

# Youth messenger

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**BUILDING BEAUTIFUL**

*Faith*



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## BUILDING BEAUTIFUL FAITH

Friends, at the beginning of my Christian experience, while I was attending my first camp meeting that I was taking notes of studies on “**RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH.**” It was then I heard, for the first time, Romans 1:17 being read: “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” I remember trying to make sense of it, but I was busy taking notes since every word I was hearing was new to me.

When later reviewing my notes, I stumbled upon the same verse again, but I still couldn’t understand the depth of Paul’s words to the Romans—and my notes didn’t help a lot, either. Only years later, when reading E.J. Waggoner’s explanation on the book of Romans, did I get to understand that the explanation is found in the same letter to the Romans, where the apostle Paul says that “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3).

Those two Bible verses together helped me understand that at birth, we are blessed with a measure of faith, which helps us believe and trust our parents. Once we prove that our parents were right in little things, we trust them in greater things.

That is what it means that the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. As you exercise your little faith in your **PERFECT DADDY** who never disappoints you, your faith grows into believing that even greater things are possible. This is what we call **BUILDING BEAUTIFUL FAITH.**

—Adrian Finaru



BY BOBBY BELL

# THE PERFECT DADDY

In Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NKJV) we are urged: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

The day and age in which we live has succeeded in creating an entire culture of independent, self-reliant, and extremely determined people. And the church is not immune to this. Our culture has taught us that the only person you can count on is yourself. It has also toughened us up in the sense that we are constantly trying to solve our own problems. When things get tough we “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps,” as they say.

## WHAT’S WRONG WITH THIS?

The problem is we begin to rely on ourselves more and in God less; so often we try to handle our problems on our own instead of surrendering them to God. And because we do not surrender them to God, what do we end up doing?

We lie in bed at night and think of all of our problems. We worry about our social life, our future, and many other things. We try to think of a way to fix our problems when we should be praying and asking God to help us. We should be trusting that God our Father will take care of all of our needs.

So why are we often reluctant to trust God, our heavenly Father? As a society we hear all the time about how people have “trust issues.” Why is that? In the world, many people’s trust issues stem from “family” issues—particularly with respect to the father.

Statistics from the National Fatherhood Initiative show that one out of three children live in biological father-absent homes. Tragically, in today’s world many people grow up without a father, or the father they have may not reflect the role that God intended. After all, fathers are only human beings, short of perfection. The point of this article is not to complain about the frailty of mere mortals, but simply to help all of us realize that even the best human father is still not as perfect as our Father in heaven.

So what is the best way to learn about our heavenly Father and learn how to trust Him?

- By the example of good Christian earthly fathers.
- By reading His word.
- By personal experience.

## **HOW CAN WE BE SURE WHAT KIND OF FATHER GOD IS?**

Jesus said, “He that has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9, NKJV).

Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being (Hebrews 1:3).

God the Father is exactly like Jesus! Thus, we are to “behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know him” (1 John 3:1, NKJV). For those who—for whatever reason—have never known a true father, we have to learn by looking at the examples of others. We also learn about what the heavenly Father is like by looking to Jesus, and by reading His word.

Then lastly, we must know God as our Father through our personal experience.

Once we get to “know” God and gain a true biblical perspective what being a father is, then we can begin to trust Him.

We can become more willing to test His “trustworthiness” by personal experience. As we begin to trust Him in little things, our trust in Him grows, and we are more likely to trust Him with the great things in our life as well.

Often a child will be afraid to jump into water but will be willing to do so if his or her father is there waiting with open arms, until eventually the fear is gone.

It’s the same with God. As we successfully take little jumps, we begin to trust Him more, and we become more willing to take even bigger leaps of faith and trust, knowing that our Father will never let us down or fail us.

“Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee:



let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed” (Psalm 25:1-3).

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8 NKJV).

“Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the Lord is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2 NKJV).

It is after we make these experiences and really get to know our Father in heaven that we can trust Him even when we don’t understand His ways or are able to see His plan for our life. This only comes through getting to know Him and experiencing Him personally. It is only then that I can be able to trust Him: when everything seems dark. When I do not understand! When I realize that it is all out of my control and I must totally submit to His will. Submit to the “process,” even if I don’t understand it.

## **THE TRAIN THROUGH THE SWISS ALPS**

Dark! Darkness like I’ve never experienced before! There is a train that operates through a tunnel in the Swiss Alps. It carries you in your car inside the train. Once I was caught by surprise, discovering this only after booking the ticket. This was not just an ordinary-length tunnel—it was a super-long tunnel in the pitch dark! This train had traveled these tracks many times before. The conductor of the train had traveled these tracks many times before, so I trusted the process. I trusted that the tracks were well laid. I trusted that the train was fully functional. I trusted that the mountain had a tunnel that went all the way through. I trusted all these things believing that I would arrive at my final destination. Even though for what seemed an eternity at the time, I was in utter and complete darkness. Everything was out of my control, and I was forced to submit.

It would have been deadly to try to escape by jumping out of the car, so somehow I endured the trip. It wasn't easy.

Isn't that what we do with God sometimes? Just because we can't "see." Just because we are afraid. Just because we do not want to yield up control.

Soon I saw a glimmer of light. And when we came out the other side of the mountain into the full brightness of the sun, the view was spectacular. My destination was just ahead and I eventually arrived safely.

How did I get there? I had to trust in the train conductor with all my heart; I could not depend on my own understanding. I couldn't depend on what I saw, or rather couldn't see!

My fears, if I allowed them to control me, would have led me to make a very foolish mistake (to jump out of the train to try to escape). So I had to yield to the process. Not give in to emotion. Not get into fear. Knowing that the final outcome would be to my benefit.

## **BLAZING A TRAIL**

With a scoutmaster and some boy scouts, we were once blazing a trail in the woods. Finally we came to a standstill where it was unclear which direction we should go. Debris covered the trail and it seemed that the trail split into directions. And we just didn't know which way to go. We tried looking ahead to see if there were any faded blazes left on the tree which would indicate which direction we should continue, but we found nothing.

