritual knowledge and understanding to our fellow brothers and sisters. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Plain Truth' and mailed to the postal address listed above.

Printed in Malaysia by:
Hin Press & Trading Sdn Bhd (71078-D)
No. PT 45855, Batu 2, Jalan Kapar,
41400 Klang, Selangor, Malaysia

ISSN 1675-3100. Copyright Grace Communion International, 2014.

cover story

- 5 Falling upwards**
Failure leads to success.

articles

- 7 Long walk to heaven?**
Jesus has lifted us to heaven.
- 8 Check your heart**
Guard your heart.
- 10 God's story and our story**
Jesus' story includes our story.
- 11 Victims and victimizers**
Jesus empowers you to live harmoniously with others.
- 12 Parable of the unjust steward**
God's lavish grace to us.
- 14 Living by faith**
Trusting God moment by moment.
- 16 The other side of the story**
To understand, we must know the whole story.
- 18 Is God fair?**
God's fairness is rigged in our favor.
- 22 What are the good gifts?**
Appreciate God's gift to you.

regular features

- 2 Editorial**
- 4 What our readers say**
- 19 Another angle**
- 20 Speaking of life...**
- 21 Tammy's turn**
- 23 Hmm...**
Something to think about.

What our readers say:

Ed: Dear readers, thank you for your letters/email/sms to this column. We really appreciate them as they inspire and prod us to continue publishing the Good News that in Christ all are loved, forgiven, reconciled, accepted and adopted as God's children. Please write, email (ptasiamy@gmail.com) or sms (017-2559244) your comments. Thank you.

I like to thank THE PLAIN TRUTH team for producing such a wonderful magazine. I was so encouraged and inspired by the articles that I read. They bring lot of enlightenment and knowledge about what God has done for us in the person of his son Jesus. I thank God for the magazine that has changed my life and my attitude. May the good Lord continue to bless your team and the magazine. Thank you.

Hooi Yee
Penang

The article "Does God have a clue?" (Apr-Jun 2014) by Andre Rabe is a brilliant one. It definitely expresses God's response to our nagging questions.

Jayashree
Petaling jaya

I find THE PLAIN TRUTH thought-provoking, practical and down-to-earth. It helps me to understand the Bible better. I always look forward to new issues and enjoy reading them. I keep and treasure them for future reference. Thank you and God bless you.

Ho Swee Tok
Alor Star

I find THE PLAIN TRUTH informative as it gives me opportunity to learn about other religions besides my own—Sikhism. I believe all religions are good and I respect them all.

Harbans Kaur
Petaling Jaya

THE PLAIN TRUTH provides good reading material and helps me to increase my knowledge. I thank you all for the wonderful work.

Sundaram
Klang

Please kindly accept this small donation of RM50 as a gesture of appreciation and support of the work that you are doing.

THE PLAIN TRUTH is a wonderful magazine that constantly inspires readers of different faiths that Almighty God is always there for us if only we would reach out to Him in good times and bad. I have always enjoyed reading your wonderful magazine and have benefitted in various ways from the many interesting and inspiring articles. I look forward to receiving the next issue.

Benjamin Chow
Petaling Jaya

THE PLAIN TRUTH has some thought provoking articles that help me in my Christian living. After reading this magazine I usually pass them to my friends. Enclosed is a small contribution toward your good effort.

D Thambyrajah
Ipoh

THE PLAIN TRUTH discusses important issues of life and gives encouragement and motivation to me and my family to follow Jesus Christ. Thank you for the team's hard work to bring out this magazine.

Lee Peng Cheng
Ipoh

I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading THE PLAIN TRUTH. It is illuminating and enlightening! Your team of writers, editors and staff are simply wonderful and God-inspired! They must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to come out with such wonderful articles. So keep on writing and may God bless you and your good work.

Josephine Mark
Johor Bharu

THE PLAIN TRUTH gives me with a better understanding of God's word. It also helps me to understand people and accept them.

Benedict Phang
Bukit Mertajam

The writers touch on the realities of our life. The articles are enlightening and inspiring for they reveal the presence of God in all walks of life all across the globe.

Stephen Tung
Petaling Jaya

I am very impressed by this magazine which I used to borrow from my friend. I wish to have these copies for myself too. Please mail them to me. The articles

discuss day-to-day issues and are very relevant to my faith.

Mary Vincent
Taiping

In this complex world and globalization, I need this magazine to gain spiritual knowledge and guidance to find true meaning of life and human struggles.

Albert K S Chan
Ipoh

As a two year old believer, THE PLAIN TRUTH has greatly helped me grow in my faith. The articles are very relevant and easy to understand. Please continue the good work. God bless.

Ang Eng Siew
Kuala Lumpur

The articles help me to understand God's word better and they are relevant to our daily living.

Kathryn Ooi Choo Lian
Singapore

Although THE PLAIN TRUTH is sent free of charge, it is not without cost. Each copy is made possible by the generosity of others. So we are very grateful for those readers who send a donation, and make it possible for us to continue to publish the good news of the Gospel. Donations should be sent to the addresses listed on page 3 or sent electronically to the bank account:

*The Plain Truth
A/C No: 1203-0386318-05-6
CIMB BANK BHD
Jalan Dato Hamzah (Branch)
12-14 Jalan Dato Hamzah
41700 Klang,
Selangor, MALAYSIA.*

We welcome your comments. Letters for this section should be addressed to: "Letters to the Editor", The Plain Truth, P.O. Box 2043, Pusat Bisnes Bukit Raja, Pos Malaysia Bhd., 40800 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia. or sent via electronic mail to: ptasiamy@gmail.com

The editor reserves the right to use letters so addressed in whole or in part, and to include your name and edit the letter for clarity and space.

Falling upwards

Michael Jordan, the famous American basketball player did an advert for Nike some years back. In this advert he detailed some of the massive failures in his life.

This included more than 9,000 shots missed, losing almost 300 games and being trusted to take the winning shot 26 times and missing. With such failures under his belt one might think that they would have crushed the man. At the end of the advert Jordan is quoted as saying: "I have failed over and over again in

by
**Shaun
de Greeff**

of the light bulb said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." We need to realise that failing is an important part of our development. In fact one could argue that people like Jordan and Edison failed upwards, their failures eventually leading to great success.

You see, Michael Jordan eventually won a litany of awards and in 1999 was named the greatest North American athlete of the 20th century.



my life, and that is why I succeed."

Failing, therefore is not the measure of a person. If Michael Jordan had given up because he failed at times, he would not have gone on to become such a great player. It was not the fact that he failed at something that mattered in the end, but how he dealt with that failure. He kept going. Those failures taught him valuable lessons and the more he learned the better he became. Like Thomas Edison, the inventor

When times are tough

Just like Michael Jordan, all of us face failure at times. It could be in our jobs, or marriages, or friendships, or we could experience failing health. When these things happen we need to remember that when we fail, although we might not have control over the event itself, we do have control over what we do and what we believe. For Christians there is much better news than that. We can also take enormous comfort that God is

ultimately in control and that he loves us deeply. For us, failing upwards not only involves succeeding but also recognising that we are able to do so because of Christ in us.

Case in point was the 2008/2009 subprime lending debacle and the massive worldwide economic crisis that followed. This event led to tens of thousands of businesses closing their doors and retrenching their staff. South Africa was not immune to it and in March of 2009 I went to work one day and found that the company I worked for was facing bankruptcy and had to retrench its entire staff including me!

What followed was a bit of an emotional rollercoaster. After the message hit home that there will be no pay check at the end of the month questions like “Will we be able to buy food?” or “How will we be able to pay the bond at the end of the month?” became the order of the day. We were set to lose everything—our house, our car, our furniture and our good credit rating. Everything that we had worked for so hard was now doomed to failure because of events outside of our control and not of our own making.

I remember standing in the unemployment line that wrapped half way around the city block where the Department of Labour was situated and noticing that most people looked hopeless. For many it looked like it was the end of the road. I wondered how many of them would find a job in time.

One would think that this was one of the most emotionally trying times of my life. One would think that getting to the end of the month with no food in the house would be problematic and that phoning the bank to inform them that there would be no bond payment this month would be scary, that the prospects for a white male in a society that was struggling to address the wrongs of apartheid, meant that opportunity was scarce and options were limited.

But in fact I did not lose one night’s sleep over the issue. Why?

Because God was in control

He has never stopped being in control. Philippians 4:6–7 tells us: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Peace—that was what I felt. It was weird in one sense because my head kept telling me that I should be panicking and yet I was calm, because I knew that God was ultimately in control. I remember standing in the kitchen talking to my wife and discussing how we would feel if we lost everything. We both agreed that if it happened it would be ok...because we knew that God would never leave us nor forsake us.

