



WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?

September 2015

In Luke 8:22-25 you have an incident where the disciples are out in a boat and Jesus is asleep in the boat. A storm soon arose and the boat was taking on water so that they thought it would sink. Feeling they were about to perish, the disciples awakened Him and He calmed the storm. Then, He said unto them: **"Where is your faith?"** Child of God, it is impossible to go through this world without storms - without trials, difficulty and opposition. And yet, most of us act as though there is something wrong if everything is not tranquil and just to our liking. Now, we need faith in the "good" days, but we especially need it in the "bad" days. There is no better time to exercise it. Curtis Hutson told of a young boy who was leading his sister up a rugged hill. "Come on," he said, "And I'll lead you in the path." After awhile it seemed as though the path had completely disappeared and was filled with stones. Stumbling and falling, she began to cry and said, "This is not a path. It is all stones." To which her confident brother replied, "The stones are for climbing." Most people, when they run into stones on life's path, complain and not a few quit. They seem to think no one ever had problems but them. Blessed is the man who realizes the stones are there for climbing. When the trials come, that is the time to look to the Lord and keep on climbing. He says to us: **"Where is your faith?"** Stop looking at the circumstances and look to Jesus!

If you look at the triumphs of the saints of God in ages past, I think that you will find that in every case there were obstacles, trials, and enemies. In fact, you can't have a triumph, a victory, without a battle? What about Moses and his deliverance of Israel from Egypt. It was nothing but one battle after another - first with Pharaoh and the Egyptian magicians and then with God's own people. Joshua's life was one battle after another. My how we glory in David's victory over Goliath and the Philistines! That was a situation with overwhelming odds against him. But he believed God; he had faith! The child of God who knows anything realizes that we are in a war...a real war. The Christian life is not some pleasant game nor a pleasure cruise. Now, in a war, someone wins and someone loses. The quitter never wins! Oh, Yes, someone has said, *"Quitters never win and winners never quit."* Did Luther, Spurgeon, George Mueller, Hudson Taylor, David Livingstone, etc. have no difficulties? No battles?

The plain truth is so many of God's children are spiritual babies and of course, a baby isn't much good in a war. (If that bothers you, grow up). The Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians: **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."** (16:13). Stand fast in the faith. Be a man and go on to victory. Jesus said to the disciples, **"Where is your faith?"** It doesn't matter how big the problem or how strong the opposition if your faith is in the right place. Too many have faith in themselves and that is why they fail in the hour of testing. **Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, Whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."**

FRIEND DAY!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13TH

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30

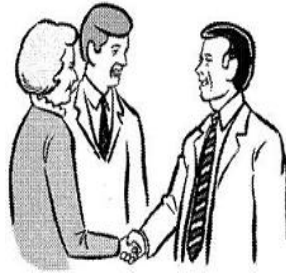
CHURCH SERVICE - 10:45

DINNER UNDER TENT

Free, those attending above.

SINGSPIRATION - 1:30

EVENING SERVICE - 6:00



Your Friends Need Christ - Invite Them!

GIFT FOR EACH VISITOR AT S.S. & CHURCH!

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BOOKS AND BOOKLETS:

- Charlie Coulson The Drummer Boy - Salvation... \$1.00
- The Gift: Testimony Catholic priest Charles Chiniquy. 2.00
- Is Your Bible... Word of God? - Bible Versions.... 3.00
- Charismatic Movement: Is It Of God? -Needed..... 1.50
- New Evangelicalism/Deadliest Ism-Important info..1.50
- What The Bible Says About Separation..... 1.50
- Cornerstone Clippings - Items from Challenges..... 2.00
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- The (New) Evangelical Experiment..... 3.00
- God's Word To Roman Catholics.....1.00
- What In the World Is God Doing? (Dispensations)..1.00
- Rightly Dividing the Word (Bible Interpretation).. 2.00
- Revelation of Jesus Christ. (An overview with..... 2.00
keys to understanding this great prophecy)

All but the first two books are by Pastor Starr.

