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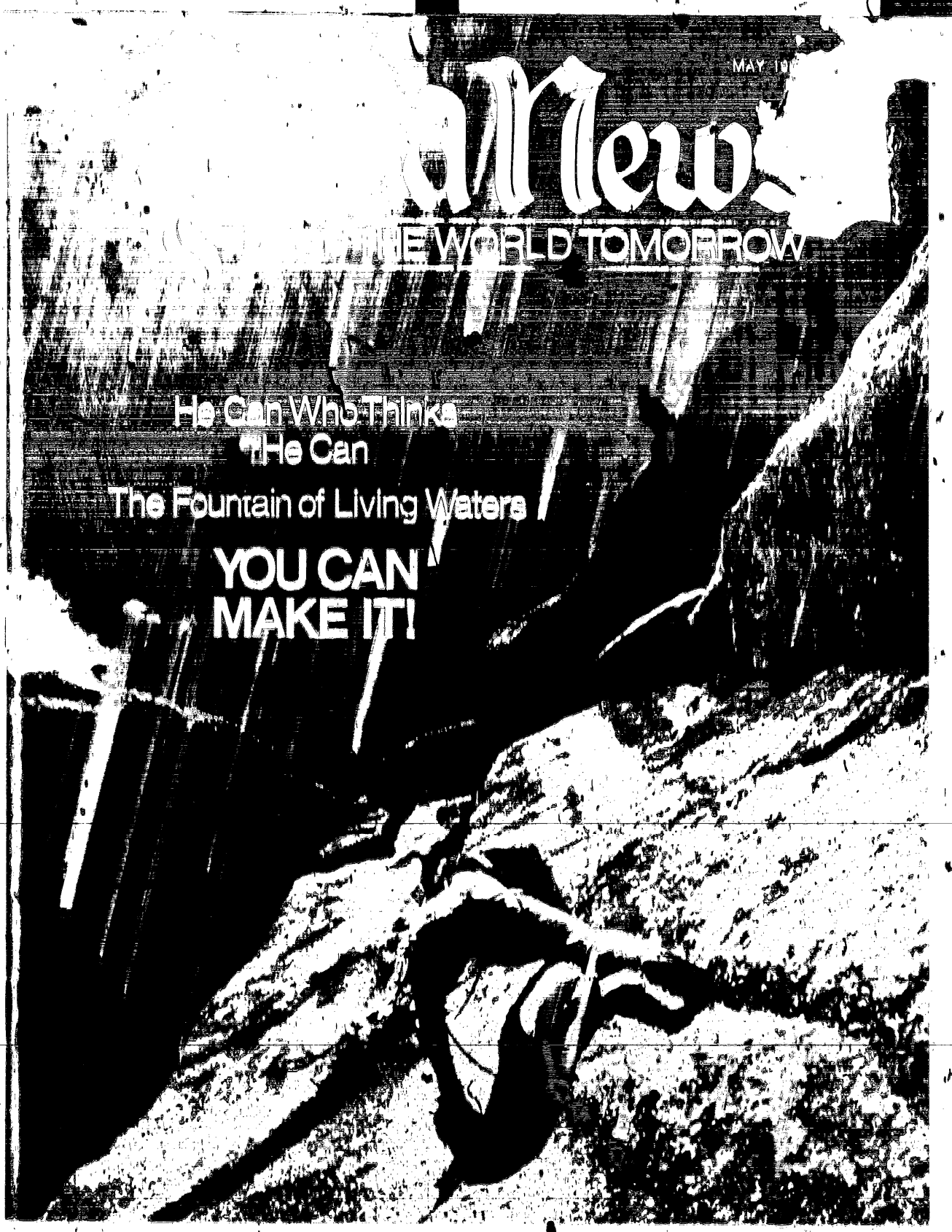
Rolling Stone

THE WORLD TOMORROW

He Can Who Thinks
He Can

The Fountain of Living Waters

**YOU CAN
MAKE IT!**



The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

MAY 1983

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COVER: It is certain that living the Christian life — qualifying for salvation — is a challenging struggle. But it is just as certain that, with God's help, we can all make it! Read about God's strong encouragement in the article beginning on page 3. Photo by Four by Five.

Letters

Gold mine

Each time that I open my new issue of *The Good News*, I feel that I am entering a gold mine. And as I read I am elated and awed by the gold nuggets I find. Some small, some large, but all precious. I am becoming rich beyond description!

Oh yes, it is a very dark mine. And I realize that I couldn't find those gold nuggets without a light. (Thank God for the "light" of His Holy Spirit.) I feel saddened by the fact that many who walk through this mine (read the *GN*) do not have a light, and are unable to see the gold nuggets.

One other thing I've noticed is that each succeeding issue is better than the previous one. Are you leading me further into the mine where the nuggets are larger and purer? Or is my light getting brighter, making it possible for me to see better? I think both. Don't you?

Hank Berger
Diana, Tex.

Strong articles

We thank you and the staff for the strong articles that have been coming in the *Good News* magazine. All the knowledge is at our fingertips for spiritual growth, and if we don't use it the fault is ours.

We know and understand things are getting rough in this world, and it can't keep going much longer without exploding. But before that happens, God will send Jesus Christ back to this earth and save mankind and all creation from total destruction.

So you keep up the good work. I want to continue to do my part.

Clara B. Curry
Warrington, Fla.

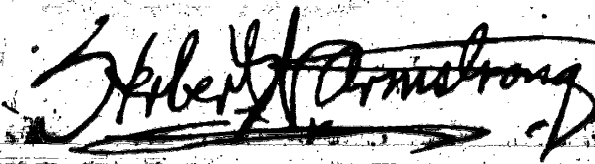
Ten Commandments

Bravo, Mr. Armstrong! Your article in *The Good News*, "Were the Ten Commandments Nailed to the Cross?" was outstanding.

The analogy was perfect and I think done in such a way that any Bible student can understand the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed if you claim to be a converted Christian.

All of the articles in *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News*... have really driven home the seriousness of our times. While being sobering on the one hand, it is also very encouraging to know that God is always here to help us succeed. Keep up the great work.

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Mergan
Sterling, Kan.



He Can Who Thinks He Can

Some time ago one of my personal assistants handed me a copy of a book that had exerted influence on my life as a young man many years ago — probably about 1910.

It was one of those "inspiration books" designed to inspire young men with ambition, desire to succeed and confidence. This particular book was titled *He Can Who Thinks He Can*. It was one of many such inspirational or "success" books authored by Orison Swett Marden.

It had occurred to me, some years ago, that we ought to have that book in the Ambassador College library. As I remember, our library staff found that the book was out of print, and they searched the secondhand bookstores until they found a copy.

Seeing a copy of it brought back memories. It seems that either there is no demand for such books today, or there are no authors with the inspiration and ability to write them.

I am sure that this particular book contributed its portion of ambition, inspiration, confidence. Yet, reviewing it now, after more than 70 years, brings the realization that in all those years I have learned a few things I didn't know then.

The book has no preface — no introduction. It begins with Chapter 1: "I promised my God I would do it." In September, 1862, when Lincoln issued the

preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, the sublime act of the 19th century, he made this entry in his diary — "I promised my God I would do it." Does anyone doubt that such a mighty resolution added power to this marvelous man; or that it nerved him to accomplish what he had undertaken?

"Neither ridicule nor caricature — neither dread of enemies nor desertion of friends — could shake his indomitable faith in his ability to lead the nation through the greatest struggle in its history."

"Napoleon, Bismarck and all other great achievers had colossal faith in themselves. It doubled, trebled or even quadrupled the ordinary power of these men. . . ."

"Without this sublime faith, this confidence in her mission, how could the simple country maiden, Jeanne d'Arc, have led and controlled the French army? This divine self-confidence multiplied her power a thousandfold, until even the king obeyed her, and she led his stalwart troops as if they were children."

I suppose not one in many thousands would see anything but inspiration and right principle in such expressions as "his indomitable faith in his ability" or "had colossal faith in themselves" or "This divine self-confidence."

And that is only a start. The remainder of the chapter is filled with information about the rewards of self-confidence — confidence in SELF.

That is not to say that self-confidence does not increase results.

That is the kind of confidence I was absorbing in those days. It did inspire. It did prod *drive!* It did inject perseverance. It did increase results.

But later in life, I learned of a far better, more resultful confidence.

I have mentioned a number of times that in the autumn of 1926 I was challenged on the theory of evolution.

I was more or less familiar with the doctrine, but had never indulged in an in-depth research into the question of origins. This challenge drove me to that in-depth research.

So I delved thoroughly into the works of Darwin and his sponsors, Haeckel and Huxley, the works of Lyell before them and Chamberlin and Vogt after them. This led to a study of the other claim for origins.

I began to question the existence of God. I had been brought up to believe in God. But now I realized that I had grown up assuming God's existence — simply taking it for granted — but I had never seen PROOF.

So I entered into a study of Genesis and the whole Bible, to examine its claims for special creation and the existence of an all-powerful Creator.

It became frankly evident that the dominant motive impelling many evolutionists to accept the theory was, in fact, their reluctance — or refusal — to believe in a God who bears authority over them. Human nature resents authority, though it certainly loves to wield it.

I found no proof for the evolu-

tionary theory, though I found much to disprove it. And I found that which, to me, was irrefutable scientific proof of existence of the living God.

But then I began to ask myself why had I experienced a sort of sense of shame — or embarrassment — in believing in God? How many experience that?

Now, having found irrefutable PROOF, it seemed silly that one should feel any embarrassment in acknowledging a GREATER POWER — a greater MIND — who designed and brought into existence the human mind — MY mind! Should I not, rather, be grateful?

To my surprise, on looking intensively into it, I found the Bible a living NOW book. It is for TODAY. A third of it is prophecy, and 90 percent of that pertains to this 20th century and beyond.

Rational study of the Bible revealed a direct relationship between man and God.

Man; it is biblically revealed, was formed and shaped in the likeness of GOD — not of animals. He was put here on earth to have a definite relationship to and with his Maker.

I began to learn of a dynamic, active NEW kind of confidence, infinitely superior to SELF-confidence. It is something God GIVES!

It is the confidence that is FAITH.

The God of the Bible therein PROMISES many things and benefits we humans ought to be receiving. Among them is guidance, bestowal of POWER — many things the living God will do for us.

I began to learn that there is something very practical in all this.

I began to learn that, if I submitted my life to God's guidance, I was tapping a source of POWER millions of times greater than any resources within.

Oh, I was well aware that in most humans lie dormant abilities, powers and resources — latent talents that ought to be aroused, brought out and developed.

I have mentioned the case of a former colleague and publisher with whom I was connected for several years — Clifford De Puy. His father died suddenly, leaving a quality magazine in the banking field, *The Northwestern Banker*, surprisingly heavily in debt.

Young Clifford, at that time about 28, inexperienced, took off his coat, rolled up his sleeves and began putting those undeveloped latent abilities to work. His father's bank backed him, and in a few years he paid off the indebtedness and became a successful publisher.

But there is a GREATER source of power. There are multiplied greater resources.

So why not tap BOTH?

Why not ignite that spark within, drive oneself on to develop his own abilities and, at the same time, replace SELF-confidence with a living FAITH in the direction, inspiration, wisdom and resources of dynamic supernatural POWER from above?

I decided, in the spring of 1927, to do just that! And worldwide enterprises affecting the lives of millions of people on all continents have resulted. Many thousands of lives have been CHANGED — turned right side up — made more successful — AND HAPPY!

I learned that there are the THREE DIMENSIONS — the within, the around and the above.

Most people cheat themselves by utilizing only the first two. In their lives there are only these two dimensions on which to rely.

Looking into the within is like looking into a well and finding it has gone dry.

Relying on the within, they become self-centered. Their concern is primarily for self. So they become selfish.

They develop greed, desire to have, to GET, to take, to accumulate. They measure success in terms of material accumulation. Toward others they are unconcerned, envious, jealous, suspicious. They live in a spirit of competition.

Their self-centered thinking

results in constantly shrinking horizons.

They may develop latent talents, arouse ambition for self-gain, develop their own inner powers and resources, but those resources are comparatively meager. They try to find happiness in material acquisition, but that is not the source of happiness.