We were faced with a choice: Which direction should we go? Finally the scoutmaster who was behind us said, "Go in this direction."

The scouts look at him, puzzled.

"How do you know that this is the direction that we can go?" they asked.

The scoutmaster smiled, "Because I am the one who blazed the original trail. I created this path." Without hesitation we moved forward.

Is this not how it is and should be with God? If we are following God, if we are trusting God, if we



are on the path—when we come to an impasse, when we come to a place that it's unclear what we should do, it is then more than ever that we need to trust the Lord. It is then that we need to look to Him and listen to His voice as He tells us in which direction to go.

And why do we trust Him? Because He blazed the trail; He created the path; He walked it step by step before us. And we can trust Him.

He knows where the path will lead us, and He knows where the path will end. Some have a hard time trusting someone they don't know or have never seen. But, the fact is that we put our trust in a lot of things every day.

For example: I trust the people that put my car together. I trust the people in the opposite lane who are coming at 65 miles an hour. I trust the manufacturers of airplanes and the pilots that fly them. The fact is I trust a lot of people that I do not know, that I've never seen, and that indeed I may never know or see.

The messenger of the Lord describes: "I saw that there was a great lack of faith with the servants of God, as well as with the church. They were too easily discouraged, too ready to doubt God, too willing to believe that they had a hard lot and that God had forsaken them. I saw that this was cruel. God so loved them as



to give His dearly beloved Son to die for them, and all heaven was interested in their salvation; yet after all that had been done for them, it was hard to believe and trust so kind and good a Father" (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 120).

We often seem to practice the old saying, "When all else fails, pray!" But why do we need to fail at all? Why not trust God from the beginning? Why not pray first? Sometimes we do take it to the Lord, but the problem is we do not leave it with the Lord! The fact is if you are worrying then you are not trusting. And worrying is wrong!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7, NIV).

Another good saying to remember is . . . "If you pray, why worry? If you worry, why pray?"

Don't forget: You are blessed with THE PERFECT DADDY! He's not just somebody else's—He's yours! 🙏

A photograph of a person wearing a white, textured robe, likely representing Jesus, working with a wooden hand plane on a workbench. The person's hands are positioned on the plane, which is being used to smooth a piece of wood. The workbench is cluttered with various tools, including a mallet and a chisel, and there are shavings of wood scattered around. The background is dark, making the light-colored robe and the wooden workbench stand out.

# A Pattern for Youth

BY JACKSON ZAMY AND  
BARBARA MONTROSE

**W**hen we think of a pattern, we picture something that is to be imitated as a standard. In sewing, a pattern guides us in how to prepare, cut, and sew fabric for making a suitable garment. In construction we see a similar concept in the word “blueprint,” by which detailed measurements and accessory parts comprise a building plan.

Many young people may feel that Jesus Christ is not necessarily an appropriate role model—that His life on earth was spent many centuries ago in a faraway land with a foreign culture. But such need to realize that Jesus was not just an ordinary man; He was the Son of the living God—in fact, our Creator Himself in human flesh.

Jesus came to earth as the exact Pattern He knew we would need in order to understand how to live a life of genuine, enduring happiness.

## **WHAT WERE CHRIST'S PRIORITIES?**

From His childhood to manhood, many lessons can be learned. But often we do not really take time to dwell on the period of His childhood; we tend to gloss over the teachings of His early years. But Christ's life as a child is itself a school where children and youth can be trained and prepared for the duties of life. At home and at His daily occupation, Jesus left a great example for the youth. The inspired word says, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). This includes when He was young.

## **SCHOOLING**

Jesus obeyed His parents in daily life—in clear harmony with the fifth of the Ten Commandments. He learned the Word of God at



His mother's knee and committed Scripture to memory. How remarkable it is to realize that Christ, the Creator of the universe, did not come to this earth knowing everything. He had chosen to come as a little baby—therefore He had to learn everything growing up, just as we do.

Jesus did not attend school taught by the Roman government. He also did not attend the schools of the Jewish rabbis in His day. Why not? What was the problem?

In the time of Christ, “false theories, which were received as truth because they came from the lips of rabbis, were exalted above the words of God. Christ said to these teachers, ‘Ye are both ignorant of the Scriptures and of the power of God.’” —*The Educational Messenger*, March 19, 1909.

In the time of Jesus, people knew neither Scripture nor the power of God. So, in all the necessary things He had to study, the top priority in Christ's education was to know His heavenly Father and what was written in His Word—and to know His power. This was important in developing His way of thinking. We need to remember this, for we want to have a pure mind like Christ's.

### **A LIFE OF ACTIVITY**

Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3). His life was filled with industry. He worked at Joseph's shop and took part in the matters of life. No idleness was seen in Him; He was a laborer who did not live a selfish

life. The inspired pen declares that Jesus “went about doing good” to others (Acts 10:38).

Christ explained to His disciples, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). Here is seen the importance Jesus gave to time. Knowing that His time was short, He focused on accomplishing the purpose for which He had been sent. The Bible teaches that we need to work with our hands at whatever we can, for there will be a time when we will no longer be able to do so (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Let us, as Jesus, live a life of activity, and do what is within our reach to help others, knowing our time is short.

### **WHY WAS JESUS VICTORIOUS?**

The inspired psalmist prayed, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:9–11).



“To be sanctified means more than to have a theoretical knowledge of the truth. [All] must have living faith. They must do more than denounce wrongs in others; they must fight in themselves. They must be whole-souled Christians possessing the earnestness and living energy derived in Christ.”—*The Educational Messenger*, March 19, 1909.

Sometimes it's easy to see the shortcomings of others. But how do we handle such situations? Do we lovingly try to help them in a productive way? Do we realize how frail we are as well, seeking always to maintain a humble spirit? The process of becoming pure and holy requires a struggle within—a fight against wrong ways of doing things. Weaknesses we have inherited and bad habits we have developed are working against all of us. But we must not let these be cause for discouragement! With the strength that God is willing to provide, we must choose to do right instead of wrong. And this “good news” we also need to convey to others.

