

youth messenger



2

Lessons From a Life

7

Don't Let the Enemy Fool You!

10

Another Kind of Race

14

Transformation

15

The Hart, the Hind, and the Hope

19

Faithfulness in Little, Daily Things

22

The Love Factor

25

Acres of Diamonds

28

Bible ABC's

Part 1 of 3

LESSONS FROM A LIFE

*A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy compilation,
with comments by Alex Gurduiala*

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:23, 24).

Several years ago, I heard the story of Larry Walters, a 33-year-old man who decided he wanted to see his neighborhood from a new perspective. He went down to the local army surplus store one morning and bought 45 used weather balloons. That afternoon he strapped himself into a lawn chair, to which several of his friends tied the now helium-filled balloons. He took along a six-pack of beer, a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich, and a BB gun, figuring he could shoot the balloons one at a time when he was ready to land. Walters, who assumed the balloons would lift him about 100 feet in the air, was caught off guard when the chair soared more than 11,000 feet into the sky—smack into the middle of the air traffic pattern at Los Angeles International Airport. Too frightened to shoot any of the balloons, he stayed airborne for more than two hours, forcing the airport to shut down its runways for much of the afternoon, causing long delays in flights from across the country. Soon after he was safely grounded and cited by the police, reporters asked him: "Larry, why did you do it?" To which Larry replied simply, "Because sometimes

you gotta do something—you can't just sit there."

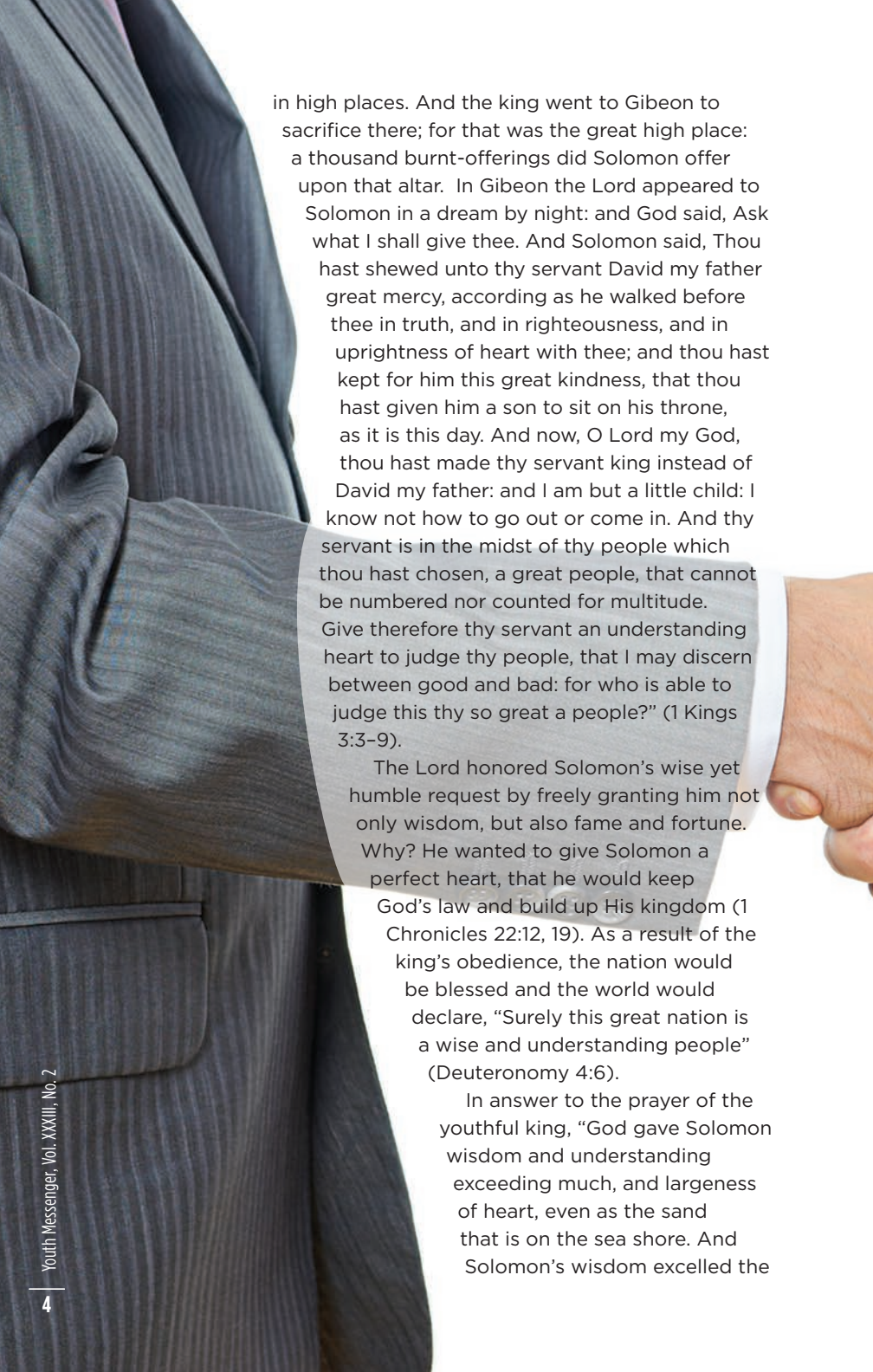
Larry Walters was **tired of looking at life from the same old vantage point**—he wanted to see things from a new perspective. But does that always work out well?

In Bible history, when King David was approaching death, he expressed, "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain" (2 Samuel 23:3, 4).

Solomon, David's heir, had every opportunity to make that happen. He was predisposed to be a good king and ruler. His father's charge to him was that he be strong, to prove himself to be a man, and to keep the commandments of the Lord.