Then, of course, there is the pull of human nature to CONFORM — to BELONG. So the dimension of the around fills a big part of their lives.

But those around them are self-centered too, trying to get the best of them in every deal. They, too, center their affections on material acquisition. They constitute an unhappy world. They are bent on getting, and too often you find they are jealous or envious or resentful toward you. You find that their concern is for themselves, rather than for your welfare or happiness. You trust them, and too often find them untrustworthy.

There's not much in the way of resources to be found in the around, but many disillusioning disappointments.

But what about the third dimension — the above? Could it be possible that most of humanity has been failing to tap the source of the greatest resources and meaningful, rewarding benefits?

Here is what I found revealed. In the first — the creation —

chapter of the Bible, it is written that God formed cattle after the cattle kind, whales after the whale kind — that is the way God made them — the way He formed and shaped them. But verses 26 and 27 say He formed man after God's own image and likeness — man was MADE — formed, shaped, in the same form and shape as God.

However, the 7th verse of the second chapter says He formed man of material substance — out of the ground — while in John 4:24 it is revealed that God is composed of immaterial SPIRIT.

But why was man formed and shaped like GOD, instead of like any of the lower animals? Be-

(Continued on page 24)

Is God's plan to reproduce Himself a bizarre idea, that has no chance of success? Is it just a grand experiment that will end in a molten mass amidst consuming flame?

Will God and Christ then be alone in the universe, saying, "It was a good idea, but just too much to hope for?"

Or will the awesome plan God is working out succeed?

Can God really reproduce Himself? Will the plan work? Will there be thousands, then millions, then billions of humans who will be made immortal members of the Family of God?

Sometimes discouraged

We all grow discouraged once in a while. Each of us feels, now and then, that we just can't make it. The way is too hard. There are too many temptations.

We especially feel this way when we undergo trials or when the going gets rough. Many scriptures in the Bible deal with trial and tribulation, and they all seem to rush into our minds at times like that. Such as:

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against... spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12, Authorized Version).

Or we remember what Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount: "Broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it" (Matt. 7:13).

We may be very familiar with Paul's words: "In me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells" (Rom. 7:18).

Or perhaps the most quoted of

You Can Make It!

God gives us all strong encouragement in our struggle to succeed in our Christian lives.

By Ronald D. Kelly



all verses when we are down on ourselves is: "O wretched man that I am!" (verse 24).

We all feel this way at least once in a while. We are in a life-and-death struggle against Satan. We suffer persecution from time to time. We will be weak and sometimes tempted.

But should we feel dejected? Discouraged? Want to give up and quit?

By no means!

Here's a test you can try on yourself. Are you a spiritual pessimist or a spiritual optimist?

Spiritual pessimists and optimists

Turn to Acts 14:22. Read this verse and note how you emphasize the words in it: "Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'"

How did you read it? Did you read, "We must **THROUGH MANY TRIBULATIONS** enter the kingdom of God"? If that's how you emphasized it, you could be a spiritual pessimist.

Or did you read, "We **MUST** through many tribulations **ENTER** the kingdom of God"? This is spiritual optimism — knowing there will be trial and trouble, but having the confidence that with God's help you can make it.

The pessimist usually sees only the worry and woe. He doesn't see the silver lining in the cloud or the rainbow after the storm. The optimist knows he cannot avoid the storm, but sees success at the end of the trial.

This article isn't about how easy it is to make it into God's Kingdom.

You can't sit back in the old rocking chair and relax, thinking you have it made or that you have nothing to do. That is not true.

According to God's Word there will be a struggle. There will be trials along the way. There may be persecution and difficulty. But you can make it! That's what this article is about.

God's unflinching plan

A common concept in religious

circles is that God's plan was ruined at creation.

Many believe Adam and Eve were created in a special, high state, and that when the serpent, the devil, tempted them to take of the forbidden tree, they "fell." And, those who hold this belief go on, God has been trying ever since to get mankind back to a condition as good as the one Adam was originally in.

That is not what happened.

Let's read an important passage in 1 Peter 1:18-20: "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

Adam and Eve sinned. But they didn't fall. They were created as physical, flesh-and-blood humans. When they took of the wrong tree, they disobeyed God. But they didn't fall.

Since Adam and Eve, all people have sinned (Rom. 3:23). And the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). You see, we have all, just as Adam and Eve, been given free moral agency. We decide what we will do — whether we will obey God or not. Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil to disobey. We have all done the same thing — that is, we have all been tempted and have slipped.

From the beginning God and Christ knew that Jesus would have to come and pay the penalty for man's sin. That's what we just read in 1 Peter 1.

According to the apostle Paul, "When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4). It was necessary for one member of the God Family to empty Himself of divinity and become a man (Phil. 2:7).

Because the death of Christ was so great — He was God in the flesh — His death paid the penalty of sin for all men. It was then possible, through repentance and forgiveness of sin, for humans to grow and overcome and to be born into the Family of God.

But how can you be sure?

God has not left us without a great deal of spiritual encouragement. As we have already seen, the Bible tells of the persecution and trials we might face. But it also tells of the rewards for overcoming and remaining faithful.

Let's see what God expresses

You can't sit back in the old rocking chair and relax . . . According to God's Word there will be a struggle. There will be trials along the way. There may be persecution and difficulty. But you can make it!

as His will for all mankind: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

Frankly, we know in advance that not every single human who has ever lived will be saved. Jesus said that some in His day would "see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out" (Luke 13:28).

And God revealed that "the day is coming, burning like an oven [a great fire of fire], and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up" (Mal. 4:1).

So not everyone will make it. It seems there will ultimately be some who just will not obey God. In His mercy, God will make them as though they never were. The lake of fire is not eternal

flame where evil souls are sent. It is the final conflagration, which will consume physical matter and those incorrigibly wicked who have not been changed by spirit. But surely that will not be many.

But what about you?

If you have set your desire on God and His way of life, Christ says to you: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Heb. 13:5-6).

As Christians we sometimes stumble. We are occasionally weak. But Christ will not leave us alone.

Now turn to Philip-
pians 1:6. The apostle Paul constantly had to encourage the congregations in his day. We need encouragement, too: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

God will not give up on you. He will not cast you off. Not unless you totally give up and quit — become incorrigibly

wicked.

In Isaiah 59:1 we find this encouragement: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear." God is never out of reach. He never has to say, "I'd really like to help, but I'm just not powerful enough." He is there to hear our needs and to intervene on our behalf.

Being prepared

Paul wrote on how to prepare for the future — how to continue toward eternal life: "Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:19). You can't just let the future happen. You have to build Christian character. And you have to build on the right foundation.

There are two things to consider in this regard. First, Christ said there are two foundations

upon which we can build. There is a foundation of solid rock (Matt. 7:24-27). If you don't build on the right foundation, any building you erect would be worthless.

Second, the apostle Paul tells of two different types of building materials. You can build out of wood, hay or straw. Or you can build out of gold, silver and precious jewels (1 Cor. 3:12). If you build out of the former, even on a good foundation, your building cannot withstand the storms. But if you build on a firm, solid foundation out of durable, quality materials, you can make it through whatever comes.

The apostle Paul added: "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you" (1 Tim. 4:16).

There is something for you to do. You have to continue in God's way. You can't, as mentioned earlier, just sit in the rocking chair. You must find God's way of life, then live it. You have to continue and overcome to the end (Rev. 2:26).

Not all called now

God is working out a plan here below. It is going to succeed. Right now God has not set His hand to call all the world.

For the past nearly 6,000 years mankind has been permitted to write the lesson of human history apart from God's laws. From Adam and Eve to our day, most human beings have decided to go the wrong way. This has not been their day of salvation.

God has only called "first-fruits" at this time (Jas. 1:18). Because many have not understood that God is not calling everyone now, it has appeared that God's plan is not working.

But God's plan is right on schedule. The next major phase of that plan is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. When that occurs, all the dead in Christ will

rise from their graves. Those in Christ who are alive will be changed to immortal spirit beings. Together, they shall rise to meet Christ in the air (1 Thess. 4:13-17, 1 Cor. 15:50-52).

Then, according to the prophet Zechariah, "In that day His [Christ's] feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem . . . Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You . . . And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be — 'The Lord is one,' and 'His name one'" (Zech. 14:4-9).

There is an inspiring passage in

Revelation 5:11 describes a heavenly choir . . . singing praise and honor to God and Christ and singing . . . about the plan God is working out. God is extending to you, now, the opportunity to be part of that fantastic plan.

the book of Revelation showing how desirous God is of your making it into His Kingdom.

A song of triumph

In Revelation 5, the prophecies of the book of Revelation are likened to a scroll that only Christ is worthy to open. Those prophecies are about the time yet ahead of us when Christ will return to set up God's government on the earth. They are about the time when the saints will be raised from the dead to meet Christ and to rule with Him for 1,000 years.

There is a slight mistranslation in the Authorized Version of the Bible in verses 9 and 10 of Revelation 5. These verses are truly inspiring verses and have a great deal to do with your future. I would like to quote them here as they should be translated.

The elders at the throne of God, while giving honor and

praise to Christ, who sits at the right hand of God, sing a majestic hymn. Notice: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed *them* [the saints] to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation, And hast made *them* [the saints] unto our God kings and priests: and they shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:9-10).

Had you ever thought of it before? You just might be the subject of a song that is sung at the throne of God.

Peter wrote about the plan of God being worked out here on earth, "things which angels desire to look into" (1 Pet. 1:12). The angels must find it fascinating — how God took mud of the earth and, in His own image, fashioned human life. For nearly 6,000 years the angels have observed it all. Man has been permitted to go his own way and follow Satan's deception.

But when Christ comes to set up God's government, the devil will be taken and bound for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:2). Everyone will have a chance to know the true God and live God's way. The great part is that you can learn and live God's way now.

You can be among the "them" the 24 elders sing about.

Revelation 5:11 describes a heavenly choir of more than 100 million angels singing praise and honor to God and Christ and singing about God's plan.

God is extending to you, now, the opportunity to be part of that fantastic plan.

Yes, there may well be struggles and trials along the way. But you can make it. God is on your side. He is there to help — to pick you up — to give you encouragement. The elders sing about you. Millions of angels cheer the plan of God and your part in it.

You can make it! □

FIVE WAYS TO LOVE YOUR MATE

What is the quotient of love in your marriage?

By Earl H. Williams

Stop and think about it: On a scale of 1 to 10, how much love are you giving in your marriage?

Are you a 3? Maybe a 6? Perhaps a rare 10?

You know you have an IQ (intelligence quotient), but did you realize that (bear with me for the sake of argument) each husband and wife has an "LQ" (love quotient)?

God commands married couples to love one another and to increase their LQ! God inspired the apostle Paul to instruct, "Husbands, love your wives" (Eph. 5:25). Paul also taught that wives should "love their husbands" (Tit. 2:4).

God created marriage to be the most joyous, love-filled relationship. Unfortunately, many hus-



bands and wives are not actively loving one another. Their LQ is dangerously low. They endure loveless marriages of misery.

God wants husbands and wives to be lovers. Here are five ways to show true love for your mate. The first two ways deal with the aspect of commitment in marriage — they will solidify your marriage and place it on a firm foundation. The last three ways deal with the pleasure phase of marriage — God wants your marriage to be brimful and running over with real, deep joy.

Lovers forever

The first way to love your mate is with the love expressed by the Greek word *agape*. This is the word translated in I Corinthians 13 as "love" or, in the Authorized Version, "charity."

Agape means unconditional, unselfish giving. In marriage *agape* could be defined as a willful commitment to give to your imperfect mate without expecting to get in return. You consciously, under all circumstances, make a lifelong commitment to never stop giving to your mate.

God is the Rock from which *agape* flows. He is the source of the force that will give you the power to overcome all obstacles in your marriage. Your union must begin with God. The apostle John wrote, "And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (I John 1:3).

The joy of *agape* will be added to your marriage if you first fellowship with God through Bible study, prayer and obedience to God's commandments. You will gain access to *agape* through God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). He will be at the center of your marriage, giving it strength.

God plus husband plus wife equal one *agape*-filled marriage. This is the missing formula for success in so many marriages.

As you submit to God's laws concerning marriage and other human relationships, He will unleash the power of *agape* to you, which helps you to willfully choose to love your mate.