## WITH HIS PARENTS

These days, at the age of 18, as is the rule in many countries, it is believed that young people are free to make any decision regardless of their parents' wishes. Some children do not even wait until this age before they act independently. Yet the fifth commandment declares: “Honour thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12). The life of Jesus on this point is a great lesson for all indifferent children. Inspiration records that “for thirty years [Jesus] submitted to parental restraint”—*The Youth's Instructor*, September 1, 1873.

As final proof of respect and love for His mother, while on the cross and suffering from intense physical pain, Jesus, looking at His mother said, “Woman, behold thy son!” And then, turning His face toward the disciple John, He declared, “Behold thy mother!” (John 19:26, 27). Even on the cross at the point of death, Jesus remembered His mother and thought about her well-being. He entrusted the care of His mother to someone He knew would give her special care and attention. What a good example of filial love!

The fifth commandment is given with a promise: “That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Exodus 20:12). Children who want to live longer on this earth will honor their parents. They will not live in such a way to grieve the heart of their parents and cause them pain. They



will follow the example of Christ. They will know and accept “the fifth commandment is binding upon children as long as their own lives and the lives of their parents are spared”—Ibid.

### **RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY**

The fifth commandment calls upon us to respect authority. Remember when Jesus spoke with the doctors of the law in the synagogue when He was 12 years old? Those learned men were amazed at how much He knew. Why? He had not approached them with a cocky, insolent attitude. Instead, He won their respect by speaking respectfully to them. He even managed to teach them—not by rudely challenging their authority, but by posing an innocent series of questions so tactfully presented that their hearts were impressed. This is a pattern attitude for godly youth—not to be “smart aleck” or “know-it-all” even in religious matters—but rather to exalt and uplift God and His Word, with a meek and humble spirit.

### **AT CAMP MEETINGS**

The attitude Jesus manifested at the Passover gathering Jesus attended at age 12, was striking. As He entered the temple, He watched all that was taking place, especially that which had to do with His own future. After observing the thought-provoking scenes, He chose to separate Himself—to be alone with His

heavenly Father to ponder these matters very deeply. He was so engaged in the things of the temple service that His earthly parents did not realize they had left Him behind. (See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 78.)

Considering the sacredness of the moment, Jesus had not gotten involved in vain conversation. His mind was attracted to what was spiritual. He decided not to follow the example of those who, by their light conversations, had lost sight of the spirituality of the moment. (See p. 82.)

At our camp meetings today (which are, in a sense, like those holy convocations), the youth are too often indifferent and casual in their attitude. They sometimes chatter nonstop (even if it's on devices) and are ready to yield to the frivolity which characterizes any sort of vain encounter. Many think that a church youth convention is supposed to revolve only around amusements, athletic games, and so on. Would Jesus as a child have had that as His main emphasis for a sacred event aiming to prepare young minds for eternity?

### **WHAT KIND OF FUN?**

Jesus never took part in earthly amusements; His life was in entire conformity to the word of God. The Bible says: “My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.” “My son, walk not thou in the way with the; refrain thy foot from their path” (Proverbs 1:10; 15).

Jesus gave strict obedience to these words. “Often He was asked, Why are you bent on being so singular, so different from us all? It is written, He said, ‘Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways’ (Psalm 119:1-3).

“When questioned why He did not join in the frolics of the youth of Nazareth, He said, It is written, ‘I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy ways. I will delight myself in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word’ (Psalm 119:14-16).”—Ibid., p. 89.

### **A MISSIONARY SPIRIT**

Jesus did not cater to the popular crowd. He did not seek to put on a show or display. Whether meeting the rich or the poor, His care was the same. Whenever seeing someone in need, He quietly placed His own meal in their hands.

As Christ studied nature, He was always preparing object lessons in His mind to be able to share the gospel more clearly with people. Do we have such an attitude when seeking to learn something? Or are we too often busy, learning something just to pass a test so we can graduate to be able to compete for a job with the goal of making lots of money, only to gratify selfish ambitions? That is a typical set of motives, but the overall pattern is not exactly in the order of Christ. Why?

Yes, we want to be successful. That is fine. But everything Jesus did was to glorify God—whether in His plans, His actions, or His words. So, let’s do good things for the right reasons. Let us make it our aim to follow Christ’s example in everything. He is worth following—better than any movie star, singer, teacher, businessman, politician, or peer. He alone is worthy of our wholehearted praise, for He has redeemed us from the slavery of sin and assures eternal life to all who will be faithful to Him. The promise from Heaven is: “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God” (Psalm 50:23).

May the attitude of Christ be ours, dear youth. Jesus will be guide for you if you choose to follow His steps. Let’s keep looking to the Pattern and reap the wonderful results! 🍌



# The Joy of Recreation

BY GIORDANO TINTA

All young people would like to be happy; it is important, however, to distinguish worldly happiness from the Christian one.

Young people are privileged to refresh their spirit and strengthen their bodies with innocent recreation, with the purpose of using their physical and mental strength to the glory of God. We must differentiate between recreation and amusement. Recreation provides refreshment for mind and body, enabling us to return with new vigor to the earnest work of life. Amusement, on the other hand, is sought for the sake of pleasure and is often carried to excess; it absorbs the energies that are required for useful work and thus proves a hindrance to life's true success. Let us remember that we cannot unite ourselves with worldly, amusement-loving people and, at the same time, be able to resist temptation.

In Titus 2:6-8, the apostle Paul exhorts young people to sobriety. God invites us to renounce every bad custom, to be diligent, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. This is more important today than ever before, as the world's corruption escalates and the prevailing influence of society is for young

people to follow their natural, carnal tendencies without regard to principle. See 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

The Spirit of Prophecy warns us concerning the unfortunate age in which we are living—especially the young. The current trend is to allow the youth to follow the natural turn of their own minds, making it hard for them to resist the worldly influences often perpetuated even by some who profess to believe the present truth. The majority of nominal Christians, while they profess to be living for Christ, are really living for the world. Since Christianity is considered honorable, people like to claim they are Christians, yet many do not discern genuine religion and do not restrain themselves from taking part in worldly pleasures. Flattering themselves that they are engaging in innocent amusement, many are separating themselves from God and becoming children of the world. Let us remember that God does not recognize the pleasure-seeker as His follower. Those only who are self-denying, living lives of sobriety, humility, and holiness are true followers of Jesus. And such do not enjoy the frivolous, empty conversation of the lover of the world.

