



SAVED  
TO SERVE

*The  
Savior!*

# SAVED TO SERVE THE SAVIOR

Joe R. Garman

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New American Standard Bible.

# CONTENTS

Foreword.....	5
A Letter from Linda .....	6
Tributes .....	7
1. The Way of the Eagles .....	15
2. The Terror of Gadara .....	25
3. Fifty Fascinating Facts About Angels.....	35
4. What if God Suddenly Withdrew His Holy Spirit From This World?.....	45
5. Four Things God Does Not Know .....	51
6. The ABC's of Salvation .....	55
7. God's Great Spiritual Truths Revealed .....	57
8. Answer These Questions! .....	69
9. Christmas Day In Prison.....	73
10. Ministering To Those in Prison.....	79
Appendices .....	87

# DEDICATION

For all who have taken seriously the mandate of Jesus to go to those in prison, and have faithfully, sacrificially and generously supported the work of ARM Prison Outreach, International with your prayers, encouragement, volunteer work and gifts.

*"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For...I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'"*

*"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord...when when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'"*

*"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:34, 37, 39, 40)*

# FOREWORD

One day I was sitting with Joe R. Garman in his comfortable and welcoming office at ARM Prison Outreach, International in Joplin, Missouri. I noticed the ministry logo on his desk and it almost jumped out at me. “Joe,” I said, “do you realize you are the only man I know who has the name of his ministry right in the middle of his name?” I wish you could have seen the look of surprise and delight spread over his face. “I never thought of that!” he exclaimed. But it is right there for every one to see: JOE GARMAN.

ARM is known far and wide as “The Mission with an ARM Around the World.” But Joe Garman is the heart behind this unique and effectual ministry. I don’t know of any person who has a bigger and greater heart than Brother Joe. He has a heart for God, a heart for the lost, a heart for those in prison, and a heart for every man, woman, boy and girl on this great planet. His heart beats for the salvation of the souls of mankind.

The title for this book was inspired by the complimentary close that Joe R. Garman uses for every letter he writes: *Saved to Serve the Savior*. When God saved Joe at the age of 10, it wasn’t long until Joe understood that he was no longer his own. He was “bought with a price.” He was “saved to serve the Savior.” That’s why he went to Bible college at Ozark Bible College, went to work for Revival Fires, went to Israel and Korea as a missionary, and in 1973 founded American Rehabilitation Ministries.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve on ARM’s Board of Directors since 1990 (as Chairman of the Board since 1996). Evelyn and I financially support this great ministry because we believe it is fulfilling the biblical mandate to minister to “the least of these” in prison (Matthew 25:39, 40). We don’t often go into prisons, but Brother Joe personally enters many state and federal prisons each year to teach his three-day “See Through the Scriptures” soul-saving seminar. Joe believes that every man and woman must be properly disciplined before being immersed in one of ARM’s baptisteries.

In this special book – printed without Joe’s knowledge and in honor of ARM’s 40th anniversary – you will find some of the best of Joe’s tracts and pamphlets that he has written and distributed in his work of sharing the Word of God with men and women behind bars in prisons all over America and around the world. Brother Joe says, “When the love for Jesus takes root in a prisoner’s heart, life and mind, redemption is possible. Inspiring and instructing inmates who were previously without Christ and without hope in this world is the mission of ARM.” It is our hope that you too will be blessed reading them. “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Victor Knowles, Chairman of the Board  
ARM Prison Outreach, International  
Joplin, Missouri

# A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST LADY OF ARM

*Congratulations, Sweetheart,  
on 40 years of serving God in prison ministry.  
It has been an amazing journey.  
Who knew what God had in view when you  
visited that first prison cell in South Korea?  
It has been my joy to walk beside you on this journey.  
May God bless you as you continue to serve Him!*



*Love you always,  
Linda*

# TRIBUTES

To honor and describe Joe Robert Garman would take a Thesaurus. But some of my parishioners here in this prison always and constantly see the love of Jesus Christ in Brother Joe. They tell me that he is not only an inspiration but they aspire to be like him. He is a mentor and a gifted Bible teacher; we love him and his work *in the Lord*. He is one of God's angels on earth. His humor is like a rubber sword – it makes his point without drawing blood.

**H. WARREN ALDERSON**, Protestant Chaplain  
California Men's Colony  
San Luis Obispo, CA



Brother Joe, I have very much appreciated your leadership of ARM over the years and your calmness in guiding the board meetings. You bring up different subjects for the board to consider in just the right way. With the increasing decay of our nation's morality, supplying Scriptures and correspondence courses to the prisons is desperately needed now more than ever.

**GORDON BANE**, ARM Director  
Sedgwick, KS



I have found Joe Garman to be one of the most energetic and surprising servants of the Lord in my acquaintance.

In the early 1970s, we were working in an area heavily infiltrated by Communist terrorists. Joe wrote that he would like to hold a revival meeting for us. We replied that public meetings were prohibited in our area, but he would be welcome to visit us if he could find the way. We were located on the Lao Border of northern Thailand with no all-weather roads.

Much to our surprise Joe arrived one day on the back of a motorcycle. We enjoyed his visit but never found out how he made it the 600 kilometers from Bangkok.

Again, in 1982, we were on a medical mission at Christianville in Haiti when Joe Garman showed up. We enjoyed a few days of stimulating fellowship. It is not surprising that Joe launched a prison ministry that is changing lives around the world

**DR. GARLAND BARE**, Retired Missionary  
Joplin, MO

To my very young friend (well, lots younger than I am) for at least 50 years! Thank you, Joe, for being a faithful friend to both Davie and me. Thank you for getting me started in prison ministry. Thank you for being a great example as a husband to your precious wife Linda and a great dad to your daughters. Thank you for being faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ always. I have been privileged to work with you in prisons all over the world; privileged to see, first-hand, the sacrifices that you have made in order to proclaim Jesus to the lost. You are certainly an unsung hero of the faith! Besides all this you have given me so many good laughs. Thank you for all you have done for the Lord and all that you are doing now for Him. I know you will continue as long as the Lord gives you the strength and ability. Congratulations on 40 years of ministry with ARM!

**BARBARA BARGER**, Gospel Singer  
Tulsa, OK



I have a profound appreciation for the faithfulness and consistency of you both, Joe and Linda. I have not spoken with you, Sister Linda, but have known of your labor and faith for years.

Concerning you both, faithfulness and persistence in Christ is not something to be taken for granted. They do involve considerable effort on the part of the people – but that is not the secret to their effectiveness. Good ministries, such as those in which you are engaged, have been blessed by the great Faithful and Consistent One. Real effectiveness, which is something that brings glory to God and lasting benefits to men, is like God’s thumbprint. It reveals that He is involved in the work – and that confirms His approval of the workers, for God does not give aid to His enemies.

The very fact that you continue faithfully in ministries that bring glory to God and eternal advantages to people, confirms that you have faith and love, that God is holding you up, and that He is blessing your work.

I am happy to count you as my brethren and my friends

*“Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).*

**GIVEN O. BLAKELY**, Minister  
Word of Truth Fellowship  
Joplin, MO

When I returned to Joplin in the summer of 1996 to come on board as a professor at Ozark Christian College, the name Joe Garman was just a name of a person that had established the ministry known as ARM. My knowledge of Joe Garman was very limited. However, that quickly changed as I recruited Joe to be a guest lecturer in my Practical Ministry class. I needed someone to speak to these future ministers about the importance of ministering to those imprisoned. What better person than someone who does it as a way of life: Joe Garman.

With Joe's first class presentation, I knew that standing before my students was a man of God that loved doing what he did for a living. His passion for sharing the gospel to those in prison was the heartbeat of his life. He communicated a love for lost souls as well as a commitment to help those training for ministry. It has been a joy to watch the students respond to this love and commitment. As Joe would say, "Amen, brothers!"

Since that fall of 1996, Joe has presented a lecture on prison ministry in every Practical Ministry class that I have taught – sometimes two in a semester! Over that time, I have come to view Joe as a good friend. He has been a source of encouragement as well as a listening ear. Over these years, he has been much more than a guest lecturer, he has become a respected friend. It is with great honor to write this tribute for such a great man of God. Joe, thank you for being the person you are. You are indeed a blessing!

**BRIAN BRUBAKER**, Professor  
Ozark Christian College  
Joplin, MO



Congratulations, Joe, on 40 years of prison ministry. It has been a blessing to serve with you these many years and to witness our Lord's leading in your life and ministry. He has placed in you a rare combination of vision and drive to found and lead a ministry most men would run from while at the same time the tender heart of compassion to reach out to those men in prison who have done terrible things. It is truly God's strength and love flowing through you.

May God continue to bless and keep you.

**MARK DAVIS**, ARM Director  
Gentry, AR

God bless you, Brother Joe! Your happy spirit and passion for Christ combine in a delightful way in your ministry and you have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of people. We can observe in you as well as in your family a deep commitment to kingdom building and to Jesus being lifted up in a dark and broken world.

I am deeply grateful for your long support of and partnership with College Press Publishing as well as the work of Literature and Teaching Ministry. Your unselfish approach to the work of our Lord will continue to bear much fruit. I am so glad for this occasion to honor you and to speak these words of encouragement to you and to your dear wife.

Thank you, Joe and Linda, for being such faithful servants over these many years. Carol and I enjoyed our time with you and Linda last summer up in Winema, Oregon. It is our wish that God grants you many more years of effective ministry and opportunities for service to our glorious King.

**CHRIS DeWELT**, Publisher  
College Press Publishing Company  
Joplin, MO



Congratulations on ARM's 40-year anniversary! You have demonstrated a lifetime of showing us how to live out Matthew 25:36, "*...I was in prison and you came to visit Me.*" Thank you for the fine example of integrity you have set not only in your professional career, but also in your personal life. I am truly blessed to be able to have the opportunity to serve beside you.

**BRANDON FREED**, ARM Director  
Joplin, MO



The Scriptures teach us to give honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7). In particular, we are to honor men in the church like Epaphroditus for their selfless service in the cause of Christ (Philippians 2:29). In view of this biblical principle I am eager to hold you in high esteem as a wonderful example. Your life of service is an inspiration to young and old alike

In addition to using the gifts that God has given you, you have the humility to encourage and support others in the use of their gifts. This Christlike quality

has meant a great deal to me personally.

So, thanks Joe for your faith and friendship. May God give you many more years of fruitful service in His Kingdom.

**BOYCE MOUTON**, Associate Minister  
Christian Church of Carl Junction  
Carl Junction, MO



Across the Americas and in many parts of the world, the name Joe Garman is synonymous with the phrase “a powerful preacher with a passion for people.”

It has been a privilege to know Joe from his college days, and to witness his life and work in reaching out to others in the name of Christ. Joe is one of the most generous people in God’s great kingdom, and it is an honor to know him.

Joe and I have worked on several projects closely through the years, and I marvel at his deep commitment and faith. His love for God, family, and country is a wonderful model which we would all do well to follow, even as he follows in the footprints of Christ.

**ZIDEN L. NUTT**, Founder  
Good News Productions, International  
Joplin, MO



Brother Joe, Tracy and I want to honor and salute you for your faithful work and leadership of ARM for 40 years! Wow, there are so few Christian ministry leaders in America with that kind of track record with the same ministry. We love you and congratulate you and hope to continue to serve the wonderful ministry of ARM for many more years together, to see millions more captives set free!

**ROB SMITH**, ARM Director  
Ozark, MO

It is a thrill to write a tribute to my friend that I have known for more than 40 years! I first knew Joe Garman as a young man who astounded the whole brotherhood with his evangelistic campaigns in Korea where hundreds were won to Christ. All of us who were members of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ greatly admired Joe in those early days.

As the Director of Overseas Evangelism for the Revival Fires Ministry it was my joy to serve with Joe Garman as we traveled together in evangelism. I observed first hand the untiring efforts of Joe to win souls to Christ. He was always joyful, enthusiastic, optimistic, and Christ-like in his work as an Evangelist.

After Joe resigned from Revival Fires to establish ARM, it has been a pleasure to serve on his Board of Directors and to witness the phenomenal growth of the ARM ministry serving the prisons of America and also the prisons of several foreign nations. Joe's invention of the Communion Table Baptistery and the Collapsible Baptistery has been a blessing to the work of Christ all over the world. Only Heaven can record the thousands of souls who have been baptized into Christ as a result of Joe Garman's innovative method of helping others to be able to obey Christ. May God bless you, Joe, on this 40th anniversary of ARM.

**REGGIE THOMAS**, Founder/Director  
White Fields Overseas Evangelism  
Joplin, MO



Joe – you have endeared yourself to me like one of my kids – in fact, I do consider you one of my “Timothys!”

I will never forget when you first came to work at Revival Fires on North Wall Street.

You were bright, with a big smile, and single! I believed that God had a much bigger calling for you than adding new names on a Pitney Bowes embossing machine!

Your travels with me in my crusades to help put up our big tent and help in the nightly services made me appreciate you even more! You served humbly and for very little pay – sorry about that!

When you began to work with me in the Revival Fires office on North Main, as the head of our Prison Ministry, your ministry really took off in exciting ways! You saw a desperate need – and you dedicated yourself to fill it!

Then you came to me one day, wanting to have your own building and a separate prison ministry. You wanted to call it American Rehabilitation Ministries or ARM. You were like one of my kids wanting to leave the nest, to fly on your own! You and your family mean more to me than I can ever tell you! You have made me proud again and again!

Now it is 40 years later and you head one of the best known and most respected Prison Ministries in the world. As a Christian leader, you are admired, respected and quoted by so many, including me!