Society presents the false and damaging picture of love controlling you. In this false picture, love captures and enslaves you. You are a helpless "prisoner of love,"

Photo by Margaret Wilson

unable to control your feelings.

Have you heard married people say: "I cannot love him anymore — the feeling is gone"?

In truth, you choose to love or not to love. *Agape* is not a feeling, but a conscious and willful act you control.

God commands us to love one another because He knows we can control love (11 John 5). Follow through on your decision to love your mate by committing yourself to give the love that "never fails" (1 Cor. 13:8, New American Bible).

Commitment produces endurance

You promised in your covenant with God, on your wedding day, to love your mate unto death. Pray daily to God for the power to love your mate and to keep that commitment in your mind constantly. Determine to allow nothing or no one, including yourself, to stop you from loving your mate. Go to God and recommit yourself to loving your mate.

Since *agape* is a willful commitment to give, your will and commitment must be followed by action. You cannot *get* love — you can only *give* it. Regardless of how little you receive, you will always have love in your marriage because the quantity and quality of love is dependent on how much you give.

In an emergency you would not hesitate to sacrifice your life to save your mate. Are you willing to sacrifice your life daily by pushing aside your needs and wants to satisfy your mate; by putting your mate's needs ahead of your own? When you are tired, do you get up and serve instead of waiting to be served?

The apostle Paul admonished Christians: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). "Strive to reach the state where fulfilling your mate's

needs becomes, next to your commitment to God, the predominant need of your life. Give and you will have *agape*.

Don't give to get

You may be saying, "But my mate doesn't deserve my love." But *agape* gives to an imperfect person — yes, even to an undeserving person.

How often has this conversation been repeated? "I'll start being a good husband when you start being a submissive wife" or "When you start leading properly, then I'll submit."

This is not the fruit of *agape*. This love does not require the other person to change or be perfect. There are no conditions, no qualifications for the giving of *agape*.

Jesus Christ, the perfect husband and the only human who ever perfectly expressed *agape*, gave His life for us while we were yet sinners (Eph. 5:25, Rom. 5:8). Christ did not require us to change first. His love was unconditional.

We must follow Christ's perfect example of love. Willfully force yourself to give to your mate even when you have been wronged. By giving in spite of your mate's shortcomings, you will feel more positive toward your spouse. Peter expressed the principle in 1 Peter 4:8: "Above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'" Your unconditional love may cause a positive response in your mate, although this should never be the motive for giving (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

Do not become disappointed. It is easy to become disillusioned after giving and giving without any response, not even a thank-you. *Agape* does not require love in return. Love does not give in order to get.

The apostle Paul taught that if we give with expectations of getting in return, our love is vain: "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be

burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing" (1 Cor. 13:3).

Remove expectation and then love will fill your heart, leaving no room for disappointment. Jesus Christ taught that the joy is in the giving: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

And yet, at the same time, you can take heart from God's promise that if you faithfully and unselfishly give, you will eventually be rewarded: "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over... For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

Agape is the most powerful facet of love. *Agape* will carry your marriage through the most difficult trials.

Solomon, in his love song, vividly expressed all the qualities of *agape*: "Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised" (S. of Sol. 8:6-7).

Raise your I.Q. Give to your mate the love expressed in the word *agape*.

Lovers belong to each other

The second way to love your mate is with the love of belonging, which will bring you and your mate closer together. This love will add another point to your I.Q. and enrich your marriage.

God created marriage to be the closest human relationship. Yet, many married couples live together as strangers. A cold curtain of loneliness divides them as they go their separate ways.

What about your marriage? Do you live under the same roof, but as strangers to one another? God did not intend husbands and wives to live together like total

Push out your concerns and concentrate on the concerns of your mate. Seek total identification with your husband or wife. Immerse yourself in your mate's concerns, feel your mate's hurts, experience his or her frustrations, sing your mate's joys.



strangers. He has a solution to your problem.

What is the love of belonging? This love is characterized by a bond of unity, companionship and loyal devotion. The love of belonging shines brightest in older couples. They are alike and think alike. They have become one. The love of belonging is not just for older couples, but for all couples.

God created man with the need to belong. God looked at all He had made and saw that "it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). But when God looked at Adam He saw something that was not good: "And the Lord God said: It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18, Authorized Version).¹

Adam was lonely. God prescribed the love of belonging to cure Adam's problem. God gave Adam a woman, Eve, to love. Through giving, the first married couple could have grown to belong to one another.

This need to belong cannot be satisfied through any other person, whether mother, father, sis-

ter or brother — only through your mate: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (verse 24).

As with *agape*, you can only give the love of belonging to your mate.

Accept your mate the way your mate is, not the way you would like him or her to be. Your mate will not feel he or she belongs as long as he or she senses you are not satisfied with him or her.

Emphasize the positive things about your mate. Make a list of all the good things. Think back to the time when you were engaged and all the qualities you admired. You might be surprised to find these same qualities in your spouse today. Constantly think on these good qualities. Look to find more admirable qualities. The love of belonging is making your mate feel accepted.

Learn to empathize with your mate. Push out your concerns and concentrate on the concerns of your mate. Seek total identification with your husband or wife. Immerse yourself in your mate's

concerns, feel your mate's hurts, experience his or her frustrations, sing your mate's joys.

Cleave to each other

The apostle Paul encourages us to bear — take upon ourselves — one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). You will become an emotional refuge for your mate — a hiding place where your mate can find warmth and shelter from the storms of life. Both of you will have a home in each other's hearts. Your mate will have a place to belong, and the love of belonging will bring you closer together.

In Genesis 2:24, AV, God tells married couples to "cleave" to each other. The word *cleave* was translated from the Hebrew verb *dabiq*, which means "to solder" or "to weld together."

The strongest welding technique is called *braising*, in which two pieces of metal are welded together under intense heat. The molecules of the two metals become inseparable.

God compares the trials of life to a fire (1 Pet. 1:7). By cleaving to one another as you go through life's challenges you will become "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). Becoming one physically, mentally and spiritually should be the goal of every married couple.

In the Song of Solomon, the idealistic bride expressed the love of belonging she shared with her mate when she said, "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine" (S. of Sol. 6:3).

Agape love and the love of belonging are the two legs upon which your marriage stands. They are the foundations upon which the next three loves are built. Use these two loves to increase your IQ — your love quotient — and make your marriage unshakable.

To love or not to love — that is the question. You already hold the answer, and you alone must willfully decide to start feeling your mate. The power is in your hands. (1)

(To be continued)

How to Escape Satan's Three Major Snares

What causes a seemingly solid, balanced, deeply converted Christian to turn from God's way of life? Could it ever happen to you?

By Tabur K. Aparhan

From time to time, sad to say, we all hear of cases in which true Christians burn out, sour on God's Work or are caught up in some problem or movement that takes them out of God's true Church.

Many of us probably even know people — perhaps former close friends — to whom it has happened.

When it occurs, we are shocked and disheartened. In disbelief, we ask ourselves, Why?

But it would, perhaps, be more appropriate if we asked ourselves, Can this ever happen to me?

Can it, really? Is there any possibility that you, too, would one day turn away from the Christian way of life — reject the calling God has given you? What assurance do you have that you are firmly rooted in God's true Church? How can you be sure absolutely sure — that you are immune to such tragedy?

Can't serve two masters

No matter how converted we are, it is possible for every one of us to become preoccupied with the cares of the world. Then, we are easy prey for Satan's snares. We overlook Satan's relentless efforts to tempt us and attack us on our weakest points. Without

realizing it — and certainly without wanting to — we are actually trying to serve two masters.

Christ said: "No one can serve two masters. [That's a dogmatic statement!]; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

The more deeply you are involved in God's Work and in the aims and activities of God's true Church, the less likely you are to fall to Satan's snares. It's a matter of setting your priorities right.

Strangely enough, those who leave often spend more time thinking about the Church than some of us who are still in the Church! But the concern of dissidents is destructive; they seem to want to fill their minds only with what they imagine is wrong with the Church. They want to find ways to hurt and destroy the Church.

Our focus must be the exact opposite. We must constantly look for ways to build up God's Church and God's people — constantly work toward unity, harmony and peace.

Have you taken time to find out what other master you may actually be trying to serve? Could it be your ego, perhaps? Your vanity? Your ambitions? Your job? A close friend or one of the

other members of your own family? When you are facing trials and tribulations, do you begin to doubt your calling? Do you want to turn away from God's Church? Do you start to seek other ways to satisfy your desires or solve your problems?

Let's look at three broad areas through which Satan works to trap and destroy God's people, cause them to lose out on their chance at salvation!

The spirit of rebellion

Satan, the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10), is rebellious toward authority. He wants you to be like him and to follow his example. He will set all kinds of stumbling blocks before you to make you fall.

Swayed by his own ambition, he turned against God, fought and lost (Isa. 14:12-14). He also wants you to turn against God, fight and lose!

He will, therefore, do anything in his power to make you rebel against authority — whether at home, at work or in God's Church. He will do everything he can to work on your emotions and put all kinds of doubts in your mind.

In the name of freedom, people all through history have turned against authority — chosen rebellion. Mankind has not understood that there is no place for rebellion in true freedom. Only God's way

leads to true freedom — to peace, joy and happiness. The apostle Paul wrote: "Because the carnal mind [a mind set on worldly things] is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Rom. 8:7-8).

Is your mind set on worldly things? What preoccupies you most, day after day? Physical things or spiritual things?

Of course, you need to take care of yourself, as well as the

may consume them in a moment" (verses 20-21).

God was truly angry with the people. It was only because of the fervent intervention of Moses and Aaron that the whole congregation didn't perish.

Moses strongly pleaded with God, saying: "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?" So the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of

to resist the devil? And how can you submit yourself to God?

James gives the answer: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (verse 8). In other words, you can draw closer to God by submitting yourself more and more to Him, by hungering and thirsting for His Word and His way of life. If you always put God first in your life, you will not be serving two masters.

The snare of pride

Another of Satan's snares, one that affects us all, is pride. Satan will tempt you by working on your pride and vanity.

You don't always realize it, but pride is potentially one of your biggest pitfalls. It makes you unable to recognize your faults — unwilling to apologize when you are wrong. You want to maintain your own ways because of pride. And Satan loves that, because he himself maintains his own ways and does not recognize his sins.

The apostle James, in the course of telling us to get closer to God in order to resist Satan, states that "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Jas. 4:6).

Do you grasp the meaning of this verse? Pride will befriend you with Satan, but will put a wall of separation between God and you. Is your pride worth that tragic price? Will you turn your back to God because of your own vanity?

One of the most important lessons God gave to His people through Moses was to command them to remain humble: "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. . . . Beware that you [all of us] do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest — when you have eaten and are

Pride will befriend you with Satan, but will put a wall of separation between God and you. Is your pride worth that tragic price? Will you turn your back to God because of your own vanity?

needs of your family. That has nothing to do with serving two masters. What Christ meant is something totally different — you cannot have other gods before the true God. You cannot be slave both to God and to the ways of the world.

Actually, in a world where Satan is still god (II Cor. 4:4), you don't need too much encouragement to set your mind on rebellion. Satan knows this better than anyone else. He is always available to give you the push you need. He will help you to be more carnal — to become enslaved to the works of the flesh.

In Numbers 16, God tells us the story of Korah as an example of rebellion. Korah and his men, 250 strong, turned against Moses and rose up before him in protest, saying, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy" (verses 1-3).

Is this the way you sometimes reason? Whenever you wonder whether you should submit to authority, remember the fate of Korah and his group: "And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram" (verses 22-24).

Notice what happened: "And a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense" (verse 35).

There is a great lesson for all of us to learn. We too, stirred up by Satan, can sometimes nurture similar thoughts. We judge and criticize. "Why should I obey that order?" we may say. "I don't agree with it."

When you look at the world today, you can see how hard Satan is at work. Everything he does, in one way or another, is directed toward rebellion. Satan's attacks are primarily directed toward God's Church, however — that's where he wants to do the most damage.

In a society based on Satan's principles of selfishness and vanity, obedience doesn't always seem pleasant or easy, but with God's help we can overcome Satan's snares: "Submit to God," wrote the apostle James. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7).