I thought about it long and hard and decided that this was the ideal time to start my own business. What did I have to lose after all? To be honest that first six months was tough and although I was getting an unemployment cheque, it did not cover all our expenses. In order to keep head above water we had to cancel most of our insurance and medical aid and had to cut back drastically on spending.

Then one month with two weeks to go, I realised that I had not done any work that month and that there would not be enough money to pay the bills. I prayed

about it and trusted that God would provide. A couple of days later I got a phone call from someone we had previously invited to our house for a braai. At the braai I had told them that I build websites for a living and—surprise, surprise—their company needed a new website. With days to spare I managed to finish the site and got enough money to pay our bills that month.

But that was not the only instance where God provided for us. There were numerous times. One time, we had very little food left in the house with more than a week before the unemployment cheque was due. We lived more than 90km from Cape Town (where the rest of my family stays). Out of the blue we get a phone call from my aunt who invited us to dinner.

A huge favour?

We had to decide whether we drive out 180km worth of petrol for dinner, or whether to stay home and see what the bare cupboards could offer. We opted for the dinner. When we got there, it turned out that they were leaving on an overseas trip and that this was their farewell dinner. At the end of the evening, as we were leaving to go home, my aunt called me to one side and asked if I could do her a huge favour. She explained that they had a lot of food in their cupboards and fridge that they did not want to go to waste, and if we would be so kind as to take it off their hands. Can you believe it...enough food for more than two weeks...for free and I did not tell them that we had no food at home!

Isn’t God amazing! In Philippians 4:19 we read: “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” And that is exactly what God did. When we least expected it and when things were at their most desperate he supplied us with what we needed.

So you might think to yourself that everything was easy from there onward...well you would be wrong. Exactly a year later, my wife got retrenched from her job and we faced the same problems all over again. This time it was even worse because my business had only started becoming a viable financial source of income and we had relied heavily on her salary.

It took her six months and whole different set of miracles to get a job and stabilise our income. In fact it got so bad that had she not gotten a job when she did, we would not have had enough money to pay our debts. Through all this, God was faithful. He never let us down.

Even though people, jobs and circumstances failed us, Christ turned those failures into a testimony of his greatness. We did not fail and spiral downwards, we failed upwards!

You see God loves you and me. More so than we would love a pet like our cat or dog. He loves us likes sons and daughters and promises that he will care for us. In Mathew 6:25–26 we read: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

So when times are tough and things feel like they are falling apart, remember that the Creator of the universe loves you and cares for you. Don’t worry about failing downwards. Rather pray that God helps you fail upwards! ☐

Long walk to heaven?

The text message read, 'Sometimes I wonder if I will ever make it.'

That is also how I felt as I plodded up the steep, rocky pathway. Sore shoulders from the heavy backpack and sorer feet from the kilometres of hiking trail behind me. Up ahead some fellow hikers were already sitting at the highest point, relaxing and enjoying the stunning view of the Cape Fynbos, white sandy beaches and deep blue ocean waters. They had made it.

It is actually no surprise that the Christian life is often compared to a journey along a pathway or road. Not just by us, but by many of the writers of the Bible as well. "You have made known to me the path of life."¹ "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."² "Broad is the road that leads to destruction... but narrow the road that leads to life."³

Many books have used this theme, including the famous 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan. The story is an allegory of the Christian's journey through life on their way to the promise land. No different, in many ways, to the Israelites' 40 year journey through the wilderness on their way to the promised land of Canaan, nor Abraham's journey. Both stories are found in the first five books of the Bible.

We slip and fall

Our lives, just like the hike I was on, have ups and downs. Times when the going is easy and times when it is really, really tough. Times when we enjoy the view and the smell of the flowers and times when we doubt whether we can take one more step. Then there are times when we slip and fall and hurt ourselves really badly, and times when we lose our way and wander off the path. Even Jesus, in his great wisdom, warned us that in this life we would have troubles.⁴

Many Christians tend to see the path of everyday life as the path moving forward towards eventual salvation. Hence the text message from my Christian friend going through difficult times that said she sometimes wonders if she will ever make it. She wondered if she would be saved, and obtain eternal life as her reward.

An angry God?

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) gave some stirring sermons. Unfortunately, the one entitled "Sinners in the hands of an angry God," is nowadays his most well-known. In the sermon Edwards gives the impression that an angry God is just waiting to punish sinners. 'That the reason why they are not fallen already and do not fall now is only that God's appointed time is not come. For it is said, that when that due time, or

by
**Johannes
Maree**

appointed time comes, their foot shall slide. Then they shall be left to fall, as they are inclined by their own weight. God will not hold them up in these slippery places any longer, but will let them go; and then, at that very instant, they shall fall into destruction; as he that stands on such slippery declining ground, on the edge of a pit, he cannot stand alone, when he is let go he immediately falls and is lost." (Edwards wrong interpretation of Deuteronomy 32:35 and Psalm 73:18–19).

The point I want to make is that I don't believe this is an accurate view of who God is or what being 'saved' is truly about. We as Christians should not confuse our daily walk and growth through this life with that of our salvation. Salvation is not a touch and go situation. It is not a 'hopefully I won't lose my footing on the slippery

rocks and break my neck in the process' journey. The crux of the Gospel is not that we can be saved (if we don't put a foot wrong), but that we have been saved. "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."⁵ "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'⁶ Our salvation is assured. It is founded on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and not on the slippery slope of human strength.

The Apostle Paul talked about how he struggled to do what was right and how tough his life's journey was. But in the letter to the Ephesians he makes it very clear that we can be assured of our salvation. For we were chosen in Christ even before the creation of the world.⁷ We have redemption through Jesus' blood and by God's grace. We are marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.

"For it is by grace you have been saved. Not will be, but have been. For we are God's workmanship and he does all the work, not us."⁸ Salvation is something only God can do, it is supernatural.

I get to the top of the hill and sit down to rest my tired body. The view is breath-taking. The birds are singing and far below whales play lazily in the blue ocean. I too have made it. Should the hike have been too easy with no challenges then I would not have had the same sense of accomplishment and enjoyment. Looking back, at no stage should I have doubted that I would make it.

I send a text message to my friend. It reads, "Tough hike but had a really great time and what a view from the top! Oh and by the way, no need to wonder. You've made it!" □

¹ Psalm 16:11

² Psalm 119:105

³ Matthew 7:13

⁴ John 16:33

⁵ John 10:28

⁶ John 8:12

⁷ Ephesians 1:4

⁸ Ephesians 2:9–10



Check yo

I would like to speak to you about your heart. “My heart? When I last checked it was still beating. I can run, play...”

No, not that bodily organ in your chest that pumps blood but the heart that’s mentioned over 90 times in the book of Proverbs.

“Oh, ok. If you want to but I don’t think it’s that important—there must be more important things to discuss in my Christian life. Why don’t you talk to me

by
Gordon Green

ok!”

You don’t understand. When Solomon writes about our heart he is emphasising something far deeper than curse words and road rage. And that’s where your heart comes into it. Your heart in the Bible is the source of your bad temper and anger—mine too. In fact out of our hearts flow so much more—our desires, our motives, our intentions, our choices, our dreams, our longings, our hopes, our fears, our greed, our creativity,



about God’s blessings, his laws, obedience, prophecy and...”

Hold on! Just like your bodily heart is vital, your inner heart is critical. In fact it is so important that God commands you to protect it. It’s a priority. “More than anything else, guard your heart.”¹ Watch it closely.

“Oh so I see what you are saying. I mustn’t let my feelings and emotions get out of control. I know that. I am working on my temper and I swear now and again—especially in the traffic—but I think I’m doing

our lusts, our jealousies—in fact everything we are, originates in our hearts. Just like our physical heart is at the centre of our body so too is our spiritual heart the centre and core of our whole being. Jesus Christ gave central attention to the heart. He said, “Whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.”²

“Ok, so you are saying my heart is like the source of a

ur heart

river. A river is wide and long and deep but its source is a spring that starts high up in the hills?”

Direction for life

Exactly. Our natural heart has a direct impact on every single part of our body as it pumps blood through arteries and many kilometres of blood vessels and so influences our ability to live and function. From within our inner heart comes direction for our life. Think of all the things you believe, your deepest convictions,³ the ones that really shape your life—they are all down there somewhere in the depths of your heart.⁴ In your heart you ponder questions like: Why am I alive? What is my purpose? Why do I get up in the morning? Why am I who I am? Why am I different from my dog?