Life's little day is about over for you and me, Joe. Soon we will all stand in His Holy presence – and when we do, I believe we will hear our Savior say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter in to the joy of your Lord”* (Matthew 25:21).

**CECIL TODD**, Founder/Director  
Revival Fires  
West Branson, MO



Congratulations, Joe, on 40 years of wonderful service through ARM. Any friend of Keith Phillips would be a good friend of mine. (You and Norman Conard may still owe for some broken windows at Ozark Christian College but otherwise I consider you a great guy!) It has certainly been a pleasure to serve on the board and share in a ministry that has touched so many lives. May God continue to bless you and your family.

**JERRY WHITE**, ARM Director  
Purdy, MO



Dear Joe, I remember first meeting you when you came to Racine Christian Church for the purpose of requesting support to start American Rehabilitation Ministries.

Even though you enjoy life, I have always been impressed by your seriousness, commitment, and generosity when it comes to your ministry, helping others, and for your constant and steadfast concern for the Lord's work.

Being on ARM's board I have witnessed you shedding many tears of concern for the lost, for those in unfortunate circumstances, and your desire to help them in any way you could. I feel humbled and fortunate to have served in some small way on ARM's board with you.

**CLIFFORD WHITEHEAD**, ARM Director  
Neosho, MO





# THE WAY OF THE EAGLES

*“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show you; thy elders, and they will tell you.*

**W**hen the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

*For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance.*

*He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.*

*As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him” (Deuteronomy 32:7-12 KJV).*

It is thrilling as we walk through the pages, chapters, and verses of God’s Holy and inspired writings to see the many times God refers to His followers as being like mighty eagles.

In my evangelistic endeavors around the world, I have had the privilege of leading crusades in 59 different nations. It never ceases to amaze me how many of these nations have the emblem of an eagle interwoven into their national flag or symbol.

In some republics, for instance, they have the wings of an eagle on both sides of the police badge, showing authority, strength, and power.

Other countries have the emblem of an eagle on the flag pole just above the flag, showing authority. It is not so unusual that man should recognize the eagle as the greatest of all the birds that fill our sky today, because the Lord also recognized the eagle to be such and many times compared his followers to them.

## **Eagle Flight Patterns**

Isaiah records, *“Those who wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as a mighty eagle”* (Isaiah 40:31).

Stop and think about what Isaiah is saying. If our faith and trust is in the Lord, if our faith does not falter regardless of what Satan casts against us, we can and we shall rise up and over these trials and temptations upon wings as a mighty eagle.

## **Into the Storms of Life**

Did you realize the eagle is the only bird which flies directly into a thunderstorm? Other birds fly away from a thunderstorm seeking refuge and shelter in the safety of a barn or their nest. But it is not so with the mighty eagle.

The eagle flies directly into the thunderclouds. God does not permit storms in our life for the purpose of defeating us but for the purpose of benefiting us.

What are the benefits of turbulent winds? Turbulent winds cause the eagle to fly higher, giving him a larger view, lifting him above harassment, allowing him to use less effort, and helping him to fly faster.

## **Rising above the Clouds**

These updrafts cause the eagle to reach great heights as he soars with them. From this higher position his sharp eyes are able to see more. As he soars higher, he leaves behind all distractions. The feather structure prevents stalling, reduces the turbulence, and produces a relatively smooth ride with minimum effort — even in rough winds. Thus, when he glides in wind currents, speeds of 80 to 100 miles per hour are not uncommon.

The Christian is like the eagle in that he also faces turbulent winds in his life but the power of the Christian to rise above the pressures and temptations comes from his identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ: *“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made comfortable unto His death”* (Philippians 3:10).

This is exactly what Isaiah is saying. We too can rise above the thunderstorms of life, if we will but wait upon the Lord and seek His will in these situations that confront us.

It is also interesting to ask the question, “How did Isaiah know the ways of the eagle back in an age of ignorance and superstition? How did Isaiah or those around him know that the eagle flew over the thunderclouds rather than away from them like all the other birds? How could he have recorded this for our reading today, if it were not given to him by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?” Only the Lord could have put those thoughts and words in Isaiah’s mind and heart. This is another evidence to prove the Bible is indeed the Word of God.

## **No Easy Flight**

Perhaps sometime for devotions you will take a good Bible concordance in

one hand and the Holy Scriptures in the other and go from cover to cover looking at the various ways the Lord refers to His followers as being like this powerful bird. Of all the scriptures speaking of the ways of the eagle, my favorite is Deuteronomy 32:7-12.

Once, when I was preaching a revival meeting in a small country church this verse was brought to my attention by a wildlife conservation commissioner who had observed the way of the eagles around the world. He said, “Deuteronomy 32:7-12 proves to me all the more that the Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is correct in every instance when it refers to the way the Mediterranean eagle learns to fly”.

Look first of all at Deuteronomy 32:11. It states that the first thing the eagle does is to stir up its nest. The conservationist said of all the birds that fill our skies today, the baby eagle is the hardest to teach to fly.

### **Nest Too Comfortable**

This is probably because eagles build their nest so high upon the mountain peak. If a young sparrow or robin learning to fly happens to fall to the ground, it does not have far to fall to safe, warm, comfortable leaves. But it is not so with the baby eagle. He knows crashing into the craggy rocks means instant death. For this reason the bird is very hesitant to leave his nest.

### **Flight Too Risky**

Can't you see the baby eagle as he looks over the side of his nest and shakes his head, thinking, “No, not me. I have never passed this way and I am not about to begin now. This nest has been home to me for some time and I am going to stay in it.” Then mother eagle takes things into her care.

### **Stirring Up the Nest**

The first thing mother eagle does, according to the Bible and according to the wildlife commissioner, is to stir up the nest. In other words, she begins walking around inside the nest, breaking the twigs and turning over the leaves. The nest which had been so safe, warm, and comfortable is no longer that way. Now the wind can blow through the holes in the nest that mother has made. Now the little sticks begin to poke the bird's side. Home is not as comfortable as it was.

You see, mother literally tore up his nest to force him to leave it. Many times, this is exactly how God must work with us. Sometimes God has to stir up our security in order to get us to launch into the next great program of faith He has ready for us.

We like to have nice things and plenty of them. There is nothing wrong with wanting nice things or even possessing nice things. This becomes wrong when these things begin to interfere with God's will for our lives.

Hold a coin an arm's distance away from your eye and it looks very small in comparison to all the other things you can see around it. But put the coin

only one inch from your eye and you will notice you can hardly see anything else because the coin is obstructing your view.

As long as we keep earthly possessions in their proper place, there is nothing wrong with having them. But, when they begin to obstruct our spiritual vision and stand as obstacles in the way of God's will for us, these things become wrong.

Not only has mother stirred up the baby bird's security, but she has made him very uncomfortable. This is how God must deal with us at times.

But, the little bird thinks to himself, "Well, it isn't as nice as it once was, but it is still my home, and I am going to stay right here." Then mother has to do the next thing the Bible states and the wildlife commissioner confirms. She hovers over her young baby, flapping her powerful wings just over his head. She will flutter her wings for several seconds, then rest, then flutter, then rest. The little bird will be running back and forth inside the nest trying to escape his mother's powerful wings, but regardless of where he goes, she is there. She made the nest. She knows it much better than he does. He cannot escape the presence of his mother.

The baby bird is probably thinking to himself, "What a terrible turn of events this is. These were the wings that used to hide me when foes would come upon me. These were the wings that used to protect me from the cold, and now these wings are trying to beat me to death. Mother doesn't love me anymore!" But this is far from the truth.

Mother loves her baby. She is simply trying to get him to launch out so he can become the kind of eagle God meant for him to be. And sometimes God has to hover over us with His powerful wings in order to get us to launch out and become the kind of Eagle Christians He wants us to be.

This hovering process of God can be our greatest motivation for spiritual growth or our deadliest means of discouragement, trouble, affliction, opposition, pressure, chastening, anguish, testing. Tribulation will become destructive if we fail to see the hand of God behind it: "*For the people turneth not unto Him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the Lord of hosts*" (Isaiah 9:13).

Now the little bird is watching all of this. He knows his mother hovers for only a few seconds and then is resting, and the bird thinks to himself, "I know what I'll do. The next time mother rests those wings I'll scurry up on the back of her neck. She can't beat me if I am sitting on the back of her neck." This is exactly what he does. By the way, it is also exactly what the mother knew he would do. When mother rests, the little bird scurries up her wing onto the back of her neck.

The wildlife commissioner said it is amazing to watch through binoculars at how fast these little birds can travel. Now the little bird is sitting on the back of his mother's neck and thinking, "Oh, what a smart bird am I." But if eagles could smile, she would have a big smile on her beak as she flies away from the nest.

## Failure At First

While teaching him to fly, the mother eagle will take her baby high above the clouds, higher than he had ever dreamed of going. The little bird sitting on his mother's back looking around thinks to himself, "My, how beautiful all this is. This is indeed a mountain top experience. I feel so sorry for those chickens and ducks who cannot get up this high." And just when the bird is enjoying life at its very finest, mother darts out from underneath him, leaving him stranded in mid-air. The little bird begins to flop his wings as hard as he can but his wings will not hold him up. He looks at the ground, it is coming toward him at record speed. The little bird closes his eyes, he doesn't want to see it when he hits, and just when he is ready to hit the ground, suddenly there is mother's wing, and on her wing she once again bears him up into the heavens.

Isn't this exactly how the good Lord deals with us? Sometimes we are closer to the Lord than at other times, aren't we? This is natural. Sometimes we have mountain top experiences and other times we seem to be walking through the valleys. But regardless of where we are, God's wing is always there and God is ever waiting to lift us once again back onto the mountain top with Him.

Do you remember when you became a Christian, when you walked down the aisle and took the minister's hand? You said before that audience, "Yes, I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Can you remember what a mountain top experience this was in your life? But shortly thereafter you encountered the valleys and you felt yourself falling farther away from the Lord than you had ever been. This happens in everyone's life, not just yours. But, regardless of how far away we fall, God somehow provides a spark of revival for us. God provides a ray of light for us, ever trying to reach us and get our attention so He can lift us back even higher.

## "I Will Never Leave You"

The Lord said, "*I will never forsake you. I will be with you even until the end of the age.*"

Some of us know what it is to be on God's wings when He takes us in flight, when he inspires us with courage and teaches us to use our wings. Others of us have come to that experience when, after all the flying, all the doing, all the enduring, we are weary at heart, and we seek shelter under His wings. In the same way the eagle, after her flight with her little one, takes him back into her shelter, and in effect says, "You are tired now. I will use the wings which have borne you, when wearied in flight all around you, to protect you against both the storm and the foe."

The little one will not even hear the storm without. He has felt the hard side of the wing; he now feels the soft, warm feathery side of it. The Psalmist also knew what it was to be on the wing of God, borne upon the storm so that he might learn how to fly. He thanks God that when he has become weary of the storm because it is too much for his strength, he is taken back into the nest, under the warmth and shelter of that wing which formerly had sustained him.

## Growing In Him

The Bible many times refers to the Christian life as being like the physical life. When you were a baby, you could not walk. You would try to walk and take maybe one or two steps and fall. You would hurt yourself and cry. But what would have happened if you would have just laid there and kicked your legs and said, “Oh, I’ll never learn how to walk. I give up!” If you had taken that attitude you would not have learned to walk. Instead you took your parent’s hand and got up again. You kept trying and finally you could take several steps without falling. After days of practice you could finally go across the room without falling. Then you learned how to run. You learned how to walk backwards and jump up and down and go in circles. But there was only one way you learned to do this. That was by taking your parent’s hand and getting back up and trying it again.

It is the same with the Christian life. The Bible says that when we are first baptized into Jesus Christ, we are babes in Christ. We are not fully mature Christians. We are going to make mistakes. We are going to trip and fall, but we must not become discouraged! We must refuse to say, “I cannot do it.” Instead, say, “Through the power of God I can be a better Christian.”

If we will keep taking our heavenly Father’s hand and getting up again, then we will begin to walk like Christians. The more we get up, the stronger we become the next time. This is not saying you will finally get to the place where you will never fall. I have never met anyone who has attained perfection. Rather, we are always learning to grow in the Lord. I have known people who have been Bible scholars for over 50 years and they will still tell you that they are learning and growing in Jesus. So we never get to the place where we can say, “Now I have attained. Now I am THE Christian.” But rather we are constantly growing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you enter a midwest state prison, there is a sign hanging over the door which reads, “The fault is not in falling. Rather the fault is in not getting up again.” It is the same way with the Christian life. Everyone falls. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, “*For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*” We have all sinned. Sin is wrong but the greatest of all faults is not the sin. The greatest of all faults is not getting up again.

## Risking More — Soaring Higher

Now the mother eagle is flying along with the baby safely on her wing once again. The little bird is thinking to himself, “Wow, I never want to go through that experience again. Mother, if you love me, don’t ever drop me again.” Mother flies along until his blood begins to circulate normally again. His heart begins to beat at a comfortable pace again and then, just when he thinks everything is right, suddenly mother’s wing darts out from under him the second time. Once again he falls through the annals of space. His little wings still unable to hold him up, yet they function better than they did the first time. Time after time this mother will catch her baby, take him high into the air and then drop him again, until finally he learns to stretch those God-given wings and

soar through the sky the way the Lord meant an eagle to do.

Even then she will not leave her baby, but she stays with him and teaches him how to build a nest. She teaches him to hunt, and to be the kind of eagle God meant him to be. Isn't that exactly the way God deals with us?

But, the commissioner said, sometimes the baby eagle will refuse to learn to fly. After being dropped several dozen times he thinks to himself, "Why should I try to fly? Mother is going to catch me anyway." So he just folds his wings and lets himself drop. The commissioner said the mother will work with the baby long into the night. Early the next morning she will be back in the heavens again, dropping her baby, screeching at the top of her voice, exhorting him to fly like an eagle.