THE EARLY REIGN OF SOLOMON

We read that shortly after being crowned king, "Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense



in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt-offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" (1 Kings 3:3-9).

The Lord honored Solomon's wise yet humble request by freely granting him not only wisdom, but also fame and fortune. Why? He wanted to give Solomon a perfect heart, that he would keep God's law and build up His kingdom (1 Chronicles 22:12, 19). As a result of the king's obedience, the nation would be blessed and the world would declare, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people" (Deuteronomy 4:6).

In answer to the prayer of the youthful king, "God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the

wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men” (1 Kings 4:29–31).

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

“Those who today occupy positions of trust should seek to learn the lesson taught by Solomon’s prayer. The higher the position a man occupies, the greater the responsibility that he has to bear, the wider will be the influence that he exerts and the greater his need of dependence on God. **Ever should he**

remember that with the call to work comes the call to walk circumspectly before his fellow men. He is to stand before God in the attitude of a learner. **Position does not give holiness of character.** It is by

honoring God and obeying His commands that a man is made truly great.” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 30, 31. [Emphasis supplied.]

BUILDING THE TEMPLE

God is honored by excellence, and the temple to be built to His honor was to be magnificent because our God is greater than all other gods. (2 Chronicles 2:5.) Exact specifications were given

to direct the construction of the temple, and both God and His people were honored by this beautiful place of worship.

DOWNFALL

In view of all that Solomon had going for him, how do we account for this wise and humble king to fall away from God?

Problem #1: Promiscuity.

Unfortunately, “Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart” (1 Kings 11:1–3).

Solomon had become a degenerate immoralist. The foreign women whom he had married had turned his heart away from God. His large harem was a transgression beyond all conceivable bounds.

Problem #2: Business deals made without the fear of God.


“Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the

chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance. And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means" (2 Chronicles 1:14-17).

The practice of a king to gather multiple horses, multiple wives—and even gold and silver to excess—was contrary to God's plain command that had been a requirement from the early days of the nation:

"When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt" (Deuteronomy 17:14-16). As a result, the trap that Satan had set for Solomon got worse:

"In seeking to strengthen his relations with the powerful kingdom lying to the southward of Israel, Solomon ventured upon forbidden ground. Satan knew the results that would attend obedience; and during the earlier years of Solomon's reign—years glorious because of the wisdom, the beneficence, and the uprightness of the king—he sought to bring in influences that would insidiously undermine Solomon's loyalty to principle and cause him to separate from God. That the enemy was successful in this effort, we know from the record: 'Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the City of David' (1 Kings 3:1).

"From a human point of view, this marriage, though contrary to the teachings of God's law, seemed to prove a blessing; for Solomon's heathen wife was converted and united with him in the worship of the true God. Furthermore, Pharaoh rendered signal service to Israel by taking Gezer. . . . But in forming an alliance with a heathen nation, and sealing the compact by marriage with an idolatrous princess, Solomon rashly disregarded the wise provision that God had made for maintaining the purity of His people. The hope that his Egyptian wife might be converted was but a feeble excuse for the sin." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 53. 

—Alex Gurduiala writes from Maryland, U.S.A.

Don't Let the Enemy Fool You!

*A compilation from the
writings of Ellen G. White*



Our experiences every day are of the highest value to us. We must have a daily experience in living with the Lord. We have a tempting devil. He will be tempting us to the end. When one says something to provoke you, shut your lips and say in your mind, "Silence is Eloquence." Don't put magazines on your table. Let the magazines alone. It is like eating trash. Now, if we profess to be children of God, we will do just as He teaches us in His word. We will not go to magazines and such light trifling things and feed on these but get something right from the word and commit it to memory and we will find that when the enemy combats us, we can resist him.

When he came to Christ, did he come as a very offensive looking man? No, he came as an angel of

glory and said in regard to Christ's hunger, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matthew 4:3). Did Christ take him right up? Not a word did He say. He only took the scripture, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Verse 4). Think of that. Be full of scripture, not these old magazines. You want to commit to memory scripture.

Satan could not do anything with Christ on that point. Then he took Him up onto a pinnacle of the temple and said to Him. "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways." God did not want Christ to take up an argument with Satan. Satan continued,

**The strength acquired in prayer to God
will prepare us for our daily duties.
The temptations to which we are daily
exposed make prayer a necessity.**

“Throw thyself down; it is written that His angels shall have charge over thee.” And so Christ quoted the scriptures, “It is written that thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” He would not place Himself in peril to show His greater power. He was hungry. He had fasted forty days. Satan came to Him in His weakness, thinking to get the better of Him, but was disappointed.

“He will keep thee in all thy ways”—not Satan’s ways. Temptations will come to us, and we have

got to be storing our minds now with Scripture lessons and the blessing of God will come. . . .

Well, the devil found out that he could not tempt Christ in that way so he took Him up onto a high mountain and showed Him the glory of the world and said, “This is mine. I have the right to give it, and if thou wilt fall down and worship me, I will give it to thee.” Then Christ’s time came. He said, “Get thee hence, Satan. It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” Now, these are the

very lessons we have got to go over. We must live, every one of us, by the simplicity of true godliness. It brings such a power, for the angels of God are right around us. We are not left to our own dispositions and to have no help. There are angels of God that will encourage every thought that is sent up to God in prayer, even when walking