Do you see what I'm saying? Your heart is what makes you you. Your heart is who you are. Your heart is you, the real you, the deepest truest you. Oh, we can keep our heart hidden and put on masks because we don't want others to know what we are really thinking but that doesn't change who we are deep down in our essential inner selves.

Do you see why your heart is so important? God says to you, to me, to all of us that we are responsible to look after our hearts.

“But why?”

The rest of Proverbs 4:23 explains: It “affects everything you do.” Or as the Message Bible reads: “Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.”

“So that's where everything really starts? Just like the seed of a tree contains a tree and potentially a forest within it so my heart contains all of my life?”

Yes. It's out of our hearts that our lives spring from.

Who we are in our heart is who sooner or later we shall be in our behaviour. Our behaviour begins invisibly—usually a long time before we actually do it. Our actions are really the belated announcement of where we have been for a long time. Have you ever said “I don't know what came over me.”? But you did it. The truth is that you've been thinking that for a long time and suddenly the opportunity arose and you did it. Today's thoughts are tomorrow's actions and reactions.

Today's jealousy is tomorrow's temper tantrum.

Today's bigotry is tomorrow's hate crime.

Today's anger is tomorrow's abuse.

Today's lust is tomorrow's adultery.

Today's greed is tomorrow's embezzlement.

Today's guilt is tomorrow's fear.

Proverbs 4:23 teaches us that our behaviour begins in the centre of our being, arises from a hidden spring, our heart, and it's the driving force behind all our actions and words; “As he thinks in his heart, so is he.”⁵ Our heart expresses itself in our relating and responding to everything around us.

“This reminds me of an iceberg.”

Yes, our behaviour is just the tip of the iceberg. But

it really comes from an invisible part of me. It's all connected. And that vast part of the iceberg under the water is the sum of all our years—even from conception.

There is one thing I haven't mentioned. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, lives in our hearts.⁶ God is working in our hearts to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ. But all sorts of damage has been done to our hearts over the years and of course daily we face thoughts that bombard our minds. It takes time. It is a process.

Get involved

“So I just leave it to God and he will sort it all out?”

Not at all. God is actively on your side but he's calling you to get involved.

“So how do I do that? What is my role? How do I guard my heart?”

Catch your behaviour at its conception. For example, just when you realise that you are acting in an ungodly way toward someone, push the pause button and choose to be who you really are in Jesus Christ and draw upon his grace. As a father and grandfather I have learnt that often the most effective way to get a crying baby to stop performing is to get his mind onto something else. It works almost immediately (It's like buttoning a shirt. In your heart is where you put the first button into the first hole. Our behaviour is all the other buttons. Get the first one wrong and they are all out of line!)

“I like that! But it is difficult. So often I try and try and grit my teeth trying to be like Jesus but I can't”.

This is not about trying and sweating. It's about the very life of Jesus Christ being expressed through you. The Holy Spirit stands ready to help us manage and filter the thoughts that try to enter your heart. When a wrong thought approaches, don't just open the door and let it enter. You aren't helpless over the thoughts that may bombard your mind. You “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”⁷

Don't leave the door unguarded. You have everything you need to live a godly life—you have the equipment to enable you to capture any thoughts not fit to enter.⁸

I would also like to encourage you to make Ephesians 3:16 your personal life-prayer. In it Paul prays that God “may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.” Nurture yourself with the constant affirmation and realization of your Father's love and care in every area of your life.

Watch your heart. Guard it. Protect it. Be careful what you think.

“You mean I'm responsible?”

You are response-able. ☐

¹ Proverbs 4:23

² Matthew 12:34–35

³ Romans 10:9–10

⁴ Proverbs 20:5

⁵ Proverbs 23:7

⁶ Ephesians 3:17

⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁸ 2 Peter 1:3–4

God's story and our story

We all have a story, a history. We have our individual stories, and our collective human and world story. A past, a present, a future.

What is your story? Who are you, what is your journey? Where are you heading? Who are you, as a unique and special being, going to be in the future?

God has a story too! His story is the big story, or “meta” story as theologians call it, within which your story, my story, and the story of our world sits. Just like my story fits within the story of my mother and father, and that of my grandparents and earlier ancestors, which in turn fits within the story of my town, state and nation's histories and cultures. None of us experience life alone. Our stories are influenced by being part of a larger historical and cultural context.

We all tend to have a particular view of ourselves and the story of us. We also have a vision of what the wider story of life is, and how we fit into it. How we see that story, our part in it, and our future, has a huge impact on our mental and emotional well-being. Just a glimpse into the eyes of a starving child, a poverty stricken parent, or an abused spouse, bears this out.

God wants us to see how our story, and the past, present and future history of all mankind fits within his story. But how can we know that story? How can we know what that story holds for us all?

The Bible claims to be the revealed “word” or communication from God to humankind. It is God's story and our story. It is the story of God's plan and purposes, or our origins and destiny.

God's story turns out to be the ultimate story of love and freedom. Too often God is pictured as either a cold detached being who has created everything and then sat as a detached, all powerful judge who is waiting for us all to get in line with his rules and authority. Many see God as controlling everything and everyone, starting with a creation in which he micromanages every detail of the creation of everything and everyone. He is portrayed as predetermining all histories, beginnings and ends. But the Scriptures portray God creating not as a hyper-controlling super dictator, but as a gracious, benevolent parent, creating all things with generosity and spectacular creativity and freedom.

He created us free. Free to choose our destiny. Free to be who we choose to be. But in his love he shows how we can be the best we can. How choosing his way of generous grace and love is the best choice, the only way to truly achieve our full potential.

In our freedom, from our earliest responsible human ancestors (Adam and Eve), we have chosen to live our lives independently of God. To find our own way, to set our own course, to determine our own values and priorities. Like children growing up we prefer living life our own doing what we want. Mum and Dad seem like old fuddy-duddies who don't really have our best interests at heart.

Throughout the pages of the Bible we see God and

by
Phil Hopwood

man interacting. We see God showing individuals such as Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses and David that trusting in his love and guidance is the way to free themselves of the problems of life lived apart from God (sin), and to let him lead them and their families and peoples to the better life.

The Bible is full of stories of people who trusted God and those who didn't, and the consequences of both. It is God's way of saying to you and me; these are your choices. Live with me, trust in me, walk with me, and become fully and wonderfully the best you can be. Or choose to live on your own, and end up being a shadow of your real and best self. It is the ultimate life and death choice.

The story of God, and your story and mine culminates and is most clearly and fully portrayed in the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Jesus literally brings our stories together as one. He is our “at-one-ment” with God. As fully God and fully human, Jesus unites our stories into one. As God he came to reveal God's life of love to us. He lived as one of us, demonstrating what life lived in total trust and loving, intimate partnership with God is like. Just before he died, he told his disciples; “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”¹

When Jesus was resurrected he showed what our future history will be like. As one of us, God raised him from the grave and gave him a new spiritual body. He was still recognisable as Jesus. Death had no power over him. He ascended to live as one of us, glorified and immortal, in God's presence. The Bible shows that by trusting in all he has done as God and as one of us, Jesus shares his new life with us today, and promises to return to our earthly home to resurrect us all to fully experience his glorified life in fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

The prominent theologian Karl Barth wrote about Jesus' history and the Christian life.

The Christian is a man whose life Jesus Christ has entered as the subject of that history of His. He is a man to whom Jesus Christ has given not just a potential but an actual share in that history of His. Thus Jesus Christ, His history, became and is the foundation of Christian existence; this and this alone. The Christian comes from Him, from His history, from knowledge of it; he also looks back thereto. This is the ground on which he stands and walks. This is the air which he breathes. This is the word which he has in his ears before, above, and after all other words. This is the light, the one light, the incomparably bright light, which illumines him.

This is Jesus' story, and the Christian's story, and it can be your story as well. We are all free to choose. Why not take time to think and discover more about this story that God has chosen to include you in? □

¹ John 14:6-7

Victims and victimizers

Watched “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom.” Very touching. Perpetrators of evil see themselves most clearly through the eyes of their victims. But if victims only see themselves through the eyes of their oppressors, they will in turn become oppressors. Both victims and those who injured them need a greater reference than one another to be free.

Jesus became one with victims, the ultimate innocent victim of unjust murder. In our identification with Him on that cross, we see evil for what it is—we see ourselves through the eyes of an innocent victim. But in His resurrection He deprives the murderer (humanity) of their victim. In our identification with Him in His resurrection, we see love for what it is—we see ourselves, not as victims demanding revenge, but as victors over evil, offering forgiveness. Unlike the blood of many innocent victims, His blood does not cry for vengeance, but for forgiveness.