### **Fly or Die**

Finally, after several days of working with her baby, if there are no signs of the desire to fly, she will take him for one final flight, higher than he has ever gone before. Darting out from under him she will leave him to fall to his death on the craggy rocks.

As long as she lives, she will never again return to that place where her baby fell to his death. Psychiatrists have tried to reason why an eagle will do this to its offspring. It is the only bird known to man that would rather have its offspring die this sudden death than to stay in the nest and become the prey of some wild beast or freeze to death on some cold night.

The only answer man has conceived is that somewhere deep within the nature of this mighty and powerful bird is the spirit that would rather have its young die instantly than die some slow and dishonorable death.

Haven't we seen this happen within the church as well? I know I have. I have seen ministers, Sunday School teachers, Christian men and women whom I thought were so close to God and flew on such a high spiritual plane with the Lord, but then suddenly something happened within their life. They fell to such a low and apostate condition, they not only began to believe in false doctrine and worship vain religions, but they even began to teach others to do the same. When these things happen you ask yourself, wondering, "How can this be? How can someone who knew the Lord so well fall to this position?"

The Bible tells us how. These people prayed to be Eagle Christians, but there was an undercurrent of rebellious nature which would not submit to the will of God. They had secret sins they refused to let go. The Lord said, "*You cannot serve Me and love the world. You are either for Me or you are against Me. You cannot be in between. I would that you were either hot or cold. If you try to be lukewarm I will vomit you out of My mouth.*" (Revelation 3:16)

*"No man can serve two masters. He will love the one and hate the other. Or cling to one and despise the other. You are either gathering with Me or you are scattering abroad."* (Matthew 6:24)

Sometimes it seems as if every nest we feather is scattered and we are constantly being driven off the ledge of life. But God wants us to ever be testing our wings against the stormy gales.

Just think of the pinions we will have, the vision we will have gained, and the ranges we can sweep. Then ask if it is not an eternal kindness that hovers over us.

## Chicken or Eagle

When a chicken falls it doesn't have far to fall and usually there is a soft landing for the chicken in the barn lot. The highest a chicken can go is on the limb of a tree or on top of the chicken house.

But when an eagle falls many eyes behold the eagle. So it is with the people who try to live for Christ. Have you ever noticed that when a person who has never made a profession of faith in Jesus commits some great wrong in the community, no one seems to say much about it? But let a man or woman who really tried to live for God, commit the same wrong and what does everyone shout?

"Hypocrite, hypocrite, look at what he said he was and look at what he did." You see, not many eyes behold the chicken when it falls, but many eyes behold the eagle.

In most countries we tend to separate our chickens. One farmer doesn't want his chickens eating another farmer's corn. It is a terrible thought, and I tremble to think about it, but I am afraid this is exactly what man has tried to do with the Lord's Body as well.

Man has made Christ's Body a chicken yard religious system. I repeat, man, not God, has made it so.

We presently have hundreds of separate chicken pens and we tell our people to stay within these congregations. "Now, you should not worship with that congregation because it is of a little different belief. You of this group, do not fellowship with those folks because you are supposed to stay in your own chicken pen."

But there is, deep within the nature of the Eagle Christian, something that tells him, "This is not right. I must rise higher than these others ever dreamed." This is exactly why I refuse to let anyone tag me or put me in a jacket as to which "denomination" I belong. I do not want to belong to any denomination, rather I want to belong to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I do not claim to be the only Christian. I am simply claiming to be Christian only. I do not want to be bound by man-made creeds and doctrines, rather I want to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. In opinion, I say we need to have liberty, but in doctrine we must have unity.

The church to which I belong has no headquarters in the world. Its headquarters are in Heaven. There is no earthly head over the church of which I am a member. The only head over my church is Jesus Christ himself.

Freedom in Christ is not being hand-cuffed or shackled to a denomination, but rather being an Eagle Christian. It is rising higher and freer in Jesus than others ever dreamed. Settle for nothing less in your life than to become an "eagle" Christian.

Don't put it off another moment. Become an Eagle Christian today. Believe in Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. Confess His precious Name among men.

Repent of your sins and be buried with Christ in Christian baptism. Begin to live life in glory to God. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Joe R. Garman, ARM President

Footnote: There are 48 kinds of eagles in the world. Only the Bald Eagle and the Golden Eagle breed in the United States and Canada. Different kinds of eagles have various ways of training their young to fly. The eagle herein described is the Mediterranean Eagle common to Israel.

### **Under His Wings**

*The mother Eagle wrecks the nest  
To make her fledglings fly,  
But watches each, with wings outstretched  
And fierce maternal eye;  
And swoops if any fail to soar,  
And lands them on the crag once more.  
So God at times breaks up our nest  
Lest, sunk in slothful ease,  
Our souls' wings molt and lose the zest  
For battle with the breeze;  
But ever waits, with arms of love  
To bear our souls all ills above.*

-Author Unknown

All we have to do is lift our eyes and humble our hearts, looking unto the Lord.  
He is there!





# THE TERROR OF GADARA

**M**ark 5 is so relevant and real for us today. It wasn't very long ago that Clyde Thompson, the son of a minister, committed his terrible crimes and as a result was incarcerated on death row in Huntsville, Texas.

Clyde never went to church with the rest of his family. He would get up early on Sunday morning and stay out hunting all day. He would come back late at night so he would not have to face his mother and father. The church and the community tried to make excuses for Clyde Thompson, but really, they could not excuse his actions.

Clyde not only refused to go to church, he was developing a very rotten attitude. He was becoming a mean person.

One day, while hunting on a Sunday afternoon, he met some men in the woods. We don't know all that happened, but Clyde killed two of those men before he left. Then he started to run from the law until finally he was arrested and placed on death row in Huntsville, Texas.

Death row inmates were separated from the regular population. They ate and had recreation together but could not come into contact with the rest of the inmate population. While on death row he killed two more men, making a total of four people he had killed. He developed such a terrible reputation inside death row that at last the guards took him off death row and put him in the morgue, which was a small building containing six slabs, where they laid the bodies after execution.

They took the slabs out and placed a steel door on the morgue. It contained a four-inch square where the light could enter and the guards could look through. Because this morgue sat between two very tall buildings inside the prison, daylight could only enter for six hours each day.

They stripped him of all his clothes. He wore nothing but his undershorts, walking and ranting around inside this morgue like some wild animal. When the guards would come too close he would try to spit at them through the small window, and yet he was not insane; he was very sane. He was just a terrible person!

As the years passed, Clyde Thompson was tagged by his own prison mates on death row as the meanest man in the State of Texas. Oh friend, do you know how mean he must have been? What an attitude he must have had toward God and toward man until the day that Jesus set foot on his coast.

But God has His people everywhere. One of the prison guards said, “Clyde, you don’t have anything to read in there. I would bring you a Bible if you promise not to tear it up.”

Clyde said, “You are right. I have nothing to read. I would take a Bible.”

During the six hours of daylight, Clyde would read the passages of Scripture and when it got dark, he would try to remember what he had read. He did not realize it then, but he was actually memorizing and meditating on the Word of God. No great television personality came and gave his testimony to Clyde Thompson. No preacher preached a sermon. There was nothing but the Word of God which the Scriptures state is the power of God unto salvation. Friends, you cannot memorize and meditate on the Word of God without something taking place in your life. Either you are going to change your lifestyle or you are going to throw the Bible back through the cell bars.

A change began to come over Clyde Thompson. The guards noticed it. Finally he was released from the morgue to return to death row. There, on death row, he baptized by immersion eight other prisoners. He made such an impression on prison administration that they finally released him from death row and let him go among the general population. He became the chaplain’s right-hand man, what is known inside the walls as the chaplain’s assistant. Eventually the State of Texas gave him a life-time parole, which meant he would be limited in his activities like any other parolee and be required to check in each week to his parole officer. As long as he did not break the law he could live on the outside.

Where did Clyde Thompson go? Straight to the Lubbock County Jail, one of the largest county jails in Texas. He began a chaplaincy program there and

died in July of 1979. It was Clyde Thompson who will go down in God's record book as one of the greatest soul winners this present generation has ever known. It was Clyde Thompson, the meanest man in the State of Texas, who literally led hundreds of men, women, boys and girls out of the streets of alcoholism, out of the streets of drugs, and to the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. It was this man, Clyde Thompson, the meanest man in the State of Texas, who was transformed the day he allowed Jesus to set foot on his coast.

You see, Mark 5 should not be filed in history as something that happened once and can never happen again. The man in Mark 5 lived in a graveyard. Clyde Thompson lived in a morgue. The man in Mark 5 wore no clothing. Clyde Thompson was only allowed to have his undershorts. This man in Gadara went ranting and raging and spitting and spewing upon the people of the community — so did Clyde Thompson. The man in Gadara was completely transformed, and praise the Lord, so can you be completely transformed!

**THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR A SICK  
AND DYING WORLD SUPERIOR TO THIS LESSON  
IS THE CROSS ITSELF**

Three of the four Gospels (Mark 5, Luke 8, and Matthew 8) tell this thrilling story of the healing of the terror of Gadara. And oh, what a terror he was.

Gadara is a beautiful seacoast community nestled against the Sea of Galilee. In the evening they could watch the fishermen who would be out late on the sea fishing. During the day the farmers would be plowing their fields and the children would leave for school. Yet in all its beauty and splendor there was a cloud that hung over Gadara, because people in Gadara never knew when this wild man was coming to town. He walked around with his arms lacerated, his legs bleeding, and all the while refusing to wear clothes. At night the people of Gadara would hear his blood-curdling scream, the cry of a wild man possessed. Their funeral processions in the graveyard would have to be hurried. Lookouts would be posted to watch for this man lest he come running out from the tombs and embarrass everybody at the funeral.

But friend, in my many years working with prisoners and their families, I believe I can see something else that took place each evening in Gadara. I can see a wife as she kneels beside her bed at night and prays, "Lord, send someone to my husband. The whole community thinks he is crazy...but I love him. I know him. I believe You, Lord, can make the difference. Please send someone to my husband." Even as wives today are praying for their husbands who are presently filled with the powers of evil.

I can see little children in Gadara kneel beside their beds and pray, "Oh, Lord, please send somebody to talk to my daddy." Even as tonight, all across this nation, we will have tens of thousands of children praying that same prayer.

He was useless to his family, to his community, and to humanity until that day he met Jesus.

At first this story appears remote from our life; we seem to have no part in it, but as we think about it we find it is describing something of our own stresses and strains. The story touches our life simply because the man is a type of one who has lost control of himself; he is the prey of morbid passions and delusions, he is miserably unhappy and restless, and an offense to all his neighbors. The records of modern medical psychology would produce many cases, milder perhaps than the story of the madman of Gadara, yet to a certain extent, parallel, in which a personality is torn and distracted between the warring elements in its own being.

### **WHO CAN PLACE A VALUE ON THE HUMAN SOUL?**

When Jesus set foot on the coast of Gadara, this wild man did not walk; rather, the Scriptures state, he came running to meet Jesus. You know, sometimes it's not good for people to meet each other. It was certainly not good for Anthony to meet Cleopatra. It was not good for Samson to meet Delilah. But on this occasion it was good for the terror of Gadara to meet Jesus Christ. And it would certainly be good for you to meet Him too. That is my prayer for you.

Soot was meeting snow. Darkness was meeting light. Sewage was meeting sanctity. Ruin was meeting righteousness. And as he came running he also came crying out, "*What do I have to do with you, Jesus?*"

There are two pathways to avoid. The first is that of denying the existence of evil spirits and Satan and taking an unrealistic view of the world and man in it. The second is to attribute all spiritual experience to God, including forbidden territory.

This was all part of the purpose for Christ's coming. Jesus himself declared, "*He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives. To set at liberty those who are oppressed*" (Luke 4:18). So he fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah. A new day had dawned. "*To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,*" as Zechariah described it (Luke 1:79). But when His light shown into the darkness, there were often sharp reactions. "*Do not torment me,*" shouted the demoniac at Jesus (Mark 5:17). For a being who habitually lives in darkness, the coming of light can be torture — not blessing.

This is what the coming of Jesus to this earth meant. It was the unavoidable collision of the unhindered power of the Holy Spirit manifested through a sinless life with the opposing power of Satan. It was impossible for the Son of God to be in the vicinity of evil power and not expose it and challenge it. Shadows of twilight and the curtain of night only temporarily hide what the brilliance of the noonday Son reveals.

As we draw nearer to Christ's return, there is no indication of a lessening of this power. The idea that evil spirits only operate in "uncivilized" parts of the world is entirely illusory. It may be true that at some points in history the power of a church which believed in both the existence of evil powers and the authority it possessed in Christ's name to overcome them, had been underground and so neutralized its effectiveness. But such a situation does not exist today, for the church has largely abdicated its authority and blandly disbelieves in such things.

In some cases missionaries are being sent abroad into strongly held enemy territory unarmed, unprotected, and largely untrained for spiritual warfare. No wonder there is such a high casualty rate, with so many returning disheartened, depressed, or ill.

The situation at home is similar. Many Christian leaders and workers who began their ministry full of hope and zeal are now a shadow of the people they once were. They have been gradually worn down by hard and often fruitless work, not fully understanding the real nature of the battle nor how to win against what often appears impossible odds. A modern general would be instantly dismissed if he dared to send such unprepared soldiers into battle against such a skillful and merciless enemy.

The evil spirits that were within this man came out of him and entered into a herd of swine. The man was cleansed. He was purified. He was set apart and sanctified.