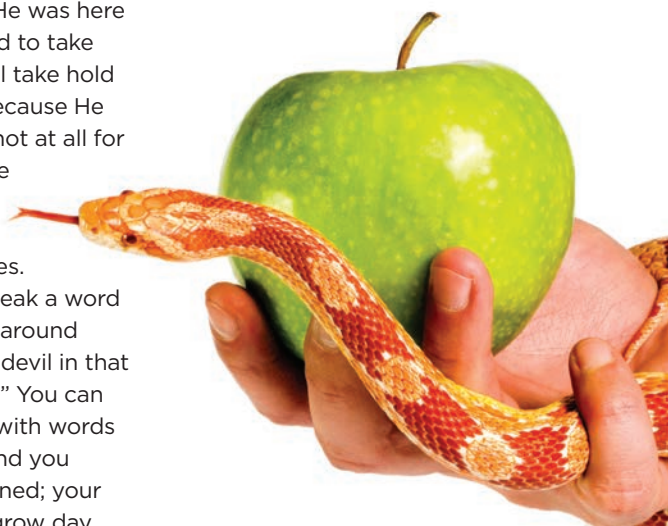


wherever we are. . . . He is just as merciful in heaven as He was here upon earth, just as glad to take hold and help if we will take hold of Him by faith, and because He is in the heavens, it is not at all for you to feel that you are left alone to struggle and struggle and struggle with difficulties.

Thank God you can speak a word in season to someone around you. You can fight the devil in that very way. "It is written." You can thus meet the enemy with words out of the Scripture, and you will become strengthened; your living experience will grow day by day, and you will find that you are perfecting such a character that you can be transferred to the future immortal life, and there is no danger of your being overthrown by the devil there. Then let everyone, young and old, put entire trust in the word and let all heaven see that you understand the word of the living God, that you have studied it, and that you will meet the devil on his own ground by a power that he has no influence to oppose. He can't do it. Why? Your hand has a hold on the Infinite; by living faith you grasp a power, and **Satan cannot come in to lead you away from that word while you have it in your mind and heart and your lips.**"—*The Wisconsin Recorder*,

August 25, 1909. [Emphasis supplied.]

The strength acquired in prayer to God will prepare us for our daily duties. The temptations to which we are daily exposed make



prayer a necessity. In order that we may be kept by the power of God through faith, the desires of the mind should be continually ascending in silent prayer. **When we are surrounded by influences calculated to lead us away from God, our petitions for help and strength must be unwearied.**

Unless this is so, we shall never be successful in breaking down pride and overcoming the power of temptation to sinful indulgences which keep us from the Saviour. The light of truth, sanctifying the life, will discover to the receiver the sinful passions of his heart which are striving for the mastery, and which make it necessary for him to **stretch every nerve and exert all his powers to resist Satan that he may conquer through the merits of Christ.**"—*Messages to Young People*, p. 248. [Emphasis supplied.]

another kind of RACE

Part 2 of 4
By P. J. Stemmler

In the ancient Olympic games, at the beginning of the race, all competitors were aligned to start together. All would run with all of their power and strength, being viewed by the judges from beginning to end to make sure that all things were done according to the rules, and being cheered by the crowd to do their best, but only one would cross the finish line first.

This was and still is risky business. It was not unusual for someone to fall into death along the race. But the risk was small compared to the chance to win. If victor, the honor was amazing. Shouts, visible tokens of reward, promotion of the winner and his family, applause, and appreciation were all his.

If victor, the effort was all worth it. If not . . .

THE GOAL

Paul, a prominent Bible writer, uses these races to give us a symbol of the Christian way. There is a beginning, and there is a goal.

What is the goal to be reached? Eternal life! When we finish this race—and having completed the course by following Christ, being forgiven of Him, loving Him, being loved by Him, acknowledging Him, trusting Him, and

changed by Him—we will be handed that gift of being able to live for eternity with Him in heavenly places with access to this universe that awes us all as we look into its mysteries.

The goal is Christ! We can actually partake of some of the benefits, even at the beginning of the race and all along its course. We can enjoy peace, joy, love, direction, rest of mind, tranquility of spirit along the way and then look forward to an eternity of only good things. Wow, that sounds good to me!

To run the race requires strength and stamina unbeknown to most. It is a course laid out by the Creator of all, and its finish is known only by Him. This race requires all, just like the training for Olympians. Concentrated desire and effort must rule the life, and every discipline should be enacted to do what it takes to win. Ah, but there is really good news in this race:



1. All who begin can reach the goal. Not just one will win the race.

2. You will actually have encouragement by the other runners. They are your friends, your help, your cheerleaders.

3. You will be given strength and power to actually run the race, by the Creator and Sustainer of all. He will give you supernatural strength and endurance to go through whatever is marked out on your course.

In this race it will be necessary to have fortitude, patience, endurance, self-denial, temperance, and courage to keep running. We cannot allow our attention to be distracted by amusement, entertainment, luxury, convenience, passion, or by others. We must be guided by God's Word, led by His Spirit, and willing to put aside anything that would hinder us in this race. The life must be under constant discipline. The goal must be always kept in mind.

This race is not for the lazy, the complainer, the weak. The harder it seems, the more weary we are, the more effort must be required to complete it. We cannot give up in the race. In order to complete the race, we must voluntarily submit to hardship, privation, and self-denial.

We must train to put appetite and passion under the control of reason and the will of God. We must choose constantly to do it all, as the Creator has stated.

The crowds around us may not be cheering us on. In fact, they will probably try to stop us from running. But run we must. In the earthly races, one received a crown or reward. In the heavenly race, we can all obtain an immortal reward.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 9:24, 25).

Paul knew what it took to complete the race. He writes, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away" (Verses 26, 27).

Paul wrote much about caring for the physical body as the house for the spiritual temple of Jesus.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God,



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about this new life!
There was a peace
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him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it" (Ephesians 5:29).

Paul knew the importance of how to run and how far to run. He reached the goal. What about you and me?

RUNNING THE RACE


In the previous issue of the *Youth Messenger*, I mentioned already that at the age of 20, I began a new life, a different kind of race. I didn't think of it as a race then. That conclusion has only come more recently.