We have all been victims and we have all been victimizers. Victims can become obsessed with their victimizers, and perpetrators of violence can become obsessed with their victims... caught in hate and caught in shame. If we only see each other we will forever be caught in this circle of violence.

The message of Jesus breaks this circle of evil, by giving us a new reference for who we are. The victim is no longer a victim, if he or she chooses forgiveness instead of revenge. The victimizer no longer needs to live in the shame of his or her evil, as they receive forgiveness. Jesus introduces us to our true mirror—the God in who’s image and likeness we were created, to reflect dignity, love and the courage to be our true selves in the midst of perversity.

Thank you Mandela and the many victims of violence in South Africa ... and across the world, for once again living the message of Jesus, offering forgiveness and rejecting revenge. Thank you for helping humanity rise above the perverted identities of victims and victimizers, and once again reflect our true humanity.

You have planted the seeds of a new community. I see a South Africa no longer caught in the cycle of violence, hate and shame. I see a world that wakes up to the basic message of Christ—love ... as you love yourself; love even your enemies. It is far beyond the political-correctness message of tolerance... for that will ultimately fail.

Love never fails. □

Copyright 2013 Andre Rabe, Hearhim.net



by
Andre Rabe

Parable of the

You can read this parable in Luke 16:1–13. It's a scandalous story because it involves huge sums of money and implicates three top personalities and millions of others.

The parable

There was a certain rich man (master) who had a steward (manager) who took care of his assets (money). An accusation was brought against the steward that he was tampering with the accounts and wasting his master's money. The master summoned him to give an account of what he had done and then fired him.

The steward was a shrewd man. He quickly hatched a plan. He would call his master's clients—all debtors—and offer to slash their debts before surrendering the books to his master. He reasoned: "If I slash their debts, they will remember my kindness and take me into their homes when I am fired." The clients were very happy and relieved because they owed huge amounts. Accordingly, the steward slashed their debts and surrendered the books to his master.

This is a strange story because both the master and his steward acted strangely. The steward didn't plead for mercy, nor did he appeal to his master to be reinstated in his job. He simply accepted the sack. The master too didn't get mad or angry with his steward for tampering with the accounts. In fact, he praised him for being very shrewd.

How do we interpret this parable and what lessons can we draw from it?

The interpretation

Let's start by identifying the characters in the story. The rich man represents God the Father. The shrewd steward represents Jesus Christ. The clients represent the entire human race. And those who brought the accusation are the religious authorities—the olden and modern-day Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes.

Humanity sinned and became debtors to sin. We could never settle our sin—not even in a million years or endless cycles of rebirths. That's why God sent Jesus. He came to pay our debts—to atone for our sins. He took on human form and went around forgiving sinners—tax collectors, publicans, prostitutes, and all. The religious authorities who were strict law-keepers were upset with his actions because he was forgiving people indiscriminately. They accused him of undermining their efforts to uphold the (Mosaic) law. After all, they were the custodians of the law. They believed law-breakers must be punished and not allowed to go scot-free. Jesus' actions angered them because he was forgiving people freely instead of passing judgments. They questioned Jesus as to who gave him the authority to forgive people. Jesus claimed that he was the Son of God and therefore had the authority to forgive sin.¹ They accused him of playing



by
**Dr. P.
Sellappan**

God and misappropriating his power (assets). They wanted him dead. So they brought all sorts of false accusations against him which finally led to his death on the cross. He was crucified—fired—to pay for our sin.

Jesus died. But he rose from the grave on the third day and ascended to heaven. Since then he has been busy knocking at the *doors of human hearts* hoping that they would receive him *into their lives (homes)* for the kindness he had shown them (forgiving their sins).²

All the master's clients were hard-core debtors.³ They could never earn enough (righteousness) to pay their debts. So they were afraid to approach their master.

Isn't this how we feel in our fallen state? We dare not come before the holy God. But God assures us that he is gracious to forgive all our sin. Indeed he has already forgiven all our sin even before we repented. He personally took the initiative to send his son Jesus to pay our debts. Jesus repented on our behalf and was baptized in river Jordan. He was fired—crucified—to settle our sin, shame and guilt. He became 'unjust' so that we might be justified. He became sin so that we might be righteous. He became poor so that we might be rich. He was wounded so that we might be whole.

Jesus freed us from the curse of sin. He took our sin into himself and destroyed it on the cross and he rose to give us his righteousness. Because of what he did, we have right standing with God. So we do not have to hide from him. He asks us to come before his throne of grace boldly. And to help us do that, he has given us his Spirit of fellowship. The Spirit enables us to get to know him personally and intimately.

A word of caution: When interpreting parables, we must be careful not to interpret the words literally. For example, this parable might suggest that Jesus forgives only *some* of our sins, such as past sins. But that's not true as other scriptures tell us that he has forgiven *all* our sins—past, present and future.⁴

The books

Jesus' death has settled everyone's sin forever. He doesn't keep record of our sin. So sin is no more an issue with God. He has burnt his books and closed his accounting business for good.⁵ So we don't have to keep track of our (or other peoples') sins, failures and weaknesses.

Jesus will not use the Old Testament Law books to judge us. The Law cannot condemn us because he has taken all our sin and crucified it on the cross. He blotted our transgression completely. So we are no longer sinners. We are under grace. Grace is the only game in town—the Grace that writes *everyone's* name in the Book of Life. This is the only book God will look at—and, thankfully, he has written all our names in that precious book.⁶

Through his life, death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus has reconciled *all* humanity to God whether they

Unjust steward



actually know it or not, believe it or not, feel it or not. *All are included in his salvation plan.* He has cancelled everyone's sins—forever. His blood covers every sin—big and small, past, present and future. Not only that, he has given us his righteousness and has adopted us as his own beloved children. So we are truly righteous before God. We belong to him and he has given us all things. He is now inviting us to share our life with him—to come and participate in his glorious life. That's really good news.

God loves all people. He wants everyone in his kingdom (family). He doesn't want anyone to perish. He offers salvation freely to all. But we must personally receive it to benefit from it. Otherwise, it will have no effect in our lives.

Called to participate

The rest of the verses in the parable, Luke 16:9–13, is a call to action. As recipients of God's grace, he calls us to participate in his ministry of reconciliation.⁷ He asks us to share this Gospel (Good News) using the resources that he has blessed us with. That includes our time, money, talents and energy. He asks us to go and tell people everywhere that in Christ *all* are loved, forgiven, reconciled, accepted and adopted as his children.

Is there a reward for participating in his ministry? You bet! The money, time, energy and talents you spend to share the Gospel will come back to you manifold. How? Many—perhaps thousands—may come to know who the true God is and who they truly are in Christ (children of God) through your kind generosity. And you will have many friends—brothers and sisters—in God's kingdom.

While the people of this world are shrewd in accumulating wealth for themselves, God is asking us to be shrewd by sharing our resources so that we might gain many brothers and sisters who will be with us eternally. Make no mistake. We live in an uncertain and troubled world. Our money may leave us when inflation or financial tsunami strikes us, or we may leave our money when death calls us to the 'other world'. There is no security whatsoever in our money or in our life. Jesus is our only true security. That's why God is asking us to join and participate in his ministry of reconciliation.

The Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the three top personalities have been planning this reconciliation and redemption job for a long time. They have been working relentlessly to cover all of humanity's sin and include them in his glorious life as his own beloved children. God's grace is truly scandalous and this is the lesson of this parable. □

¹ Matthew 9:1–8

² Revelation 3:20

³ Romans 3:10

⁴ Psalm 103:3,
11–12;

Colossians

2:13; 1 John 1:9

⁵ Hebrews 7:11–18

⁶ Revelation
20:12–15

⁷ 2 Corinthians
5:18–19

Living

by
Cathy Deddo

Faith is a concept that is essential to Christianity and is a key theme of the New Testament. Paul encourages Timothy to “fight the good fight of the faith” and there are several instances in the gospels where Jesus commends individuals for their faith. When the Roman centurion tells Jesus that He doesn’t need to come to his house in order to heal his servant, Jesus marvels over the man’s faith, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”¹ As Christians, we understand that it is our faith that defines us as Christians. We are to be people of faith. Because it is such a central theme in the Bible, it is also a common topic for Christian sermons, books and songs. Unfortunately, there is a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding in the Christian church about what it means to live as people of faith. Simply put, Biblical faith is a continual response of trust to the gracious initiative of God towards us that enables us to receive the life that He is giving us through Jesus and in the Spirit.