SPECIAL: One each for \$18.00 pp. Ten to nineteen of any one book - 25% off. 20+ of one book - 33% off. Postage: 15%, \$1.50 min. (outside US: 20%, \$2.50 min.) (US \$ only)

AMERICANS AND THE BIBLE. An article in the *Washington Times* says a poll reveals that Americans believe the Bible is more reliable than the daily newspaper. Well, that certainly is true, but the plain truth is few Americans know anything about the Bible or take it seriously. If they did, this country would not be in the pitiful condition you find it today. If you knock on doors to give people the Gospel, or witness regularly, you know that Bible literacy was never lower. They know nothing, and they don't want to know! One interesting fact is more than 80% say the Bible is divinely inspired and yet the number of those who accept it as literally true has dropped from 65% in 1960 to 33% today. A Zondervan (publisher of NIV) study shows that Americans want a Bible that is easy to understand - Americans want everything easy. Well, that is exactly the claim of all the modern versions; we make the Bible easy to understand. Why then are people so ignorant of God's Word. If you are not saved, you can't understand the Bible, I Cor.2:14.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a very great thing.

A true friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.

The longer I live, the more convincing proofs of this truth I see – God governs in the affairs of men. -Ben Franklin

We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

Honesty is not only the best policy, it is the only policy God recognizes.

Some people have all the answers, but they do not understand the questions.

A DIFFICULT LESSON. A famous Harvard professor was asked by a student, "Is there anything I can do to learn the art of conversation?" Prof. Copeland replied, "Yes, there is one thing and if you listen, I will tell you." For several moments there was silence. Then, the student said, "I'm listening, Professor." "You see," said Copeland, "You are learning already." God's Word says, "**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.**" ~James 1:19. Personally, I think that we all like to speak a whole lot more than we like to listen. It just seems to be a part of human nature. When you're talking, you are not learning.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

Why are there so many different interpretations of the Bible? There are right ways and wrong ways. This will help you get the truth from God's Word. \$2 each plus \$1.50 postage. 5 for \$10 pp. (U.S. \$)

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

MAN WHO KILLED HIS MOTHER IN ASSISTED SUICIDE WON'T BE PROSECUTED.

Any media story about Dutch euthanasia is generally accompanied by the blithe and false assurance of medicalized killing being governed by "strict guidelines." What a joke, given that death doctors kill disabled babies in their cribs. The elderly "tired of life" and he mentally ill, along with the dying and disabled. One of the guidelines that has actually been enforced is the requirement that doctors be present for the homicide/suicide. But euthanasia activists always want more. In recent years there has been political agitation to allow families to help kill their relatives. And now a court has apparently okayed the practice. From the New York Times story, "A Dutch appeals court has cleared a man of any criminal responsibility for helping his 99 year old mother take her own life – a case that aimed to create precedents for assisting suicide in a country where euthanasia already is legal under certain circumstances. "Judges in Arnhem said Albert Heringa... had to make a decision between obeying the law against assisting suicide and his 'unwritten moral duty' to help his mother achieve her wish for 'a painless, peaceful and dignified death.'" -Sword of the Lord (7/17/15)

MORE PROOF IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL IS BAD!

President Obama says his nuclear deal with Iran is good not just for America, but also for US ally Israel. Iran's foreign minister disagrees. Mohammad Javad Zarif was in Lebanon this week, meeting with the head Hezbollah terrorist, Hassan Nasrallah. Hezbollah's TV station al-Manar reported, "Zarif said from Beirut that the nuclear agreement between Tehran and the world powers created a historic opportunity for regional cooperation to fight extremism and face threats posed by the Zionist entity." Translation: With a "signing bonus" to Iran of \$100 billion or more, the nuke deal will empower the Islamic Republic to send more cash, rockets and other arms to Hezbollah and other anti-Israel terrorist groups. It will also boost Tehran's regional prestige — allowing it to bully other nations into greater hostility toward Israel. Plus, the deal provides a glide-path for Iran to go nuclear in a decade or so, even without cheating. And Iranian nukes will drastically shift the regional balance of power in Tehran's favor — and against Jerusalem.

