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Numerous factors are involved in the shaping of a person's life. I readily admit that my wife has had much to do with this, but I must also give another person credit. I had a godly mother -- a mother who was a good example of putting God first in her life. Mother was always present in prayer meetings, Sabbath school and worship services. This example is of inestimable value, and the pattern of the life of a child of God I must attribute to my mother. Having done this, I am ready to acknowledge my wife's part and the influence of many other people as well.

Of Ahaziah, that wicked king of Israel, it is said, "...his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly" (II Chronicles 22:3). Of another wicked king we read, "...he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD" (II Chronicles 21:6). In the lives of these two kings we have the result of a mother's influence and also a wife's influence in shaping a man's future.

Men who in the past have exerted the greatest influence for good in the world had, as a rule, godly mothers. The mother of George Washington made a practice each morning of spending an hour in prayer, devotion and Bible reading before attempting to conduct morning worship with her family. The life of Abraham Lincoln was totally influenced by his mother. When he was nine years old, he stood over the bedside of his dying mother. She reached up her hands and embraced his face and whispered, "Abe, be somebody." Then she instructed him to be always obe-

dient and law-abiding. He promised his mother that he would never use alcohol or tobacco. She had observed the influence of these poisons upon other people. That promise was never broken. Had it not been for the life of Lincoln's mother, probably nothing would have ever been heard of the man the world reveres today.

Monuments to a Mother's Influence

The Apostle Paul gives the secret of the faith of the young man Timothy, the gospel minister: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (II Timothy 1:5). This unfeigned faith was transmitted from grandmother to mother and from mother to son.

Of John the Baptist, Jesus could say, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist..." (Matthew 11:11). Naturally we are led to inquire something about this man's mother? We read, "There was in the days of Herod the King of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they WERE BOTH righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" (Luke 1:5-6). Of Elisabeth it was said that she "...was filled with the Holy Ghost." It is not surprising that, from

birth, the child John, like his mother, was "filled with the Holy Ghost."

The Mother of Samson

To the wife of Manoah, at a time when Israel needed deliverance, the promise of a son was given. In answer to the question: "...How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?" The admonition was given: "Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing" (Judges 13:4, 12). Manoah and his wife's concern was how to train the child after his birth. The angel gave instructions to the woman as to her habits before his birth. Self-control and temperance begin with the mother during pregnancy. "And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times..." (verses 24-25). Marriage to the wrong kind of woman marred the future of this man for a little while. Before his death, however, he saw his folly and repented, and God brought deliverance to Israel through him.

The children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt. When the time came for their deliverance God raised up a deliverer. Before it was possible to have such a deliverer as Moses, God first had to find a godly woman to whom He could entrust his training. The story is an interesting one. Pharaoh himself probably knew that the time of Israel's deliverance had almost come. He gave command to the midwives, "...Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river..." (Exodus 1:22).

It was at the time that Moses was born. When his mother "...saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink" (Exodus 2:2-3). Miriam, "...his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him" (verse 4). The mother was at home, doubtless on her knees, pleading with God in behalf of her helpless babe. We allow the story of his being found by Pharaoh's daughter, and how his mother received him back again. For years she had him as her pupil. After this, Moses became the son of Pharaoh's daughter and the prospective heir to the throne of Egypt.

A Training That Was Never Effaced

When Moses had reached the age of forty years, after having been trained by the Egyptians for his future exalted position, "It came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel." That mother's training was never effaced. "...Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt..." (Hebrews 11:24-26). Had it not been for a godly mother and the early training of this son, deliverance would have had to come from some other source.

God's Answer To Hannah's Prayer.

In the prophet Samuel we have another example of a godly mother's life and influence. Hannah was childless, and she earnestly prayed for a son. God heard her heartfelt prayer and gave her the promise of a son. She, on her part, promised to dedicate him to the service of God forever. This promise she kept. During the early years of Samuel's life his mother taught him with this in view, and then she presented him to the Lord. In Eli's household dwelt his wicked sons, who were "sons of Belial." The boy Samuel was not influenced by the course pursued by these two young men and grew to become a man with whom God could communicate early in life. Later he became one of the most devout men of God upon whom God could bestow the prophetic gift. When God needed a Samuel, a prophet, He had first to go in search of a woman of prayer, a woman that would keep her word and integrity, a Hannah. Without a Hannah, there could have been no Samuel.

Of the Lord Jesus we read, "...when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman..." (Galatians 4:4). To make possible Jesus Christ, the Deliverer, God had first to go in search of a Mary. To this godly young girl were the words addressed by the angel, "...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS...And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1:30-31, 38).

Later when Mary and her cousin, Elisabeth came together, she said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: "...blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord" (Luke 1:45). Then Mary answered, "...My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (verses 46-47). To this woman, Mary, the Lord Jesus Christ was born, and to this woman was entrusted the upbringing and early training of the Son of God. Just think to a Mary, "...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman..."

The Hand That Rules The World

There is a saying, "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." The power of woman in shaping the destinies of men and of nations has always been greater than that of man. As long as women are what they should be, even if men go wrong, there is hope for the future; but if the women also go wrong there is nothing to hope for. The world then will go from bad to worse, until, as in Noah's day, conditions will become helpless.

Many a man who has made a success in life and who has had an influence to go in the world can say:

"If in this life success I gain,
Should I receive some earthly fame,
May God forbid and place His bane
That I should praise some to her name,
Or credit give another,
When I owe it to my mother."

"Perhaps two ways are offered me, And I stand between the twain, Wondering which at last to gain. I'll take the cross, and not the other, For I had a Christian mother."