There are a variety of misunderstandings of faith within Christianity that are often fueled by secular concepts of faith. In our culture today, we frequently hear that all kinds of things are possible if we “just have faith.” The main characters in many of the Disney movies, for instance, are told that wonderful things can happen if only they will believe. This view of faith regards it as a sort of an autonomous power we possess that can change things.

We see this understanding when people talk about how “faith changes lives” or “faith heals.” But this view of faith is abstract. It presents faith as some sort of generic subjective or psychological quality that we impose on our circumstances or our lives. It is mental or attitudinal, a state of mind such as being optimistic, or idealistic, or positive. This “faith” isn’t attached to anything in particular—it has no object apart from itself. What it really amounts to is faith in the power of my faith. The source of this kind of faith then is myself. Faith becomes nothing more than a power we use to get what we want and the value of faith is in the amount we are able to muster. I have often heard Christians talk about faith as if it is something we need to work up in ourselves—something that starts with us. This plays into a contractual idea of a “vending machine” God—if we can put in the right amount of faith, God will give us what we want.

But is this the Biblical notion of faith? In Mark 5:34, when Jesus tells the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years that her faith made her well, does He mean that she was healed because she had *enough* faith? What exactly was Jesus commending in the centurion? Was it simply that he had *more* faith than others did? Does Jesus work with us according to the *amount* of faith that we have?

Trying to “have faith” according to these misunderstandings can have an enormous impact on

our lives. When we think of our Christian faith in this way, we are thrown back on ourselves and our own resources. We are tempted to try to generate adequate faith by our own willpower. If our prayers seem to go unanswered or if we encounter difficulties in our lives, we may wonder if we are to blame because we didn’t have enough faith. Many years ago I was in danger of miscarrying my first pregnancy. Some well-meaning Christian friends encouraged me to “just have faith” and that God would heal me. After a few weeks of struggling to adequately believe I would be healed, I miscarried. I was not only devastated, but left to conclude that I lost the baby because of my inadequate faith.

However, the reality is that faith is not a commodity I possess in a contractual relationship with God. Jesus was not conditioned into healing the centurion’s servant because the centurion possessed a certain quality or amount of something called faith. When Jesus tells the woman that it was her faith that made her well, He is not saying that she was healed because she had enough faith. Unfortunately, even if we know that this is not Biblical faith, we are often still tempted to behave as if it is when we are struggling in our lives. We try to come to God “in faith” in hopes of conditioning Him into doing what we ask.

Rather than being something that originates with us, Biblical faith is understood to be a *response* made to the initiative of God. God reveals Himself, His character and purposes to His creation, and we respond to Him in faith—trusting in Who He’s revealed Himself to be. When Jesus commends the centurion for his faith, He is commending his response of faith in Jesus. The centurion understood more about the heart and authority of Jesus than many others and responded accordingly with trust in Jesus. When Jesus says to the woman after she was healed of bleeding that her faith had made her well, He is confirming that placing her trust in Him for healing and wholeness was the right and fitting response to Him. She came to the right person and her trust was not misplaced.

Because faith in God is a response to His initiative towards me, my faith is defined and shaped not by how much faith I possess, but by the One in whom I have placed my trust. My response of trust fits the revelation and work of the triune God. I am trusting God to be the God that He has revealed and is revealing Himself to be. This aspect of faith can be illustrated in our relationships with one another. My trust in my husband, Gary, is a response to and so is shaped by who he actually is. For instance, I have faith that he is faithful, insightful, and good at repairing things around the house. However, I don’t trust him to perform heart surgery on me! And I don’t believe that he could operate if I just had “enough faith.” My faith in Gary is grounded in the character of Gary as I have come to know him.

by faith

My faith, therefore, is not in my faith, but in the heart, character, and purposes of the triune God, most fully revealed to us in Jesus. So, we can have faith in God only as we come to see *Who* He is. In Hebrews 11:11, Sarah's faith is described in this way: "she considered him faithful who had promised." She knew something about the character of the One who had promised her a son—that He is faithful—and she trusted He would be true to His own nature.

Notice that Sarah is not trusting in the promise that God made, but *in the God who made the promise*. The object of our faith is nothing less than God Himself, the One we meet in Jesus Christ and who reveals Himself to us in and through His Spirit. We are ultimately trusting not in our faith but the God of our faith, not the

their readers.

Fundamentally, Christian faith is trusting that God will be true to Himself, that He will be the One He has revealed Himself to be. What does this mean? Well, we are trusting that God will be faithful to continue His good work in our lives, whatever circumstances we are in.² We are not trusting that God will give us all that we think we want or that He will keep us from suffering, but that He is at work to make us more and more fully His children and He is not thwarted by our circumstances.³ We trust that Jesus has united Himself to us and that He Himself is our life, our righteousness, our joy and our peace.⁴ We have faith that He is truly present in our lives—that He meets us fully in this moment.⁵ We can know Him, rest in Him, enjoy Him

anew every day, no matter what trials we face. We trust that His presence and grace is the true and last word on who we are—not our past, our finances, our relationships, etc.

Responding to God in trust frees us to receive from Him what He is graciously giving to us, which is ultimately Himself. To trust God is to draw near to Him with empty hands, not hands full of expectations or our own agendas. When we hold onto our expectations, then we, at that moment, are robbing ourselves of seeing, knowing and living in the faithfulness of God. To hold onto my agenda means I am really trusting in my agenda. I am not trusting that God's work in my life is better than any agenda I am tempted to cling to. Looking to where God is at work in my life and trusting Him to be faithful frees me to receive what He is actually giving at this moment instead of refusing it because it isn't what I expected.

Living by faith is an ongoing, dynamic process that never becomes automatic. I find that in my life this means that over and over, I need to look away from myself and

my circumstances to the triune God and be reminded again of who He is. I am continually surprised at how easy it is for me to forget how good, faithful, present and active God is and become tempted to let fear or anxiety fill in the gap. Our faith is renewed not by trying hard to work up faith, but by placing ourselves again before God, seeing Him again in Jesus, and having Him draw out the response of trust. Fortunately, God desires to grow our trust and confidence in Him and is at work in us to do just that. He never throws us back on ourselves, calling from heaven to "just try harder." God loves to show His heart and purposes to us to feed our ability to live more and more out of trust in Him. □

¹ Matthew 8:10

² Philippians 1:6

³ Romans 8:38–39

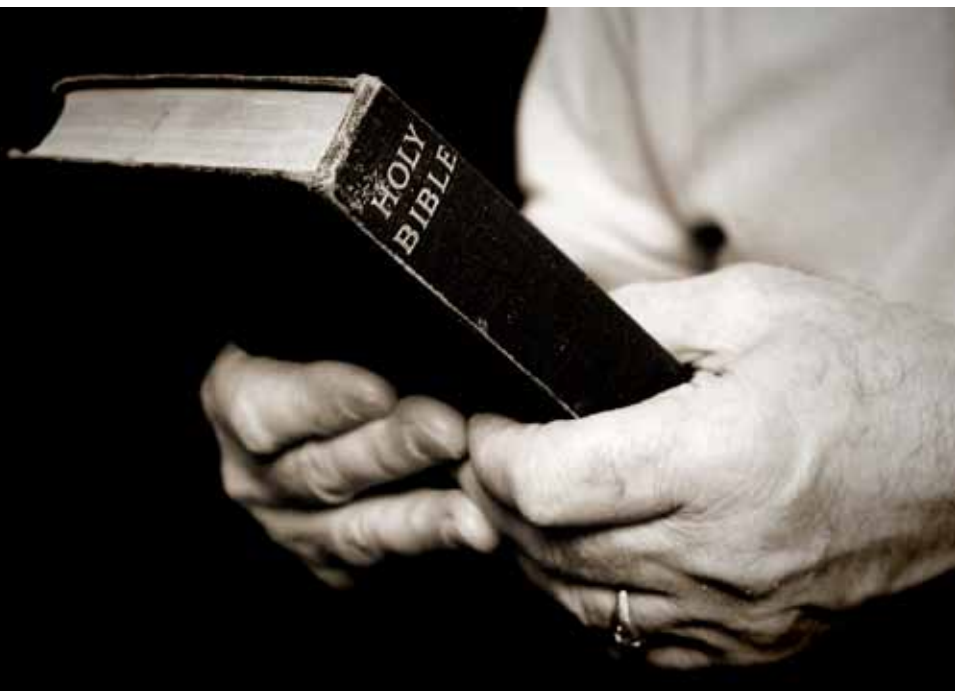
⁴ 1 Corinthians 1:30; John 11:25, 14:6,27, 15:11

⁵ Matthew 28:20

promises of God but the God of the promises. We are not trusting in the rightness of our doctrinal statements, but in the living triune God to whom our statements hopefully bear clear witness.