No, this isn't just spin from the Hezbollah station. Zarif told reporters that Iran's top challenge in the region involves "confronting" "the Zionist and extremist regime." It's easy to see why Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Labor party nemesis Isaac

Herzog are united against the Iran deal. It's much, much harder to see why Obama believes he knows what's in Israel's interests better than the Israelis do. -Act For America (8/19/15)

RUSSIA AND CHINA MILITARY EXERCISES.

Russia and China are rapidly preparing for what will be the largest joint naval exercises in their history, **according to The Washington Times.** That paper reports that the exercises, dubbed "Joint Sea 2015 II," will feature more than 20 ships in the Pacific and including anti-submarine drills and amphibious landings. The formidable display of power comes as both countries are challenging the United States on land and sea. Vladimir Putin's expansionist Russia continues to fight a guerrilla conflict in Ukraine while pressuring other countries in Eastern Europe. The Chinese, meanwhile, are creating artificial islands in the Pacific to extend their territorial waters against Japan and other countries. The Chinese and Russian navies have held five such joint exercises over the past decade, the Times reports. - News Max (8/19/15). Ed. Russia and China have for some time greatly increasing their military might. Both of these nations play a great role in the Great Tribulation. Of course if you are a true child of God through faith in Christ and His sacrifice on Calvary, you won't be here for that judgment of God on this sinful world.

WHY WE PRINT "NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT."

We don't need to know everything, but there are some things we need to be aware of. Jesus said, "**Watch...**" How can you "Watch" if you do not have the information you need? Jesus gave many signs about present and coming events. The morals of this land have plummeted beyond imagination (look at the few articles in this issue of the Challenge). But who cares? Very few! The idea of sin has become outdated. It reminds one of the words of Scripture: "**Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.**" If you are not "**born again**" one of these days it will be too late for you to be saved. Christian, you need to be awake and in the right place with God. "**And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to wake out of sleep for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed...**" ~Romans 13:11-12

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. ~I Corinthians 16:13

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. ~I Thessalonians 5:6

THOUGHTS ON DEDICATION

The world has yet to see what God will do with a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to the Holy Spirit." - Henry Varley. "By the grace of God, I'll be that man." -D. L. Moody

"Nothing earthly can make me give up my work in despair." "I will place no value on anything I may possess except in relation to the Kingdom of God." - David Livingstone

"It has always been difficult to understand those evangelical Christians who insist on living in the crisis as if no crisis existed. They say they serve the Lord, but they divide their days so as to leave plenty of time to play and loaf and enjoy the pleasures of the world as well. They are at ease while the world burns." - A.W. Tozer

"Men join the Church. They take that Holy Name upon themselves. They enter into covenant with one another in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, inviting the Holy Trinity to witness and support their faithfulness, purity, love, cooperation, liberality and of personal effort to win the lost world to Christ. Yet American churches are filled with men and women who flagrantly and frivolously and constantly ignore the obligations of voluntary covenants. Thousands of Church members have changed residence without changing church membership. They stand aloof from the local church. They take no real responsibility for Christ. They settle into becoming church drifters and sermon tasters. God will not hold such guiltless. He has declared so in His Word." - J.C. Masse

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." - Jesus Christ.

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I MET THE MASTER

I had walked life's path with an easy tread;
Had followed where comforts and pleasures led;
Until one day in a quiet place,
I met the Master, face to face.

With station and rank and wealth as my goal,
Much thought for my body, but none for my soul,
I had entered to win in life's mad race,
When I met the Master face to face.

I had built my castles, had reared them high,
Until their towers pierced the blue of the sky;
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace,
When I met the Master face to face.

I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see
That His eyes of sorrow were fixed on me;
I faltered and fell at His feet that day,
While my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished, and in their place,
I saw naught else but the Master's face;
And cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet
To follow the marks of the wounded feet."

My thought is now for the souls of men;
I've lost my life to find it again;
E'er since alone in that quiet place,
I met the Master face to face.