This is a strong commandment. But what should you do in order

full, and have built beautiful houses... your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage... then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth'" (Deut. 8:3-17).

This warning applies to us today as much as it did to our forefathers. It is only by the grace of God that we have whatever we possess.

Pride will also incite you to judge and criticize; it will make you think you know better and that your opinions are wiser. Christ said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3).

Think of it — there is no place for the carnally proud in the Kingdom of Heaven!

'Don't judge. Don't criticize. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (Jas. 4:10).

The more you know God and study His Word, the more you will realize just how little you actually are.

Always be ready to admit your faults. Correct them and forgive those of your neighbors. When you return good for an evil deed, you will have God for your partner. He will be your friend, and will help you solve your problems the right way.

Continuing in James: "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law" (verse 11).

Covetousness

The third major snare of Satan is covetousness. Satan wants you to covet — to go after something that is not yours, or to which you are not entitled. Humanly speaking, covetousness appeals to our nature. We want to get rather than give, to have and keep for ourselves rather than share.

God actually spelled out, in the

Tenth Commandment, a whole list of items after which we should not covet (Ex. 20:17). Be sure to read the article entitled "Beware of Covetousness!" beginning on page 17 for a full explanation of this Tenth Commandment of God.

In Satan's world, everything is geared toward lust — false publicity, sex, material wealth. The media encourage you to covet: You are given many vain but appealing reasons to buy things you don't really need, or to lust after things that are neither right nor good for you.

'Are you guilty of breaking the Tenth Commandment? Are you deceived by Satan's snare of encouraging you to covet?

There is danger in much wealth, just as there is danger in much poverty. In both instances Satan can effectively use this tool of covetousness.

Agur said, under God's inspiration: "Two things I request of

our daily bread — just what we need) from day to day (Matt. 6:11).

This will help us not to fall into temptation. It will teach us to trust God — and not to set our hearts on material things, which are temporary (Eccl. 5:10).

Remember Christ's warning: You cannot have two masters. If you lust after wealth or anything else, you will actually be trying to serve two masters.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Keep your life free from love of money [covetousness] and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never fail you nor forsake you'" (Heb. 13:5, Revised Standard Version).

Be courageous

God has promised to never forsake you. If you let Him fight your battles, and if you resist evil with His Spirit, you will never have to fear Satan's snares. They will have no power over you.

God has promised to never forsake you. If you let Him fight your battles... you will never have to fear Satan's snares. They will have no power over you. Satan will be powerless...

You (deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches — feed me with the food You prescribe for me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, 'Who is the Lord?' or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God" (Prov. 30:7-9).

Do you pray this way when you are asking God to supply your needs? If you have everything you want, you may deny God and turn away from Him, claiming you don't need Him anymore! And if you have too little, you may allow Satan to make you judge and condemn, and you may even end up stealing.

Christ taught us to ask God for

Satan will be powerless — totally disarmed.

Perhaps you had not thought of it before, but those who leave God's Church let themselves fall victim to these three major snares of Satan: They rebel against God's authority; they are too proud to admit they are wrong; and they covet power, material possessions or personal glory.

Be courageous! Act and live as a true Christian. Ask God daily to help you, and do your part in fighting against Satan's three major snares: the spirits of rebellion, pride and lust.

Your victory over them will put you on the way to the Kingdom of God! □

Is Your Child Ready for School?

Part Two

Before your child's formal education begins, you will have a tremendous influence on his or her ability to learn.



How much — and what — should a child know before he or she starts school?

Your child's future success depends on how well you prepare him or her before formal education begins.

Every year thousands of children enter school. A special few are ready — they are well behaved, outgoing and have some instruction and practice in certain basic areas. Sad to say, many others are ill-prepared — they are shy, uncontrollable, extremely self-centered or completely lacking in any academic or social skills.

I know. I have personally known such children through years of teaching.

How well will your child do when he or she enters school? How can you help?

In Part One of this material (December, 1982), we stressed several points in which children should be nurtured before entering school: speech, curiosity, self-discipline, ambition, confidence, play activities, physical coordination, concentration.

Now let's continue to explore the important areas of childhood development.

Developing listening skills

Listening is basic to your child's success. He should be taught to really give his undivided attention to you when you are speaking.

When you are teaching your child to listen is the time to bring out books and read to him. Take him to the library, even before he reaches age 2. He will see you selecting books and will begin to develop a love for books and learning.

You should choose books that have the right information in them. There are fine books on almost any topic. Look them over carefully, though. Avoid too many talking-animal stories and fairy tales, keeping to books about children's real-life experiences and interesting literature.

By Joan C. Bogdarechik

Of course the Bible will be among your chief books. For preschool children you will find it effective to put the material in your own words, simplifying some of the vocabulary but keeping the main outline of the story. Details may be added each succeeding time you review the story, and in proportion to your child's maturity.

The wonderful world of books

Books will teach your child so many things. His vocabulary will increase and he will learn the flow and rhythm of words. Synonyms and antonyms will enter his ears. Nouns and adjectives will parade before his mind.

Expose your child to poetry. Poetry is important for its rhythmic patterns, which children enjoy, and for speech development. Children will pick up on the rhyming patterns and steadily repeat words that may initially be difficult to pronounce. Have your child learn several poems from memory — he will, if you have an active program.

Show your child how you read from left to right along the lines. (In daily activities, you can reinforce this training: Let him help set the table, placing silverware left to right; have him put shoes by pairs in the closet and mittens by pairs in drawers. All this offers practice in left-to-right relationships, as well as organization.)

As you read, you should use vocal variety — make the story or poem exciting, interesting. Vary your voice for the different characters at times, using inflection and vocal color. (Use balance, though, and don't be overly dramatic.) This will enthrall your child and will help to show him that reading is something so enjoyable, he will want to learn to do it as soon as he can.

Suggestions that deal with your child's interests should be made and then developed. His interests should be followed in your selection of books. If you

have been or are going to a zoo, you could choose books about animals. If he's interested in Daddy's car, select books on cars. Daddy should be having a big part in the child's early years, helping to develop the youngster's interests.

The possibilities here are endless. Remember: There's no need to continue reading something which your child has no apparent interest at the time. He has so many of his own interests going — build on these. His knowledge in these subjects will rapidly increase, and interest in other areas will develop from this.

See through your child's eyes

Open the world to your child — teach, instruct, nourish, add to the ideas and interests he has. Visit many different places. Show him our varied environment. So much of his learning will come from natural, daily occurrences.

A parent should try to look at the world through a child's eyes. Doing so really helps us to understand and appreciate God. We should look at things in detail and with wonder. View the folded rosebud, the billowing clouds. Have you ever noticed that the tiny twigs of trees make a lovely, lacy pattern against the sky?

Spring should not pass without your explaining the "month of little green ears." Autumn is the time to point out the golden radiance of harvesting and Feast preparation. You should show how winter follows and what its purpose is. Select stories and poems on the seasons now and enjoy and appreciate God's creation with your child.

You needn't be overly anxious to get your child reading. Parents, it seems, often put great emphasis on reading while leaving other more valuable preschool work undone. In teaching, I frequently find children who can "read" before they come to school, but have poor comprehension and can do little else. They have learned to identify words, but without the depth of meaning that takes added maturity and life experi-

ence to comprehend. If a child is unbalanced he becomes unhappy. To some parents, other areas are not so visible or tangible as reading, and are overlooked. These include the important areas of attitude. A parent should not neglect to develop in a child these areas of good attitude and disposition:

- Dependability and reliability.
- Working diligently at a task and seeing it through (even when he doesn't want to).
- Displaying good citizenship

— polite addressing of adults and friendliness toward peers.

- Sharing, giving and telling the truth — not shading the truth to his own advantage, but being completely (though tactfully!) honest.

- Growing in coordination and balance and wanting to try new things.

Parents should, of course, make sure that they inculcate principles of God's way of life daily. This is the foundation upon which all else will rest.

Reading can be accomplished early, but is it necessary?

Is reading necessary?

If a parent is too demanding about his child's reaching a certain level of reading achievement, a real dislike of reading can develop. This can take years to eradicate — if it is even possible to overcome it. It is much better to do it this way:

Read to your child. Talk to him. Ask him questions in a normal, warm way. Don't pressure

The Power of Parental Example

By Graeme J. Marshall

"He's the spitting image of his father."

"He's a chip off the old block."

"Like mother, like daughter."

Expressions like these reflect that we tend to follow the example set by our parents.

How good or how bad an example do you set as a parent?

Children are richly blessed in life if they have good examples to follow. This leaves you as a parent with a major question to answer: By following your parental example, where will your children end up?

To help answer that question, let's look at some ways that your children learn from you: example. Here are several traits you may occasionally exemplify, and what those examples will produce in your children:

Hostility

A child living with hostility will learn to fight. Have you ever been out somewhere and observed children who punch, scratch, pinch, push, bully, swear at and tattle on other children?

If this is their behavior in public, then what must the example they see at home be like?

Are your children guilty of such conduct? If so, from whom do they learn it?

Parents who stand on the sidelines of sporting events yelling and urging their children to win at all costs — and who get upset and angry when their children lose — are teaching a spirit of competitiveness. They are



also teaching that winning is all that matters.

Do you know parents who will only play sports if they can win all of the time and who are extremely irritated at losing? They will not play with people they cannot beat. Ever wonder what attitude their children will adopt toward fair play and being able to lose gracefully?

Why not teach children by example, that winning, though important, is not the supreme goal? Playing the game in sportsmanlike fashion and

showing concern for the other players is most important.

Children exposed to bad sporting examples quickly absorb the message that to solve a problem you argue and fight. What a pity they are not rather learning that peace comes from practicing the principles that make for peace (Jas. 3:18).

Criticism

A child who lives with constant criticism will learn to grumble and complain. Is the family dinner table a place for gossip, criticism and cynical remarks? If it is, then children are learning to be complainers.

Do you have gripe sessions in front of them? If you must air grievances, do it privately, away from young, impressionable minds. This may take restraint on your part when you have the urge to be critical. Better still, overcome such negative habits.

Certainly, you should teach your children to accept criticism — it's a tool for growth — but criticism should always be constructive and be given in a spirit of love.

Disregard for law

It is surprising to see the extent to which some "Christians" flout vehicle speed laws and parking directions. Some apparently feel that traffic regulations are "only man's laws anyway."

What is of greater concern about such disregard, beyond that you could wind up hurt physically, is that you are nourishing a belief in your

him. Don't try to make your teaching "formal."

If, however, a child does show interest in reading before his first year at school (and he usually will, if you're stimulating him mentally), you should expose him to familiar words that are all around us. Point out "STOP," "TELEPHONE" and others. He'll learn words from television, too.

You can have your child point out signs as you walk and ride. Take him shopping with you and let him read labels. Just do it nat-

urally. He will have such pleasure in recognition that he will begin to excitedly tell you the words before you ask him to.

What a help it will be to select books containing these words to read to him now! As he sees words he recognizes, he will learn to read in a way that is most exciting to him.

Have your child tell you a story in a few sentences. Using large, dark letters, print what he has said and read it aloud to him while you're writing it. Let him

watch. You can make up his own book this way, using large sheets of paper. Praise him for words he recognizes.

If you choose to buy him books of his own, make book buying a real event. It is effective to buy one book at a time. This should instill a greater appreciation for books than if you buy a whole stack at once.

Building coordination

Your child should be given opportunity to do much cutting

heart that you are above law. This teaches children double standards. Derogatory remarks about authority figures — whether police, teachers, government officials or ministers — also set a bad example.

Paul warns, "Obey those who rule over you" (Heb. 13:17) — even when you consider the rules inadequate or foolish. Your purpose is to learn to submit to authority. If you don't set the example, how can you expect your children to submit to you? Disregard for law and order encourages rebellion.

Unequal love

Isaac grew up in a family atmosphere that reflected unequal love toward his half brother Ishmael (Gen. 21:8-11). Eventually Ishmael was forced out of the camp and separated from his father, Abraham, because of Sarah's and Hagar's feelings against each other.

In time, Isaac had his own family — twin sons — Esau and Jacob. But personality differences took root in the family because Isaac favored Esau while Rebekah gave more of her love to Jacob (Gen. 25:28). This led eventually to Jacob's taking Esau's birthright by deceptive means worked out by his mother. Not the best example of family togetherness. But where did Isaac learn to conduct his family this way?