When Jesus does a job, He does a complete job. This man was not partially cleansed...he was completely cleansed. When we come to Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins, Jesus does not forgive just a few of our sins, Jesus forgives all our sins...justified "just-as-if-I'd" never sinned.

It is interesting to hear the requests these demons made as they were coming out of this man. They said, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." What does that tell you? It should tell you that the devil is just as comfortable inside a herd of pigs as he is living in your life and in your heart. Satan's second choice for a dwelling place is a bunch of filthy, sloppy hogs. If he can, he wants to dwell in your life; but if you, through the power of our risen Lord will cast him out of your life, Satan would be just as content to dwell in a herd of pigs.

### **JESUS DID NOT CAUSE THE SWINE TO DIE — SATAN DID**

The Bible records the herd rushed down the steep bank, about 2,000 pigs in all, and drowned in the waters below. Of course, the herdkeepers ran into the city to tell them what had happened. And oh, how the tongues did begin to wag. How the mouths began to talk. The more they talked the less they

spoke of Jesus. They, instead, spoke about their financial loss of 2,000 hogs, until at last, the community came rushing out to meet Jesus Christ.

A very unusual scene was waiting for them upon their arrival. The wild man was sitting at the feet of Jesus. I suppose most of them had never seen him sitting before. He had always been up and running, ranting, and raging. Also, he was quiet, and in his right mind. Always before he had been crying out profanities and blasphemies. Now he was fully clothed. Jesus Christ made the difference...didn't He?

This is not a case for Christ's power. It instead has always been Christ's great problem. To still the wind is easy. To heal the sick is not hard. But power, however great, cannot be forced into the moral realm. Force does not exist for the soul. God will never force His love down your throat. This man desired to be healed.

The people put it all in the balances. Their financial loss of 2,000 pigs against the healing of one man. "And they began to entreat Him to depart from their region." They said, "We want the sausages of hogs, not the Son of God." "You're ruining the pig market." "We cannot afford much more of this." "We are not concerned about goodness, we are concerned about our hogs."

I used to pick up some children on my way to church, whose parents always refused to bring them. One evening I had an elderly lady of the church riding with me as we stopped to get the kids. She and I approached the house and knocked on the door, but no one answered. We then heard voices coming from the back yard, so upon going around the house we found the father, mother, son and daughter cleaning out the barn.

The dear elderly lady said, "Children, you must hurry and get dressed. We're going to be late for church."

The father put down his pitch fork and said, "Well, the children aren't going to church tonight. You see, we have got to get this barn cleaned out."

As long as I live I'll never forget what that lady said back to him. She said, "Sir, you think more of that pile of manure than you think of Jesus Christ."

And here in Gadara they thought more of these hogs than they thought of the Son of God.

I talked with a young man who said, "Well, you know I just can't give up drinking my beer. I know you can't be a good Christian and a beer drinker at the same time, so I'm going to settle for my beer." What he was really saying is that he would rather have a cold can of beer than the wonderful salvation offered by the Son of God!

What is it on the balances of your life? I cannot find even one occasion where the Bible states that Jesus returned again to Gadara. Not once do the Scriptures record that He ever came back. This is an important lesson for us today. Be careful when you send Jesus away. Be very careful when you tell Jesus to leave your habits and lifestyle alone. He just may do that!

Before Christ left, the previously possessed man asked a question. He asked, "Lord, can I go with you?"

### **HOW MATCHLESS OF GOD THAT HE WOULD EXPECT US TO SEE IT FOR OURSELVES**

Jesus said, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." Just look at the wisdom of Jesus in this. If this man would have gone with Christ they would have traveled to communities where people did not know him. Someone would ask, "Who is that man following Jesus?" And someone else would reply, "I don't know. I hear at one time he had a demon, but I really couldn't prove it. I didn't know his past life."

Instead, Jesus sent him right back into Decapolis. Do you think anyone knew him there? You know they knew him! "And he went off and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone marveled." He did not have a Master's degree, except one that he had received at the feet of the Master. That is the only Master's degree that really matters.

One reason surely must have been the great need of this people for an evangelist. But the real reason was in the man himself. It was for his own sake that he was sent back, and the Lord's refusal to take him with Him was the gift of something better, the making of the man. He needed to help heal those whom he had once hurt.

Go down into the slums of our great cities and tell me who is toiling there. Moral philosophers? I rarely meet them. Doctrinaires? They are at home discussing social problems. I meet Christian men and Christian women.

When the drunkard is made himself again, when the poor woman of the street is rescued, when little homes that once were pigsties become models of neatness and of cleanness, I bear my witness after a long ministry, that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, at the back of everything is your coming to Jesus.

This maniac, who was healed and delivered of demons, set out on a journey to visit the ten towns of Decapolis in the name of Jesus, to become Christ's witness, to share with everybody what Jesus had done for Him.

I can see him as he took off on his mission. How wonderful he must have felt! Can't you see him that day as he was standing there with Jesus? He wanted to go with Jesus, but heard, "No. I have a plan for you. I have a job for you to do."

He must have said, "Me? Master, Me? What good am I? I've been a maniac. I've been running all over the country, nude, cutting my body with stones. Me? You have a job for me?"

Wow! What he must have thought when Jesus said, "Yes, I have a job for you."

You see, that's what God does to all of us. When the Lord comes into our lives, first He LIFTS us, then He GIFTS us. And our GIFT is meant to LIFT other people. It will do that when Jesus lives in us and radiates through us to other people. It is LIFTING POWER.

*"So the man started off to visit the ten towns of that region and began to tell everyone about the great things Jesus had done for him; and they were awestruck by his story."*

That impresses me. Ten towns were lined up, waiting for the man to come and tell what Jesus had done for him.

You know, before God saves you, He has already lined up people and organizations and places and circumstances and areas, waiting for you to come and witness to them and bless them with what God has done for you.

### **IT'S EXCITING, ISN'T IT?**

It might be ten marketplaces. It might be ten neighborhoods. It might be ten houses, ten supermarkets. It might be ten cities, ten states, or ten nations. But the idea is that Jesus sent this man away to visit ten areas (or Decapolis), and tell them what the Lord had done for him.

I don't know what kind of speaker this Gaderene demoniac may have been. Opportunities were presented for him to tell people what things Christ had done for him. You can well imagine this man walking down the street one day when somebody stops him to ask, "Legion, how come you don't sleep out in the graveyard anymore, among the tombstones like you used to? How come you're all dressed up?" He would reply, "I used to go naked, but I have met the Lord, and I just don't do that anymore."

Others will ask, "Hey, Legion, how come you used to wear chains and the sheriff doesn't have to go out and lock you up anymore?" He would reply, "There was a time when they had to tie me up with chains, but I've met the Lord, and they don't do that anymore."

Again, somebody would ask, “Hey, Legion, how come you used to cut yourself with rocks? You were always bleeding and you had sores all over your body and now you’re clean and you’re well and you don’t cut yourself anymore?” He would reply, “Well, I used to like to do that, but now I’ve met the Lord and I simply take better care of myself now.”

Oh, my precious friend, I believe that as you and I will be looking around the New Jerusalem someday we will see, standing over to one side of that magnificent throng of people, a man...no, perhaps he won’t be standing at all, instead, he will be down on his knees with tears streaming down his cheeks. He will be crying out his praises to Hosanna.

You and I will lift him up by the elbows and say, “Tell us, Mister, what is your name? How did you get here? Surely you’re not Moses, the very one who led the children out of bondage, the one who was allowed to see the Promised Land without actually entering in. Is that why you’re rejoicing so much, because you are at last in the Promised Land?” Oh, through those tears streaming down his cheeks he will cry back, “No, no, no! I was never privileged to be a prophet of God.”

“Surely then, you must be Paul, James, or John, or one of those who walked and talked daily with Jesus; who ate and slept with Him, and witnessed daily His healing and teaching?”

He will cry back, “No, no! In fact, Jesus told me not to follow Him. I was never privileged to walk day by day with Jesus.”

“Well, tell us man, what is your name? How did you get here?”

We will hear him say, “Oh, my name doesn’t matter. But I once was filled with the powers of Satan. I had so many demons raging within me that they were literally driving me insane. I was driven away from my wife, away from my children, away from all those I loved. I would go running out into the desert on many occasions screaming and crying. I don’t know what made me do it, but I would cut myself with stones. I was literally ‘the Terror of Gadara’. I was known as ‘The Wild Man’...until that day Jesus set foot on my coast. On that day that Jesus set foot on my coast I went running to meet Him...and all things were made new. The pain was taken away, the tears were wiped away. My sins were forgiven. I was cleansed, I was purified...Oh, praise the Lord...Now I’m here in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem.”

Yes, you and I will be able to talk with the “Terror of Gadara” someday. All because of this event recorded in Mark 5. That wonderful, that beautiful day, when Jesus Christ set foot on the shores of Gadara.

Just prior to that day Jesus had stilled a terrible storm at sea. I believe it is easier for God to calm the storms of nature than it is to calm the storms that rage and rant within people's lives. In Mark 5, Jesus demonstrated to His disciples and to us today that He has the power over nature and the victory over sin and Satan.

Do you have an untamed spirit today? An untamed heart? An untamed life? An untamed mind? If so, come running to meet Jesus, knowing that He will answer your every need, that He will forgive your every sin, that He can wipe away your every tear and that He can heal your broken heart.

For *“When Jesus comes the tempter's snare is broken. When Jesus comes all tears and sins are wiped away. He takes your gloom and fills your life with glory. For all is changed when Jesus comes to stay.”*

Christ desires to set foot on your coast right now.



# FIFTY FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

**A**ngels are mentioned about three hundred times in the Bible. The first description of an angel appears in Genesis 16:7, the last in Revelation 22:16. The angel is portrayed at the beginning as carrying a message from God, and in the closing chapter of scripture as carrying a message from Christ.

1. ANGELS CARE ABOUT MILITARY PERSONNEL. The very first Gentile convert was a military officer. *“About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in to him, and said to him, ‘Cornelius!’ and fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said to him, ‘Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.’”* (Acts 10:3-4)

2. PRISON BARS CANNOT KEEP ANGELS FROM US. What glorious things angels have wrought in prison. *“But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ‘Go your way, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life’.”* (Acts 5:19-20)

3. LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE GUARDIAN ANGELS. Jesus lovingly spoke of children seven times in this, the children’s chapter of the Bible. *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”* (Matthew 18:10, 11)

4. ANGELS HAVE NOT ALWAYS EXISTED, BUT WERE CREATED PRIOR TO ADAM. Only four angelic beings are mentioned by name in scrip-

ture: Michael and Gabriel (Holy): Lucifer and Abaddon (Fallen). *“And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him.”* (Colossians 1:15, 16)

5. ANGELS ARE SUBJECT TO JESUS, THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. Angels cannot work the works of the Holy Spirit, nor grant forgiveness for sin. *“And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”* (1 Peter 3:21,22)

6. BECAUSE NAKEDNESS IS A MARK OF APOSTASY BEFORE GOD, ANGELS IN THEIR NATURAL STATE ARE CLOTHED IN PURE, FINE, WHITE LINEN. So was the High Priest when making access to God. Jesus was wrapped for burial in fine linen prior to His resurrection. *“And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.”* (Matthew 28: 3,4)

7. A NUMBERLESS HOST OF ANGELS DESCENDED UPON MT. SINAI. There Moses received the law from God, which the angels themselves had ordained. *“Why do you look with envy, O mountains with many peaks, at the mountain which God has desired for His abode? Surely, the Lord will dwell there forever. The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness.”* (Psalm 68:16,17)

8. GOD’S ANGELS ARE HOLY (SINLESS) BY CHOICE. Angels are spoken of more in the New Testament than in the Old Testament. *“For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”* (Mark 8:37,38)

9. ANGELS LIVE IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT COMMUNION WITH GOD, CONTINUALLY PRAISING HIM. If man were the only creature giving praise to God, how little glory He would receive from His creation. *“And Zacharias said to the angel, ‘How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years,’ And the angel answered and said to him, ‘I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God: and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring to you this good news.’”* (Luke 1:18,19)

10. THE ANGELS’ CAPITOL IS IN A HEAVEN FREE FROM SIN, THE BUSIEST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE. To deny the existence of angels and

of heaven is to deny the Deity of Christ, for He spoke of them both quite often. *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.’ And He said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”* (John 1:50,51)

11. ANGELS ARE VASTLY NUMEROUS. The Hebrew language had no word for “million,” so when speaking of angels, they expressed a million as “a thousand thousands (which is a million) and ten thousand times ten thousand (a hundred million).” *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living god, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect.”* (Hebrews 12:22,23)

12. ANGELS DO NOT MARRY OR REPRODUCE. There is no mention in scripture of “baby” angels. *“But Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven.’* (Matthew 22:29,30)

13. ANGELS NEVER DIE, NEITHER IS IT MENTIONED THAT THEY CAN WEEP. There will be no hospitals, graveyards or jails in heaven. *“But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage; for neither can they die any more, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.”* (Luke 20:35,36)

14. ANGELS ARE NOT “ALL KNOWING”. *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. But the day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”* (Matthew 24:35,36)

15. ANGELS CAMP AROUND THOSE WHO FEAR GOD. *“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”* (Psalm 34:7,8)

16. ANGELS ARE WISE AND HAVE DISCERNMENT. *“In order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth. Then the king said to Joab, ‘Behold now, I will surely do this thing; go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom.’* (2 Samuel 14:20,21)

17. ANGELS ARE MULTI-LINGUAL. *“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”* (1 Corinthians 13:1,2)

18. ANGELS CAN VIEW US FROM THEIR ROYAL COURT AND HAVE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AS THEIR COLISEUM. *“For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.”* (1 Corinthians 4:9,10)