"And if I'm faithful, saved at last, Completed well my earthly stay, May I in looking o'er the past, Pay tribute in the selfsame way, By telling angels, as they hover, That I am here because of Mother."



I AM RESOLVED....AS A MOTHER



- 1. To make this coming year count in the development of my own spiritual life and that of my family, even though I realize there will be plenty to hinder me. "My sufficiency is of Him."
- 2. To take this task seriously, to give time to planning for it and carrying it out, also to checking up on myself so that one day may build on another.
- 3. To read my Bible once a day at least, twice or three times if possible until I get a message for myself. In some cases this may mean only one verse; in others, many more. But I am determined to read thoughtfully.
- 4. To spend more time in prayer, expecting results therefore. My prayer life must be inspirational and edifying, not mere routine.
- 5. To cultivate the habit of "giving thanks in all things" and of "praising Him at all times." I began doing this last year and found there was no time for grouches, self-pity and fear.
- 6. To be more careful to maintain a Christian atmosphere in the home. This means I must watch the literature that comes in, the television programs, table conversations, conduct one toward another, unkindly comments and gossip.



Mother's Day finds the world taking time out again to make a formal appreciation for the influence of the hand that rocks the cradle, and for that person in every home who does so much so constantly to keep it the bulwark of progressive and enlightened civilization.

Mother is a realist, and so she looks not so much in wonder and awe at the presents showered upon her today and the other evidences of love and respect which the whole family strives to make clear as she does in amused tolerance at all the fuss being made over what is her happiest and proudest job.

Naturally she would be disappointed if she were forgotten, but she knows deep in her heart that she will never be forgotten, not for a moment. For around her revolves the family -- and without the family civilization as we know it could not exist.

From her tutelage, for example her discipline, come the leaders, the workers, the geniuses of the world. All of them operate from the safe and secure base at home made comfortable, convenient and pleasant by the continuing efforts of Mother whose ideas for right and wrong, industry and thrift and responsibility, consideration and aims and ends in life sink more deeply into human consciousness than those of any other individual or institution.

Mother sets the example. She is brave in adversity, patient in uncertainty, encouraging in despair, inspiring in disappointment and living and forgiving always. Instinctively she is the epitome of all the fine qualities that men strive for. She is the source of faith and the fount of strength.

Mother needs no accolades, however, except that devotion and confidence of her family which are hers by right simply of being mothers. But we salute her anyway. And if it makes us feel good to remember her, to present her with gifts, to pamper her a little and smile on her today

as proof of our love for her, why then it makes her feel good, too.

And certainly, Mother has a right to feel good on the day set aside for recognizing her.

One of the Ten Commandments is, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). If you are a godly mother, teaching your child the biblical way, you will be honored for your efforts.

There is a hymn about mothers that is inspiring to think about. It is called "Mother's Prayers Have Followed Me." The first verse and chorus say:

"I grieved my Lord from day to day,
I scorned His love so full and free,
And though I wandered far away,
My mother's prayers have followed me.
I'm coming home, I'm coming home,
to live my wasted life anew.

For mother's prayers have followed me,

Have followed me the whole world through."

There must be many, many people who have succeeded in life because of the fervent prayers of a godly mother. It is important to remember that a mother's job is never done, even when her children are grown and on their own. The role of the mother changes because the children, as adults, make their own decisions. Now she can be the one her children turn to for advice, and her prayers should remain just as fervent. If only mothers would take the time to earnestly pray for their children, many heartaches would be spared and children could be brought up according to the will of God. Mothers, pray for your children. Children, honor your parents and rejoice in their love, discipline and guidance.

A Short Mother's Day Thought

by Bond Tennant

Mary was a good mother to our Lord Jesus Christ. Proverbs 31 gives some of the righteous traits of a virtuous woman.

"She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands" (verse 13).

"She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar" (Verse 14).

"She riseth also, while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens" (verse 15).

"She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff" (verse 19).

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy" (verse 20).

"Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come" (verse 25).

The above well describes Mary. We can be well assured that neither Mary nor Joseph came from a wealthy home. Much hard work was to be done. We see that Mary knew what it was to toil in the field and to grind corn. She washed her laundry at the well and she carried water.

We see pictures of Mary, but these pictures are probably quite different from the hardworking homemaker she really was. Yes, Mary was a good mother to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let all mothers emulate the virtuous traits of Mary!



Almonds mentioned several times in the Bible are one of the highest protein and fiber nuts and contain manganese, magnesium, and calcium, necessary ingredients to the body.

"And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:" Genesis 43:11.

Here is an easy crockpot receipe ready in 2 hours for game night with your family or Bible Study night at Church -- In an oval, 5- to 6-quart slow cooker, stir together cereals and pretzels. In a small bowl, mix melted butter, Worcestershire sauce and spices with whisk until well combined. Pour over cereal mixture; stir until evenly coated. Cook uncovered on High heat setting 2 hours, stirring every 20 minutes.

Ingredients:
3 cups Corn cereal
3 cups Rice cereal
2 cups Wheat cereal

2 cups mixed nuts (almonds, cashews, pistachios)

1 cup bite size pretzels

6 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

1 1/2 teaspoons seasoned salt 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder 1/2 teaspoon onion powder



THE TEMPLE OF GOD

And the Man of Sin

By Moises Torres M.

In II Thessalonians chapter 2, Apostle Paul mentions about a man who is coming after the power of Satan and will exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, trying to sit in the temple of God.