The true followers of Christ will shun places of worldly amusement because they find no Jesus there, no influence which will make them heavenly-minded and increase their growth in grace. Obedience to God's Word will lead them to come out from all these things and be separate. "By their fruits ye shall know them" describes well what Christ said about real Christians (Matthew 7:20)! Jesus, who has chosen His people out of the world, requires them to be separate from the world! To love God and keep His commandments is far away from loving the world's pleasures and its friendship. The youth who follow Christ have a warfare before them; they have a daily cross to bear in coming out of the world and imitating the life of Jesus. But there are many promises for such who seek the Saviour early, including Proverbs 8:17 and 1 Peter 1:13-15.

Every youth should ask himself or herself: what influence will this particular amusement have on my physical, mental, and moral health? Will my mind become so infatuated as to forget God?

The most dangerous pleasures of our time include the cinema, the circus, gambling, frivolous conversations, bad reading material, and the vast majority of what is found on television.

But if we must renounce everything, how can young people be happy? In reality, worldly amusements don't make us happy! That is only an illusion. In Ecclesiastes 2:26, Solomon tells us that it is God who gives joy to man. Peter repeats that in Jesus only can real happiness be found (1 Peter 1:8).

"Let us never lose sight of the fact that Jesus is a wellspring of joy. He does not delight in the misery of human beings, but loves to see them happy.

"Christians have many sources of happiness at their command, and they may tell with unerring accuracy what pleasures are lawful and right. They may enjoy such recreations as will not dissipate the mind or debase the soul, such as will not disappoint and leave a sad after-influence to destroy self-respect or bar the way to

usefulness. If they can take Jesus with them and maintain a prayerful spirit, they are perfectly safe.

"Any amusement in which you can engage asking the blessing of God upon it in faith will not be dangerous.

But any amusement which disqualifies you for secret prayer, for devotion at the altar of prayer, or for taking part in the prayer meeting is not safe but dangerous."—*The Adventist*

*Home*, p. 513.


“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:11).

The Spirit of Prophecy presents these questions to us: “Are our recreations such as to impart moral and spiritual vigor? Will they lead to purity of thought and action? Impurity is today widespread, even among the professed followers of Christ. Passion is unrestrained; the animal propensities are gaining strength by indulgence, while the moral powers are constantly becoming weaker. Many are eagerly participating in worldly, demoralizing amusements which God’s word forbids. Thus they sever their connection with God and rank themselves with the pleasure lovers of the world. The sins that destroyed the antediluvians and the cities of the plain exist today—not merely in heathen lands, not only among popular professors of Christianity, but with some who profess to be looking for the coming of the Son of man. If God should present these sins before you as they appear in His sight, you would be filled with shame and terror.

“And what has caused this alarming condition? Many have accepted the theory of the truth who have had no true conversion. I know whereof I speak. There are few who feel true sorrow for sin, who have deep, pungent convictions of the depravity of the unregenerate nature. The heart of



stone is not exchanged for a heart of flesh. Few are willing to fall upon the Rock and be broken.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 218.

“Happiness that is sought from selfish motives, outside of the path of duty, is ill-balanced, fitful, and transitory; it passes away, and the soul is filled with loneliness and sorrow; but there is joy and satisfaction in the service of God; the Christian is not left to walk in uncertain paths; he is not left to vain regrets and disappointments. If we do not have the pleasures of this life we may still be joyful in looking to the life beyond. “But even here Christians may have the joy of communion with Christ; they may have the light of His love, the perpetual comfort of His presence. Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, may give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace. Then let us not cast away our confidence, but have firm assurance, firmer than ever before. ‘Hitherto hath the Lord helped us,’ and He will help us to the end (1 Samuel 7:12).”—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 124, 125. 

# **“Where Is the Piccolo?”**

FANNIE E. BOLTON



The orchestra was ready made,  
And yet the leader half delayed.  
He ran his eye from chair to chair,  
It seemed his players all were there.  
He counted o'er the finer strings,  
He noted harps, triangles, rings,  
Cymbals, trombones, bass-viols, fifes,  
Flutes, clarinets, drums, mellowing pipes.  
What, what were missing, if one were?  
Or was his orchestra all there?  
Then blaze of light burst forth, as he  
Gave them the sign of minstrelsy.

Like rush of air upon a void,  
Like burst of light from 'neath a cloud,  
So strains of music, sweetly blent,  
Poured as from one vast instrument,  
And to the master's ear alone  
There was the missing of a tone.  
Crash! Came the baton on the stand;  
He hushed the sound by wave of hand.  
Pale, trembling, stood the master so,  
And asked, "Where is the piccolo?"

Ah! There he comes, the tardy one,  
After the concert is begun!  
And once again the sign is given;  
The music, sweet as sounds from heaven,  
Bursts on the raptured audience,  
Strange! Had the ear an added sense?  
Or was't the master's word that so  
Marked out the trilling piccolo?

Ah, little player, still delaying,  
The orchestra of God is playing.  
And though the angels may not know,  
God asks, "Where is the piccolo?"  
But when thou playest, they will say,  
"How sweet thy notes are!" Come away  
And take thy place; for hearts will praise  
For notes from thee through endless days.







## FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

A camp meeting  
message to the  
youth given by  
ELLEN G. WHITE

**L**ife is a mysterious and sacred trust. Precious are its opportunities, and faithfully should they be improved.

God desires the youth to stand in that position where they can honor Him all the time. They cannot afford to go onto Satan's ground every now and then, but must press steadily forward to the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Only as they place themselves under the broad shield of Omnipotence, can safety be assured to them in the hour of temptation. Only there as they work out their salvation with fear and trembling, can God work through them to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Our youth need to have a clearer understanding of what it means to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. They need to learn, as they follow on to know

the Lord, that His going forth is prepared as the morning. You have watched the rising sun, and the gradual breaking of day over the earth. Little by little the light increases until the world is flooded with the full light of day. This is a beautiful illustration of what God desires to do for His children in the perfection of Christian character. Only by making constant advancement can the youth fulfill God's purpose for them. As opportunities multiply and are improved, the experience will enlarge, and knowledge increase. The youth will become strong to bear responsibility, because they are constantly growing in happiness, in holiness, in usefulness.

The enemy well knows that no other class can do so much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God's service. Therefore he

makes every effort to lead them to find their happiness in worldly amusements, and to justify themselves by endeavoring to show these amusements are harmless, innocent, and even necessary to physical well-being. He presents the path of holiness as hard and thorny, while declaring that the paths of worldly pleasure are strewn with flowers. In false and flattering colors, he arrays the world with its pleasure before the youth, and many are led to destruction by his deceptions. Those who learn to love amusement for its own sake open the door to a flood of temptations. They are led on from one form of dissipation to another until they lose the desire for a life of usefulness in God's cause. Their higher aspirations are chilled; their spiritual life is darkened. Finding their pleasures in the world, and the things of the world, they become strangers to the Father and to the graces of His Spirit.

There are others whom Satan is binding to the world by love of gain. He is employing all his ingenuity to lead the youth to become so absorbed in the pursuit of worldly power and wealth that they can give no heed to a "Thus saith the Lord." Thus he leads them to give their lives to self-serving, and they develop, not the attributes of good, but the attributes of evil.

If our characters are to meet the approval of God we must fashion the life according to the

perfect pattern. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us;.. full of grace and truth." The followers of Christ are to represent him in all that they do and say. They are to live His life. The principles by which He was guided are to shape their lives and mould their characters.

The youth should keep ever before them the course that Christ followed. It was a course of constant overcoming. He wrestled with temptations greater than any you will be called to meet; and he stood the test. He refused to yield to temptation. Though physical strength failed, His faith did not fail.

It was not only on the cross that Christ gave Himself for humanity, not only in the wilderness of temptation and in Gethsemane that He overcame in our behalf. Every day's experience was an outpouring of His life; every day he learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And because the life of Jesus was a life of perfect trust His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering. He met and resisted all the temptations that man must meet because in his humanity he relied upon divine power.

The life of Christ reveals what every youth may accomplish through His grace. As the enemy worked to overcome the Saviour, so he works against God's children today. There will come to you, as there came to Christ times of special difficulty and need. But in every trial and difficulty know that

Christ has passed this way before you. And He who came forth from the most severe test without one stain of sin, stands ready to strengthen all who struggle with Him against the powers of evil. He understands every difficulty. He waits to hear and answer prayer.

Satan is striving to mould us into his likeness. Christ waits to give us power to resist the enemy's temptations. With deepest interest the universe of heaven watches the conflict between Christ, in the person of his saints, and the great deceiver.

Dear youth, you cannot afford to make mistakes in this conflict. Guard your spirit, guard your words, guard your actions. Open heart and mind to the impressions of the Holy Spirit, and be determined to stand for truth and righteousness. He who knows your weakness will impart to you

strength; angels will work in your behalf, enabling you to stand firm for God.

Every day you are to prepare for the coming of Christ by every day having an increased faith, a fuller and deeper experience in the things of God. Put away foolishness from the life. This is not a time for trifling. Believers and unbelievers need the help of your influence. All around you are those who need to know the transforming power of truth; and they will know it only as it is revealed to them in Christlike lives. Will you not help these to obtain joy and peace in Christ? If you will put self out of sight, and come into right relation to God, you will learn to manifest a spirit that will make you a blessing to all with whom you associate.

The Lord wants you to help another. You should lay hold of




every possible advantage, that you may be trained for efficient service. Every capability and power you possess should be regarded as a sacred trust, to be used in making known the saving power of grace. This is your business—your chief business.

The Saviour revealed a wonderful love, a wonderful earnestness when He gave His life that we might be cleansed from iniquity. He is the pattern to be followed by all who have named His name. The shortness of time, and the responsibilities resting upon us as sons and daughters of God should lead us to ask ourselves at every step if we are following His example.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant.” Notwithstanding all that was His by right Christ yielded it all up, that He might give you life, and teach you how to live for Him. Do not disappoint Him. Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good? Then tell of His goodness. You owe it to God to reflect the light you have. Work for Him in simplicity, pleading daily for power to make your work effectual.

In your contact with friends and associates, do you keep your lips closed regarding the truth for this time? Do they receive no help from you as to the best way to serve and

glorify God? You have brothers, sisters, friends, acquaintances. To each of these you should be giving an example that will honor the truth you profess. By patience and forbearance in your dealings with them, you may teach them to be patient under test and trial. When in the kingdom of God you meet those whom you have sought to influence for right, will you not be abundantly rewarded for any effort, any sacrifice, you may have made?

Is there at this meeting, a turning to the Lord with full purpose of heart? Are you encouraging one another to consecrate heart and life to God. A little longer, and the meeting will close. As you return to your homes, will you put away from your thoughts the truths you have heard here, or will you make prayerful earnest endeavor to carry out these truths in the daily life? If you will set yourself to the work of pressing back the powers of darkness and advancing constantly toward the light, you will gain wonderful victories. Determine to make this effort, dear youth, and God will surely help you. Angels of heaven will work in your behalf, enabling you to be true to God and to your associates. I pray that these words may make a deep impression on your minds, leading you to form right habits, and to make a record in your future experience that you will not be ashamed to meet in the judgment.—*The Columbia Union Visitor*, October 2, 1912. 

