



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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Praise
the Lord

*The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him, and I am helped:
therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and
with my song will I praise him.*

*The LORD is their strength, and he is the
saving strength of his anointed.*

Psalms 28: 7-8

I would like to say thank you Lord Jesus for
allowing us to praise your holy name.

Psalms 149:3 says ..Let them praise his
name in the dance:let them sing praises unto
him with the timbrel and harp....And Psalms

150:6 says Let everything that hath
breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord ...

Sister Betty Butterworth

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Perseverance

1. Steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc., especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.
2. Theology . continuance in a state of grace to the end, leading to eternal salvation.

Above are two definitions of the word perseverance. One is considered to be a secular definition while the other is obviously spiritual. The importance of perseverance is impossible to overstate. Ol' brother Paul, the apostle, stresses the importance not of winning the race, but of finishing the race. In the Bible there is the parable of the mustard seed. I believe that the message/point being made by that parable is not related to the size of ones faith, but the tenacity of their faith. In other words, a faith that persevered, that just kept right on going and going and going. Here's an illustration of what I mean. A mustard seed is very small and it is supposed to be planted beneath a quarter inch of soil. Note that the KJV, which I maintain is far superior to any other translation, is the only one that does not address the size of a mustard seed. The Scripture from the KJV reads, "And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." As I said, the mustard seed is planted beneath a quarter inch of soil. A quarter inch of soil weighs a lot more than the tiny mustard seed. Yet, in spite of all that adversity, the mustard seed never gives up. It just keeps on pushing against the weight of the soil over it. Steadily and continually pushing upward until it finally breaks through the top of the ground and begins to grow and blossom. The mustard seed never got any bigger after it was planted. It overcame the much greater weight of the earth pressing down on it simply by persevering..... It never gave up...For what it's worth that's how I believe our faith must be. There are people whom I'm certain have a greater amount of faith than I do, but no one has a more constant, persevering faith than I do. Yes, the Lord has given each of us "a measure of faith," (Romans 12:3) but we can increase that measure if we choose to as is proved in Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Maybe you don't know where or how a need you have will be supplied. But let your tiny seed of faith just keep on believing that your needs will be supplied and they will be. Unless, of course, you were mistaken and what you had was not really a 'need', but was instead, 'desire', and yes, we do make such mistakes more often than you'd imagine. Nevertheless, a tiny kernel of faith which perseveres and never gives up hope will move almighty God and will change lives. So put whatever amount of faith you have to work and leave it alone, just let it go, let it persevere. Put your hand to the plow and don't look back. If you do that, you will see a difference in your life.

In Christ's love, Freddie Johnson - www.freddiejohnsonsmusic.com



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Cousin Leroy

Coming out of church, Leroy's wife asked him, "Do you think that Johnson girl is coloring her hair?" "I didn't even see her," said Leroy. "And that dress Mrs. Fluffinbugle was wearin'," she continued, "Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper thing for a mother of two to be a wearin.'" "I'm afraid I didn't notice that either," said Leroy. "Well I never," she snapped back. "A lot of good it does you to go to church!"

At Home With the Three Bears

It's a sunny morning in the Big Forest and the Bear family is just waking up. Baby Bear goes downstairs and sits in his small chair at the table. He looks into his small bowl. It is empty! "Who's been eating my porridge?" he squeaks. Daddy Bear arrives at the table and sits in his big chair. He looks into his big bowl. It is also empty! "Who's been eating my porridge?" he roars. Mommy Bear puts her head through the serving hatch from the kitchen and screams, "For Pete's sake, how many times do we have to go through this? I haven't made the porridge yet!!"

The Good Doctor

A lady had been exposed to strep and needed to visit the doctor's office just to have her throat swabbed for a culture. She sat in the waiting room for quite a while with her legs crossed, reading a magazine while other patients came and went. Suddenly her turn was called, but when she stood up to go in, she discovered her leg was "asleep". Not wanting to keep the nurse waiting, she limped and staggered toward the inner office door. She noticed one elderly lady nudging another who sat beside her, as the two of them sympathetically watched her painful progress. Two minutes later, her procedure completed and her leg back to normal, she walked easily back into the waiting room. As she strode past the two elderly ladies, she overheard one whisper triumphantly to the other, "See, Myrtle, I TOLD you he was a wonderful doctor!"

Johnny's Little Brother

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm. He asked his mom, "Where'd we get him?" His mother replied, "He came from heaven, Johnny." Johnny says, "WOW! I can see why they threw him out!"