Favoritism

If you practice favoritism, your children will learn to be partial. Continuing with the above story, we read that Jacob had many children from his two wives and their handmaids. But the child Jacob loved most was the youngest, Joseph.

The problem with this, was in being so open about it before the others, culminating in the special gift of the coat of many colors (Gen. 37:3-4). This produced family jealousy and rivalry.

Of course, Joseph's dreams and his approach in telling his brothers didn't help matters either (verses 5-11). The end result of Jacob's practicing partiality was that Joseph was sold into Egypt as a slave.

Joseph, himself, was partial years later in Egypt when he gave a banquet for all his brothers. Guess who got the biggest share of food? Benjamin, the youngest, was openly favored (Gen. 45:34).

This resurrected a family resentment that resurfaced at the death of Jacob. Joseph's brothers became fearful, thinking that with the patriarch out of the way, Joseph would take revenge on them (Gen. 50:15).

Hypocrisy

Children see through hypocrisy, especially in the Christian example you set. Do you say one thing — or even tell your children to do one thing — while you yourself do something else?

Does your child know and see that you pray, study the Bible, fast, get anointed when you are sick and serve others? Or does he see a show at Church services each week and general disinterest the other six days? Whatever you practice, your children see and tend to copy, whether for the good or bad.

But what if you yourself have been the victim of bad parental influences and find yourself struggling to change?

God gives encouragement through the prophet Ezekiel. As long as you are willing to take heed to your ways, to consider right and wrong and seek to change faults, you can avoid being an injurious example to your own children (Ezek. 18:14-17, 27-28). You can, if you are willing to make the effort, teach them God's way.

Joseph and Mary must have set a fine example for Jesus. God the Father must have been especially mindful that a right kind of family environment would be needed to nurture and admonish Jesus during His boyhood years.

• With the help of this fine family example, Jesus grew up to be "in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

Could there be a better goal in child training than this, that as a result of the godly family environment you create for your children, they grow up to be "in favor with God and men"? How richly blessed your children will be if this happens. And what a commendation for you as a parent!

If your family environment reflects criticism, hostility, ridicule and competitiveness, your child will learn to fight, to feel shy and guilty, to be spiteful and hateful and perhaps be destined to end up as an ineffective parent himself.

But if your family environment reflects tolerance, encouragement, praise, fairness, honesty, security and approval, your child will learn acceptance, patience, confidence, justice, faith and to find true and enduring friendships.

The parental example you set has great impact upon your children. Make your example a good one! □

and pasting. He can cut out pictures dealing with a certain topic and paste them in a scrapbook. Or he can paste pictures on cardboard and then cut the pictures into different shapes. Here is a way to have an endless supply of jigsaw puzzles!

He should be exposed to several kinds of shapes. Have him make a clock by using numbers found in magazines and papers.

Your child can learn colors by sorting your thread according to light and dark colors as you sew. Play games with colors.

Over the months you will see steady growth in coordination. He will pretend he's writing. When you see this, don't force him to write neat, even letters. Little hands with small, tightly grasped pencils could result in cramped muscles and possible eye strain. Just have him use large crayons and pencils and enjoy what he is doing. Schooltime is soon enough to develop neat lines of writing.

If your child strongly favors use of his left hand, make no issue of it.

What about music and math?

Your child should be presented with opportunities to become acquainted with music. From earliest days he should hear a rich variety of music. Play records, both classical and children's, along with a rich selection of other types. Have occasional background music at mealtimes.

Point out the different instruments of the orchestra.

Let your child participate in making music and keeping time to it. Let him dance, skip, jump, march and learn left and right by so doing. Through rhythmic activities a child gains coordination, confidence, social skills and knowledge.

A child's musical attempts should not be ridiculed or in any way put down. Encourage and help instead. How many children have been turned off from the joy of singing or dancing by adults who, often unknowingly, ridiculed their wholehearted, but perhaps rather poor, performances?

Preschool years offer a mad-to-order situation for teaching elementary mathematics. Since you will be taking your child shopping, have him find round and oval fruits and vegetables, rectangular packages, square boxes.

He should have experience with money, especially pennies, nickels and dimes. Have him put his first tithe aside, and his second tithe in a bank that he may open frequently so he can count his progress with you.

Have him gather acorns, stones, pebbles, sand, shells, and then weigh them against each other on a scale at home. Let him see that one heavy object can balance with several small objects of a different sort. He will need to keep these objects separate, so here is another opportunity to teach order and organization.

Your child should learn to be organized. He can start in his room, placing his shoes in order and keeping his books on the shelf and laundry in the hamper or laundry bag. This will help him to be organized in school — and how his teacher will thank you!

Have him measure how many times a certain toy will fit on his chair, how many steps it is to certain objects. Have him set the table and count out the spoons, forks and knives needed. Let him count out the plates.

Soon — the first day of school

As he gets closer to school age, prepare for that important first day. See that he is playing with other children. Be sure he has contact with other adults who have been given authority over him. His teacher should not be his first "other authority." That would make his adjusting to school extremely difficult.

And don't instill (even subtly, as some parents unwittingly do) the idea that men should be obeyed, but that women don't need to be. This is prevented when Mother's authority over him is real, not just a "holding pattern" until Dad gets home to handle the problem. A child

should respond to the authority of both parents. Then let him know there are people other than his parents who have authority over him.

You should talk positively about your child's school, not making it sound as if you are sending him to a place that is corrective, or one of which you do not approve. Build up the school as a happy place where he will meet new friends and have a wonderful time.

Take him to visit the school before the first day. Let him get acquainted with his teacher and his room. Some schools have a special time for this. This will help reassure him.

Before your child goes to school, he should know his parents' names, his home address and phone number and his date of birth. He should also be able to take care of his toilet needs by himself.

Think and talk positively. Remember that teachers desire success for your child and want him to gain a solid foundation in school. Instructing is a tremendous responsibility. Show your child that you and the teacher are unified in your concern for him.

Any questions or misunderstandings you have should be handled directly with the teacher, not through your child. Uphold the teacher in your child's eyes.

Since the first day may be the longest time your child has ever spent away from you, be prompt to pick him up at dismissal time. This will reassure your child.

If you emphasize God's principles as the basis of knowledge, your child will be given a giant blessing that will literally never end. He will please all who come in contact with him, reflecting your training and, by extension, God's Church. □

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Beware of Covetousness!

So warns God's Word. But what does it mean to covet, and how can we avoid doing so? Here's a practical look at the Tenth Commandment.

By Clayton D. Steep

Where does sin — the breaking of God's laws (I John 3:4) — begin? What is its origin, its starting point in your life?

To be sure, you sometimes sin by accident, or through ignorance of the law.

Maybe you didn't know that

biscuit you ate during the Days of Unleavened Bread had baking powder in it. Or maybe when you were first learning about God's truth you worked late Friday evening, not realizing that the Sabbath begins and ends at sundown rather than at midnight.

So, though you were transgressing one of God's laws, you weren't even aware of it. And you certainly didn't want to do it.

Those things happen. They are sins, nevertheless.

Most such sins are, however, relatively easy to repent of. Why? Because they do not involve an overriding inner desire on our part. We do not have strong feelings to contend with in such cases.

But most of the sins we commit are not that way. They start out as a sentiment in the heart: jeal-

ousy, envy, hatred, rebellion or, in the case of the Tenth Commandment, a *desire* to do what we are not supposed to, or to have what does not belong to us. A

Lust — the desire to get

The Bible calls this desire "lust" or "covetousness." We

may not even be consciously aware at the time that we are lusting, so deceitful are our hearts (Jer. 17:9). But lust is a basic part of our carnal natures. It is automatic. It wants to get for the self and acts like a giant magnet, drawing everything to it. It is the exact opposite of the desire to

give. This pull within us — this lust, whether it is purposeful or not — opens and keeps open the door to sin (Jas. 1:14-15). Is it any wonder that Jesus Christ warned His followers to "Take heed and beware of covetousness" (Luke 12:15)?

But how did such evil pulls

The Last - But Not the Least

By Richard H. Wilkinson

Not too long ago a prominent clergyman wrote that in all his years of listening to confessions, he had not once heard the sin of coveting confessed.

Interesting. Could it be because, humanly, it is easy to think of the Ten Commandments as descending in order of importance, and to not take the Tenth Commandment as seriously as the nine before it?

The last of God's Ten Commandments, "You shall not covet" (Ex. 20:17), is just as encompassing and significant as any of the others.

The English word *covet* in the Bible is translated from seven different words that illustrate the different forms coveting may take. Let's look at the meanings of these words.

1) *That which is not ours.* The word usually translated "covet" means to desire in a negative way, to want what is not rightfully ours. This is the Hebrew word used in Exodus 20:17; the verse speaks of our neighbor's property:

An interesting example of the use of this word is in Exodus 34:24, where God promises ancient Israel: "I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man *covet* your land when you go up to appear before the Lord your God three times in the year."

God promised to protect His people's property from the greed of their neighbors if Israel would obey Him and keep His festivals. When Israel didn't keep God's Holy Days, God did not protect them from this basic form of human covetousness (Judg. 2:11-23).

2) *Dishonest gain.* Another word often translated "covet" has the connotation of wanting something but not being willing to pay the price for it. It is not necessarily that the object of desire could not rightfully be ours,

but we want it dishonestly. Ezekiel speaks of princes of Israel who were "like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain" (Ezek. 22:27). The phrase *dishonest gain* is translated from this second word.

Gambling, in its various forms, reflects this kind of coveting when it is based on the human desire to get and yet avoid paying the price.

3) *Wanting for the wrong reasons.* A third Old Testament word for "covet" means wanting something for the wrong reasons. It is in this sense that the prophet Amos wrote: "Woe to you who *desire* the day of the Lord" (Amos 5:18). We can desire a good thing for wrong reasons.

4) *Overvaluing the physical.* In the New Testament we find instruction regarding another kind of coveting: setting too high a value on some physical thing. Paul wrote: "I have *coveted* no one's silver or gold or apparel" (Acts 20:33).

In Genesis 25:29-34 we see this attitude displayed in Esau's desire for Jacob's pottage. Hebrews 12:16 warns us against being a "profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright." The word *profane* here means not putting enough value on the proper things, and especially the things of God.

5) *Wanting more and more.* Ever heard the expression, "Some people are never satisfied"? One of the words translated "covet" in the New Testament comes from a root meaning "to get more," "to overreach," "to be moved by greed."

It is not wrong to exercise diligence and the principles of success, but God's Word clearly says that a dissatisfied attitude — one of always

desiring more — is only another form of covetousness. Paul used this word when he wrote of "covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5).

6) *Obsessive desire.* Another word used in the New Testament refers to a deep desire. A desire is not wrong of itself (see I Timothy 3:1), but this word can also reflect an inordinate or obsessive desire.

Paul used this word when he wrote to Timothy. "The love of money is the root of all evil; which while some *coveted* after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:10, Authorized Version). The desired object, money, is not wrong, but any physical desire that becomes an obsession leads to ruin (verse 9).

7) *Envious desire.* This seventh word translated "covet" is used in Acts 17:5 to describe certain Jews at Thessalonica who became "envious" of Paul. The same word is found in James 4:2: "You murder and *covet* and cannot obtain."

Envy and jealousy are almost always the result of a covetous attitude. If we find such feelings in our lives, we should do everything we can to overcome them and develop right relationships with others.

God wants us to bring our human desires under control through the guidance of His law (II Cor. 10:5). But that does not mean that we should ignore our proper needs and wishes. Rather, we need to learn to look to God as the provider of all good things (Jas. 1:17).

The truth is that to the degree we seek God He will supply not only our physical needs and our mental and emotional desires, but also even our highest spiritual aspirations (Ps. 37:3-6). To covet is to forget that God desires to bless us with even the desires of our own hearts. □

come to be within us in the first place? Did God create a wicked nature and place it in us?

No, our carnal natures are actually the result of satanic influence. We were born into a world that has a climate of evil. It is everywhere.

Satan permeates the atmosphere with his rebellious, lustful, perverted attitude. He broadcasts it into our unsuspecting minds when we are very young, until we develop a carnal, lustful nature of our own. Satan does not cease trying to agitate and keep alive that evil nature by his broadcasting and persuasion.