Because the object of my faith is God Himself, then Christian faith is more of a dynamic relationship than a once-for-all decision or assent to a particular set of statements about God. As I see who God really is—His self-giving love, His grace, the wonder of His triune life that He has come to give me a share in—trust in this God is drawn out of me. And as I turn my eyes again and again to Him, my faith in Him grows.

This is why we need to be reminded again and again of the true nature of faith and the character of the One in whom our faith is grounded. This is why the New Testament writers spend so much time expounding on the nature and purposes of God—to feed the faith of



The other side

“We don’t like our new boss! He is hard, autocratic and controlling. His leadership style has come as a huge disappointment, considering the positive working environment we enjoyed under the previous administrator. Please do something?”

This was the complaint I received, many years ago, from the employees of one of our corporate branches during my tenure as the Human Resource Manager of

by
**Bob
Klynsmith**

frustrated at the negative reactions towards him so soon after his appointment.

On the other hand, I could also understand the grievances of the staff who were trying to adjust to a very ‘down the line’ new kid on the block. He had introduced rather unpopular yet more efficient and effective systems and performance standards very quickly, perhaps prematurely. And, while the previous administrator was more relaxed and easy going,



a manufacturing and marketing enterprise. And so I decided to get on the plane and visit the branch in the hope of reconciling the impasse between the newly appointed manager and his staff.

A totally different picture began to emerge as I engaged with both management and employees. In reality, while the branch manager’s approach was uniquely different from his predecessor, he was nowhere near the rather hideous persona described by some of his employees. He in fact expressed a deep concern for their growth and development, but was

productivity did suffer due to the entrenchment of old methodologies.

Needless to say the situation settled down within months. Appreciation and respect for the new manager grew steadily and it was heartening to observe the noticeable improvement in morale and performance output.

Both sides were right

This particular episode taught me a powerful lesson about people in relationship with one another. The

e of the story

irony of this potentially explosive scenario is that both parties were right and both parties needed to deal with some real issues at hand. Reaching out to one another in the spirit of reconciliation is what made all the difference.

The tendency to form opinions about individuals, families and groups based on hearing one side of the story or being taken in by the persuasive views of a third party can more often than not lead to an agonising breakdown in relationships.

Proverbs 18:17 tells us, “The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.” The Message Bible says, “The first speech in a court case is always interesting—until the cross examination starts.”

Noted theologian Charles Bridges (1794–1869) wrote about this verse in his commentary on an Exposition of Proverbs: “Here we are warned against justifying ourselves... being very blind to our real imperfections.

So ready are we to place our own cause in a strong light; and sometimes, almost unconsciously, to cast a shade over, or even omit, what might seem to balance on the opposite side. It is so difficult to state facts and circumstances with perfect accuracy, where our own name or credit is concerned. Hence, our cause, coming first, seemeth just. But, according to the proverb, ‘The first tale is good, till the second is heard.’”

Irreparable harm

The inclination to draw conclusions based on hearing one very convincing side of the story can be irresistible, especially when it comes from a friend or someone who has the same ideology as you. One-sided feedback of this nature has the potential of casting a dark shadow on relationships. For instance, you may open up to a close friend about this little dictator of a new boss who is causing so much distress in your life. The tendency for you to ‘spin’ your own cause in a strong light can be overwhelming. Your friend then forms a distorted opinion about your superior and will naturally want to empathise with what you are going through. And there is the danger that he may carry this misrepresentation of the truth to others.

The potential of a distorted version of the truth spreading like wildfire is very real and can do irreparable harm to the reputation and character of the person or people in question. We are living in an age where all kinds of stories leak through the grapevine

or worse still, find their way on the internet and social media networks. Unfortunately, once it gets out in the public domain it is there for all to see and virtually impossible to remove.

The English Puritans of the 16th and 17th centuries aptly described Proverbs 18:17 as the ‘The Judgment of Charity’, highlighting the value of creating an atmosphere of grace in relationships.

Taking the initiative to communicate in a spirit of humility with a genuine desire to understand the perspectives of everyone involved in a conflict situation is therefore vital to restoring relationships. Yes! It takes courage! Yet the benefits of mutual respect, edification and restorative healing cannot be overestimated. Seasoned mediators and counsellors will generally do everything possible to bring all the ‘opposing’ parties together and in so doing create the opportunity for every individual to fully express his or her concerns in each other’s presence.

“...sin factor clouds our judgment and taints our motives so that we are incapable of perceiving the whole truth in our interpersonal relationships.”

James 1:19 gives sound advice: “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” The Message Bible puts this passage of scripture in a thought provoking light... “Post this at all the intersections dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear.”

In his article entitled “the Cushion of Grace” Pastor William Harrell of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church encourages us to “recognise and respect the cushion of grace that our Saviour has applied to

all relationships. This sin factor clouds our judgment and taints our motives so that we are incapable of perceiving the whole truth in our interpersonal relationships. We are not, therefore, told to communicate with each other only in truth, but in the truth saturated in love.”¹

It is therefore important for us to be circumspect when we hear and even read bad things about other people. Let’s be very aware of our responsibility to listen to the other side of the story before jumping to conclusions. Get the facts and take time out to meet with and talk to the affected people where possible.

Reaching out to others in the power of love and earnestly listening to understand their side of the story is all about amazing grace. □

¹ Ephesians 4:15

Is God fair?

God is not fair! By human standards, that is. Jesus made that clear when He spoke a parable about harvest workers in a vineyard. In Matthew we read that the person in charge of the harvest hired some workers early in the morning, promising them the usual day's wage of a denarius (a Roman silver coin). Later in the day and into the afternoon he hired more laborers. At pay time, he gave them all the same wage, a denarius. Those who had been hired early in the day objected, claiming it was unfair to pay the same wage to all the harvesters regardless of how long they had worked.¹

We would agree, wouldn't we?

Even children are sensitive of what is "fair", and are quick to object when somebody does something that isn't "fair." As adults we still expect to be treated equally with everyone else--equal opportunities, privileges, and benefits. But life is not that way. Some people receive more breaks than others, living a life of smooth sailing while others face tragedy. Some thrive in luxurious mansions, others dwell in shacks. Some drive Mercedes, others have rusty old clunkers, or no automobile at all. We often hear of "good" people who experience tragedy or die prematurely, while cranky old geezers live into their 90's. It is not fair! Besides that, our Creator made each of us different. Some have greater natural ability, more hair, nicer appearance, and better health than others.

We may conclude, as many do, that "life isn't fair" and if we choose, we can blame it all on God.

But maybe our view of "fairness" needs some scrutiny!

God has a greater purpose

If God had intended *everything* in life to be exactly fair, He would have made it that way. We would all be the same in appearance, intelligence, opportunities, and abilities. It seems to me that would be boring! But He didn't make us all the same. He made us all with different interests and talents so each of us could serve humanity in different ways.

God is not in the "fairness" business as we think of fairness. He is in the salvation business, and has made each of us a unique child of His, each with a unique role to play in His coming Kingdom. Our differences are not matters of "fairness", but something we should rejoice in.

Jesus experienced unfairness in his human life, accepting it willingly for our sakes. He suffered insults, false accusations, severe beatings, an illegal trial, and a brutal death. He was totally innocent, yet He died to lay before all mankind the free gift of everlasting life. That wasn't fair!

There is nothing "fair" about God's grace. As King David said, "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities."² Instead, He views us as new creations, utterly sinless by applying



by
Paul Hailey

Jesus' perfect righteousness to us. Our lives become attached to Jesus' perfect life, death, resurrection, and life to come in His Kingdom.

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, the person in charge of the harvest represents God, and the wage of a denarius is symbolic of His priceless gift of everlasting life. The harvesters represent Christians, some of whom serve God for several decades, while others serve Him briefly. But *all* Christians will receive salvation, regardless of their time of service. His response to the vineyard workers who felt cheated was, "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"³

God does not view His forgiveness as "unfairness", but simply a marvelous expression of His divine love and generosity to all people. God's gracious gift of everlasting life applies to all Christians, regardless of how long they have been or will be serving Him. In that we should rejoice, since we who deserve nothing, are fortunate to have His promise of everlasting life, and it is a joy to serve Him in this life.

God's mercy soars far above all human concept of "fairness" when He says, "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."⁴ How utterly contrary to the way we think about "fairness"!