I was EXCITED about this new life! There was a peace and a joy that I had never felt before. The

regrets and guilt of past actions and attitudes were forgiven. I knew that in my innermost being. Like athletes beginning their run—I felt a burst of power, something like a long-term adrenaline rush.

I expected then and for many, many years, that if others knew that they could run the same race and reach the same goal, that they would be thrilled to run, too. Why wouldn't anyone want to find peace and joy consistently, continually, and then find eternal life? Maybe I was naive, but I really thought that this was going to be fairly easy and that all would want to follow along, especially those that were close to my heart. But I was destined to be disappointed, sorely disappointed.

As I began to read and study the "rules of the race," I found them so solid in meaning, so right in what they produced in attitudes and actions, that I was more than willing to do whatever God asked through His instruction manual—the Bible. I knew by experience then, and know by study now, that the Lord promises to give His strength and help to any who will choose to do His will and way.

—P. J. Stemmler
writes from Ontario,
Canada. 

TRANSFORMATION

Upon the work table in the laboratory I noticed beneath a glass a tiny cube of gleaming gold resting upon a cube of dull lead. When I asked my friend, the chemist, what experiment he was trying with his little metal cubes, he answered, "Come in again in a month, and I will show you."

A month later I found the chemist working at his leaden cube with test tube, Bunsen burner, and chemical acids.

"What are you doing to the lead?" I asked.

"Oh," he replied, "just making sure of what the lead has been doing," mixing, as he spoke, two liquids, which, on coming together, took a pale, yellowish tinge.

"Sesquioxide of iron and protochloride of tin," he said, dipping into the liquid a glass rod, which he then plunged into the vessel containing the lead in its latest state.

"Watch," he said;
and as he drew
the rod


through the liquid, I saw in its track a delicate purple tinge.

"It is pretty," I said, "but what does it mean?"

"It surely means gold," he answered.

"Gold!" said I, in surprise; "but it was the leaden, not the golden, cube which you had there."

"Yes," the chemist replied; "only the lead has been in good company, a month with gold, and it has gained some of the gold particles by being with the noble metal; that is what comes of keeping good company."

I wondered that the lead cube resting in contact with the gold should be permeated by its tiny, precious particles; but I remembered that I had seen human creatures gain gold from good company, and reverently I thought of the One of humankind who was perfectly pure, with no alloy of sin, and of what it must mean to live in His presence in holy touch with Him; for even so may our lower natures be permeated by His glorious life, till, at last, forever with Him, we may be transformed, made in truth like Him. —*Selected.* 

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*Adapted from a sermon,
by C.H. Spurgeon
with editorial comments.
Part 1 of 3*

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” (Psalm 42:1, 2).

WHAT IS A HART?

The animal translated as “hart,” from the Hebrew word *ayzal*, refers to a mature, male red deer or stag. Harts are gentle, affectionate creatures with beautiful branching horns.

These animals are quite graceful in motion, and incredibly swift—while running it appears that their feet scarcely touch the ground. When hunted by humans, these deer are so fast the hunters often have to use trained hawks or falcons to begin the pursuit until the fastest dogs can manage to catch up in the chase.

The male of this species is monogamous and loving to his mate (Proverbs 5:19). In the mountains he is amazingly surefooted.

WHAT IS A HIND?

The hind “ayzalah” is the female counterpart of the hart. In Psalm 42:1, the verb is feminine—her sensitivity intensifying her thirst. All red deer have a four-month-long “solitary season” when they isolate themselves from their normal groups.

It is often at times when we feel completely alone in this world that we have a certain thirst that only Heaven can quench.





WHY DID DAVID USE THE HART AND HIND AS AN ILLUSTRATION?

At the time Psalm 42 was written, David had not yet become king. He was fleeing from place to place to escape the jealous wrath of Saul, who was hunting him unmercifully. David's very soul thirsted for the tabernacle where the presence of God rested.

C. H. Spurgeon quotes Psalm 42:1 about the hart panting after the water brooks and the soul panting after God. He brings out some interesting points:

"There is something to be lamented in this state of mind, for if the psalmist had maintained unbroken communion with his God, he would not have been so much panting after Him as **enjoying** Him. Why do we wander? Why do we grieve His Holy Spirit? Why do we turn aside from God, our exceeding joy? Why

do we provoke Him to jealousy, and cause Him to make us grope in darkness, and sigh out of a lonely and desolate heart? . . .

"The deer pants after the water brooks, and David pants after his God, the living God. I do not find him expressing a single word of regret as to his absence from his throne. Probably he wrote this psalm when he had been expelled from his country by his ungrateful son, Absalom. But he does not say, 'My soul pants after my royalties and the splendor of the kingdom of Judah.' No, not a word of it. He lets the baubles go. He gives up these uneasy poms, content to let all go forever if he may but find his God. Well may we let the chaff go if we retain the wheat. I do not find him even mentioning his home, and yet he was a man of a loving spirit who delighted to bless his household. But here

I read not a word concerning his palace, his gardens, or his treasures—not even for his children can he spare a sigh! Let him be banished from his own house, and it will not displease him if only he is not banished from the House of God, also. To him his dwelling place was the Lord, and dwelling in the secret place of the Most High, his joys were all complete. Nor is there even a word about his much loved country; David was a very prince of patriots, yet he sighs not for Jerusalem. He pines not for the well of Bethlehem—neither the roses of Sharon nor the lilies of the valley command his lamentations—for the excellency of Carmel or the glory of Lebanon he utters no cry of desire.

“His one sigh is for his God, the God of his life, his exceeding joy! When shall he come and appear before God? When shall he join in the assembly and keep the Sabbath? This one grief, like a huge torrent, swept away all minor streams, absorbing themselves into its own rush and volume. Like an avalanche which binds the snow masses to itself as it descends, so his one desire concentrated all the vehemence and force of his nature. His God, his God—he cannot live without his God! He cries for Him as a lost child for its father. As a bleating lamb he

will not be content till he finds his parent.