II Thessalonians 2:1-4:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

These verses mention first the gathering (rapture) of the church by the Lord Jesus Christ, and then the coming of the man of sin is described. Apostle Paul is very explicit about this personage who will come after the power of Satan trying to sit in the temple of God demanding all prerogative or rights over all creation showing himself that he is God. Here the question arises, what is this temple where this individual will sit? Some may think this is a temple the people of Israel will build in the near future on Mount Zion, but concerning this the same Orthodox Jews in charge of the Temple Institute in Jerusalem say they have the will and are not opposed to its construction, however they believe it is only their coming Messiah's right to build it at His appearing; they also say they are only getting everything ready to start this building immediately after the commandment is given by their coming Messiah. They base their thoughts on Zechariah 6:12-13:

"And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

The Orthodox Jews also say the temple or "the third temple" as they call it, would not be built nor supervised according to the design or plans of men, but according to the divine inspiration of the Messiah.

Another fact is the latent enmity between Jews and Muslims. Only a few being watched by the police can climb to a certain height and step on the grounds of the mountain where the ruins of the temple are, and they cannot pray either being up there; this is why the Jews pray recharged on the walls of the old city of Jerusalem. So if all of these will hinder the building of this temple in Jerusalem, what is this temple Apostle Paul refers to in II Thessalonians?

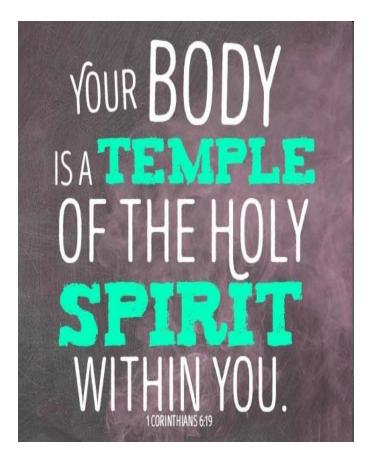
The word "temple" has several meanings and symbolisms used in the Bible. It is not always applied to a literal building made of man's hands. For example, in reference to the church this verse reads: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16). The church here is mentioned as another type of temple. The Lord Jesus also referred to Himself as being a Temple: "And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days." (Matthew 26:61). "But he spake of the temple of his body." (John 2:21). We can

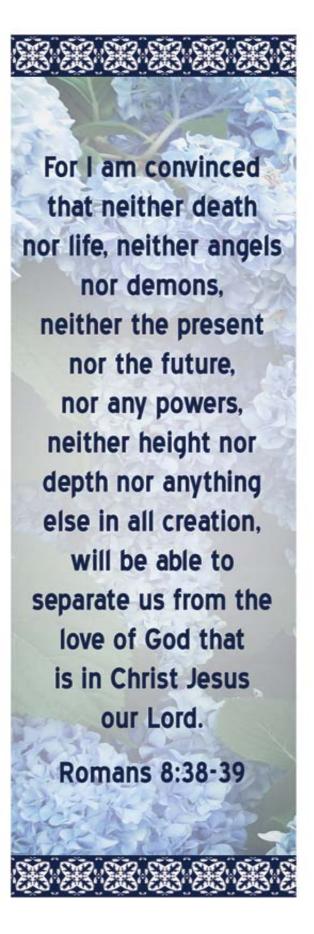
also read Malachi 3:1; and Matthew 12:6.

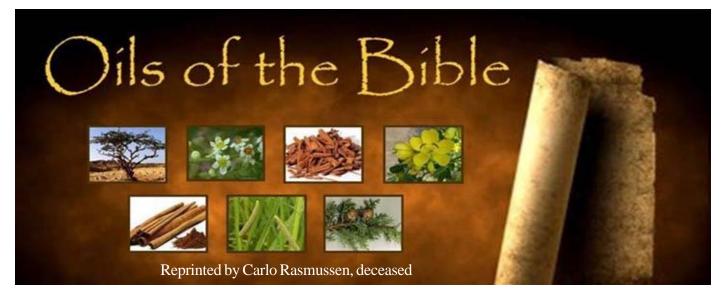
Today our buildings or literal temples are used for church meetings and worship, but in the times of the Old Testament only the priests designated could enter into the temple to keep it clean and do the different services appointed to them.

Following this line, the temple that the man of sin will try to sit in is not a literal building. It refers more to sitting on God's creation and over God's authority and throne as the verse in II Thessalonians 2:4 reads: He "...exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

This is the same Satan tried to do in the beginning and he was cast down from heaven. "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." (Isaiah 14:13-15).







The use of oil is recorded many times in the Bible. Oil was used for physical purposes, as well as for spiritual purposes. Among the ancient Hebrews in Israel, olive oil was widely used. Olive oil comes from the olive tree and is harvested in the Autumn of the year. To remove the olives from the tree, one must shake or beat the tree until the fruit falls off. By treading the olives underfoot, or crushing them under a wheel, the oil was extracted from the olive. The oil was then collected into jars or vats where the impurities were allowed to settle.

There was a certain olive oil that was of better quality than the rest. This oil was a pure beaten oil that came forth from the fruit before the actual crushing took place. This oil was considered a type of first fruit, as we can read in Exodus 27:20, and 29:40. After the leaves and twigs were removed, the olive was beaten into pieces and then placed into a basket where the oil was allowed to flow out of itself. This was done before the olives went into the regular process of removing the oil.