Thankfully, his ways and his thoughts are higher than ours!⁵

Let's remember

When we experience unfair treatment we can respond with cries of "unfairness", or we can rejoice, knowing that God remembers our troubles and will reward us for patiently enduring wrongs that may come upon us.

Let's remember how Jesus responded to unfair treatment. "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate, when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."⁶

Let's remember the Apostle Paul's reaction to being beaten, flogged, stoned, shipwrecked, and imprisoned, among other unfair hardships. He was able to put it all in perspective when he said, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."⁷

Most of all, let's remember God's amazing forgiveness that is not "fair" by human standards. I prefer a loving God of forgiveness than a God of "fairness." I'm thankful He is not "fair." I hope you are too. □

¹ Matthew 20:1-12

² Psalm 103:10

³ Matthew 20:13-16

⁴ Hebrews 8:12

⁵ Isaiah 55:9

⁶ 1 Peter 2:23

⁷ Romans 8:18

My God, my Friend

In today's hectic and unforgiving world, many people are stressed in their daily life to the point where they develop mental illness. It's shocking to know that the percentage of school going children who are suffering from mental stress and illness is increasing. Even students facing problems are resorting to suicide. We have become a society that continues to put pressure on individuals in every area of life be it education, career, marriage, child rearing, even entertainment. Where does one go to release the pent up stress encountered everyday?

Well, some turn to drugs or alcohol to find relief.

However those who take this route eventually end up destroying themselves and their loved ones. Yet others know the value of having good friends. I regularly meet up with a few friends for dinner where it has become the norm to relate to each other what we had been through during the working week. Much needed encouragement from each other helps me to face the difficulties that I encounter and often I leave feeling really relaxed and able to see things from different perspectives. But the greatest encouragement that I get is when I meet up with Christ my friend, in prayer. The time I spend with him is a time when I am immersed in deep conversation with him. Through Christ I converse with God the Father. Most people think that praying to God is an obligation that we need to do in order to appease Him. It can be seen as a duty that is needed to be done either in rituals or in attending worship services. In most cases, God is seen as an all-powerful being who may or may not grant what we ask for. He may become angry if we misbehave or sin. Therefore, prayer can be seen as a requirement that one needs to fulfill. I see prayer as an opportunity to meet up with my best friend, God.

I find that I have neither the wisdom nor the strength to cope with the stresses of life. But when I spend time with Christ, I tell him everything. Often I pour out my heart to him when I talk to him on matters that trouble me. After all, I'm speaking to the divine one who came to this world to live among us and shed his blood on



by
**Devaraj
Ramoo**

the cross for the remission of the sins of mankind.¹ Can there be a greater friend than him? But what is surprising is the fact that Christ wants to call us friends too. He tells us that if we seek a relationship with him and follow him, he doesn't consider us servants. He tells us plainly that he regards us as friends.²

The Bible records instances where God deals with ordinary humans as a friend. One amazing account is found in the Book of Genesis. Here the story is told of how the Lord with two other angels dropped by Abraham's home on his way to check out for himself the atrocities happening in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham knew instantly that it was the Lord who was standing in front of his tent. He invited the Lord and the angels to his tent, served them a nice meal and discussed what God was planning to do with Sodom and Gomorrah. In fact when Abraham was sending them on their way, the Lord made an amazing remark. He said "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?"³ God himself was willing to share what he intended to do by telling Abraham.

The four Gospel accounts show us that Christ spent the three and a half years of his preaching of the Gospel together with the twelve disciples in an atmosphere of friendship. The disciples ate, lived and travelled with the Lord not groveling in fear of him but relating to him as a friend whom they loved deeply. At the table of the Last Supper one of the disciples even laid his head on Jesus' chest.⁴ That's how close they were to the Lord.

Today the same Christ is there for you and me. I depend on Christ my Friend and he

never lets me down. When I am grieved I too 'lay my head' on his chest. His comforting presence and answers are real. He is a friend who is never too busy to hear us. In fact you can talk to him even as you are travelling in your car or waiting for the bus. There is no need for formalities or a specific place before we can worship him. He invites you and me to live and act and be his friends. Say hello to him today, he's your good friend too. □

¹ John 1:14

² John 15:15

³ Genesis 18:17

⁴ John 13:23

Is grace too good to be true?

Non-believers and even some believers see God's grace as something too good to be true. How about you?

More and more churches (denominations) are on an exciting journey from performance-based legalism to the grateful embrace of salvation by God's grace. I think most of us now understand grace intellectually. But has the astonishing truth of God's grace sunk in? It is one thing to accept grace as a doctrinal argument, but another for grace to be the truth that defines and thus transforms our lives.

For some, there remains a tension between grace and obedience. This is not new—we see it in the New Testament. "Shall we sin because we are not under law



by
Dr. Joseph Tkach

to disobey God.

I love the way Peter's second epistle opens:

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."¹

God has already offered to himself what we could not offer. The grace in which we participate is the life of faithfulness that Jesus lived towards the Father.

As Thomas F. Torrance wrote: "And in this God-Man we partake in grace, as members of his body, reconciled to God through him and in him, and even it is said, are incomprehensibly partakers of Divine nature!"

Torrance is right. There is something incomprehensible about it. God's grace towards us shows a level of love that seems unnatural to us. Charles Wesley expressed it beautifully in his hymn *Amazing Love*:
And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be



but under grace?" challenged Paul in Romans 6:15. "By no means," he answered, though we can sympathize with these early Christians for having this question.

We too find grace a difficult idea to internalize. Our experience with "special offers" and TV bargains has taught us that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. And we all know that there is no such thing as a free lunch. So when we read that God has done all that is required to save even the worst sinner, we are suspicious. Our "Yes but..." program clicks in, and we ask "What's the catch?" There must be more to it than just "accepting Jesus." We know we can't earn salvation, but surely we have to do something? Pastors have told me that by emphasizing grace over legalism they worry that they may be encouraging their people

That Thou, my God, should die for me?

It does sound too good to be true. But it is true. We can delight to be alive in Jesus and united in his life. We should rightly be dumbfounded by his grace. When we recognize how and why Jesus takes away the sin of the world, we are immediately brought to a point of disconnection from our own false belief and nourished by the true vine of life, which is the fullest purpose of God. Worrying about how we and others are falling short is to maintain a focus that stems from legalism.

We never need worry that we are over-emphasizing God's grace when we point people to Jesus and a living, loving relationship with him. Grace and obedience are not at odds—rather they are integrated in the source of both—the person of Jesus Christ. □

¹ 2 Peter 1:2-4

Releasing God's power through prayer

A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us" (The Knowledge of the Holy). People think a lot of things about God, many not necessarily accurate. If what Tozer said is true and if what we think about God is wrong, the most important thing about us is in error. Fundamental errors about him can cause us to live out of fear and guilt and cause others to make mistakes in their thinking about God as well.

What we believe about prayer says a lot about who we think God is. If you believe prayer is how to get things from God, your view of him is reduced to a cosmic vending machine. If you make deals with him, God becomes a wheeler-dealer, open to bargains and ultimately, the one who can crush you if you renege. If you see prayer as an act of appeasement, God is petty and arbitrary and must be satisfied with your offering before he will act in your favor. All of these views bring God down to our level and reduce him to someone who thinks and acts like us—a god made in our own image.

One belief about prayer goes something like this: when we pray (some insert correctly), we release God's power into our lives and even into the world. Apparently, we hold God back or block him from doing things if we don't pray properly or if some sin is getting in the way. Not only does this paint a strange picture of a God in shackles, or as one restrained by more powerful forces, it puts a huge burden on us. We are then responsible if the person we prayed for isn't healed; it's our fault someone got in a car accident; we can blame ourselves if we don't get the results we desire. And all of this puts the focus on you and me, not on God, and makes prayer a self-serving endeavor.

The Bible does talk about hindered prayers in the context of marriage,¹ not as a reflection on God but on us. As the New Life Version puts it, we'll "find it hard to pray" (because of our attitude and negative feelings).

God isn't waiting for us to say the right prayers so he can release his power. He isn't the dad who withholds good things from his children unless or until they say the "magic word," much as a human father waits for his child to say please or thank you. God loves to hear our prayers, and he hears and interacts with each and every one, whether we get the answer we want or not.

As we grow in grace and knowledge of God, our view of him will grow too. As we're learning more about him, we need to be careful about taking everything we hear from others at face value; rather, we should hold statements such as "releasing God's power" up to the light of Scripture and what respected theologians have said. We also need to be aware of how subtle misconceptions about God are inserted into popular and Christian culture and how they masquerade as facts about who he is.