## BLESSED ARE THE

# Meek

BY JOAN SURESHKUMAR

Inheriting the earth . . . what a wonderful privilege! This promised blessing requires an examination of the virtue of meekness, a virtue that is little understood and little esteemed in a world that glorifies power and might, where “might is right.”

Today many consider the meek to be submissive people. They might be dubbed as “DOORMATS.” That could stand for “Dependent Organization of Really Meek and Timid Souls.” They might be thought of as the yellow traffic lights.

The modern world looks upon meekness as a weakness, as one afraid to stand up for his or her rights, as one unwilling to fight back in the face of insult or offense.

This is the opinion many people have about meekness. They think that Jesus must have meant this when He said the meek were blessed. Of what was Jesus speaking?

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MEEK?

An understanding of the root definition of “meek” in the original language and how it was used will help us in understanding what Jesus meant.

1. The Greek word *praus* has three basic meanings:
  - a. mildness of disposition
  - b. gentleness of spirit
  - c. meekness.





This actually indicates that one has the right kind of temper by being in control of his or her life, is responsive to God, and knows his or her limits and accepts them.

2. The Greek word *praus* also was used to describe a soothing medicine. It was used by sailors to describe a gentle breeze, and by farmers to describe a broken colt.

3. What do all these definitions have in common? They all describe great power under control.

4. Therefore, a good definition of Bible meekness is: **Strength under control.**

## THE VIRTUE OF MEEKNESS

Meekness is a virtue which moderates the passion of action according to the dictates of reason, and calms the desire for revenge. It restrains one from

wanting to inflict injury for injury. It enables one, relying on the Father's will, to be master of himself or herself.

Some Bible passages illustrate this definition:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:28, 29).

Jesus could stand up to the winds and the waves. He also chased the moneychangers out of the temple twice with a whip made out of cords. This great powerful man who could cast out demons and stand boldly against the religious leaders of his day was also meek.

Just as Jesus the all-powerful took upon Himself the yoke of earthly obedience to His Father, so too does Jesus call on us to take on the yoke of submission to His will.

Paul says in Ephesians 4:1, 2, “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **with all lowliness and meekness**, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.”

Meekness means to walk according to the precepts of our vocation, controlling our attitudes toward our brethren and sisters in Christ. We are bidden in Colossians 3:12 to “put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies,

kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.”

A look at the context of these chapters shows that **we are to bury the old man (submit to God) and forbear and forgive one another.**

Thus meekness is burying the “natural” desires to rebel, fight, have our own way, push ourselves forward, and so forth. **We submit to the Lord in obedience to His will.**

“Meekness is a precious grace, willing to suffer silently, willing to endure trials. Meekness is patient and labors to be happy under all circumstances. Meekness is always thankful and makes its own songs of happiness, making melody in the heart to God. Meekness will suffer disappointment and wrong, and will not retaliate. Meekness is not to be silent and sulky. A morose temper is the opposite of meekness; for this only wounds and gives pain to others, and takes no pleasure to itself.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 335.

## A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT MEEKNESS

Many equate meekness with weakness. They associate meekness with an attitude of allowing everyone to run over you because you are afraid of them. But this is not meekness. In fact, some of the strongest men who have ever lived have been meek.

## SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF MEEKNESS

Let us consider a list of some people that the Bible says were meek.

### 1. Moses

Moses was a great leader. He stood up to the most powerful leader in the world, Pharaoh Ramses. He led God’s people through the wilderness to the border of the promised land. “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3).



## 2. Abraham

Abraham had a well-ordered family. Yet a key aspect of the training which families today are to learn from Abraham is to radiate meekness in all areas of life:

“The church should make the word of God her standard, and parents should think intelligently upon this subject. When they see their children inclined to follow worldly fashions, they should, like **Abraham**, resolutely command their households after them. Instead of uniting them with the world, connect them with God. Let none dishonor God’s sanctuary by their showy apparel. God and angels are there. The Holy One of Israel has spoken through His apostle: ‘Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of **a meek and quiet spirit**, which is in the sight of God of great price’ (1 Peter 3:3, 4).”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 499, 500.

“Just as surely as we labor together as Abraham did, so surely will we receive the commendation of Heaven. Abraham was, in a marked manner, selected to walk in the way of the Lord, governing his household by the combined influences of authority and affection. The Holy One has given us rules to obey, from which there can be no sinless swerving. We are bought with a price. Faith and

works are to make us complete in Christ. Thus we shall keep the way of the Lord. **When the heart is meek and lowly, God can impress the soul.** The Word of God is our counselor. Let us obey its teachings.”—*The Upward Look*, p. 249.

## 3. David

David was God’s chosen man to replace King Saul, whom God had rejected because of disobedience. He was a mighty warrior and a great leader. But David was also meek. We can learn from David’s example.

“The sincere, contrite soul is precious in the sight of God. He places His own signet upon men, not by their rank, not by their wealth, not by their intellectual greatness, but by their oneness with Christ. The Lord of glory is satisfied with those who are meek and lowly in heart. ‘Thou hast also given me,’ said David, ‘the shield of Thy salvation: . . . and Thy gentleness’—as an element in the human character—‘hath made me great’ (Psalm 18:35).”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 437.

## 4. Jesus

Again, Jesus invites us, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:29).

“We need the softening, subduing, refining influence of the Holy Spirit, to mold our characters, and to bring every thought into captivity to Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that will enable us to





overcome, that will lead us to sit at the feet of Jesus, as did Mary, and learn His meekness and lowliness of heart.”—*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 203.

## THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

The wicked, in their mad rush to possess, usually miss or overlook the best of this world, or having seen it, refuse to pay the price to gain it, or having gained it, find themselves miserable.

But the meek are truly satisfied. They are content. The meek apostle Paul could unashamedly declare: “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:11-13).

The meek will also inherit the new heaven and earth. “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:17).

## CONCLUSION

The meek person is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of inferiority. Rather he or she may be in moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson—but without being self-deceived as the world is. The meek person has accepted God’s estimate of his or her life. We are as weak and helpless as God has declared us all to be, but we can know that at the same time we are of great value in His sight.