Olive oil was used in the burning of lamps by the children of Israel, as we can read in Exodus 25:6. Only the pure beaten olive oil was used in the lamps within the sanctuary. This lamp was to burn continually day and night. Olive oil was also for medicine to keep wounds soft. Oil and wine were mixed by the "good Samaritan" when he treated the wounds of the Israelite in Luke 10:34. During the times when Israel was governed by kings, the kings were anointed with olive oil. We read where Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it upon the head of Saul, and kissed him, thus showing him as anointed of the Lord to be "captain over his inheritance:" I Samuel 10:1.

All things instituted by God are for a reason. Every child of God should consider and remember this fact. The tabernacle and all furniture inside it were for a purpose. The special "holy oil" prescribed by the Lord for the tabernacle carried special representation. This oil was representative of the Holy Spirit of God, which dwells within the body of every true believer. Today this is the tabernacle of God. Every child of God is the "officiating priest" of his or her temple. Like as the holy oil was to anoint all things within the tabernacle in the Old Testament times, so today, the Holy Spirit of God is to anoint our fleshly tabernacles completely through this "anointing" all of God's people are set apart for proper service unto the Lord.

At the time of baptism the "babes in Christ" have hands laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Spirit into their hearts, minds, and bodies. This is representative of that special "Holy Oil" of God.

From time to time some may become sick or afflicted in the family of God. The Apostle James writes that if there is any sick among you, for the brethren to call upon the elders of the church, and let them pray over those afflicted, and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord, James 5:13-16. In these verses, the oil is representative of that Holy Spirit of God. We are not to think there is any healing power within the oil itself. True healing comes only from the holy Power of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. The oil is a symbol of that Power.

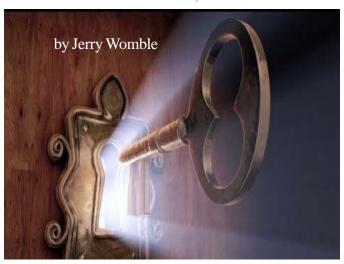
We read in Acts 19:11-12 where "...God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits

went out of them." The Apostle Paul was especially blessed of God with the gift of healing, and in this way, healing could be accomplished without Paul's presence.

Today in the local Churches of God around the world the anointing of handkerchiefs with oil for the sick and afflicted is done by the local pastors or elders. Here also, it is not the oil which heals, but rather that which the oil represents, namely the Holy Spirit of God.

Let us consider these thoughts and remember to maintain ourselves filled, or anointed, with that special oil of God, His Holy Spirit wherein we will be ready to be caught away to the sea of glass when Jesus appears in the heavens. If we are not anointed of God now we will receive the wrath of the Seven Last Plagues which will be poured out after the saints have been caught up. When the Plagues have been poured completely there will come the great time of the restitution of all things when that Holy Oil of God will gradually fill the whole earth and make it as it was. Are you anointed with the Holy Spirit of God, His Special Oil from above?

He that hath an ear, let him hear.



Word Keys That Unlock Truth

KINGDOM - By definition a kingdom is a realm governed over by a ruler whether it be land, politically or spiritually. The theme of the Bible next to Jesus is the future kingdom.

The city of Rome as headquarters and the land that it ruled over, that is the Roman Empire, was a physical and political kingdom at the time Jesus was on the earth. It was physical because of the vast number of countries it controlled and political because all those nations had to follow Rome's rule as they were overseen by Roman soldiers.

For a kingdom in the OT times God gave Israel Judges to be their leader. These judges were both physical leaders and spiritual men of God. I am reminded of Samuel when he went to Jesse's house to anoint David to be the future king and when the people saw him coming they were at first afraid and asked him if he was coming for punishment or for blessings. This showed their fear and respect for him as the leader of the nation and the spiritual leader of the people. Not being satisfied the people had asked for a king from God to reign over them and he gave them first Saul. The king then was more physical in leadership because he wanted his authority to be number one and not God's.

Either God or the devil is the spiritual influence behind the physical leaders of a country. The devil took the spiritual leader Jesus to a high mountain and offered to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would only worship him. The devil was recognizing that he has control over false kings and their kingdoms but not over Jesus the one to be the spiritual leader of the people.

An angel in Luke 1 talks to Mary about a kingdom and says that the child she is going to have will have a kingdom without end. That will be the millennial kingdom of Rev. 20:4-6. This is the kingdom that we want to have a part in. We are to be kings and priests in that kingdom, meaning that we will all have a job to do during the millennial reign. That kingdom is referred to in Matt. 13:41 as the kingdom of the Son which leads to vs. 43 the kingdom of the Father. This is what Paul is writing about in 1 Cor. 15 when he says that after Jesus has put down all rule and authority, he will turn the kingdom back to God.

Our final thought about a kingdom is the one that John the Baptist talks about in Matt. 3 and Jesus talks about in Matt. 4 and this is called the gospel kingdom. It is the one that leads us to salvation. It teaches us of repentance, baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; it is the kingdom we can receive now and we must keep it in spirit and truth in order to be in the future kingdom with Jesus.



As a relatively new member of the church, I have been searching for what makes the Church of God (7th Day) different and special. I have been asking myself the question, "Why does the Church of God (7th Day) exist and what is its purpose on the Earth in light of all the other wonderful things that God is doing in our world?"

I used to believe that the answer to this question was doctrinal, that our church exists to hold to a specific set of doctrinal points and keep them zealously. The problem I ran into with this purpose was that it felt like we were sticking our heads in the sand. It didn't fit with Jesus's command in Mark 16:15 to spread the gospel to the entire world. During this last year is when my opinion on this issue has changed.