19. ANGELS EAT HEAVENLY MANNA. It is possible that Jesus ate angel food (manna from heaven) when angels ministered to Him after His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. *“And He rained down manna upon them to eat, and gave them food from heaven. Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.”* (Psalm 78:24,25)

20. AROUND THE THRONE OF GOD SERAPHIM STAND ABOVE AND CRY, “HOLY”, CHERUBIM STAND BELOW TO GUARD, BUT NO ANGEL IS ALLOWED TO SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, AS THAT IS RESERVED FOR HIS SON AND OUR SAVIOR. *“For to which of the angels did He ever say, ‘Thou art My Son, today I have begotten thee’? And again, ‘I will be a Father to Him, and He shall be a Son to me’? And again He brings the first-born into the world, He says, ‘And let all the angels of God worship Him’.”* (Hebrews 1:5,6)

21. ANGELS PATROL THE EARTH. The “real” God-squad. *“And the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered and said, ‘These are those whom the Lord has sent to patrol the earth’. So they answered the angel of the Lord who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet.’”*(Zechariah 1:10,11)

22. ALTHOUGH HIS DISCIPLES SLEPT, JESUS WAS NOT ALONE IN THE GARDEN OF PRAYER, FOR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN WAS PRESENT AND STRENGTHENED HIM. *“Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. and being in agony he was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.”* (Luke 22:43,44)

23. ANGELS ARE CURIOUS. *“It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced*

*to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things into which angels long to look. Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:12,13)*

24. ANGELS WILL BE JUDGED BY US. *“Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?” (I Corinthians 6:2,3)*

25. ANGELS PROPHECY AND INTERPRET DREAMS. *“But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.’” (Matthew 1:20,21)*

26. OUR LORD HIMSELF APPEARED AS AN ANGEL TO JACOB, GIDEON AND MENOAH...ONLY TO MENTION A FEW. If this had not been the Lord, He would have constrained them when they began to worship and pay tribute to Him, just as the angel did in the revelation when John fell down to worship him. *“Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He found Him at Bethel, and there He spoke with us, even the Lord, the God of hosts; the Lord is His name.” (Hosea 12:4,5)*

27. THE TOMB OF JESUS WAS NEVER EMPTY, FOR THE ANGELS WERE THERE AND PROCLAIMED THE FIRST RESURRECTION STORY. *“But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.” (John 20:11,12)*

28. SATAN WAS AN ANOINTED CHERUB, BUT HE HAS THE ABILITY TO DISGUISE HIMSELF AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT (THEREFORE AS A MESSENGER). *“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.” (2 Corinthians 11:14,15)*

29. HELL WAS NOT PREPARED FOR MAN, BUT WAS PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS. If you force yourself into Hell by purposely rejecting Christ, you will be going to a place not at all prepared for you...God prepared Heaven for you. *“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers*

*of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’ (Matthew 25:40,41)*

30. ANGELS CAN APPEAR AS WINDS AND FLAMES OF FIRE. *“And of the angels He says, ‘Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.’ But of the Son He says, ‘Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.” (Hebrews 1:7,8)*

31. ANGELS CANNOT SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD. *“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor thing present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38,39)*

32. ANGELS REJOICE OVER REPENTANT SINNERS. *“And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’ In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15;9,10)*

33. ANGELS ARE NOT ALWAYS RECOGNIZABLE. Only seraphim and cherubim are mentioned in scripture as having wings, and never does it mention that angels have halos. *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.” (Hebrews 13:2,3)*

34. ANGELS ARE SO STRONG THAT IT TOOK ONLY ONE TO KILL 185,000 ASSYRIANS...AND NOW THEY ARE FIGHTING ON YOUR TEAM. *“Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead. So Sennacherib, king of Assyria, departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh.” (2 Kings 19:35,36)*

35. ANGELS WERE CHARGED TO GUARD JESUS IN ALL HIS WAYS. This is why they are mentioned more in the Gospels and Revelation...because where Jesus was, the angels were en masse. *“For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” (Psalm 91:11,12)*

36. AN ANGEL ALMOST DESTROYED JERUSALEM. *“So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time; and seventy thousand men of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented*

*from the calamity, and said to the angel who destroyed the people, 'It is enough! Now relax your hand!' And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Arunah the Jebusite."* (2 Samuel 24:15,16)

37. ANGELS ARE IN CONSTANT WARFARE AGAINST SATAN AND HIS AGENTS. Many times they are mentioned as driving chariots of fire pulled by the only earthly animal mentioned that will be in heaven, the horse. *"Then he said to me, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia."* (Daniel 10:12,13)

38. ANGELS CAN CAUSE THE EARTH TO SHAKE AND MOUNTAINS TO TREMBLE. *"Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it."* (Matthew 28:1,2)

39. ANGELS DESIRE TO COMFORT US. *"And the angel answered and said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying."* (Matthew 28:5,6)

40. MAN IS CREATED LOWER THAN THE ANGELS. *"But one has testified somewhere, saying, 'What is man, that Thou rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him? Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou has crowned him with glory and honor, and has appointed him over the works of Thy hands."* (Hebrews 2:6,7)

41. ANGELS DIFFER IN CLASS, CALLING and RANK. The list is not exhaustive and not necessarily in this order: Seraphim, cherubim, archangel, princes. *"But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.' But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed."* (Jude 9,10)

42. ANGELS ARE NOT TO BE WORSHIPPED. *"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a*

*growth which is from God.” (Colossians 2:18,19)*

43. ANGELS ARE NOT TO PREACH “ANOTHER GOSPEL.” Only fools rush in where angels fear to tread. *“But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8,9)*

44. ANGELS CAN CAUSE AFFLICTIONS. *“And the people kept crying out, ‘The voice of a god and not of a man!’ And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.” (Acts 12:22,23)*

45. ANGELS ARE ALWAYS OF MASCULINE GENDER WHEN MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE AND WHEN REVEALED IN HUMAN FORM. *“And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment had come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.” (Revelation 14:6,7)*

46. ANGELS WILL CAST THE UNSAVED INTO A FURNACE OF FIRE. *“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:41,42)*

47. ANGELS WILL GATHER TOGETHER THOSE WHO ARE SAVED. *“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” (Matthew 24:30,31)*

48. IN GREAT GLORY ANGELS WILL RETURN WITH JESUS, LED BY A SHOUT FROM THE ARCHANGEL, MICHAEL. *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1Thessalonians 4:16,17)*

49. ALL ANGELS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE JUDGMENT WHEN JESUS IS UNVEILED IN HIS FATHER’S GLORY. Man has never before

seen Jesus in full glory...neither did the friends of the bridegroom (the prophets and disciples). *“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”* (Matthew 25:31,32)

50. 72,000 ANGELS (TWELVE LEGIONS - 6,000 TO A LEGION) WERE WAITING FOR CHRIST’S COMMAND AT HIS HOUR OF BETRAYAL, AND ANY ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE, AND GLADLY WOULD HAVE, RESCUED HIM...BUT JESUS WILLINGLY LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU. *“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?’”* (Matthew 26:52,53)





# WHAT IF GOD SUDDENLY WITHDREW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD?

**T**he Holy Spirit is our senior partner in the Christian life. Coming to us as the Great Gift of the Risen Christ, He abides in our hearts to purify us and to empower us for life and service. Without His aid the Christian life is impossible, and only as we consciously lean on Him will our lives be “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” Let us divest our minds of the idea that the doctrine of the Spirit is something hazy and impractical. The subject is extremely practical and is indeed most important. Let us strive to understand Him and appreciate His life in us.

## **HE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Most of us can quote Acts 2:38 as easily as we can quote John 3:16, yet we have failed to realize and emphasize that at the time of Christian baptism, we not only receive the forgiveness of sins and are washed pure through the blood of the Lamb, we also receive the free gift of God, His Holy Spirit. All of us who have repented of our sins and been baptized into Christ, have received this gift of God’s Holy Spirit. He cannot be purchased, merited or otherwise obtained. He is a free gift from God. He is in essence, Jesus Christ living within us. He is the very presence of God!

Every one of us has, living within this body of clay, a human spirit. So it is with God’s Holy Spirit. He is in you right now. You cannot see Him, smell Him, touch Him, taste Him or hear Him; but God declares, and Scripture con-

firmly that when we repent of our sins and are baptized into Christ, we receive from God the free gift of His Holy Spirit.

To emphasize the presence and importance of the Holy Spirit, let us contemplate what would happen if suddenly God should withdraw His Holy Spirit from this world.

IF GOD SHOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD, WE COULD HAVE NO LOVE, OR JOY, PEACE, LONG-SUFFERING, GENTLENESS, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, FAITHFULNESS, MEEKNESS, OR TEMPERANCE, FOR THESE ARE ALL GIFTS AND FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:22-23 says, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faith, faithfulness, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.”*

A fictitious story (but nevertheless one containing a great lesson) relates that one day Abraham, standing by his tent door, saw coming along the way a very old man, weary with his journey, with bleeding feet. With true hospitality he invited the old man to share his meal and lodge with him for the night. But he noticed the stranger asked no blessing on the meal, and inquired why he did not pray to the God in Heaven. The old man said, “I am a fire-worshipper and acknowledge no other god.” At this, Abraham grew angry that a man should be such an infidel and thrust him out of his tent into the night. Then God called to Abraham and said, “Where is the old man that came to thee?” Abraham answered, “I thrust him out because he did not worship Thee.” Then said God, “I have suffered him these hundred years, though he dishonored Me — and couldst thou not endure him one night?” God expects us to share the fruit of the Spirit.

IF GOD SHOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD, ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, BOTH CIVILIZED AND UN-CIVILIZED, BOTH EVANGELIZED AND UNEVANGELIZED, BOTH SAVED AND LOST, WOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN TOTAL DESPAIR, WITHOUT LOVE OF ANY KIND, WITHOUT JOY OF ANY KIND, WITHOUT PEACE OF ANY KIND.

Why? Because we could not conquer sin or death, neither could we inherit justification as children of God. Romans 8:9-17 records, *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through*

*the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.”*

The cross shows God clothing Himself with humility. He enters to the sharpest sorrow and shares the darkest shame. Our proud spirits would only rebel against a King all-majestic, all-happiness, all-untouched by poverty, disgrace and grief. We failed. His Spirit truly testifies to our spirit.

IF GOD SHOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD, WE WOULD HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE CHRISTLIKE, BUT RATHER WOULD BECOME VAIN IN OUR IMAGINATIONS AND OUR FOOLISH HEARTS WOULD BECOME DARKENED.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 states, *“Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

John 7:37-38 says: *“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. he that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive).”*

Thirsting! Thirsting! Thirsting! Have you ever really been thirsty? You say, “I got thirsty today.” No, you wanted water today. You see, the moment you want water, it is there. It is in the faucet. You don’t have to wait five minutes to get it. But you go without water for a day, two days, three days; go without water until your lips swell three times their normal size and your tongue swells and begins to crack and parch. Go without water until you would give your automobile and your house and everything you have in the bank for one drop of water — then you are thirsty!

People have been classified as rich and poor, high and low, wise and ignorant, Jew and Gentile, etc. But the Bible has another classification — those who possess the Holy Spirit and those who do not!

The Holy Spirit reveals our need and worthlessness, this need causes us to thirst to the place where we plead, “I have to have Christ or die!”

IF GOD SHOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD, WE WOULD HAVE NO COMPASSION FOR THE UN-

SAVED, THUS THERE WOULD BE NO BURDEN FOR MISSIONS, NO EVANGELISTIC PROGRAMS, NO HARVESTING OF SOULS.

Romans 5:1-5 teaches us, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience steadfastness, steadfastness experience, and experience hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

Billy Bray, the shouting Cornish miner, shouted for God everywhere he went. Billy said, “I can’t help praising God. As I go along the street I lift up one foot, and it seems to say ‘Glory!’ and I lift up the other, and it seems to say, ‘Amen’; and so they keep on like that all the time I am walking.”

When Billy lay dying, and the doctor told him he was going to die, he said: “Glory! Glory be to God! I shall soon be in Heaven.” He then added, in his own peculiar way, “When I get up there, shall I give them your compliments, Doctor, and tell them you will be coming too?” This made a deep impression on the doctor. Billy’s dying word was “Glory!” Some time before dying, he said: “What! Me fear death? Me lost? Why, my Savior conquered death. If I were to go down to Hell, I would shout, ‘Glory! Glory!’ to my blessed Jesus until I made the bottomless pit ring again, and the miserable old Satan would say, ‘Billy, Billy, this is no place for thee: get thee back!’ Then up to Heaven I should go, shouting, ‘Glory! Glory! Praise the Lord!’” Billy Bray could not be silent because he was Spirit filled.

There would be no shedding abroad of the light of Christ from us to a lost and dying world, should God suddenly withdraw His Holy Spirit from us.

IF GOD SHOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD, WE WOULD HAVE NO INNER STRENGTH, NO LIFE, NEITHER SPIRITUAL LENGTH, BREADTH OR HEIGHT.

Ephesians 3:16-19 emphasizes, *“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

When the Hellgate Bridge was being built over the East River in New York, the engineers came upon an old derelict ship, lying embedded in the river mud, just where one of the central piers of the bridge was to go down through to its bedrock foundation. No tugboat could be found that was able to move the derelict from its ancient bed in the ooze. Finally, with a sudden inspiration, one of the workers hit upon this scheme. He took a large, flat boat, which had been used to bring stone down the river, and chained it to the old sunken ship when

the tide was low. Then he waited for the great tidal energies to do their work. Slowly the rising tide, with all the forces of the ocean behind it, came up under the flat boat, raising it inch by inch. As it came up, lifted by irresistible power, the derelict came up with it until it was entirely out of the mud that had held it. Through His Spirit, God GIFTS us...then LIFTS us!