“David pined for permission to enjoy, again, the means of divine grace. He longed to go up to the tabernacle once again. He desired to see the priests offering the sacrifices, and himself go unto the altar of God. But observe, beloved, that he does not dwell upon the **outward** worship, nor dilate upon its symbolic pomp, and sacred splendor—he passes right through them all, as the priest of old passed through the outer court! Only the **innermost** court will satisfy him. He penetrates within the shell and desires the inward kernel. The carnal ordinance cannot content him—he must have the **spiritual** life and substance.

As the deer pants
after the water
brooks, so David
pants after God.



Is it not delightful
to listen to the
Word when the
morsel is dipped
in honey just for
you?



He does not so much pine for the sacrifices as for his God—neither for the priest, nor for the altar, nor for the tabernacle does he cry—but for his God! He had learned what modern professors have not learned—that the outward is nothing, and the inward is everything! ‘The kingdom of God is within you’ (Luke 17:21). It is not meat, nor drink, nor outward worship. And the God whom you adore is not pleased with your words and your genuflections. He is not pleased with your outward forms of speech and observance. He is only pleased when you press through all this and come to HIM—come into fellowship with Him and speak to Him as a spirit speaking with a Spirit—as one possessing a secret life speaking in the power of that life to the invisible and ever-living God! This is what David longed after, then. Not his throne, nor his house, nor his country, nor even the outward means of grace by themselves, but his God he panted after, his God alone! And this was his cry, ‘When shall I come and appear before God?’ . . .

“[The psalmist] longed to appear before his God, that is to say, heartily to unite in the

worship of the assembled crowd. He could have worshipped alone, but sympathy has great power over the human mind—and to join with our brothers and sisters of one faith is very helpful to our devotion. . . .

“Is it not delightful to listen to the Word preached in the great congregation, when the morsel is dipped in the honey for you in particular? What joy when I can glean among the sheaves for myself and gather the handfuls that are let fall on purpose for me, and can carry home my part of the day’s provision with humble gratitude! Is it not so, Beloved? And if you have fallen into such a state of mind that you do not, now, enjoy the services of God’s House as you once did, I would persuade you to ask the Lord to give you the strong desire of David—that you may, again, in spirit in very truth appear before God—for I beseech you, never let the mere coming together content you! But let your panting be like that of the stag—after the water brook and nothing else—for God, for God, for God Himself, and nothing short of Him!”



FAITHFULNESS

in little, daily things

*A Bible and Spirit of Prophecy
compilation, with comments by Yuri Gessner*

First of all, let's ask ourselves a few questions:

- ◆ Are we here to show the light of Jesus?
- ◆ Are we demonstrating compassion or love toward each other?
- ◆ Are we here to give our best to God?

What should we do to demonstrate the light of present truth? Here is one example we can consider:

JOSEPH

We read that in his youth, Joseph “listened to his father’s instructions, and loved to obey God. The qualities that afterward distinguished him in Egypt—gentleness, fidelity, and truthfulness—were already manifest in his daily life” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 209).

We, as the sons and daughters of God, have to do the same thing that Joseph did. Let’s obey our Father in heaven, let’s have faith in Him—and tell everyone that He is our Creator who has given us salvation, through His only begotten son. (John 3:16.)

WHERE SHOULD OUR THOUGHTS BE?

When faced with the worst crisis of his entire youth, Joseph’s “thoughts turned to his father’s God” (*Ibid.*, p. 213). When in terrible difficulties, he “had the peace that comes from conscious innocence, and he trusted his case with God” (*Ibid.*, p. 218).

Joseph allowed God to be foremost in his heart, believing that He could make his life better and enable him to be a light for the Egyptians. Although sold into slavery, “Joseph preserved his sim-



plicity and his fidelity to God. The sights and sounds of vice were all about him, but he was as one who saw and heard not. His thoughts were not permitted to linger upon forbidden subjects” (Ibid., p. 214).

Sometimes we allow our thoughts to stray far away from God onto other things, just because something is not going quite right compared to what we were expecting. We need to have our thoughts stayed on Christ, and be the way He was—the light of the world.

DID JOSEPH EXERCISE ALL HIS EFFORTS TO FOLLOW GOD’S WILL?

Yes, he did. Should we do the same thing? Yes! Not for our own glory, but for God’s glory.

“The marked prosperity which attended everything placed under Joseph’s care was not the result of

a direct miracle; but his industry, care, and energy were crowned with the divine blessing. Joseph attributed his success to the favor of God, and even his idolatrous master accepted this as the secret of his unparalleled prosperity. Without steadfast, well-directed effort, however, success could never have been attained. God was glorified by the faithfulness of His servant. It was His purpose that in purity and uprightness the believer in God should appear in marked contrast to the worshipers of idols—that thus the light of heavenly grace might shine forth amid the darkness of heathenism”—Ibid., pp. 214–217.

Dear young people, if we believe that God is at our side at every moment, then why do we do some things that are not according to His will—thinking perhaps that we can get away with it because our parents or



pastors do not happen to be there to see? Let's take a look at what the Spirit of Prophecy tells us:

"If we were to cherish an habitual impression that God sees and hears all that we do and say and keeps a faithful record of our words and actions, and that we must meet it all, we would fear to sin. Let the young ever remember that wherever they are, and whatever they do, they are in the presence of God. No part of our conduct escapes observation. We cannot hide our ways from the Most High. Human laws, though sometimes severe, are often transgressed without detection, and hence with impunity. But not so with the law of God. The deepest midnight is no cover for the guilty one. He may think himself alone, but to every deed there is an unseen witness. The very motives of his heart are open to divine inspection. Every act, every word, every thought, is as distinctly marked as though there were only one person in the whole world, and the attention of heaven were centered upon him."—*Ibid.*, pp. 217, 218.