The purpose for the church that I have come to believe can be summed up by the Latin phrase that was popular at the time of the Reformation: "Sola Scriptura," or "The Scriptures alone." Many churches today classify themselves as "Bible believing" and many of those actually walk the walk and follow through in believing that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. I believe that our purpose is to take this one step further and to its logical conclusion. Not only is the Bible inspired by and from God, but is the only set of documents inspired by God to be the basis of our faith. In short, it is my contention that the purpose of the Church of God (7th Day) is to be a beacon for a faith based on the Bible and the Bible only.

The problem that we are seeking to address in the world today is that the Christian faith has been mixed in

with a host of customs and traditions that come from a myriad of different sources. A good example of this is the classical Christian teaching of the afterlife. Churches have mixed the biblical teachings of a resurrection of the saints when Christ returns with traditions rooted in Greek mythology. In Greek mythology, when a good person dies, his "soul" would cross over and dwell in a place called the Elysian Fields. When an evil person dies, his "soul" would be sent to hades where it would be tortured for eternity.

The Bible teachings on the afterlife stand in stark contrast to that of the Greek. Romans 6:23 states: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Sin does not bring about an eternal life of fire and torture, but simply an end --death. As this illustration shows, the Christian teaching of today is not solely Bible based.

One critical point needs to be made here. There are many members of God's family in the world today, the majority of which may not be members of the Church of God (7th Day). These people have accepted the salvation that Christ has to offer and are doing their very best to serve God. Most of these people have never seen or heard of a faith based only on the Bible and not mixed with non-biblical teachings. It is our job to reach out to these people and the churches they are in with love and show them a pure faith based only on God's given Word. We also must examine our own church very closely to make sure that everything we teach is based on the Scriptures and has not been brought in by tradition.

It is my belief that we as a church have a very clear purpose and mission in this world. We are to be a beacon for a simpler faith, a faith in Jesus Christ that comes from God through His Holy Spirit and is based on the Bible alone. It is our job to let our light shine and show a confused world how great following God can really be.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

The San Antonio, Texas Church hosted the 2021 Youth Retreat Expedition in Faith -- the next two pages contain camp information for upcoming 2022 camps for youth (boys and girls) and young adults.



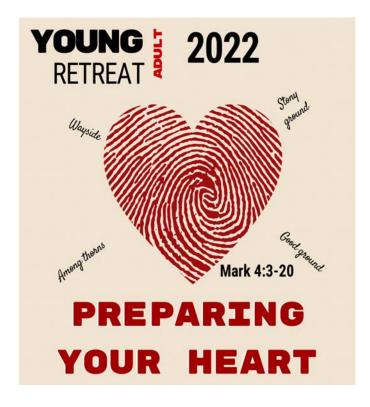
Church of God (7th Day) 2022 Summer Youth Retreat P.U.S.H. Registration Form

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are excited to inform you of the 2022 summer youth retreat in our beautiful Texas Hill Country north of San Antonio!!! Directions to the retreat are on the church website calendar www.churchofGod7thday.org. The Lord's retreat will be July 24th thru July 29th. Registration fee is \$35. If you would like a camp shirt please send an additional \$15 with your registration. Checks may be written to: Church of God (7th Day) and mailed with this registration form to: Cindy Buechner, 9608 Geronimo Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78254. We also will be accepting money through paypal at Buechner1@aol.com, choose the option "sending to a friend". Registration deadline is June 24th.

Girls – 11-18 yrs. Tuesday - July 27	•			
Camper's Name	M or F Birthdate	Age:	as of July 25st	
Parent's/Guardian's Name(s)				
Address	City	S	tate	
Prione #	Email address			
	Is your shirt a child size or an a	adult size !		
-	tive if parent/guardian cannot be reached: Phone #			
Circle Any That Apply:				
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	k, sumac, or other			
What is the reaction to the above	question?			_
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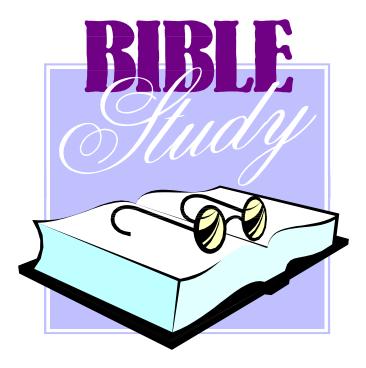


Young Adults 2022 Registration Form

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you all know, our youth have a summer retreat available to them that mentors ages 11-18. So, what happens after they are over 18? We are thrilled to inform you of the 2022 Young Adult Retreat! The retreat will be located in the beautiful natural setting of Cedar Hill, TX south of the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex! The young adult's retreat will be held on the weekend of September 2nd through September 4th, 2022 at: Mt. Lebanon Camp 1701 Texas Plume Rd. Cedar Hill, Tx 75104. Check out the photos and directions at their website www.mtlebanon.com. The registration fee will be \$30 and is due with a signed Registration Form. Checks may be written to: Church of God (7th Day) or you can use the church's PayPal through our email c0g7thday@att.net ("c0g" being a zero). If you would like a camp shirt, please send an additional \$15 and your shirt size. We will be accepting forms until July 4th 2022. The camp will be co-ed and the lodging will be in separate male female dormitories supervised by our local and visiting church leaders. For 2022 will continue to open this camp to men and women ages 19-27, married or not. Unfortunately, this year we will not have childcare available for married couples with children. The schedule is below: Departure Date/Time