We could not even know the love for Christ or the proper love for ourselves should God suddenly withdraw His Holy Spirit from us.

IF GOD SHOULD SUDDENLY WITHDRAW HIS HOLY SPIRIT FROM THIS WORLD, OUR PRAYERS WOULD BE UNABLE TO REACH GOD'S THRONE OF MERCY.

Romans 8:26-28 reads, *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the heart knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”*

I have some dear missionary friends in India who lost their only son in a tragic accident. How tenderly his mother handles every relic he left behind. How the gleam in her eyes grows dim as she rereads his letters. His name is never left out of her prayers; and many times when she is busy about her daily work, the thought of her boy will flash into her heart like a beam of golden sunlight. The stars speak about him, the winds whisper his name, the waves tell of him. Nobody has any difficulty in understanding what is meant when it is said that her boy dwells in her heart. In the same way God's Spirit dwells in us, constantly working with us and teaching us how to live, think and pray.

Because our prayers could not be translated we could not confess our sins, ask for salvation, or plead for mercy. Therefore we would be totally unable to obtain the seal of salvation or possess final entry into Heaven. Today, as never before, let us give thanks to God for the free gift of God's Holy Spirit.

God's Holy Spirit works with mankind in three distinct ways:

First, He works ON us to bring us to salvation.

Secondly, He works IN us to prepare us as fit vessels for His use.

Thirdly, then and only then can He work THROUGH us in reaching out to those round about us.

Long before I, or any chaplain, reach that prison or reformatory cell, we find

the Holy Spirit has preceded us, preparing hearts for the message of Christ. Long before the first missionary arrives on the foreign field, God's Holy Spirit has been there, preparing the nucleus of the church which soon will be. Let us give praise and tribute to God for this Person living within us — God's Holy Spirit.

And now, may a dying Savior's love, a risen Savior's prayers, an ascended Savior's power, and an eternal Savior's glory, be the comfort, joy and strength of your heart.

If I can assist you in making a personal decision for Christ or in obeying Him in Christian baptism, please write to ARM.



# FOUR THINGS GOD DOES NOT KNOW

## **GOD DOES NOT KNOW...A SINNER HE DOES NOT LOVE.**

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*

*“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,...” (Titus 3:5)*

*“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9)*

*“ We love, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)*

### **“The Love of God”**

**Could we with ink the ocean fill  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill  
And every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry,  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole  
Though stretched from sky to sky.**

**O love of God, how rich and pure  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall for evermore endure  
The saints and angels song.  
—F.M. Lehman**

**GOD DOES NOT KNOW...A SIN HE DOES NOT HATE.**

*“For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells in Thee.” (Psalms 5:4)*

*“The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but He loves him who pursues righteousness.” (Proverbs 15:9)*

*“Evil plans are an abomination to the Lord, but pleasant words are pure.” (Proverbs 15:26)*

*“Yet you have not listened to Me, declares the Lord, in order that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.” (Jeremiah 25:7)*

*“Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate, declares the Lord.” (Zechariah 8:17)*

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” (Romans 1:18)*

**“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”  
Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns around  
the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down  
before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.  
—Reginald Heber**

**GOD DOES NOT KNOW...A SINNER HE CANNOT SAVE.**

*“Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)*

*“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:7)*

*“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.” (Isaiah 59:1)*

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)*

**“AMAZING GRACE”**

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**—John Newton**

**GOD DOES NOT KNOW...A BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO BE  
SAVED.**

*“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)*

*“For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not think He will.” (Matthew 24:44)*

*“...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.” (Hebrews 2:3)*

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)*

*“And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come”, and let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.” (Revelation 22:17)*

**“AT CALVARY”**  
**Years I spent in vanity and pride,**  
**Caring not my Lord was crucified,**  
**Knowing not it was for me He died**  
**On Calvary**  
**Mercy there was great and grace was free,**  
**Pardon there was multiplied to me,**  
**There my burdened soul found liberty**  
**At Calvary**  
**—Wm. R. Newell**

### **WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

*“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)*

*“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32)*

*“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)*

*“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” (Acts 22:16)*

*“...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,...” (Matthew 28:19)*

And now, may a dying Savior’s love, and a risen Savior’s power, a reigning Savior’s glory, and a returning Savior’s victory be the joy, be the comfort and be the strength of your heart.



# THE ABC'S OF SALVATION

**D**o you know your ABC's? "Why, yes, I learned those in the first grade of school." What about the ABC's of SALVATION? Do you know the elementary basic teaching of God's Word?

These ABC's are far more important than the ABC's of the alphabet! The ABC's of Salvation deal with eternal truths that determine our eternal destiny.

**ADMIT** *You* are a sinner, that *You* have need of Christ as your own **PERSONAL** Savior, and that all those who obey the Lord Jesus shall be saved. You **CANNOT** save yourself, nor **ADD TO** or **TAKE FROM** the **FINISHED WORK** of Christ for you.

- All have sinned — Romans 3:23
- Sin results in death — Romans 6:23
- Sin can be forgiven — John 5:24
- Jesus loves you and invites you to come to Him — Matthew 11:28
- Believe He is the promised Messiah — Mark 16:16
- "Repent" or "turn around" and walk with Christ — Acts 2:38
- You can break the power of sin — Romans 8:12-14
- Put on Christ through baptism — Galatians 3:24-27
- Tell others of your faith in Him — Romans 10:10
- Here is a summary of what Christ came to do in you — Titus 3:4-7

**BELIEVE** on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of the Living God. You can know He is Whom He claimed to be by the prophecies fulfilled in His Life.

- The crucifixion of Christ was foretold centuries prior — Psalm 22:14-18

- It was prophesied over 700 years before He would be born of a virgin — Isaiah 7:14
- Christ's reason for living was pre-ordained — Isaiah 53:3-9
- Prophets pointed forward toward a new covenant — Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Christ's birthplace was pinpointed hundreds of years earlier — Micah 5:2
- Prophecy told how Christ would enter Jerusalem — Zechariah 9:9

**CONFESS** to the Lord and to yourself that you have certain responsibilities and commitments as a follower of Christ. The more you know of Him the more you will want others to know of Him.

- The Christian is to support the Lord's work monetarily — Matthew 22:19-22
- Evangelize for Christ — Matthew 28:18-20
- Start living for Jesus now — John 4:35-36
- Take good care of your body — 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Accept your responsibilities in the Church — 1 Corinthians 12:16-27
- Remember the Lord in Communion — 1 Corinthians 11:23-24
- Keep the faith God has given you — 2 Timothy 4:7
- Be truthful — Colossians 3:9-10
- Be in a constant attitude of prayer — Thessalonians 5:17-18
- Be faithful in worship — Hebrews 10:23-25
- Abound in the Lord's work — 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Beware of false prophets — 2 Peter 2:1-3
- Return good for evil — 1 Peter 3:8-9
- Resist Satan and his ways — James 4:7-8
- Endure temptation — James 1:12-17
- Study the scriptures to know the will of God — Matthew 22:29

***Will you obey the ABC's of Salvation?***



# GOD'S GREAT SPIRITUAL TRUTHS REVEALED

## **WHAT IS SIN?**

*"All unrighteousness is sin..." (1 John 5:17)*

*"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin." (James 4:17)*

*"...Whatever is not from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23)*

*"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4)*

*"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." (Mark 16:16)*

## **WHO HAS SINNED?**

*"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)*

*"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." (1 John 1:10)*

*"But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in*

*Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.” (Galatians 3:22)*

*“Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20)*

*“...For there is no man who does not sin...” (1 Kings 8:46)*

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*

*“He who rejects Me, and does not receive my sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” (John 12:48)*

### **AGAINST WHOM DO WE SIN?**

*“Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when thou dost judge.” (Psalm 51:4)*

*“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2)*

*“I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight’.” (Luke 15:18)*

*“Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.’” (2 Samuel 12:13)*

*“There is no one greater in his house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9)*

*“And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.” (Matthew 18:15)*

### **HOW DOES GOD LOOK AT SIN?**

*“For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of God.” (Ephesians 5:5)*

*“The boastful shall not stand before Thine eyes, Thou dost hate all who do iniquity.” (Psalm 5:5)*

*“A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; the Lord is avenging and wrathful. The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies.” (Nahum 1:2)*

*(God) “repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.” (Deuteronomy 7:10)*

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” (Romans 1:18)*

*“For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with Thee.” (Psalm 5:4)*

*“The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but He loves him who pursues righteousness.” (Proverbs 15:9)*

*“The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates.” (Psalm 11:5)*

*“Thou dost destroy those who speak falsehood; the Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.” (Psalm 5:6)*

## **HOW DO SINNERS STAND BEFORE GOD?**

*“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” (Matthew 12:30)*

*“...through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12)*

*“And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?” (1 Peter 4:18)*

*“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22)*

*“There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.” (Romans 2:9)*

*“Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Romans 8:8)*

*“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15)*

*“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?” (Romans 6:16)*

*“And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.” (John 12:47)*

*“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)*

### **WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?**

*“When lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.” (James 1:15)*

*“For, behold, those who are far from Thee will perish. Thou hast destroyed all those who are unfaithful to Thee.” (Psalm 73:27)*

*“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murders and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8)*

*“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.” (Ezekiel 18:4)*

*“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.” (Matthew 7:13)*

*“There is no peace, says my God, ‘for the wicked.’” (Isaiah 57:21)*

*“And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.” (Mark 9:43)*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

*“A good man will obtain favor from the Lord, but He will condemn a man who devises evil.” (Proverbs 12:2)*

*“For there will be no future for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.” (Proverbs 24:20)*

*“Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.” (Psalm 1:5)*

### **CAN WE BE CLEANSED OF OUR SINS?**

*“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)*

*“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)*

*“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)*

*“And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (Luke 3:6)*

*“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)*

*“Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Timothy 1:9)*

*“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.” (John 3:17)*

*“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” (Psalm 32:1)*

*“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” (John 6:35)*

*(The Lord Jesus Christ) “who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” (Galatians 1:4)*

*“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)*

*“...The appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.” (2 Timothy 1:10)*

## **WHY DID JESUS CHRIST COME TO EARTH?**

*“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)*

*“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.” (1 Timothy 1:15)*

*“I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46)*

*“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (John 18:37)*

*“Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.” (John 4:34)*

*“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9)*

*“And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.” (John 12:47)*

*“And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” (1 John 4:14)*

*“But go and learn what this means, I desire compassion, and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13)*

*“And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is not sin.” (1 John 3:5)*

*“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation of our sins.” (1 John 4:10)*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden.” (Luke 4:18)*

## **WHY DID JESUS DIE?**

*“All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.” (Isaiah 53:6)*

*“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)*

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*

*“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3)*

*“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

*“He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)*

*“For Christ also died for our sins once for all, the just for unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)*

*(Christ Jesus) “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)*

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)*

*(Christ Jesus) “who gave Himself a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.” (1 Timothy 2:6)*

*“By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hebrews 10:10)*

*“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16)*

*“Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Hebrews 9:26)*

*“The next day He saw Jesus coming to him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)*

### **WHY DID JESUS CHRIST RISE FROM THE DEAD?**

*“...that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” (Philippians 3:10)*

*“...knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.” (Romans 6:9)*

*“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)*

*“...and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:17)*

*“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.” (Romans 8:11)*

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)*

*“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)*

*(Jesus) “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 1:4)*

*“...He looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.” (Acts 2:31)*

*“...and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:14)*

*“...knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.” (2 Corinthians 4:14)*

*“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 4:14)*

*“For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.” (Romans 14:9)*

*“Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.” (1 Corinthians 6:14)*

*“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22)*

## **WHAT WARNINGS ARE WE GIVEN?**

*“For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.” (Matthew 24:44)*

*“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3)*

*“For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2)*

*“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” (Luke 21:27)*

*“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36)*

*“Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” (Genesis 6:3)*

*“Harvest is past, summer is ended, and we are not saved.” (Jeremiah 8:20)*

*“Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:6)*

*“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:38)*

*“So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous.” (Matthew 13:49)*

*“Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. (James 4:14)*

*“Say to them, As I live! declares the Lord God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11)*

*“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)*

*“For there is no partiality with God.” (Romans 2:11)*

*“For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.” (Colossians 3:25)*

*“And opening his mouth, Peter said: I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality.” (Acts 10:34)*

*“While they are saying, Peace and safety! then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3)*

### **WHAT INVITATIONS ARE GIVEN?**

*“Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool!” (Isaiah 1:18)*

*“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)*

*“Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.” (Isaiah 55:3)*

*“Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:40)*

*“But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14)*

*“Then the King will say to those on His right, come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Matthew 25:34)*

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)*

*“If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

*“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)*

*“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)*

*“From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 3:7)*

*“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)*

*“Come, let us return to the Lord, for He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.” (Hosea 6:1)*

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8)*

*“And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, One thing you lack; go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (Mark 10:21)*

*“Yet even now, declares the Lord, return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning.” (Joel 2:12)*

*“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)*

## **WHAT MUST WE DO?**

*“And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.’” (Acts 16:31)*

*“...if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.” (Romans 10:9)*

*“The Lord is not slow about His promises, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)*

*“And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days. (Acts 10:48)*

*“...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)*

*“Everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:26)*

*“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:15)*

*“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)*

*“...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)*

*“...but grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

*“Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” (Acts 10:43)*

*“Every one therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32)*

*“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” (2 Corinthians 7:10)*

*“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” (Acts 22:16)*

*“...Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2)*

*“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)*

*“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper; but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.” (Proverbs 28:13)*

*“And Peter said to them, Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)*

*“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)*



# ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS! DO YOU REALIZE:

- **That without faith it is impossible to please God?**

*“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*  
(Hebrews 11:6)

- **That God wants you to make a public confession of your faith?**

*“... for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”* (Romans 10:10)

- **That God wants you to repent of your sins and be baptized?**

*“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”* (Acts 2:38)

- **That God wants you to be faithful even unto death?**

*“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”* (Revelation 2:10)

- **That without Christ you are a sinner, bound for hell?**

*“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*  
(Revelation 21:8)

• **That God loves you and wants you to be saved?**

*“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)

• **That Jesus died on the cross to save you?**

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

• **That if you accept God’s free gift of salvation, you will not perish but have eternal life?**

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

## JESUS

There will never be another Jesus, because another Jesus is not needed. This one is *“The same yesterday and today, yes and forever.”* (Hebrews 13:8)

*“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”* (Mark 4:11) cried the astonished disciples as Jesus commanded the raging winds and rolling waves of Lake Galilee to be still. They had wrestled with this furious storm—He quietly subdued it. They had been in terror—He said, *“Peace, be still.”* (Mark 4:39). Jesus stands alone — unchallenged, unrivaled. His throne is not in danger. His kingdom is secure.