Basically, what is being said here? That you need to be careful of what you say, what you see, what you do, and so forth, because everything you do is being recorded and weighed by God in heaven.

Everything we say, whether for good or evil, comes back to us in some form or other. "Every kind and sympathizing word spoken to the sorrowful, every act to relieve


the oppressed, and every gift to the needy, if prompted by a right motive, will result in blessings to the giver" (*Ibid.*, p. 218).

BRIGHTENING SOMEONE'S DAY

When we say something nice to someone, we feel a sense of having done something good. This happens because we have a sense of his or her well-being. I'm sure that you must have comforted someone in the past, and you felt all was well—you were at peace with the world, and all was fine and good.

However, what would happen if we would say destructive things to someone? Clearly something undesirable would happen from then on. Therefore, let's not wish upon others what we don't want for ourselves, but rather only things that will glorify God. In our work we do things that are needed, right? If not, let's start today before it is too late.

"Faithful attention to duty in every station, from the lowliest to the most exalted, had been training every power for its highest service. He who lives in accordance with the Creator's will is securing to himself the truest and noblest development of character"—*Ibid.*, p. 222.

We need to give our "all" from the start, whether we're involved in small or large things, so all will be done for the honor and glory of God, that we may "shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). 

—Yuri Gessner writes from Virginia, U.S.A.

The Love Factor

By Netty Nina

All my life I have been a Christian. I grew up attending services regularly, and I still do. I learned the Bible truths and was faithful to the mandates of my religion. I'm what you call the proverbial "good girl." This makes me think of the apostle Paul's declaration in Phillipians 3:5, 6: "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." And for a long time I thought that this is what I needed to be doing to find favor with God.

All that time I was thinking that God should be happy with my efforts since I honored my parents, kept my wits about me in college, and everyone knew I was a Christian, participating in and directing youth events in my local Field, and so on and so forth. I look back at that person and wince a little bit. I mean, I can't blame her because she thought she was doing the right thing, but the motives were completely in the wrong place.

That same girl struggled with her purpose. People would say, "Serve God, and you'll be happy." So that's what I tried to do, in my own way of course,

under the delusion that I knew the best way to serve God. Unfortunately, from experience I can tell you that that leads down to the road of disappointment and dissatisfaction, because if you've ever read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, there should be a key factor driving everything a Christian person does: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." If you missed that last part, like I did, let's repeat it: "And have not charity, I Am Nothing." Yikes! Love, is that what it's really all about?

In fact, as I have now realized, it is. Love changes everything. It's funny, because in all my life the thing that made the largest impact on my life and way of thinking was when I understood that God loves me. Let me explain. You would think that growing up in the church and hearing of this love constantly, it would make sense

to me. I even remember having conversations where I would mention or agree that this was so important. The first song you learn in Sabbath is, “Jesus loves me.” Really! But I think that though we know it to be true, we don’t really believe, grasp, or meditate on this.

The reason love is so important is because it changes everything. Love gives meaning to your profession. For example, you can see the difference in someone who has a passion for his or her job and someone who just does it for the financial gain. The motive for the job changes how committed you will be to it. So it is with the Christian profession and the God we profess to follow.

When we realize that God is love and that all His motives are for love, He becomes a very different person. “Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the

Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 11). Though we don’t admit it openly, sometimes this is the personal relationship we have with God. We say, “God, I’m going to do everything right because You have asked me to; otherwise I will be lost.”

First of all, understanding that God is love attracts you to Him. Why would you not want to have a personal relationship with someone who loves you? Why would we want to push away someone who says, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5, last part). As we start reading the Bible, it becomes alive as every experience is a testament to God’s love, including the bits where God seems exacting and cruel. “The



matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother's yearning sympathy for her wayward child" (Ibid., p. 15).


God's love begins to transform you and with it the desire and help to accomplish His desires in your life and to fulfill the law as Jesus did. Jesus Himself said to one of the Pharisees: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). You see, the same condition as the Pharisees trying to trick Jesus, the same condition of Paul before his conversion, the same condition as, dare I say it, mine, is this condition of profession without love. Without love, I Am Nothing.

So how can I experience this

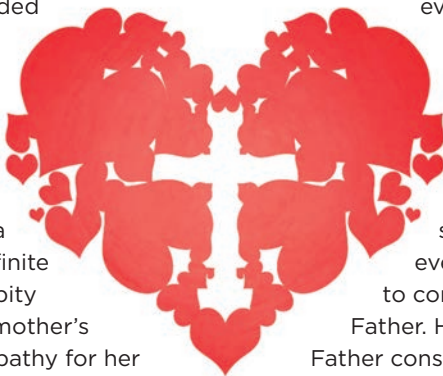
love? A common saying is: "Tell me who you're with, and I'll tell you who you are." The love that God offers only comes as a result of a deep and meaningful relationship with Him. In constantly beholding Him, we "are changed into the same image from glory to glory,

even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Jesus is our example. Study His life and you will see that He took every opportunity to commune with His Father. He spoke to His Father constantly.

Sometimes it's hard for us to relate to God because we expect to feel different immediately. However, like any worthwhile and deep relationship, it comes from consistent communion with God. Prayer also becomes a different experience. "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him" (Ibid., p. 93). God becomes personal—and that is a wonderful experience.

So, if you're feeling like you're trying so hard but your efforts are in vain, remember that God loves you and longs for a personal relationship with you. Do you want to have a relationship with Him? 

—Netty Nina writes from Massachusetts, U.S.A.