Arrival Date/Time Young Men/Women – 19-27 yrs. Friday Sept. 2, 12:00PM Sept. 4, 4:00PM Camper's Name______ M or F Birthdate _____ Address_____ City_____ State____ Email address Phone # What is your shirt size?_____ Name and Telephone of an emergency contact: _____Phone #_____ Circle Any That Apply: Heart condition, diabetes, asthma, or other condition?:_____ Drug Allergies? Yes or No Drug_______Reaction_____ Any other (food, etc.) allergies? Any dietary regimen at this time? Yes or No. If yes, list medications or dietary restrictions: Any medication taken to camp must be in its original container and labeled, with directions, for the individual for whom it is intended. I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents. I understand that attempts will be made to reach an emergency contact if the camper requires emergency medical/surgical treatment, but, if it is impractical to do so, and/or, until I can arrive at the scene, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by camp staff to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order injections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery for me. Any financial obligation incurred will be covered by me personally, or by the insurance policy listed below. SIGNATURE _____DATE: ____ Insurance Company______ Policy Number _____

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from The Home Instructor Part I - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 5 - SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING

QUESTION: With what times are the times of Christ's second coming compared?

ANSWER: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not (believed not) until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" Matthew 24:37-39.

QUESTION: What will happen as people go about their daily lives?

ANSWER: "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" verses

40-41.

QUESTION: Why should we watch?

ANSWER: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch (hour) the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (verses 42-44).

QUESTION: What shall arise in the religious world?

ANSWER: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (verse 24).

QUESTION: Will some fall away from the truth?

ANSWER: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" I Timothy 4:1-2.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition": II Thessalonians 2:3.

QUESTION: Why will man be lost?

ANSWER: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" verse 10.

QUESTION: What will people not endure and what shall they heap to themselves?

ANSWER: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they

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heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" II Timothy 4:3.

looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" Luke 21:26.

QUESTION: To what shall they be turned?

ANSWER: "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" verse 4.

QUESTION: What will God send these people?

ANSWER: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" II Thessalonians 2:11-12.

QUESTION: What will happen when the nations cry, 'Peace and Safety'?

ANSWER: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" I Thessalonians 5:3.

QUESTION: What kind of men shall grow worse and worse?

ANSWER: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" II Timothy 3:13.

QUESTION: What signs shall be in the heavens and upon the earth?

ANSWER: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring" Luke 21:25.

QUESTION: Is heart failure a sign of the Lord's coming?

ANSWER: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for

QUESTION: For how long was the city of Jerusalem to be trodden down?

ANSWER: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. (Prophecy of Titus and his armies in 70 A.D.) Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" Luke 21:20-24.

QUESTION: What other signs will be in the earth?

ANSWER: "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" verse 11.

QUESTION: Will there be peace in the earth?

ANSWER: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" Matthew 24:6-8.

QUESTION: What conditions will exist in the social world?

ANSWER: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural

affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (not able to contain sexual impulses), fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady (strong willed), highminded (feeling superior), lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" II Timothy 3:1-5.

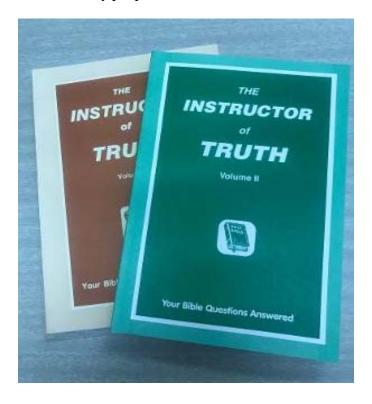
QUESTION: For how long should the book of Daniel be closed?

ANSWER: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end" Daniel 12:4, first part.

QUESTION: What would happen in the time of the end?

ANSWER: "...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" verse 4, last part.

Call in to the Publishing House (304-782-1411) and let them know if your friend could use The Instuctor of Truth Volume I & II. We would be glad to mail them a starter package of Advocates, Lessons, tracts and Instructor -there are many people out there that need God's words.



Gnosticism, Countered

By David DeLong

The book of Jude appears to be a counter to the false teaching of his time, called gnosticism. Gnosticism mixed parts of paganistic teachings with Christianity, forming a hybrid religion known as hellenistic Christianity. (Hellenistic refers to Greek influence after the time of Alexander the Great). Some of this hellenistic Christianity is still displayed in many churches today. We begin with the first three verses of Jude: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Jude exhorted his Christian brethren "of the common salvation", stating that they "should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This common salvation and faith were being attacked by "certain men crept in unawares". Verse 4 reads: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." These men were apparently gnostic Christians, many of whom were introducing "lasciviousness" and strange doctrines into the churches of the true brethren.

Gnostics believed, like many "Christians" do today, only in the grace of God, throwing out the Law of God. Thus, lasciviousness was the inevitable result. By denying the only Lord God, many gnostics believed that the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament were two different beings. The God of the Old Testament, many believed, was a hateful, judgmental God, and the God of the New Testament was a merciful, loving God. Therefore, they rejected the God of the Old Testament and threw out His Law. Many only received portions of the New Testament.

By denying the Lord Jesus Christ, many gnostics believed in the doctrine of docetism, whereby Jesus and Christ were also two different beings. Jesus was Jewish and some gnostics believed that His ministry on earth was inferior. Therefore, they believed that many of His teachings were inferior or corrupted. For instance, they believed that the number eight was superior to seven, so they abandoned the Sabbath and started keeping Sunday. Sunday, the first day of the week, was also the eighth day (the day following the seventh). This belief had to do with their hellenistic ideas about the universe.