There have been many great men throughout the ages: Men like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci in the arts; Socrates and Cicero in philosophy; Beethoven and Mozart in music; Shakespeare and Tennyson in literature; Lincoln and Gladstone in government; Einstein and Edison in science.

There may be such men again, but there will never be another Jesus. What He was then, He is now—the eternal, unchanging, blessed Son of God.

In Him the Infinite became an infant, the Father of eternity became a child of time, the Creator became a baby nestled in His virgin mother’s arms.

He was older than His mother, and just as old as His Father. In the Incarnation, He became something He was not before, yet He did not cease being what He always was.

He was Eden’s tree of Life, Abel’s acceptable sacrifice, Noah’s ark of salvation, Israel’s passover lamb, and Moses’ rod. He was Malachi’s *“...Sun of*

*righteousness with healing in its wings.*” (Malachi 4:2)

His name is *“the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley”* (Song of Solomon 2:1), *“the Bright Morning Star”* (Revelation 22:16), *“the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty”* (Revelation 1:8), *“the Beginning and the End”* (Revelation 21:6).

He was Thomas’ *“Lord and God”* (John 20:28), Paul’s *“Name which is above every name”* (Philippians 2:9), and John’s *“King of Kings, and Lord of Lords”* (Revelation 19:16).

*“O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?”* (1 Corinthians 15:55) For God has highly exalted Him *“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (Philippians 2:10, 11)

Herod couldn’t kill Him, Satan couldn’t seduce Him, death couldn’t hold Him. But *“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”* (Romans 14:11)

He reigns as undisputed monarch of saints and angels. Soon He will return to earth to take up the reins of government, and then, *“The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”* (Isaiah 11:9)

He can rescue us from drugs and drunkenness; from lust and passionate habits that keep us bound; from fears that terrorize us and make us weak; from sin and, yes, from the grip of Satan himself.

The name of Jesus is a delivering name, a healing name, a joyous name. Anchor it in your mind, impress it upon your heart.

He is worthy of your love, your sacrifice, your all.

*“Sing to the Lord a new song,  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless His Name;  
Proclaim good tidings of His salvation  
From day to day.*

*Tell of His glory among the nations,  
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord,*

*And greatly to be praised;  
He is to be feared above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
But the Lord made the heavens.  
Splendor and majesty are before Him,  
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.”  
(Psalm 96:1-6)*

By: Delores Miller, former inmate  
Women's State Prison, Cedar City, MO



## CHRISTMAS DAY IN PRISON

**I**n prison, Christmas Day is the second happiest day of the year. New Year's Day is the happiest because New Year's signals another year gone and one nearer release and the outside world. It doesn't really matter which month you were "sent up," another calendar year has passed. It's gone forever.

There is an air of expectancy throughout the prison as prisoners anticipate a Christmas visit from their families. Some lay silent on their bunk beds, trying to recall memories of childhood Christmases. Past and distant images are awakened of family and friends gathered around the table laughing and eating, then later relaxing and exchanging gifts.

The prisoner tries hard to keep his mind off the length of his sentence and the crime he committed. This is a time to receive word from home...though some messages will prove painful. A solemn air hovers over the prison. Try as he may to keep them away, dark clouds of failures, mistakes, regret and remorse over crimes committed that have separated him from freedom, bring salty raindrops in the form of tears.

Actually, the Christmas season began weeks ago with the Angel Tree program. Prisoners were asked to submit the names and addresses of their children, and what they would like to give their children for Christmas. The Angel Trees were set up in shopping malls all across America. On the branches hung little angels with the name, age, and clothing size of the prisoner's children.

Shoppers chose an angel, purchased the requested gifts or an alternative gift, and presented it to the volunteer sitting beside the tree. Although it is

suggested that the gift not exceed \$15, some shoppers spent twice as much in the spirit of Christmas. A few days before Christmas, the gift is delivered to the prisoner's child in the name of the parent.

Excitement abounds as prisoners ask each other what they are requesting for their children. Beautiful Christmas cards in multi-colored envelopes begin arriving, resulting in an atmosphere not felt during any other season of the year. Prisoners tape their Christmas cards on the walls of their cells for others to see, and each day re-read the hand written messages inside.

A few days earlier, the chaplain has gone throughout the institution making sure that everyone who wanted one was given a card to send home. The chaplain then dipped into his always limited "love fund" to make sure that the hardship cases had postage for their card. Chaplain's assistants decorated the chapel with evergreen boughs, bright banners and a live Christmas tree.

Volunteer groups begin coming in, extending best wishes and bringing refreshments and gifts consisting of fresh fruit, homemade fudge, socks and toiletry items...sometimes with a Christmas tract strategically placed.

On Christmas Eve, the prison factory closes early and visiting hours are extended. Family and friends who come to visit are the highlight of the day, but the annual Christmas Eve play, whose actors are the prisoners themselves, runs a close second. Much preparation and excitement, and "much ado about nothing" goes into the play, from the screening of the cast to the full dress rehearsal.

Some have been locked away so long they are unable to sense joy or happiness, except in a warped fashion, that usually results in pain for someone else. So they try to get all pumped up, to act happy without really knowing how or even why they should.

This results in a lot of shallow talking and forced laughter. Some will ask the chaplain to show them the proper way to cross themselves, some will ask for a cross to wear around their neck, while others will want the chaplain to tell them where to find the Christmas story in the Bible.

Christmas seems foreign in a prison setting...like an improper balance. No one wants to be where he is...especially today. Everyone is trying to feel significant. The Muslims and the American Indian Movement will busy themselves so as not to cause a fuss with the attempted celebration.

Then the holiday arrives at last. Within reason, the guards will turn their heads on some rules and regulations normally enforced, such as dress codes, shakedowns and group gatherings. Prisoners try, with some difficulty, to be

nice to the guards, and guards, with the same difficulty, try being nice to the prisoners. Both prisoners and guards will breathe a sigh of relief when Christmas is over, knowing both sides have come through without any trouble or injuries.

The prison buzzer will be delayed so the prisoners can sleep late, then all will gather in the mess hall for the highlight of the day...Christmas dinner. The kitchen crew goes all out to prepare what the prisoners have requested, including a mouth-watering dessert.

This is the one day of the year when family members (not friends) are allowed to enter the cafeteria to eat with their loved ones. It is a time of introducing their families to their friends. Those who do not have family visitors are usually invited to sit with those who do and sort of “adopt a family” for the day. In maximum security prisons, families would never be allowed access into the cafeteria, while in some minimum security units, prisoners are encouraged to earn “points” during the year which will allow them to spend Christmas Day at home.

This is a great time of healing and bonding between prisoners. Some will, of course, pretend to be too preoccupied for such frivolity. Others, sadly, will fake a headache or stomachache and need to return to their cells.

Recreational privileges will be extended, providing it’s a nice day for gathering in the yard. Most are on good behavior because no one wants to be placed in solitary over Christmas. Friends and family fill their loved one’s prison bank account, which usually has a mandatory ceiling of \$20.

Prisoners who smoke exchange cigarettes for gifts. Those who don’t smoke exchange candy bars, stamps or toiletries. These items are normally used for bartering and illegal gambling inside prison.

Prisoners present craft shop leather goods to their families and used toys that have been donated by various civic groups. The prisoners have labored over these toys, repairing, sanding, polishing, and painting them until they look like new. Some of the “like new” toys are sent back to the civic groups to be distributed among the poor in the community.

Prisoners are more spiritually sensitive during Christmas than at any other time of the year. Some “make deals” with God, hoping to manipulate a miraculous pardon on Christmas Day, or an early release next year. Sneering at other inmates or at the festivities is frowned upon. Peer pressure controls this. Even non-Christian inmates are silent so as not to disturb the holiday for the others.

This is a day when the prisoner can feel contact with the outside world.

Families around the world are celebrating – he will celebrate too. Even in this confined and confused setting, he feels at one with society. He does not feel like such an outcast...like such a “loser.”

But some have no Christmas memories except those spent in orphanages, foster homes, reformatories, and other prisons. For them, depression sets in. They will purchase some of the drugs or liquor that an unscrupulous guard has smuggled in. Others will celebrate by getting a new tattoo, or by smoking the one cigar they have kept hidden away in order to have something special on Christmas Day.

Some prisons have boxing rings in their gymnasium while in others boxing is strictly forbidden. Conjugal visits are allowed in some, while others allow only one short embrace at the beginning of the visit and another at the close...all monitored by prison guards.

Another chapter has been written in the prisoner’s life. Let it read:

*Today I behaved and enjoyed as best I could...as Christmas dictates. No guards got on my case. I was not sent for counseling or to lock-up. I did not fight or curse a guard. I was not written up...did not receive any tickets or was told I need to attend an attitude adjustment class.*

*For one day I did not plot the demise of my enemies or relive my trial. I conducted myself according to what I once was, and what I someday hope to be...not what I am.*

*I cleaned my cell and shined my shoes. I sorted through my locker to find my best prison clothes, making sure there were no tears or patches on the shirt and that my trousers were ironed. While showering, I felt a strange expectation, and wished myself a happy Christmas. Shaving took on a new excitement and upon returning to my cell I said a prayer.*

*I spoke to other prisoners I have never spoken to before. I wished both guards and prisoners ‘Season’s Greetings’. I could tell some of them were eagerly anticipating a greeting from me...a break in the routine...and they wished me the same.*

*I don’t understand Christianity, but I went to chapel anyway. There I saw real women, genuine smiles, wholesome love, and heard great singing. I saw beautifully colored dresses, smelled perfumed candles and touched a member of the opposite sex...if only in a handshake. People even asked me my name...not my number.*

*Blind devotion...tradition...call it what you will, I made peace with my inner*

*man...if only for a day. "Merry Christmas" - what a great holiday...no, what a great Holy Day.*

On the day after Christmas, when the morning buzzer sounds, the prisoner may react exactly the opposite. He might spit on a guard or curse fellow prisoners.

But not today...because today is Christmas Day in prison.

So it's difficult to describe Christmas Day in prison. It's my prayer, though, that the flavor of this magical and majestic "Greatest Day of the Year" and the effect it has on prisoners, has been partially conveyed in this article about this mysterious, forgotten world, and how they celebrate "Christmas Day in Prison."

*Author's note: Prisons, like churches, are all alike - yet different. For instance, each Labor Day weekend, the Oklahoma State Prison in McAlester hosts their annual "Inside the Walls Prison Rodeo." The inmates are the cowboys and the public is invited...an activity allowed in only half a dozen prisons across America.*





# MINISTERING TO THOSE IN PRISON

## PRAY

**1. Pray earnestly and specifically that God would make it clear to you and others whether this is the ministry you should become involved with and, if so, what HE would have you do.**

- A. Federal prisons (maximum, medium, and minimum security)
- B. State prisons (maximum, medium, and minimum security)
- C. Local jails (maximum, medium, and minimum security)
- D. Reformatories (maximum, medium, and minimum security)
- E. Work release centers
- F. Halfway houses
- G. Road camps
- H. Work farms
- I. Juvenile detention halls
- J. Prison reception and diagnostic centers
- K. Prison hospitals
- L. Confined minority or ethnic groups

**2. Pray about what you might consistently do if you were to become involved in a prison ministry.**

- A. Visit inmates
- B. Assist with worship services
- C. Provide special music programs
- D. Teach Bible studies

- E. Conduct one-on-one counseling services
- F. Teach classes in a specific skill, trade, or personal adjustment
- G. Provide literature, tapes, or films
- H. Sponsor Bible correspondence courses
- I. Lead recreation programs
- J. Correspond with inmates
- K. Sponsor someone on parole or probation
- L. Locate jobs for ex-offenders

**3. Pray, committing yourself to a fixed period of involvement as soon as the opportunity becomes available.**

A. “Lord, I believe you can forgive their failures and I know you can meet their needs; therefore, in ministering with them I will not seek the praise of men but only the glory and will of my God.”

B. “Father, show me how you want to love these people through my words, actions, and attitudes, in such a way that my own personal prejudices will not interfere with the workings of Your Holy Spirit.”

C. “My God, put your love in me so I can freely give it away to them, thus reflecting what they need to see and hear from you through me.”

## RESPECT

**1. Respect the fact that they, too, have been made in the image and likeness of God.**

A, They are not inanimate objects, but human beings; men, women, boys, and girls who love, who cry, who fear, who hope, and who will be spending eternity somewhere.