**In ourselves, nothing—but in God, everything.** That should be our aim and our theme. Amen. 🍷

# Have you ever wondered . . .

BY ELSA BUREC

## Have you ever wondered . . .

whether the creation of the world was a continuation of something that existed before?

“The theory that God did not create matter when He brought the world into existence is without foundation. In the formation of our world, God was not indebted to preexisting matter. On the contrary, all things, material or spiritual, stood up before the Lord Jehovah at His voice and were created for His own purpose. The heavens and all the host of them, the earth and all things therein, are not only the work of His hand; they came into existence by the breath of His mouth.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 258, 259.

## Have you ever wondered . . .

why the Bible does not mention dinosaurs having lived upon the earth?

“Bones of men and animals are found in the earth, in mountains and in valleys, showing that much larger men and beasts once lived upon the earth. I was shown that very large, powerful animals existed before the Flood which do not now exist. . . . Because the bones of human beings and of animals found in the earth, are much larger than those of men and animals now living, or that have existed for many generations past, some conclude that the world is older than we have any scriptural record of, and was populated long before the record of creation, by a race of beings vastly superior in size to men now upon the earth.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, pp. 92, 93.

*Have you ever wondered . . .*  
why the great majority of scientists are atheists?

“The greatest minds, if not guided by the Word of God in their research, become bewildered in their attempts to trace the relations of science and revelation. Because the Creator and His works are so far beyond their comprehension that they are unable to explain them by natural laws, they regard Bible history as unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments, will be led to go a step farther, and doubt the existence of God; and then, having lost their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity.”

—*Christian Education*, p. 193.

*Have you ever wondered . . .*  
why so many scientists do not believe in creation?

“Men will endeavor to explain from natural causes the work of creation, which God has never revealed. But human science cannot search out the secrets of the God of heaven, and explain the stupendous works of creation, which were a miracle of Almighty power, any sooner than it can show how God came into existence.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, pp. 94, 95.  
“Just how God accomplished the work of creation in six literal days He has never revealed to mortals.”—*Ibid.*, p. 93.

“Infidel geologists claim that the world is very much older than the Bible record makes it. They reject the Bible record because of those things which are to them evidences from the earth itself, that the world has existed tens of thousands of years. And many who profess to believe the Bible record are at a loss to account for wonderful things which are found in the earth, with the view that creation week was only seven literal days, and that the world is now only about six thousand years old. These, to free themselves of difficulties thrown in their way by infidel geologists, adopt the view that the six days of creation were six vast, indefinite periods, and the day of God’s rest was another indefinite period; making senseless the fourth commandment of God’s holy law. Some eagerly receive this position, for it destroys the force of the fourth commandment, and they feel a freedom from its claims upon them. They have limited ideas of the size of men, animals and trees before the Flood, and of the great changes which then took place in the earth.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 91, 92.

*Have you ever wondered . . .*

how the builders of the ark were able to build such an enormous structure?

“The curse [of sin] did not change at once the appearance of the earth. It was still rich in the bounty God had provided for it. There were gold and silver in abundance. The race of men then living was of very great stature, and possessed wonderful strength. The trees were vastly larger, and far surpassing in beauty and perfect proportions anything mortals can now look upon. The wood of these trees was of fine grain and hard substance—in this respect more like stone. It required much more time and labor, even of that powerful race, to prepare the timber for building, than it requires in this degenerate age to prepare trees that are now growing upon the earth, even with the present weaker strength men now possess. These trees were of great durability, and would know nothing of decay for very many years.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, pp. 66, 67.

*Have you ever wondered . . .* what happened to the gold and silver that was so abundant before the Flood?

“The precious wood, stone, silver and gold that had made rich, and adorned the world before the Flood, which the inhabitants had idolized, was sunk beneath the surface of the earth. The waters which had broken forth with such great power, had moved earth and rocks, and heaped them upon earth’s treasures, and in many instances formed mountains above them to hide them from the sight and search of men.”—*Ibid.*, p. 80.

*Have you ever wondered . . .*

what other sins brought the destruction by the Flood?

“Polygamy had been early introduced, contrary to the divine arrangement at the beginning. The Lord gave to Adam one wife, showing His order in that respect. But after the Fall, men chose to follow their own sinful desires; and as the result, crime and wretchedness rapidly increased. Neither the marriage relation nor the rights of property were respected. Whoever coveted the wives or the possessions of his neighbor, took them by force, and men exulted in their deeds of violence. They delighted in destroying the life of animals; and the use of flesh for food rendered them still more cruel and bloodthirsty, until they came to regard human life with astonishing indifference.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 91, 92.


*Have you ever wondered . . .*

whether God had also created coal and oil which are so needed in today's economy?

"Before the Flood there were immense forests. The trees were many times larger than any trees which we now see. They were of great durability. They would know nothing of decay for hundreds of years. At the time of the Flood these forests were torn up or broken down and buried in the earth. In some places large quantities of these immense trees were thrown together and covered with stones and earth by the commotions of the Flood. They have since petrified and become coal, which accounts for the large coal beds which are now found. This coal has produced oil. God causes large quantities of coal and oil to ignite and burn. Rocks are intensely heated, limestone is burned, and iron ore melted. Water and fire under the surface of the earth meet. The action of water upon the limestone adds fury to the intense heat, and causes earthquakes, volcanoes and fiery issues. The action of fire and water upon the ledges of rocks and ore, causes loud explosions which sound like muffled thunder. These wonderful exhibitions will be more numerous and terrible just before the coming of Christ and the end of the world, as signs of its speedy destruction."—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, pp. 79, 80.

*Have you ever wondered . . .*

what you would tell Adam when you see him in the Garden of Eden?