In short, God loves to hear our prayers and isn't bothered by our not using the right words. He has given us the gift of prayer as the beautiful interaction we can enjoy with him through Jesus in the Spirit. □

by
Tammy Tkach



¹ 1 Peter 3:7

What are the good gifts

James the apostle writes in his letter, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”¹

When I look at God’s gifts I can see that he gives life, light, the glory of nature, the golden sunrise, the deep colours of sunset on snow-capped peaks, the lush greenery of a forest, the blaze of colour in a flowering field, and many other things that we all can stand in wonder of, if we just take a moment. God gives bountifully of all these things no matter what your persuasion is. The believer, the atheist, the agnostic, the pagan and the heathen, all may enjoy these good gifts. God lets it rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. He gives these good gifts to all humanity.

Consider the amazing abilities of humans, whether in technology, construction, sport, music, writing, art—the list goes on and on. And God provided it all to everyone. People from all backgrounds have been blessed with a measure of these. And where do these abilities come from if not from the Father of lights, the giver of all good gifts?

Yet, on the other hand there is much suffering and sorrow in the world. Humans have dumped themselves into a vortex of hate, greed, recklessness and the things that have caused wholesale suffering. One may just look at the world and its politics to see how bad it gets. We see both good and evil in the world and in human nature.

But what are the good gifts God gives the believer who also has to live through good and bad in this world? These are the very people James was addressing, encouraging them to count it all joy when they fall into various trials.

Salvation

First and foremost Jesus said whoever believes in the only Son of God shall be saved. Saved from what? He or she would be saved from the wages of sin which is eternal death. Like Jesus said of the tax collector who stood in the temple and beat his breast saying “God have mercy on me a sinner.” I tell you this man went down to his house justified...²

Assurance of forgiveness

Because of our wrong doings in life we sometimes walk around riddled with guilt. Some people try to rationalise the guilt but it won’t go away.

Many are the occasions that our indiscretions of the past try to haunt us. Because of such things some people go to psychologists to find solutions. But no human advice can do what the shed blood of Jesus can. Only through Jesus can we have the assurance that all is forgiven, both past and present and even future. Only in Christ are we freed. As Paul said, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.³

Furthermore we have the assurance that if we sin

**by
Eben D.
Jacobs**

again and “we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”⁴

The Holy Spirit

Then Jesus also said the Father of lights and giver of good gifts will give us the gift of the Holy Spirit—so much more than our earthly parents can do for us. He told his disciples that though he would go away, he would send the promise of the Father as prophesied in Joel 2:28, which happened on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descended on them and has remained since then, in and with all believers.

When we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit on accepting Christ, we do not receive the spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline.⁵ That power enables us to withstand the onslaught of the evil one, to resist him and then he will flee from us.

Love

In Galatians 5:22–23 we are told of the fruit that the Spirit will produce in us. There are nine aspects of this fruit which starts off with and is enveloped by love. Because God loved us first we are enabled to “love the Lord our God with all our hearts and our neighbours as ourselves.” Love is so important that Paul defined what love is and what we can be through love in 1 Corinthians 13, concluding that there are three things remaining—faith, hope, and love, of which love is the greatest.

A sound mind

This allows us to live in hope of salvation, redemption and eternal life as children of the Living God. When troubles strike us we may sometimes get confused and even lose hope, but when we wait on the Lord he carries us through.

In the seventy odd years that I have been blessed to live committed to Christ, I can say with king David that “a righteous man may have many afflictions but the Lord delivers him from them all.”⁶ There were times when I did not know how to pray but just had to wait silently and then look back and see that I was not alone. Even when I was ready to deny the existence of God, he patiently waited for me to turn around and look up and see the magnitude of his glory and creation. And he said to Job, “where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?”⁷

Peace

Jesus also said “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”⁸ In the deepest of trouble he gives us peace beyond understanding.

continued on page 23

As I stumble through this life help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more cheer than gloom, spread more joy than despair. Never let me become so indifferent that I will fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child, or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy, and forget momentarily all the unpleasantness in their lives. And in my final moment, may I hear You whisper, 'When you made My people smile, you made Me smile.'

Nancy Mehl

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

I realized that all my life, my values were based upon typical middle-class American values: hard work, doing good, living well, owning things, following the rules and being the best I can be... but God clearly says, "those are not MY values. I value justice, mercy and humility.

John Green

His grace is cheapened when you think that He has only forgiven you of your sins up to the time you got saved, and after

that point, you have to depend on your confession of sins to be forgiven. God's forgiveness is not given in installments.

Joseph Prince

If you measure your life by what you own, the cavern of your heart will never be filled.

James D. Maxon

We fail in the work of grace and love when there is too much of us and not enough of God.

Suzanne Woods Fisher

Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.

Elisabeth Elliot

We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts.

A.W. Tozer

If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be.

Wanda E. Brunstetter

God wants the whole person and He will not rest till He gets us in entirety. No part of the man will do.

A.W. Tozer

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.

John Piper

The Good News is that no matter what happens

Sayings of Corrie Ten Boom...

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Every experience God gives us, every person He puts into our lives, is the perfect preparation for a future only He can see.

*God takes our sins—the past, present, and future, and dumps them in the sea and puts up as sign that says **NO FISHING ALLOWED.***

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover the prisoner was you.

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.

Faith is simply trusting the character of God even when life gives you reasons not to.

If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within you'll be depressed. But, if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest.

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.

Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles; it empties today of its strength.

A religion that is small enough for our understanding would not be big enough for our needs.

in life—no matter how difficult things get—His hand is stretched out still.

In fact, so profound and strong is His love for each of us that as He has said

"I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands" (Isaiah 49:16). He'll never give up on us, and will always be there... inviting us to reach up, take His

hand, to become "encircled about eternally in the arms of his love."

Anonymous

The Christians are right: it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began.

C.S. Lewis

If you obey God with your whole heart, you'll usually scare off the folks who want you to obey them.

Meg Moseley

Do you realize that God is working in your life today and everyday to develop your gifts and design special things for you to do?

Anonymous

Two conflicting forces cannot exist in one human heart. When doubt reigns, faith cannot abide. Where hatred rules, love is crowded out. Where selfishness rules, there love cannot dwell. When worry is present, trust cannot crowd its way in.

Billy Graham

What God knows about me is more important than what others think about me.

Anonymous

God does not give us everything we want, but he does fulfill his promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

continued from page 22

Hope

And then he gives us the ultimate gift of eternal life and joyful hope of being with him eternally where there will be no sorrow and pain, and all tears will be wiped away.⁹

Salvation, forgiveness, peace, hope, love and a sound mind are but some of the good gifts promised to the believer. They are very real. But more real than them all is Jesus. He is our Salvation, our Forgiveness, our Peace, our Hope, our Love and our Sanity—the ultimate Good and

¹ James 1:17

² Luke 18:13,14

³ Romans 8:1

⁴ 1 John 1:9

⁵ 2 Timothy 1:7

⁶ Psalm 34:19

⁷ Job 38:4

⁸ John 14:27

⁹ Revelation 21:4

Perfect Gift, come down from the Father.

For the person who is not a believer, these good gifts are also there to be enjoyed. By accepting the offer of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and trusting God to give you his Holy Spirit, you will experience new life and divine relationship with the Triune God who is the giver of all good gifts. Go for it! □

The Plain Truth Magazine



TO VOLUNTEER: If you live in the vicinity of Klang and would like to volunteer in packaging the magazine for mailing, please contact / sms Susan Low 017-2559244

FOR FREE SUBSCRIPTION (within Malaysia & Singapore only), please:

1. SMS Susan Low 017-2559244 (Malaysia) / Jane 91440187 (Singapore)
 2. Or email your request to: ptasiamy@gmail.com
-

TO READ THE MAGAZINE ONLINE, please visit www.gci-malaysia.org

TO CANCEL SUBSCRIPTION, please:

1. SMS Susan Low 017-2559244 (Malaysia) / Jane 91440187 (Singapore)
 2. Or email your request to: ptasiamy@gmail.com
Giving your name, address and reference number.
-

Published by Grace Communion International, No. 98, Jalan Zapin 3A/KU5, Mutiara Point (off Jalan Meru), Bandar Bukit Raja, Batu Belah, 41050 Klang, Selangor, Malaysia.

Printed in Malaysia by Hin Press & Trading Sdn. Bhd. (71078-D), No. PT 45855, Batu 2, Jalan Kapar, 41400 Klang, Selangor, Malaysia.