Excerpts From

Acres of Diamonds

Part 1

By Russell H. Conwell

*Editor's note: In this new feature called Wise Economy, we are not attempting to preach a "prosperity gospel" promoting materialism. Wealth is not inherently evil—rather the idolatrous love of it is (1 Timothy 6:10). The scriptures encourage us to be diligent with the means with which God has blessed us (Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 10:4, 22; 13:11; 14:23, 24)—and prudent, conscientious economic habits are most easily learned when we are young. This regular feature—including the following series from **Acres of Diamonds**—will provide timeless insights to foster resourcefulness, even while you're still young.*

MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS

A. T. Stewart, a poor boy in New York, had \$1.50 to begin life on. He lost 87.5 cents of that on the very first venture. How fortunate that young man who loses the first time he gambles. That boy said, "I will never gamble again in business," and he never did. How came he to lose 87.5 cents? You probably all know the story how he lost it—because he bought some needles, threads, and buttons to sell which people did not want and had them left on his hands, a dead loss. Said the boy, "I will not lose any more money in that way." Then he went around

first to the doors and asked the people what they did want. Then when he had found out what they wanted, he invested his 62.5 cents to supply a known demand. Study it wherever you choose—in business, in your profession, in your housekeeping, whatever your life, that one thing is the secret of success. You must first know the demand. You must first know what people need, and then invest yourself where you are most needed. A. T. Stewart went on that principle until he was worth what



amounted afterward to forty millions of dollars. . . . His fortune was made by his losing something, which taught him the great lesson



that he must only invest himself or his money in something that people need. When will you salesmen learn it? When will you manufacturers learn that you must know the changing needs of humanity if you would succeed in life? Apply yourselves, all you Christian people, as manufacturers or merchants or workmen to supply that human need. It is a great principle as broad as humanity and as deep as the Scripture itself.

SMALL TOWN SUCCESS

The best illustration I ever heard was of John Jacob Astor. . . . He made the money of the Astor family when he lived in New York. He came across the sea in debt for his fare. But that poor boy with nothing in his pocket made the fortune of the Astor family on one principle. . . . If you read the [statistical] account, you will see that out of the 107 millionaires only seven made their money in New York. Out of the 107 millionaires worth ten million

dollars in real estate then, 67 of them made their money in towns of less than 3,500 inhabitants. The richest man in this country today, if you read the real estate values, has never moved away from a town of 3,500 inhabitants. . . .

Suppose I were to go through this audience tonight and ask you in this great manufacturing city [of Philadelphia] if there are not opportunities to get rich in manufacturing. "Oh yes," some young man says, "there are opportunities here still if you build with some trust and if you have two or three millions of dollars to begin with as capital." Young man, the history of the breaking up of the trusts by that attack upon "big business" is only illustrating what is now the opportunity of the smaller man. The time never came in the history of the world when you could get rich so quickly manufacturing without capital as you can now.

But you will say, "You cannot do anything of the kind. You cannot start without capital." Young man, let me illustrate for a moment. I must do it. It is my duty to every young man and woman, because we are all going into business very soon on the same plan. Young man, remember; if you know what people need, you have gotten more knowledge of a fortune than any amount of capital can give you.

There was a poor man out of work living in Hingham, Massachusetts. He lounged around the house until one day his wife told him to get out and work, and, as he lived in Massachusetts, he obeyed his wife. He went out and sat down on the shore of the bay and whittled a soaked shingle into a wooden chain. His children that evening quarreled over it, and he whittled a second one to keep peace. While he was whittling the second one a neighbor came in and said: "Why don't you whittle toys and sell them? You could make money at that." "Oh," he said, "I would not know what to make." "Why don't you ask your own children right here in your own house what to make?" "What is the use of trying that?" said the carpenter. "My children

are different from other people's children." (I used to see people like that when I taught school.) But he acted upon the hint, and the next morning when Mary came down the stairway, he asked, "What do you want for a toy?" She began to tell him she would like a doll's bed, a doll's washstand, a doll's carriage, a little doll's umbrella, and went on with a list of things that would take him a lifetime to supply. So, consulting his own children, in his own house, he took the firewood, for he had no money to buy lumber, and whittled those strong, unpainted Hingham toys that were for so many years known all over the world. That man began to make those toys for his own children, and then made copies and sold them through the boot-and-shoe store next

door. He began to make a little money, and then a little more. . . . And that man is worth hundred millions of dollars today and has been only thirty-four years making it on that one principle—that one must judge that what his own children like at home, other people's children would like in their homes, too; to judge the human heart by oneself, by one's wife, or by one's children. It is the royal road to success in manufacturing. "Oh," but you say, "didn't he have any capital?" Yes, a penknife, but I don't know that he had paid for that. 🌀



Bible ABC's

The following quiz will test your knowledge of certain Bible names and places which begin with the letters A, B, and C. Some answers are easy, others are more challenging. After you go through them all, pick out the ones you could not answer. Look up the verse prayerfully and read the entire context, asking God to give you greater spiritual understanding from what you find. Try to discover more about the Bible and about God's love shining through it by using a Bible concordance or the Spirit of Prophecy Index, researching more topics, especially those vital to salvation. It may take a bit more time, but this is what turns what might have seemed as only trivia into richer spiritual treasure. Enjoy!