The point is, Satan is the real originator of lust and covetousness. Jesus told some unconverted people of His day: "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer [and what

causes murder, killing, wars? Lustful desires — James 4:1] from the beginning" (John 8:44).

It goes back to the beginning — before human history. Back to the time when Satan, as the archangel Lucifer, lusted for additional power. Not satisfied with what he had, he coveted more.

It is not a coincidence that Satan is compared, in Ezekiel 27 and 28, to a greedy prince of Tyre. Tyre was an ancient commercial hub, as important in its time as London, New York or Tokyo is today.

Tyre was a trading center. But trading to what end? To share? To give? No, to get. To obtain. To give as little as possible and to receive in return as much as possible. To make a huge profit at the expense of others, just as is done in the world today.

Inferior products, cutthroat competition, deceptive advertising, crooked deals — it is all a part of the self-oriented "corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Pet. 1:4). And it all began with Lucifer.

"You were blameless in your ways," God told Lucifer, "from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you" (Ezek. 28:15, Revised Standard Version).

Notice one of the ways Lucifer's iniquity was manifested, leading to his downfall: "In the abundance of your trade [“multitude of thy merchandise” — King James Version] you were filled with violence, and you sinned . . . By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade" (verses 16, 18, RSV).

We may be sure that whatever "merchandise" he dealt with, whatever "trade" he was engaged in, it was done with the greedy, grasping, get motive, just as is true in the economic system he has palmed off on man's world. It is Satan's system! Finally Lucifer's covetousness and lustful ambition drove him to try seizing the very throne and ruling position of God Almighty.

The heart of the problem

What a tragic thing it is to be driven by lust and greed! And yet that is what has motivated the world — Satan's world — from the time Eve was enticed into coveting the forbidden fruit up until today.

It's the reason wars have been fought. It's responsible for the mass movements of history — the rise and fall of nations. It is the main reason most people get up in the morning to get, to obtain, to procure for themselves.

Jeremiah very accurately described the primary motivation of far too many people today: "From the least of them even to the greatest, of them, everyone is given to covetousness" (Jer. 6:13).

The Bible clearly associates lust with pride (vanity) (I John 2:16-17). Indeed, the Bible lists covetousness as one of the ways in

How Should the Ten Commandments Be Numbered?

By Clayton D. Steep

In some religious circles the Ten Commandments are not numbered correctly. According to this erroneous but widespread system, the Sabbath commandment is the Third Commandment instead of the Fourth, the Commandment against adultery is Sixth instead of Seventh and so forth.

How did this happen?

The different method of numbering came about in the fourth century after Christ, when Augustine devised a new method of counting the Ten Commandments by combining the First and Second Commandments of Exodus 20:1-6.

But in reality, the first two commandments refer to two distinct principles. The First Commandment forbids the worship of false gods. The Second Commandment forbids the use of pictures, images or statues in worship.

In order to retain a total of 10 commandments (see Deuteronomy

10:4), Augustine divided the Tenth Commandment. According to Augustine commandment number nine was, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house." Then, the Tenth Commandment was, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife . . ." etc.

This is a totally artificial division. In quoting the Ten Commandments, the apostle Paul made no distinction between coveting your neighbor's house and coveting his wife — one principle.

In Romans 7:7, Paul said, "For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'" See Romans 13:9, where Paul listed "You shall not covet" as a separate command.

The law about coveting constitutes one commandment — the Tenth. This is the correct way to number the Ten Commandments — the method Jesus, the apostles and the Jews have always recognized. □

which people are "lovers of themselves" (II Tim. 3:2).

When the self is served and its desires pampered, it is exalted. It becomes a god. That is why the apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:5 that "covetousness... is idolatry." See also Ephesians 5:5.

God wanted His people Israel to be different. He called them out of the world, as He has called us, to be a separate people, not to follow the selfish, lustful "will of the Gentiles" (I Pet. 4:3).

After giving Israel the first nine points of His great law, each of which could be fulfilled in the letter by a physical people, God gave as the 10th point a commandment that has to do with man's heart — his mind. That is where coveting takes place. It is a mental or spiritual act and involves more than the mere letter of the law.

The Seventh Commandment forbids adultery. The Eighth, stealing. But the Tenth Commandment forbids even desiring to do these things. This commandment gets to the heart of where much sin really originates: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's" (Ex. 20:17).

No wonder physical, unconverted Israel could not keep the Tenth Commandment (I Cor. 10:6)! It was against their nature.

Even the apostle Paul had to especially battle to keep this point of God's law. Years after his conversion he was still having to struggle to keep from coveting (Rom. 7:7-25). He concluded: "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal... O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (verses 14, 24). The answer? "I thank God [it shall be] through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (verse 25).

Paul goes on in the next chapter to show that it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we must put down, mortify, the

fleshly nature (verse 13), of which covetousness is such a basic part.

Priorities

It is not wrong to want something. You can want a house or a wife or a husband or an ox or an ass or a maidservant or a manservant. But not your neighbor's! (Unless, of course, your neighbor wants to sell his ox or ass or house. Then it may be all right for you to want it, as long as you go about obtaining it in a fair and proper manner.)

Coveting is an illegal or illicit desire to obtain. It is wanting that which is off limits. When something comes to mind and your feeling concerning it is "I want that," be quick to ask yourself whether it is truly available to you. Or is it something to which you have no right? If it is, you are entertaining a wrong desire. You are coveting.

On the other hand, suppose the object under consideration is available to you, that there is no prior claim to it. You could still be guilty of coveting if your motive for acquiring it is selfish.

It is right to want to better your living conditions, to improve the quality of your clothing, your dwelling, your diet. It is right to work for money in order to purchase these things. But why do you want them? That is an important key to determine whether or not lust is involved.

Do you want them just for selfish reasons? Do you want to amass wealth purely for your own use and enjoyment? Do you want to get without giving or sharing in return? Do you worship material possessions? Do you set your heart on them? If so, that is coveting. And it is sin.

What are you after?

It would benefit us all, in this age of desperate quest for physical luxuries, to stop often and really think deeply about Jesus' words: "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). And again: "What is a

man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

God's way is the way of giving; covetousness is the way of getting (Prov. 21:26).

What are you really after in this life? The Bible warns against setting one's heart on selfishly obtaining material wealth.

"Do not overwork to be rich," Proverbs 23:4-5 instructs, "... for riches certainly make themselves wings." They don't last. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out," explained Paul. Then he gave a vital principle: "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (I Tim. 6:7-8).

Covetousness is actually a manifestation of ingratitude. We should be thankful for what we have, rather than having our thoughts continually dwell on what we do not have. It just so happens that the more possessions human beings acquire, the easier it is to become wrapped up in coveting more.

Paul continues: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some [Christians!] have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (verses 9-10).

Seek what counts

It isn't worth it. We have a far greater reason for being alive than the search for temporary pleasures. Paul reminded Timothy, "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness" (verse 11). These are what count.

Seek the real riches — God and His Kingdom and righteousness — first, "and all these things [the fulfillment of your needs — and even your wants and desires as it is good for you] shall be added to you" by God Himself (Matt. 6:33).

MINISTRY

Pentecost Pictures the 'Firstfruits' in God's Plan

Prepared by Richard H. Seidlitz

God's master plan continues to unfold before your very eyes! As you discovered in the last two ministries, there are seven annual festivals picturing God's plan of salvation for mankind.

God instituted these festivals to remind His Church year after year of how He is bringing about His stupendous purpose for our lives — of ultimately becoming spirit-born members of His divine, universe-ruling Family.

The Passover is the beginning, the very first step, in His master plan for mankind. It is a memorial to remind us that Jesus Christ ("our Passover" — 1 Cor. 5:7) paid a tremendous price for our sins.

Once we have been forgiven by God, we must strive to put all the "leaven" of sin out of our lives, as pictured by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (1 Cor. 5:8). That is our part of God's plan, which we are to act out every spring by putting physical leaven out of our homes and eating unleavened-bread during seven days. This seven-day Festival reminds us of our continual need to obey God's commandments.

But God knows that to successfully put sin out of our lives and keep it out, our own human willpower and abilities are not enough. We need the spiritual strength of God's Holy Spirit to help us obey God's spiritual law.

This is the third step in God's master plan, pictured by the third annual Festival, the day of Pentecost.

1. What were God's instructions regarding this Festival? Lev. 23:15-17, 20. Was this Feast a Holy Day, or Sabbath of rest on which the people were to assemble? Verse 21. Was it to be kept by God's people every year forever? Same verse.

At this point in our study we need to understand the symbolism of a ceremony associated with the Feast of Unleavened

Bread, and how it ties in with the third annual Festival. Although the meaning of this ceremony is important, it is no longer performed today because it pictured a future event which has since occurred.

2. What kind of offering had to be presented to God before the spring harvest could begin? Verses 9-11, 14.

As explained in the first of this series of seven studies, God established His festivals in conjunction with the two annual agricultural harvests in the land of Palestine. God uses these harvests as a pattern for the two spiritual "harvests" of His great master plan.

The first harvest of this part of the world is the relatively smaller spring grain harvest following winter rains. Anciently, it began on the day of the "wavingloaf" offering and ended just before the Feast of Firstfruits, or day of Pentecost as it is called among Greek-speaking peoples. (Pentecost is a Greek term meaning "fiftieth [day].")

In the late summer and early autumn, the second and much bigger harvest is reaped. It follows the late spring rains in Palestine and anciently ended just before the Feast of Ingathering, otherwise known as the Feast of Tabernacles.

These physical harvests help us to understand that God is not dealing with the vast majority of the world today. God is calling only the few into His Church during the period between Christ's life on earth as a human being and His Second Coming. And so God intends the spring festivals to illustrate to His Church yearly that all of those He has called to become His Spirit-begotten children since Christ's first coming are the "firstfruits" (Jas. 1:18) — the relatively small beginning of His spiritual harvest of mankind into His divine Family.

Later, as pictured by the festivals of the much larger autumn harvest season, God

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will call the billions to salvation and stewardship in His glorious Family after Christ's return.

As we read in Leviticus 23, the Days of Unleavened Bread occur at the beginning of the spring harvest season. Many sheafs of grain, planted earlier, have grown to maturity. They are now fruit bearing stalks ready to be harvested.

The spring harvest began in the following manner: On the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday) during the Days of Unleavened Bread, a sheaf of newly sicked barley was brought to the priest to be accepted by God. This was called the "wavesheaf offering" and represented the first of the firstfruits harvest.

Once the wavesheaf was offered, the harvest could begin. The spring harvest ended by the time of the Feast of Firstfruits 50 days later, when the people gathered on this annual Sabbath to give God thanks for the firstfruits of the year's crops He had given them (verses 15-17, 24). Now let's see the connection between the wavesheaf offering and Jesus Christ.

3. Who was the first ever to be resurrected from the dead into God's Family? 1 Cor. 15:20. Was He therefore the first of the firstfruits of God's spiritual harvest? Same verse, Col. 1:18. Therefore, are Spirit-begotten Christians clearly the firstfruits of God's great master plan? Jas. 1:18, Rom. 8:23.

4. After Christ was resurrected from the dead, did He have to ascend to His Father in heaven? John 20:17. On that same day after returning from heaven, could His disciples touch Him? Compare Matthew 28:9 with John 20:19-20, 27-28.

This was the first day of the week (Sunday) during the Days of Unleavened Bread. It was on the very same day that the wavesheaf was offered that Jesus Christ was accepted by His Father as the spiritual "wavesheaf" offering in heaven.

Christ therefore fulfilled the symbolism of the Old Testament wavesheaf offering. He was the first resurrected Son of God — the first harvested product of God's master plan. He became the firstborn Son of God — the first human to complete the process of salvation and be "born again."

But Jesus could not have become the captain of our salvation and our elder brother without possessing an all-important ingre-

di-ent from God — something we all must have to be born again as He was.

5. Could Jesus do any spiritual works, including obedience to God, with just His human strength? John 5:30, 46. Where did He get the necessary power? John 14:13, last part.