B. When love becomes warped or completely destroyed it is simply an opportunity for God to enter the situation and through His divine love mend broken hearts, heal bruised relationships, and introduce them to a new and vital life with Jesus Christ as their Redeemer, Lord, and Savior.

C. From God’s perspective we are all guilty and condemned for our sins, but you can be the one to bring the Good News telling of a true and caring love that “*believes all*”...and when failure takes away belief “*hopes all*”...and when failure takes away hope “*endures all*” (1 Corinthians 13:7).

**2. Respect the fact that they have seen and are presently experiencing a side of life you, hopefully, may never encounter.**

A. *“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, show forbearance to them in love”* by listening with understanding to their insights and perspectives of Scripture (Ephesians 4:2).

B. Bear in mind that when the visit is completed you are free to walk out through the front gates and return home to your family, while they must resort to cold, impersonal, gray stoned cells, where thrives a lonely, humiliated, angry, and apprehensive environment.

C. Deep emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs coupled with the constant fear and threat of violence, requires you to be non-judgmental, while sending forth a clear communication of God’s Word and grace through your example of conversation, *“serving them through love”* (Galatians 5:13).

### **3. Respect the Power and Ability of the Holy Spirit.**

A. When God gets us alone by imprisonment, affliction, heartbreak, or broken dreams; by disappointment, sickness, or a soiled relationship — when He gets us absolutely alone and we cannot find the strength to debate or question, then and only then can He clearly speak to our inner man.

B. Just as it was through broken pitchers that God provided light for Gideon’s army; through broken bread that the hungry multitudes were satisfied; through a broken box that the precious fragrance anointed the Savior; through a broken body that salvation came to all who truly believe; so it is that hearts are most easily filled when they are broken (Psalm 51:17).

C. The only thing heavier than the burden of the inmate’s sin is the weight of love that can remove it.

## **INVITE**

### **1. Invite them to speak about their insights and experiences in life.**

A. Lead them into an orderly conversation by choosing a certain portion of Scripture, then ask what change or changes they would have to make in their lives to honor that passage.

B. Ask them to assist you in forming a prayer list so you can remember their needs.

C. Discuss the fundamental Christian themes of love, grace, hope, peace, judgment, and forgiveness (relating to themselves, to others, and to God).

## **2. Invite other inmates to join you in Bible study.**

A. If Christ is your head, make your outreach program ridiculously big by covenanting with the Lord that you will work with anyone within the confines of the prison, regardless of race, creed, or color.

B. “Increase and abound in love for one another and for all men, just as we also do for you” (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

C. Said one chaplain regarding more volunteers, “I might work in depth with perhaps one hundred men during a year, and see several hundred others to a much lesser extent; and that’s out of a prison population of two thousand, with a turnover of perhaps a thousand men a year.”

## **3. Invite those within your congregation and community to work with you in ministering among inmates.**

A. Members within your congregation can demonstrate practical and caring love by providing transportation for family members to and from the prison.

B. Make available to your congregation books, brochures, and films that describe prison life, and ask your missions committee to assist in the support of your material needs.

C. Generate prayer cells that will pray at specific times of the day for you and those with whom you are working (prison officials, guards, inmates, inmate’s families, and the chaplain(s)...by name).

### ***SHOP ONLINE AND SUPPORT ARM AT THE SAME TIME***

***DaySpring is the world’s largest Christian greeting card company and is also a leading provider of art, Christian gifts, greeting cards, home décor, jewelry and more. ARM has ministered in partnership with DaySpring for over two decades and averages providing more than 4.5 million Christian greeting cards to our nation’s prison system each year.***

*ARM is now a recognized affiliate of DaySpring, which means that you can go to our website at [www.arm.org](http://www.arm.org) and click on the DaySpring banner. A percentage of whatever you purchase will be donated to ARM. It’s a fun way to shop and support ARM as well.*

# SUPPORT

## 1. Support the administration.

A. There should be a clear understanding between you and the administration concerning how you intend to operate, by you identifying your goals and letting the administration know how you view your ministry and their authority.

B. Familiarize yourself with prison routine and security regulations so you can follow all the rules, thus increasing respect and cooperation from guards and staff who will be evaluating you on the basis of your sensitivity in these areas.

C. One volunteer can ruin a program that has taken the chaplain months to prepare; therefore, if you decide your primary desire is to reform the system, find some other channel to express that desire...but don't do it through the religious program or under the guise of a Christian volunteer.

## 2. Support the chaplain.

A. His direction can prevent your breaking the rules, being a security risk, or becoming a source of irritation to prison authorities.

B. If you are going to make contacts in the free world for the inmates, such as lawyers, family, friends, (or visa versa), make sure the chaplain is aware of your plans.

C. Never, under any circumstances, try to undermine the chaplain's program, rather *"be devoted to him in brotherly love; giving preference to one another in honor"* (Romans 12:10).

## 3. Support the inmates

A. Your preaching, teaching, and counseling should be Biblical, well illustrated, simple, and to the point.

B. *"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart"* (1 Peter 1:22).

C. Do not settle for offhand, ill-prepared material in either sermon or song, but be prepared to handle aright the greatest treasures this present world has ever known.

**TELL YOUR FAMILY, TELL YOUR FRIENDS  
ABOUT THE BIBLICAL WEBSITE THAT NEVER ENDS;  
BIBLE COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS, DAILY DEVOTIONS TOO  
AND ALL OF THEM AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE TO YOU.**

**WWW.ABARC.ORG**

## **OPPOSE**

### **1. Oppose unsound doctrine.**

A. Get them into the Word, out of themselves, and under His Lordship by using your sword, the Word of God, in a war you expect to win.

B. Put a glow on your face as you speak of His grace, and press toward victory over sin and Satan using the Bible as your spiritual weapon.

C. Speak with clarity, not complacency or timidity; talking... sharing... caring... one-on-one... in grateful service.

### **2. Oppose being manipulated by the inmates.**

A. Do not do for one what you cannot do for all, as this can result in immaturity and jealousy through favoritism.

B. Do not act on anything unless it is factual, or both the inmates and staff will lose their respect for you (Proverbs 13:3; 14:15; 16:20).

C. Expect to be checked out, tested, looked at from a distance, used, asked to do favors, and at times mistreated; but stand firm in your commitment and compassion for them and the staff, and you will not lose their respect.

### **3. Oppose ugly attitudes**

A. The quickest way to double an ugly attitude is to let it pass with a shrug instead of a sigh.

B. Before the judgment seat of Christ, our service will be judged not only by how much we have said, but also by how much we have condoned through silence (Matthew 12:36; Mark 8:38; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

C. To know an ugly attitude exists, whether it be in the self-righteous church member or self-centered inmate, and do nothing, is to be calloused and indifferent toward sin.

### ***Quotes From Chaplains about ABS/ARM Bible Distribution Program***

*“An inmate received a Bible for the first time after waiting a long period of time and broke down into tears of gratitude and joy.”*

*“I saw a man whose Bible was torn and tattered from use. He told me he read the entire Bible in two weeks, cover to cover – 10 hours a day!”*

*“One inmate studied and applied the Bible to his life and decided to turn himself in for a crime that even his victim had not reported. He got sentenced to many years in prison, but his conscience is clear.”*

*“I have witnessed a shift from the minority of the population to a majority of the population reading God’s Word. Due to this shift, entire 48 and 24 man tanks are studying together, discussing the Word together and learning to pray together. Men and women are evangelizing and leading others to Christ.”*

*“[We had] a Spanish-speaking gentleman who was so transformed that he would request unbelieving inmates to room with him so he could lead them to Christ.”*

## **NURTURE**

### **1. Nurture while realizing that when you take away the “failures” in the Bible you have surprising little left to read.**

A. The nation’s prison, reformatory, and jail population has increased at a record annual rate of 12% to 18% since 1973, resulting in over two million men, women, boys and girls who will go to sleep tonight behind STEEL bars.

B. America is now experiencing the highest imprisonment rate and this upward trend in imprisonment figures shows no sign of abating unless more Christian volunteers get involved.

C. The 500-600 full time chaplains presently serving jails, reformatories and prisons throughout our nation cannot possibly meet the spiritual needs of 3,333 inmates per chaplain; therefore, Christians must take a more active role in ministering to these who are, at this very moment, sitting in totally unevangelized cells without God, without Christ, and without a hope in the world.

### **2. Nurture by conducting yourself in a Christian manner.**

- A. Be honest
- B. Keep your word
- C. Present Christ

- D. Don't take on the responsibility of trying to solve all the inmate's problems
- E. See inmates as individuals
- F. Keep your objectivity
- G. Be dependable
- H. Don't go in as an expert
- I. Don't minister out of duty
- J. Don't use religious terminology (such as justification, sanctification, consecration, etc.), or inmate jargon or "slang" to try to impress
- K. Be there in person, letter, or card during crisis periods
- L. Feed the flock

### **3. Nurture through love.**

A. *"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds"* (Hebrews 10:24).

B. Love...hoping for no return, not keeping account of evil, rather dwelling on things that are above.

C. Love, preach, teach, heal, love, work, pray, give, love, bind, loose, live, love, learn, follow, evangelize, love, urge, encourage, wait, love, above all, love.

## **IN SUMMARY:**

- **P - Pray**
- **R - Respect**
- **I - Invite**
- **S - Support**
- **O - Oppose**
- **N - Nurture**

# IN-PRISON SEMINARS

*“...I was in prison and you **CAME** to me...”*  
Matthew 25:36 (NASB)

When ARM began ministering to U.S. prisoners, America’s prison population was only about 234,000. Today, ARM’s target audience is more than 2 million people who are incarcerated in America’s 1,600 state and federal prisons and 3,100 county and city jails.

One of our most effective means of reaching inmates for Christ is by conducting In-Prison Seminars that walk the prisoners from Genesis through the life of Christ in five 2.5-hour sessions. Most prisoners can quote a few favorite verses, but have never seen the “big picture” of how all the books of the Bible dove-tail together to reveal God’s great plan of salvation.

The seminar ARM teaches, **SEE THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES**, utilizes 40 full-color overhead transparencies, and each prisoner receives his/her personal 84-page workbook and certificate of completion. STTS is designed to convince the prisoner that he/she can read the Bible and understand it — not by exhorting them to study God’s Word, but rather by showing them how.

In 2005, the ARM Board of Directors voted unanimously to establish Hispanic Ministry Outreach (HMO) coordinated by Bob and Mary Marsh, former missionaries to Peru. Bob and Mary have played a vital role in expanding ARM’s ministries into Cuba and Puerto Rico.





# BIBLES, BAPTISTRIES AND THE NEW BIRTH

*“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”*  
(Galatians 3:27 NASB)

The sun never sets on an ARM sponsored baptistry. Every 10 minutes, someone, somewhere in the world, is baptized in a baptistry built and donated by ARM.

Shortly after founding ARM, Brother Joe designed the Baptistry on Wheels, a trailer with a fiberglass lining that could be towed from prison to prison. Next came the Communion Table Baptistry, a hollow communion table containing a fiberglass tank.

Today ARM also produces the Collapsible Portable Baptistry. Constructed of aluminum tubing with a vinyl tub, it unfolds like a lawn chair and can be hand-carried. Its total weight: 30 lbs.

## AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

ARM serves as the National Jail and Prison Distribution Center for the American Bible Society, which is our nation's largest and oldest Bible Society. We thank God for the ABS and for the opportunity to distribute hundreds of thousands of Bibles to inmates across America.



# AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”  
(2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)*

The AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY is **“the fastest growing Bible college behind bars”** with a new inmate student enrolling every 30 minutes — or two each hour, 24/7. In addition to printed courses, the ABA can also be accessed through [www.abarc.org](http://www.abarc.org), which is the Internet address for the AMERICAN BIBLE ACADEMY RESOURCE CENTER.

Anyone with Internet access may readily obtain any and all resource materials in our library and download them at no charge. Churches and missionaries are encouraged to link their websites to ABARC so their Sunday school teachers and church members can easily contact this valuable website.

ABARC is a virtual “one-stop Bible study center” that is like having a Bible commentary in the palm of your hand. ABARC works in cooperation with WHITE FIELDS OVERSEAS EVANGELISM and the INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL, which together teaches Bible students around the world.



# DAYSPRING GREETING CARDS

*“REMEMBER the prisoners, as though in prison with them...”*  
(Hebrews 13:3 NASB)

Ninety percent of U.S. prisoners serve their entire sentence and never go to chapel — so ARM provides beautiful DaySpring greeting cards as “bait” for the chaplains. This results in the prisoners having to go to chapel to get their cards, and when they do, the Chaplain and prison volunteers take opportunity to witness to them.

Currently, ARM ships about five million cards each year to America’s prisons — many containing a gospel tract and an invitation to enroll in ABA. Hundreds of Christian volunteers frequent ARM headquarters each month sorting and packaging these all-occasion Christian greeting cards.

ARM is fulfilling every aspect of THE GREAT COMMISSION. We are **baptizing** in the **baptistries** we place in correctional facilities; we are **teaching** through the ABA and our In-Prison seminars; and we are **abiding** with them through our Christian greeting card ministry and gospel literature program.



# FOREIGN BRANCH MINISTRIES

*“...Go into ALL the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*  
(Mark 16:15 NASB)

In 2000, ARM was only a nationwide ministry. But in 2001, we branched out internationally to embrace a prison ministry in Mexico.

In 2002, we went inter-continental by extending our prison outreach to include Russia. Later, we expanded worldwide to accommodate branch ministries in Cambodia, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Through these mission fronts, we have amplified our ministry by incorporating dozens of jails and prisons abroad! Today, ARM is a mission taking the Gospel into isolated jail and prison cells from California to Florida and to remote correctional facilities and detention centers on three continents.