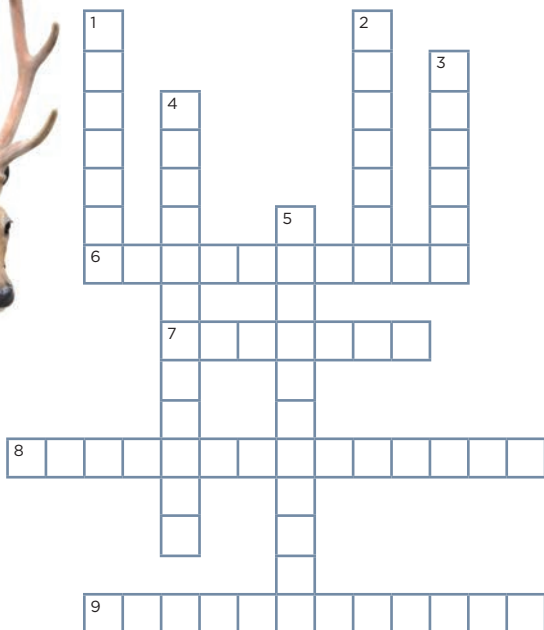
1. The first high priest (Leviticus 8).....
2. The first person to die (Genesis 4:8).....
3. The son of David who started a rebellion (2 Samuel 15:1–12).....
4. The king of Israel who married evil Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30, 31).....
5. One of the twelve sons of Jacob (Genesis 30:13; 49:20).....
6. The king who had his thumbs and big toes cut off (Judges 1:6).....
7. A fearless prophet of Israel (an Old Testament book).....
8. The father of the Hebrew nation and of the faithful of all ages (Genesis 12:1–3).....
9. One of the twelve disciples (Matthew 10:2).....
10. A high priest during Jesus' lifetime (Luke 3:2).....



1. A god of the Zidonians (1 Kings 16:31).....
2. An apostle of Jesus (Matthew 10:3).....
3. An apostle of the early church (Acts 13:1, 2).....
4. A Babylonian king who held a great feast (Daniel 5:1).....
5. A city near Jerusalem, the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:18).....
6. A place near Abraham's first altar (Genesis 12:8).....
7. A nickname of James and John (Mark 3:17).....
8. The husband of Ruth (Ruth 4:13).....
9. A king of Syria (1 Kings 20:1).....
10. A blind man healed by Jesus (Mark 10:46–52).....



1. One of the faithful spies (Joshua 14:6–8).....
2. The hill where Jesus was crucified (Luke 23:33).....
3. The city where Jesus was perhaps most frequently found (Matthew 4:13).....
4. A mountain where Elijah held a contest (1 Kings 18:19).....
5. The Roman capital of Palestine (Acts 23:23, 24).....
6. The land where Abraham first lived (Genesis 11:28, 31; 15:7).....
7. A city in Greece where Paul preached (Acts 18:1).....
8. The first Gentile convert (Acts 10).....
9. The Hebrew name of Peter (John 1:42).....
10. The last place where Jesus prayed before his death (Luke 23:33, 46).....



ACROSS

6. The hart and hind are amazingly _____.
7. Lead in contact with gold is like keeping good _____.
8. The higher the position, the greater the _____.
9. Meet the enemy with Scripture and you will be _____.

DOWN

1. God is love and all His _____ are love.
2. "If sinners entice thee, _____ thou not" (Proverbs 1:10).
3. Successful business involves investing yourself where you're most _____.
4. Joseph listened to his father's _____.
5. The race for eternity is not for the lazy, the _____, or the weak.

Editor Barbara Montrose, **Layout** Bethany Montrose.

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Dear Young People,
Have you ever read Deuteronomy chapter 28? You've really got to check it out. It's tremendously positive, and it really opens your eyes about how the things of God work.

There's just a little word "if" in the opening verse, explaining first that we've got to listen carefully to the voice of the Lord and do what He says. As the teacher says, "Just follow the instructions." Okay, simple enough. Then what?

Fourteen verses worth of great things! They pour out as a refreshing fountain of water flowing, flowing—enough to imagine swimming in them for joy!

Are you tired of feeling like a failure? Just look at these promises! They are custom-made especially for you by One who does not lie! Custom-made? Really? How can that be?

Here's how: "God's promises are rich, and full, and free.

Whoever will, in the strength of Christ, **comply with the conditions**, may claim these promises, with all their wealth of blessing, as his own."—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 327.


[Emphasis supplied.]

"In His promises and warnings, Jesus means me. . . . The experiences related in God's Word are to be my experiences. Prayer and promise, precept and warning, are mine.

"The creative energy that called the worlds into existence

is in the word of God. The word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One."—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 20.

In this issue of the *Youth Messenger*, you'll see some experiences from real, live people living right now. They're just pilgrims like you are, and you may know some of them. So, tap into the promises of God and tell us of the blessings you reap, too. We'd love to hear from you. After all, this magazine uplifts your spiritual life, but in reality it also talks about good, practical results that come from following the Creator's way of life. Please read this magazine, write us an article or two, and use it as a witnessing tool to share with friends and associates. You'll find more in here than you ever thought possible—through the One who can do more in our heart than any of us ever thought possible.

That's why "we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:7-9). 

Did You Ever Think?

BY L. D. SANTEE

Did you ever think what this world would be
 If Christ hadn't come to save it?
 His hands and feet were nailed to the tree,
 And His precious life—He gave it.
 But countless hearts would break with grief,
 At the hopeless life they were given,
 If God had not sent the world relief,
 If Jesus had stayed in heaven.

Did you ever think what this world would be
 With never a life hereafter?
 Despair in the faces of all we'd see,
 And sobbing instead of laughter.
 In vain is beauty, and flowers bloom,
 To remove the heart's dejection,
 Since all would drift to a yawning tomb,
 With never a resurrection.

Did you ever think what this world would be,
 How weary of all endeavor,
 If the dead unnumbered, in land and sea,
 Would just sleep on forever?
 Only a pall over hill and plain!
 And the brightest hours are dreary,
 Where the heart is sad, and hopes are vain,
 And life is sad and weary.

Did you ever think what this world would be
 If Christ had stayed in heaven—
 No home in bliss, no soul set free,
 No life, or sins forgiven?
 But He came with a heart of tenderest love,
 And now from on high He sees us,
 And mercy comes from the throne on high;
 Thank God for the gift of Jesus!