The Father's "dwell" in Jesus through the Holy Spirit

6. Did Christ promise the same spiritual help to His disciples? Verse 16. What is the "Helper"? Verse 26. What else is the Holy Spirit called? Verse 17.

God's Spirit had been *with* the disciples, but Christ promised to send it to be *within* them, as it had been within Him.

7. After He had been crucified and resurrected from the dead, did Jesus repeat His promise to send the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8. Where did He tell His disciples to wait until they received God's Spirit? Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5.

8. On what day did the disciples actually receive God's Spirit? Acts 2:1-4. Did they thus become members of God's spiritual Church? 1 Cor. 12:12-14.

It was on the day of Pentecost that God first sent His Spirit to begin His Church — to beget and strengthen the firstfruits He was beginning to call into His Church, symbolically represented by the two "wave loaves" mentioned in Lev. 23:17, 20. Fifty days after Christ's sacrifice was accepted in heaven, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples just as He had promised.

The New Testament Festival of Pentecost is now a memorial that commemorates the founding of the New Testament Church of God, for it was on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 31 that the firstfruits of God's spiritual harvest began to be prepared for reaping into His Family. □

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One of the most intriguing stories from the age of discovery is that of Ponce de León's search, in 1513, for the "fountain of youth."

Caribbean natives had told of a legendary fountain of water on a great island. This fountain, said the legend, had healing powers and power to sustain life forever.

Ponce de León, of course, did not find this fountain, but he did discover the great island (at least what he thought was an island) and named it "La Florida."

But there is a real fountain of living waters. This fountain is identified in Jeremiah 2:13, where God, speaking about His people Israel, states, "They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters."

God is the source of the true living water. What are the properties of this fountain?

The power of God's Spirit

Jesus Christ, speaking of the power available to humans from God, said: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38).

Jesus was speaking of God's Holy Spirit, the power by which God does everything He does. It was by the Holy Spirit that the earth was renewed (Ps. 104:30), and that the whole universe came into being (Job 26:13)!

This fountain of living waters is perpetually flowing, never dry (Isa. 58:11).

In times of drought one whose well has run dry can become mighty thirsty, but, Christ said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst" (John 4:14)!

A fountain's waters can be refreshing, renewing one's

strength on a hot sunny day. The fountain of living waters also "gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength" (Isa. 40:29). Those who drink from God's waters "shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (verse 31).

In this fast-paced society, the gurgling sound of waters from a



The Fountain of Living Waters

By Tony Bosserman

fountain can be comforting. The fountain of living waters is the fountain of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation" (II Cor. 1:3-4).

Man has built fountains from which water literally explodes in an upward surge. Such fountains exemplify great power being released. But the fountain of living waters is the source of all power (I Chron. 29:12).

Spectacular assets

Here is a fountain, then, far more spectacular and versatile than anything of which Ponce de

León could have conceived. But imagine, for a moment, that old Ponce had discovered the legendary fountain of youth. Imagine that, in his curiosity, he had found that bathing in its waters daily made him feel more youthful and energetic, and that his life was actually extended.

Do you think he would have minded bathing daily if it meant he could live forever?

Yet, how much easier by comparison is it to come before the throne of God on our knees in daily, heartfelt prayer? God says, "I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev. 21:6). We need simply ask for it!

As the waters of Ponce de León's mythical fountain were supposed to have the power to perpetuate life, the water of the fountain of life (God's Holy Spirit) has the power to perpetuate our lives forever.

God is now making available, to those few He is calling in this age, the power of His Holy Spirit. That is the lesson of the Festival of Pentecost, one of God's annual Holy Days. (Request our free reprint "How You Can Be Imbued with the Power of God" and our free booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days - Which?*)

Ponce de León's health was ailing in 1513, and this was probably a big motivation behind his search for the fountain of youth. How much would he have paid to bathe one time in the fountain's healing waters? But he made two mistakes that resulted in his failure to find this fountain:

First, he didn't search in the right place: "For with You [God] is the fountain of life" (Ps. 36:9).

Second, he didn't properly fear God: "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to avoid the snares of death" (Prov. 14:27).

If we want to find the true fountain of life, we should not make these same mistakes. □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

cause man was created for a purpose — he was created to have a personal and special relationship with God.

In the New Testament book of John, it is stated that Jesus gave to as many as received Him power to become the sons of God. And in I John 1:3 it is stated that all such actually have fellowship actual contact and fellowship with God, and with Christ!

I found that the Bible is literally full of promises from God, in which He promises to do things for us, bestow things on us, give needed things to us.

Notice just a few:

"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus", (Phil. 4:19).

That does not promise to supply all your desires or wants — just your need.

And it is well to realize that the Bible reveals that God does for us what we are unable to do for ourselves. Usually He will supply your need through your own efforts — but if you place CONFIDENCE in Him, He'll see that the need comes.

In James 1:5-6: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting."

Very shortly after I learned this truth about the Bible, 56 years ago, I found in a time of embarrassment that I lacked wisdom.

From a very young boy I had always craved to have UNDERSTANDING. And I had acquired a fair degree of that, but wisdom is more than knowledge and understanding. It is ability to use both, and come to a right and wise decision.

So I took God up on this promise through the writing of James. I asked for wisdom.

I believed I would be given wisdom, since God had PROMISED it, on my asking — and God

could not break His promise. I received wisdom.

In my position today, as the chief human administrator over large worldwide activities, I frequently have to make decisions involving millions of dollars. I NEED that wisdom!

Had I been forced to rely solely on the resources *within*, or on advice and counsel from the *around*, this great Work, I am sure, could never have developed. But I have had *all three* dimensions to tap...

I most certainly *do* seek counsel from others. Solomon said that in a multitude of counselors there is safety. So I call in counselors. I use my own best judgment, based on experience. And in addition, I rely on wisdom from God. I utilize all three dimensions — and they make a great team. That's the safest way I know.

Just how GREAT are these resources from *above*? How GREAT is the living God?

The prophet Isaiah gives us some information on that. This is what God inspired him to write:

"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?"

"Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?"

"Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket [compared to God], and are counted as the small dust on the balance; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing...."

"All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless."

"To whom then will you liken God?"

"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabi-

tants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in...."

"Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number...."

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.... those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isa. 40:12-15, 17-18, 22, 26, 28-31).

People often ask me why I stay young — and where do I get my energy?

The above verses give me a promise — provide a source of resources that I rely on.

Yes, I found, 56 years ago, a far more practical and successful confidence than self-confidence. I found the confidence that is FAITH.

It is reliance on the supreme great God, whose greatness is described above.

His resources are total. They are unlimited. The wealth and the resources of the entire universe are His. He is the SOURCE of all power, of all good, of all that is desirable.

He is not only the great Creator. He is the supreme RULER of the universe. He is the great educator, the source of basic knowledge.

He is the great GIVER! He gave His only begotten Son — for our redemption. He gives power and strength. He supplies all our needs. He gives wisdom. He has EVERYTHING to give that is GOOD.

My life has been tremendously enriched since I became connected to this source of total supply, 56 years ago. And this has led to the enrichment of untold other thousands.

What a stupendous value most of humanity is cheating itself out of, by failing to add the *above dimension* in their lives! □

Overcome Procrastination - NOW!

Do you put off doing things that need to be done? You need to know the causes — and some practical, effective solutions — for this problem!

By George M. Kackos

It's been a long, hard day and you've finally settled down to relax. Your favorite chair seems to melt your tensions. The bottled-up stress begins to ease.

But — oh, no! A feeling of exasperation and fear flashes through your mind as you remember something you neglected to do.

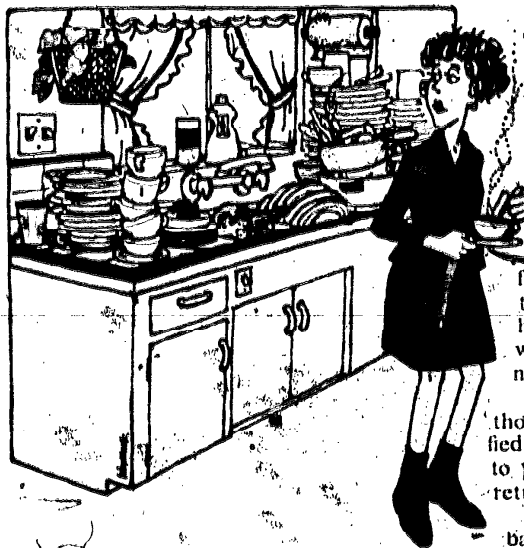
There goes your peace of mind! Your stomach knots and your muscles tense as you struggle with a sense of frustration and guilt.

Finally, at the peak of worry, you mentally resolve the matter by thinking to yourself, I'll do it later.

But will you — really? You're probably familiar with procrastination — all of us fall into it, and fairly easily, from time to time.

And the effects can be devastating: You can be robbed of happiness and peace of mind, harm your relationships with others and, yes, even keep yourself out of God's Kingdom!

Does that last statement sound



shocking? It shouldn't. Procrastination — putting things off — can be a deadly, sinister enemy. How?

Christ's parable about the 10 virgins (Matt. 25:1-13) addresses this problem. All the virgins wanted to meet the bridegroom, but only five were wise. The others had neglected to bring along a supply of oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit) for their lamps. They had procrastinated by placing more importance on some-

thing else. As a result, they were not allowed to be part of the marriage.

What lesson does this parable have for you? Simply stated, if you put off your preparation now for the Kingdom, you will not qualify for eternal life!

Unfortunately, we all fall victim to procrastination. We let various barriers hinder us from doing the will of God. That's the bad news.

But the good news is that those barriers can be identified and torn down, allowing us to prepare adequately for the return of Jesus Christ!

To help you remove those barriers, let's examine some of them.

Wrong priorities

Each day you are faced with many decisions. Some you make thoughtfully, purposely, aware of your options. Others, you think, can be pushed aside, saved for another time. You think, I'll put that on the back burner until I'm ready for it.

But look what you've done! By not acting, you've really made a decision to procrastinate.

Remember that the choices

you make determine what you accomplish. Making wrong choices is often caused by setting wrong priorities.

This is what happened to Martha. She thought it was more important to physically serve Jesus and the other guests in her home than to listen to what Jesus said. In fact, she complained that her sister Mary was making the wrong decision by failing to serve with her (Luke 10:38-40). But Martha was wrong.

"And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'" (verses 41-42).

You, too, can be a victim of setting wrong priorities.

It's easy to choose to do things that are easy and pleasurable, but it takes strong character to rise above this trap and do what is necessary.

Christ did! He rose above the temptation to forsake the agony of the crucifixion, and instead did God's will (Matt. 26:38-39). Can you also steel yourself to do the right thing?

Setting right priorities is essential in overcoming procrastination. It sets the

stage for doing what ought to be done.

Overcommitment

Even if you set the right priorities — sometimes when you have set right priorities — too many commitments can lead to procrastination. Your desire for accomplishment can outstrip your resources.

The result: delays in getting things done.

Jesus said to count the cost before following Him (Luke 14:28-33). Good intentions are not enough. You must pay the price necessary to achieve success in your calling. This principle of counting the cost should apply in every area of your life.

How would you respond to a friend's invitation to handle a responsibility? Would you promise to do it? A quick "yes" without counting the cost may mean trouble.

The reason is simple: Other obligations may be too pressing, leaving you unable to keep your promise. Consequently, you will procrastinate in an attempt to avoid this commitment.

You can avoid this problem by counting the cost before committing yourself. I know a man who did this quite effectively when I asked him to handle a certain responsibility. He was grateful for the consideration and opportunity, but said, "I

would rather turn you down than let you down." He knew his priorities and commitments and responded accordingly.

True, God expects a lot from you, and He will give you the strength and resources to accomplish far more than you might think you can. But don't overburden yourself. Face facts and be realistic. Don't take on more than you can handle.

Laziness

Doing the will of God is demanding. It requires a lot of effort. Praying, studying the Bible, going to work, spending time with your family, showing love for friends and neighbors, taking care of household chores such as mowing the lawn — the list at times seems endless.

Without hard work, your daily "to do" list will still be there to do.

The failure to get things done can often be traced to laziness (Prov. 24:30-34). But laziness is a frailty that can be overcome.

Look to an example in God's creation: "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer, or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest." (Prov. 6:6-8).