Christ, they believed, was the true Son of God who went back to heaven. These gnostics, therefore, believed that the writings of Paul and other apostles were more reliable Scriptures than the gospels. Also, many gnostics believed in the intermediary influence of angels. Jude wrote in verse 6: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." This would have shown the gnostics that angels could fall and be judged. And verse 7 states: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." This verse would have countered the gnostics' belief in living a lawless lifestyle.

One of the beliefs of some gnostics was that they felt they had to, for instance, blaspheme the God of the Old Testament to rid themselves of His influence. It appears that Jude countered them in verses 8-10: "Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt them-

selves."

Gnostics would routinely mingle with true believers, thinking that they had the superior faith. Jude wrote in verses 12-13: "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." "Wandering stars" probably has reference to the planets which seem to wander in their orbits around the sun. This would be a very hard blow against the gnostics who looked to the starry heavens as a place of seemingly more stability (the stars seemed to move much more slowly, if at all.) Gnostics identified themselves with the seemingly more stability of the starry heavens, believing that after death they would make their abode there. They looked to the planetary heavens as being more chaotic, thus not wanting to identify with them.

A book of Enoch was revered by some of the gnostics. Jude may have been using this text against them when he wrote: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jude admonished the true believers with these words: "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (verses 17-21).

It appears that Jude was countering gnostic Christians and their heretical beliefs in his letter. We must be on guard today against anyone calling himself, or herself, a Christian, but who brings false, heretical, beliefs into our congregations. Some of the beliefs of the gnostic Christians are still around today. May the Lord grant us the wisdom and strength to counter them.

LESSONI

LESSON II

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN (PART 1)

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6:1-15.

Golden Text: Daniel 6:11.

"Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God."

NOTE: We have been studying about Daniel; and in our last lesson, we learned how he helped interpret the strange handwriting that appeared on the wall. He became an important leader under the new king, Darius. We will now find out more about the life of Daniel.

- 1. What were Daniel's duties while working for King Darius? Daniel 6:1-3.
- 2. Who wanted to find fault with Daniel, and could they find anything he did wrong? Daniel 6:4.
- 3. What did the Presidents and Princes decide to find against Daniel? Daniel 6:5.
- 4. What did the Presidents and Princes suggest that King Darius do? Daniel 6:6-8.
- 5. Did King Darius agree to sign this new decree? Daniel 6:9.
- 6. What did Daniel do when he heard of the new law? Daniel 6:10.
- 7. What did the Presidents and Princes do when they saw Daniel praying? Daniel 6:11-13.
- 8. When the king heard what Daniel had done, what did he feel? Daniel 6:14-15.



DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN (PART II)

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6:16-28.

Golden Text: Daniel 6:19.

"Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions."

NOTE: In our last lesson we studied about how the leaders under King Darius were envious of Daniel and wanted to find fault with him. These leaders persuaded King Darius to sign a decree that stated if anyone bowed down to a God instead of the king, they would be put in the den of lions. Daniel continued to pray to God, and we will now study to find out what happens to Daniel.

- 1. When Daniel is thrown into the lion's den, what does the king say to him? Daniel 6:16.
- 2. What does he do to the entrance of the den? Daniel 6:17.
- 3. Explain what the king does all that night and the next morning? Daniel 6:18-20.
- 4. How did God protect Daniel from the hungry lions? Daniel 6:21-22.
- 5. What did the king order to be done with Daniel, and was Daniel harmed in any way? Daniel 6:23.
- 6. What did King Darius do with Daniel's accusers? Daniel 6:24.
- 7. What did King Darius proclaim through the land? Daniel 6:25-27.
- 8. Did Daniel prosper after the time? Daniel 6:28.

Answers to Telephone Puzzle - Luke 6:5; Mark 5:34; Luke 14:1-5; John 4:49; Matthew 9:2; Luke 8:41-42; John 5:2,9; John 9:1-14.

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LESSON III

JOB (PART I)

Scripture Reading: Job 1. Golden Text: Job 1:22.

"In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

NOTE: We will learn about a man named Job and his relationship with God. We can learn much from his example.

- 1. For what is Job noted? James 5:11.
- 2. What did the Lord say about the goodness of Job? Job 1:8.
- 3. Why did Satan believe that Job feared God? Job 1:9-11.
- 4. Throughout all of his trials, did Job turn against God? Job 1:22.
- 5. What was Job's bodily affliction? Job 2:7.
- 6. Who were Job's three friends? Job 2:11.
- 7. Had Job feared that some awful thing would befall him? Job 3:25-26.

LESSON IV

JOB (PART II)

Scripture Reading: Job 42. Golden Text: Job 19:25.

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

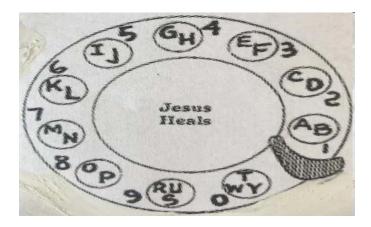
NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned about Job who was very faithful to God. Satan believed that if Job was made to suffer, he wouldn't praise God. So the Lord let Satan have power over Job to test Job's faith. We will now finish the story to see if Job turns from God.

- 1. What did Job say about trusting the Lord? Job 13:15-16.
- 2. What was Job's great question on eternal life? Job 14:14.
- 3. Did he believe in Jesus as his Saviour and believe that in the end he would see God? Job 19:25-26.
- 4. What does the Bible say about Job 's last days? Job 42:12.
- 5. How many children did Job have at last? Job 42:13.
- 6. What were his daughter's names? Job 42:14.
- 7. How long did Job live after his great experience? Job 42:16.

NOTE: This story of Job shows us that we can endure much and still praise the Lord. He will give us many blessings and the chance for eternal life if we are always true to Him.