"It is impossible to describe Adam's transports of joy as he again beholds Paradise, the Garden of Eden, his once happy home, from which, because of his transgression, he had been so long separated. He beholds the lovely flowers and trees, of every description for fruit and beauty, every one of which to designate them he had named while in his innocence. He sees the luxuriant vines, which had once been his delight to train upon bowers and trees. But when he again beholds the wide spread tree of life with its extended branches and glowing fruit, and to him again is granted access to its fruit and leaves, his gratitude is boundless. He first in adoration bows at the feet of the King of glory, and then with the redeemed host swells the song, Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain. Adam had lost Eden by disobeying the commandments of God. He has now regained that lovely garden by repentance and faithful obedience. The curse rested upon him for disobedience, the blessing now for his obedience."—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 89. 

# Test Your Reading!

## ACROSS

- Trees from ancient times have petrified and become \_\_\_\_\_.
- The life of Jesus as a carpenter was full of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The greatest minds, if not guided by the Word of God in their research, become \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own \_\_\_\_\_."
- No other class can do so much good as young men and young women \_\_\_\_\_ to God's service.
- Meekness will suffer \_\_\_\_\_ and wrong, and will not retaliate.
- God does not recognize the pleasure-seeker as His \_\_\_\_\_.

## DOWN

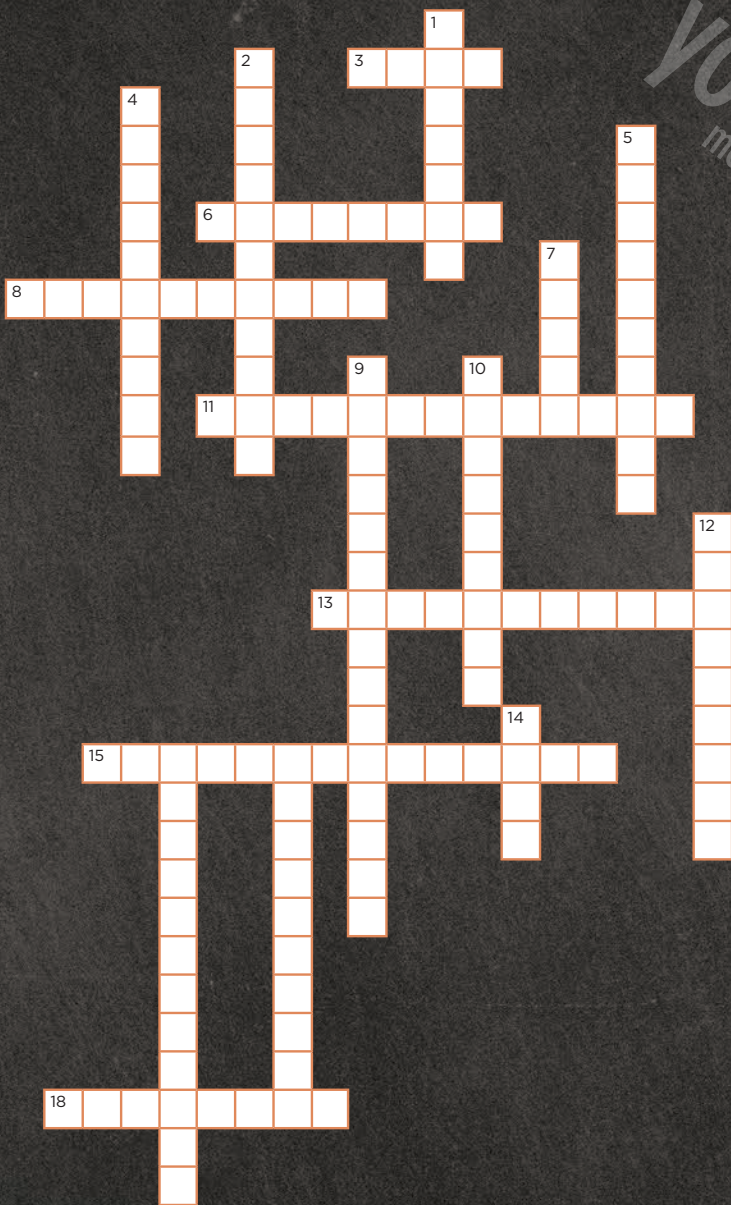
- The youth who follow Christ have a \_\_\_\_\_ before them.
- Only by making constant \_\_\_\_\_ can the youth fulfill God's purpose for them.
- The trees that went into the building of Noah's ark had great \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus never took part in worldly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Those who learn to love amusement for its own sake open the door to a \_\_\_\_\_ of temptations.
- We can become more willing to trust God's \_\_\_\_\_ by personal experience.
- In Jesus only can real \_\_\_\_\_ be found.
- Meekness \_\_\_\_\_ the passion of action according to the dictates of reason.
- Some of the strongest men who have ever lived—Moses, Abraham, David, and Jesus—were \_\_\_\_\_.
- As we \_\_\_\_\_ take little jumps by faith, we learn to trust God.
- Do we lovingly try to help others in a \_\_\_\_\_ way?

17. PRODUCTIVE  
16. SUCCESSFULLY  
14. MEEK  
12. MODESTY  
10. HAPPINESS  
9. TRUSTWORTHINESS  
7. FLOOD  
5. AMUSEMENTS  
4. DURABILITY  
2. ADVANCEMENT  
1. WARRIORS

## DOWN

18. FOLLOWER  
15. DISAPPOINTMENT  
13. CONSCIENTIOUS  
11. UNDERSTANDING  
8. BEWILDERED  
6. INDUSTRY  
3. COAL

## ACROSS



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# The Quiet Hour

When day has let her fires burn down  
    To glowing embers in the west,  
And busy Care, with folded hands,  
    Forgets her toil and drops to rest;

When shadowy pictures come and go,  
    As twilight deepens o'er the plain,  
And dewy silence, breathing balm,  
    Revives the drooping leaves again,

How sweet to worn and troubled hearts  
    The falling shade, the soothing power  
Of ministries that nature holds  
    To bless us in the quiet hour.

We do not heed them in the din  
    Of toil and traffic on the street;  
They do not linger in the halls  
    Where pride of wealth and fashion meet;

But, duties done, and thought released,  
    And daylight closing like a flower,  
With home's dear peace enwrapping all,  
    How precious is the quiet hour!

—C. M. Goodrich