Unlike many of us, these ants don't need supervision. They are self-starters who do their work when it should be done.

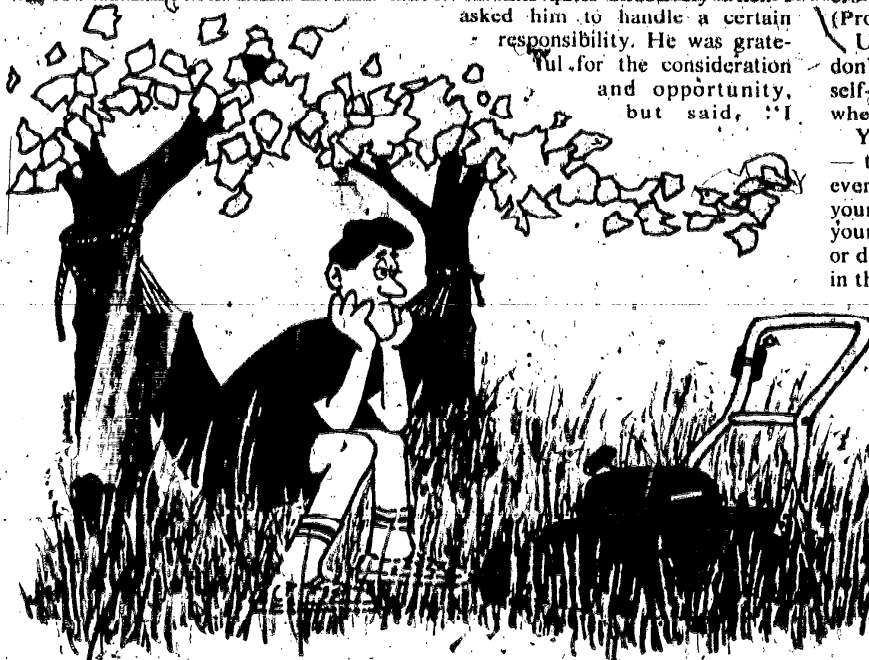
You need to apply this attitude — the opposite of laziness — to everything you do: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Eccl. 9:10).

Fear

Have you ever let fear stop you from doing something?

In the parable of the talents fear prevented a man from developing his talents (Luke 19:20-24).

Even entire groups of people can let fear



paralyze them. Remember what happened to Israel in the wilderness? They received a glowing report about the land that flowed with milk and honey. But, they were afraid to face the land's inhabitants, who were said to be giants. As their fear grew, their faith weakened. This led to rebellion against God's will and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Just as the man with the one talent and the nation of Israel were denied blessings, so could you lose blessings and even be kept out of God's Kingdom.

Replace fear with faith. Remarkable accomplishments can result. Love can also help conquer the effects of fear (1 John 4:18). Applying this teaching can help you overcome the negative effects of fear, because your love to do something — namely, obey God — is greater than your fear of attempting it.

Forgetfulness

You probably lead a busy, hectic life. Most of us do. Consequently, it's easy to overlook responsibilities that need your attention.

But does forgetfulness justify procrastination?

God is certainly busy ruling the entire universe, but He still doesn't forget all His many responsibilities.

Throughout the Bible, we see examples of God remembering things. He remembered Noah afloat in the ark (Gen. 8:1-4), Rachel whose womb was closed (Gen. 30:22) and Israel in captivity (Ex. 6:5). God also remembered to fulfill many prophecies.

What's more, God even remembers the names of all the untold billions of stars in the heavens (Ps. 147:4).

Unfortunately, we tend to forget, especially things that are painful or unimportant to us.

Since you usually remember things that you personally find significant, you need to make the needs of others important to you (Phil. 2:4).

Another suggestion is to write down a list of things that need your attention.

Follow God's example. Throughout the Bible, He has put many of our responsibilities down



in writing. By writing down things that need doing, you can jog your memory.

Discouragement

A discouraged person finds it hard to get things done. It's hard to be productive with a negative attitude.

The case of Elijah provides us with an excellent example. Jezebel's threatenings discouraged him. His response was to stop doing his job and escape to the wilderness, where he asked God to take his life (1 Kings 19:1-4). From the heights of God-given victory one moment to the depths of despair in the next!

Hasn't that happened to you? After a period of success it takes only a cutting remark, an unattained goal or the feeling that no one cares to produce negative feelings that destroy your zeal.

You can rise above that attitude by being filled with the

mind of God. But how?

Stay close to God through obedience, daily prayer and Bible study. Maintain your interest in seeing that the Work of God is accomplished, and keep your eyes on the goal of eternal life. Build your faith in God, knowing that His love for you is a source of great encouragement.

Keep constantly in mind these words: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Gal. 6:9).

By fighting discouragement, you will be fighting the tendency to procrastinate.

Act now

Now that you have considered these barriers, what's your reaction? Have you seen some attitudes that are keeping you from doing God's will? Are you convicted of the need to stop procrastinating? Are you now ready to change?

Eliminating procrastination will bring you many blessings. Instead of frustration, anger and guilt, you'll experience peace of mind, a product of doing what is right (Isa. 32:17). Your productivity will increase and so will your blessings from God (Ps. 128:1-3).

Beyond these temporal blessings is an even-greater blessing — eternal life. Listen to Jesus Christ: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing [not waiting till later!]. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods" (Matt. 24:45-47).

God has given each of us responsibilities, and He expects us to be doing them now.

Don't risk your eternal life by ignoring top-priority matters. Overcome procrastination — now! □

sharing...

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

By John A. Halford

Not long ago, I received an advertisement in the mail. It offered a chance to "the leaders of tomorrow" to attend a convention at which experts from several fields would be discussing proposals for solving the world's problems.

Well, these things can sometimes be interesting, but then I looked at the cost. Ouch! A small fortune. Forget it. It just wasn't worth it for me.

But I am sure many "leaders of tomorrow" did feel it was worth it and were willing to pay the price to gain the knowledge they hope will lead them to success.

Each year, more than 100,000 members of the Worldwide Church of God attend the largest convention on earth — the Feast of Tabernacles. They travel to one of more than 80 sites in many

different countries. Friends and neighbors are sometimes astonished. "How can you afford to take a vacation like that every year?" they may ask. "What's your secret?"

It's no secret. God's people simply follow the instruction in Deuteronomy 14:22-27 to set aside a special tithe of their income during the year, so that when the time comes to go to the Feast the money is there.

Of course, many *Good News* readers already know this. Perhaps you are one of them. If so, you are already planning where you will keep the Feast in 1983.

Will you go to the site closest to you? Or will you ask to transfer to another site, in a part of your country you have always wanted to visit? Or maybe this year you will be adventuresome and attend in another country — Jamaica, New Zealand, even Czechoslovakia.

Well, a lot depends on whether you can afford it, doesn't it? The

advantage of saving for the Feast according to God's instructions is that you can estimate how much you will have. And you can figure out in advance how much it is all going to cost when you add up travel, hotels, meals, recreation.

Yes, you know what the Feast costs. But what is it worth?

Needed: right education

A potential leader should know the value of education. It is one of the laws that leads to success.

Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong has explained that in spite of dramatic physical progress, the human race is drowning in a sea of problems that it cannot solve. Knowledge to make *things* has never been greater — but nobody knows how to solve the steadily worsening problems.

But this world is not ready to give up yet — it's down but not out. In spite of the troubles and problems, people still think they can find a way out. Scientists say, "Give us sufficient knowledge



Good News Photos

and we will fix everything." And so more and more knowledge is being produced. Wealth and acclaim are lavished on those who produce that knowledge. They are considered successful. And tomorrow's aspiring leaders will pay almost any price in order to share in that success.

But this world just does not have the kind of knowledge that is needed to solve its problems. The world has been cut off from that knowledge. Instead, people follow any one of hundreds of different ways of life that may seem right to them, but lead inevitably to death (Prov. 16:25).

But when Christ returns to rule this earth, all this will be changed. For then, God will restore the spiritual knowledge of His way of life—knowledge that will lead to the solution to our problems—all of them.

God's knowledge revealed

When the government of God is restored to the earth, God's way will cover the earth as completely as the waters cover the ocean beds (Isa. 11:9).

Isaiah prophesied that Christ will not fail or be discouraged in this task until even the smallest inhabited islands are ready to give up their own ways and look to God's government for instruction (Isa. 42:4).

Christ is eagerly looking forward to teaching the whole world the knowledge of the right way of life. But to teach, there must be teachers who know that way. One cannot teach what he doesn't know.

And so Jesus Christ has already begun an educational program for those He has called to positions of leadership and service in the world tomorrow.

First, He teaches His chosen apostles. They, in turn, teach the ministry, and the ministry then teaches the members of God's congregations. That is how it was done in New Testament times, and it is the same today.

God's people treasure that knowledge and understanding, though the world in general may not. It is, as Paul said in I Corin-

thians 2:14, "foolishness" to most people in this world.

But God's people value what they have learned. They know that man's way doesn't work, and they have repented of that way. Now they want to learn to live life God's way, so that they can eventually be qualified to teach it. They are willing to, literally, start again, to go back to school and be taught as little children (Matt. 18:3).

Once God's people begin to understand, they hunger and thirst for more knowledge of God's way. How and where do they learn? They have many opportunities—at home with the Bible Correspondence Course and the Work's magazines and other literature, at Bible studies and at the Sabbath services of the Worldwide Church of God.

Probably never before in its history has God's Church had such a thorough educational program. But, effective as this program is, Christ knows that more is needed.

Learning by experience

Any educator knows that book learning is not enough. Sooner or later a mechanic must take an engine apart, a pilot must fly a plane and a dentist must fill his first tooth. There is no substitute for experience.

God's way of life is no exception. Learning about this way of life requires living it. Of course, we should try to live that way all the time.

But God's people are scattered. Many have families who do not share their beliefs. Some live long distances from a local church and other brethren. And all of us, to some extent, must mix on a day-by-day basis with this world and its ways.

So, once a year, Christ commands His Church to come out of this world to a place where He has placed His name to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. For eight days God's people conduct what you might call an experiment in living looking forward to the world tomorrow.

It is about as close to the atmo-

sphere of the world tomorrow that we will get this side of the Millennium.

The Feast of Tabernacles

Whether they are meeting at Squaw Valley, California; Braz-sur-Arly, France; or Honiara, Solomon Islands, the members of God's Church try to fill their environment with God's way of doing things!

The emphasis is to be happy and honest, to cooperate, to give and share. People make a special effort to help and serve. The lonely make new friends. The elderly and the handicapped find that they are never so well taken care of as at the Feast.

For eight days everyone has the chance to put into practice things they have been learning throughout the year, and discover more and more how well God's way works. It is a foretaste of what the world will be like when everybody knows that way and appreciates it.

How much would tomorrow's budding leaders give to have a chance to live for a while in the future for which they are so frantically preparing? What would a seminar like that be worth?

Well, that is the Feast. During those eight days God seems to give special help to His ministers in speaking and teaching His people.

In a real sense, the Feast is a training course for the leaders of tomorrow—commanded, inspired and supervised by the leader of the world tomorrow, Jesus Christ Himself. The Feast of Tabernacles represents the most remarkable value in education available today.

If they really understood the future, tomorrow's aspiring leaders would give anything to attend a training course like that. They would realize that they could learn and practice the knowledge that is really needed for the future. They would rush to be accepted, no matter what it cost.

But, you are accepted. You know what it costs. But, have you ever thought about how much it is worth? □

THE TIME IS RIGHT

At creation, God rested on and blessed the seventh day of the week. The seventh day or Sabbath, lasting from sundown at the end of the sixth day until the next sundown, is holy time, and God has commanded us to keep it holy.

But how can we know, today, which day God set apart and made holy? Can we be sure? Has the calendar been changed?

Our free booklet *Has Time Been Lost?* answers such questions as:

- Weren't 10 days dropped from the calendar at one time?
- Didn't Joshua's long day change the weekly cycle?

• How can we know that the pagan name *Saturday* was placed on the seventh day of the week according to the Hebrew calendar?

Has Time Been Lost? presents seven conclusive and irrefutable proofs that show time is right — and the time is right for you to understand this information! You may have a copy of this important booklet without any obligation simply by writing to our mailing address nearest you (see the inside front cover for addresses).