Refer to the telephone dial to identify the people Jesus healed. Convert the number sequences to the appropriate letters on the dial. For example, 7-1-7 on the dial spells M or N, A or B, M, A, and N are the letters that speall man.

- 1. 7-1-7 0-5-0-4-3-9-3-2 4-1 7-2
- 2. 0-8-7-1-7 0-5-0-4 8-6 1-4-9-3
- 3. 7-1-7 8-3 7-8-1-6-3-7-1-7
- 4. 9-8-7 8-3 7-8



DO YOU REALLY LOVE MOTHER?

By Mary Railton

School was over, and Martha and Mark were in the living room at home. The weather outside made them very happy to have a home where they could play inside and have fun.

Suddenly, from another room they heard a familiar voice calling. "It is supper time," said Mother. "Time to pick up your toys and get cleaned up for supper."

After exchanging glances, Martha and Mark went right on playing. Father came up from the basement workshop. And he and Mother talked for a little while. Then Mother called again. "Martha and Mark, get out here and get cleaned up. Supper is on the table."

They dropped everything on the floor and ran to the kitchen to make ready for supper. As they sat down to the table, Mark turned to Mother, and said, "Oh, I love you, Mother. You fixed 'skettie' and meatballs, my favorite supper."

Mother stole a glance into the living room and turning to Mark, said, "Do you really love me, Mark?"

"I love you, too, Mother," spoke up Martha. "I would do anything for you."

Turning to Martha, Mother repeated her question. "Do you really love me, Martha, enough to do anything I ask?"

Martha and Mark exchanged puzzled glances, wondering what Mother meant by her odd questions.

After supper, the twins scampered back to the living room to play while Mother put away the food and washed the dishes. Soon it was time for the bedtime story. It was Mother's turn tonight to tell the story as she had thought, while doing the dishes, of an appropriate story.

Gathered all on the couch, the children climbed upon Mother and Dad, and Mother began her story.

"A long time ago there was a wealthy man named Abraham; he had all the comforts of life and he and his wife, Sarah, were very happy together."

One day God spoke to Abraham. "I want you to pack up your goods and take your family to a far away country that you have never seen. I will protect you all the way and show you how to reach that country. I want to begin a new nation, and I want you and your wife, Sarah, to be the founders of that nation."

Well, Abraham knew that when God told him to do something he should obey God. And so he said, "All right, I will be ready to travel as soon as I can gather everything together."

They traveled for many, many days; and always God protected them from harm. When they reached their new country, Abraham looked in all directions. To himself Abraham said, "My, how happy I am that I obeyed God. For this country has wonderful grass for all my cattle and sheep and there is plenty of room for them to graze. My, think what I would have missed if I had not done what God asked me to do!"

"Soon they had a little baby boy in their happy home. Abraham became more wealthy than he had been in this homeland. Yes, Abraham was certainly glad that he had obeyed God although at the time he could not understand why God would ask him to leave his country. Why, he was much happier here than ever before. Yes, he would always do as God commanded, for he knew that it was much better to obey.

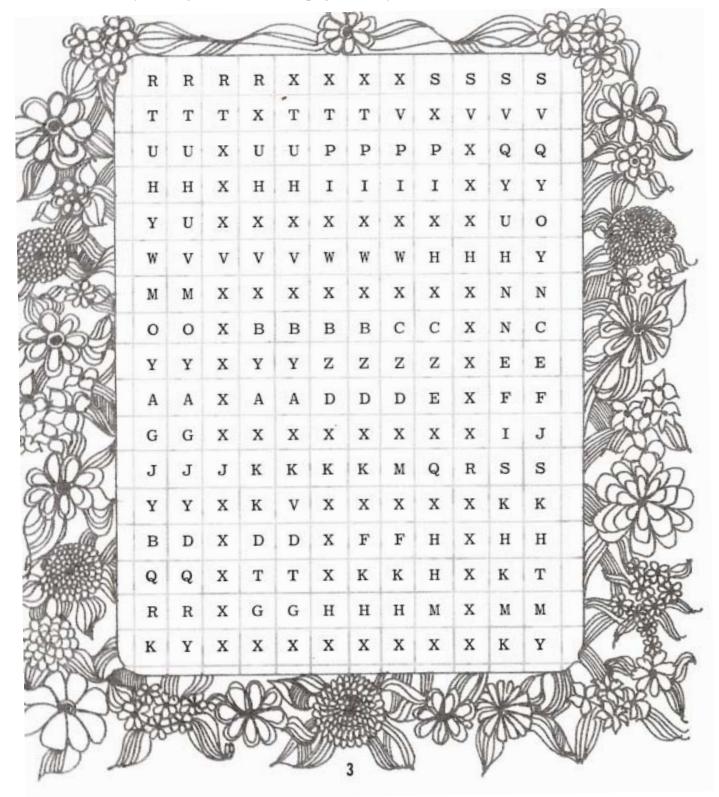
Martha and Mark listened quietly, often looking at each other. Mark stole a glance at his father who was watching all those toys sit on the floor. And Martha noticed Mother looking sadly at the toys while she was telling about Abraham.

Again they exchanged glances and quickly slid off the couch to the floor. Mother and Dad said nothing while the toys quickly disappeared into their box. But when Mother tucked them tenderly into bed she whispered in each of their ears, "Thank you for doing as I said," and kissed them good night. They had learned a lesson in obedience.



LOVE

Using a red crayon, color in the squares marked with an X. You will find a word which is love. When you are finished, turn the page sideways to see the answer better.



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