The Miracle

A young Nun who worked for a local home health care agency was out making her rounds when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it, there was a gas station just one block away. She walked to the station to borrow a can with enough gas to start the car and drive to the station for a fill up. The attendant regretfully told her that the only gas can he owned had just been loaned out, but if she would care to wait he was sure it would be back shortly. Since the nun was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. After looking through her car for something to carry to the station to fill with gas, she spotted a bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, she carried it to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried it back to her car. As she was pouring the gas into the tank of her car, two men watched her from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said: "I know that the Lord turned water into wine, but if that car starts, I'm going to church every Sunday for the rest of my life."

Submitted by Pastor Wayne Clabaugh
of St. Joseph, MO

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine:... Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance:... Proverbs 15:13



“Without Prayer”

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. 19For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. 25And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. Philippians 1:18-26

There are certain things in life I can't do if something important is missing. A. I cannot send a letter without postage. B. I cannot use an A.T.M. machine without a pin number. C. I cannot have a bath without water. The same is true concerning our prayer lives. If we don't pray, its like taking the very air we breathe. We would die with out it. Here's several things that I believe we can't do without prayer: 1. Without prayer I cannot experience continuous rejoicing. Verse 18, 19 - What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. 19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, How could Paul be so sure he would continue to rejoice? I would never have said "I would continue to rejoice" because I know something bad is eventually going to happen and I won't feel like rejoicing anymore. So how could Paul be so sure he would continue to rejoice? Paul was not confident he would continue to rejoice because he expected nothing bad to ever happen to him. Paul was confident he would continue to rejoice because prayer works. The most important thing prayer will change if I am to experience continuous rejoicing is me. A. Prayer will change my no into yes. B. Prayer will change my will into God's will. C. Prayer will change my protest into praise. D. Prayer will change what I profess into what I practice. 2. Without prayer I cannot receive help from the Lord. Verse 19 - For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, Can you see what follows prayer on Earth? Power from Heaven! Notice the order. You and I can't have power from heaven without first having prayer on earth. James 4:3 - Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Prayer is the key that opens the store. Matthew 7:7-11 - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Now let's take a look at what Luke said concerning this...notice verse 13: Luke 11:9-13 - And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? "As far as I can see, prayer has been ordained only for the helpless. Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only he who is helpless can truly pray." A.W. Tozer 3. Without prayer I cannot find deliverance from all the bad things that have happened to me. Verse 19 - For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, What happened to Paul is very similar to what many experience. He was imprisoned, chained and harassed by others. In order to see deliverance from our past we must be people of prayer. 4. Without prayer I cannot have courage in matters of life or death. Verse 20 - According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. We need courage for living and dying. If we do not have living courage we will not have dying courage. Courage is fear that has said its prayers. Acts 4:13 - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Courage is found when we get with Jesus. 5. Without prayer I cannot live like Christ. Verse 21 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. To live like Christ is to live as he lived. Jesus was perfect in everything he said and did. It does not take long to realize that it is impossible to live like Jesus without praying like Jesus for Jesus was a man of prayer. 6. Without prayer I cannot see fruit for my labor. Verse 22 - But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. A. We have an enemy, the Devil who is only defeated by prayer. Ephesians 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; B. We have a work that can only be done by prayer. John 15:7 - If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:16 - Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 7. Without prayer I cannot find direction for my life. Verses 22-24 - But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. Some choices are easier than others and there are some choices you do not have to pray about. I don't have to pray about whether I should steal. I know this is against the law. But not every decision is black and white. Some decisions we must make are not clearly answered in the bible. But perhaps the most difficult decisions we must make are ones where we might have two good options and must pick one. It could be a job offer. It could be a big purchase. It could be a move to another town. What is tough is that you just don't know which option is better. "22yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two,," How do you choose which option is right? Prayer! 8. Without prayer I cannot contribute to the spiritual progress of others. Verse 25-26 - And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. The most rewarding prayers are the ones we pray for others. When we can get beyond only saying "O God bless me" to O God bless others." The best thing we can do for both unsaved and saved is pray for them. Nobody gets saved by nagging. Nobody gets saved without prayer. We must pray. Charles Spurgeon was asked the secret to his success...He responded "My people pray for me."

Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Evangelist Mike Heltsley - Preaching The Truth Ministries

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The Great Commission Vision



*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
Mark 16:15*

Recently I was listening to a Pastor friend of mine and he was teaching on the need for the local churches of today to be "New testament churches." In so many words this is what he said...It doesn't matter how great your choir is, how great your building is, how great your programs are, how great your preacher is...**if you do not have** a vision of being a part of fulfilling the Great Commission you are not, **nor will you ever be** a great church! When I heard this it clicked in my Spirit immediately. This is something I have always taught and believed but had never heard it put quite like that before. You see...as much as I believe in the local assembly, we were never expected to build a nice church on the corner and just let the rest of the world go to hell. We were never expected to find us a nice Christian village or compound and go into exclusion! The above passage of scripture known as the Great Commission was a command...**a charge** to the church to take the message of Jesus to the ends of the earth! We are in trouble today if we find ourselves satisfied with our four and no more! We are in trouble today if we are satisfied to just let those that are sick in Spirit and Soul **stay that way** when we have the answer...WE HAVE THE CURE! It would be no different than if there was a deadly disease spreading like wildfire killing all those that it infected and we had the antidote...yet we took that and closed ourselves in and shared it with **NOONE**...and just let them **DIE!** My friend that's exactly what many of our local churches of today have done...we find us a nice place or better yet we build us a nice place...we meet in our air conditioned buildings three, maybe four times a week and just let the world continue to die and go to hell. We read in the book of Acts where the Apostle Paul had a vision... "*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*" Acts 16:9 HELP US! OH my friend I can hear that call in my Spirit and have heard that call throughout my 25 years of ministry. The souls of a lost and dying world that thirst...that hunger...the call **HELP US HELP US!!!** And we sit on our padded pews and sing Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine and **IGNORE** the deafening call of dying souls outside our walls! Only Jesus can satisfy their lost and dying soul. And yet we go on planning our recreational activities and more building projects while untold millions continue to die lost and undone. This is why **No local church** should ever be satisfied just inside their four walls or even just inside the limits of their city or town. We **MUST** have a Great Commission Vision... we **MUST** pray for God to enlarge our boundaries...open doors for our churches to have not just a local outreach **BUT** a **GLOBAL** outreach. Our local assembly should only be the "center" of an outreach that reaches far beyond our City, State or Country! This is why here at VOTL we put so much time and effort into the ministry...not just at our local church but through AM & FM Radio, Internet Radio, newsletters, tapes, CD's, Video's and the list goes on. This is why we do these things...The Great Commission Vision! This is the reason so many times there seems like there is not enough hours in the day to get all of the work done. Because of the vision that burns in our soul to take the message of JESUS to the world! This is why I am never satisfied and **always** crying out for the LORD to open more doors...more ways to get HIS WORD out to as many as possible. *None of us* can do everything **BUT** all of us can do something! If every local church...every believer...EVERY part of the body of Christ would get a vision for taking the GOSPEL to the world **AND** would put their hand to the plough **THEN** the work **can** be done! I would like to close this message with an invitation to all who read this newsletter to become a part of the vision that we have here at VOTL by becoming a partner of this ministry...every outreach that we have costs money...and there is so much more we want to do but simply do not have the finances. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this effort. I would also like to invite ministries...churches...etc. who have a desire to reach out further...to have a global outreach to contact us today about becoming a part of VOTL Radio. Our station airs 24 hours a day 7 days a week to a world-wide audience. In just the last 30 days we have had listeners in over 60 countries around the world...60 countries...think about that for a minute. It is possible today, no matter how big or how small your ministry or church...it is possible for you *to go into all the world and preach the Gospel!* Write, email or call us today for more information. **AND** above all we ask that you lift us up in prayer and that you use every opportunity that you have to let your light shine for Jesus...share **THE CURE** with the sick and the dying!! Go and be **THE LIGHT** that you are suppose to be! Until nest time may the LORD bless and keep you is my prayer!

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

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REESIE'S RECIPES



Mexican Pizza

- 2 Packages of Pizza Crust
- 1 (6 ounce) can tomato paste
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 (1.25 ounce) package taco seasoning mix, divided
- 1 teaspoon chili powder, or to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, optional
- 1 (16 ounce) can refried beans
- 1/3 cup salsa
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 400°F. Prepare Pizza crust as directed on package and set aside. In a small bowl, combine tomato paste, water, and 3/4 of the package of taco seasoning mix. Stir in chili powder and cayenne pepper; set aside. In another bowl, mix refried beans, salsa, and onion; set aside. In a large skillet, cook ground beef until evenly brown; drain excess fat. Season with the remaining 1/4 package of taco seasoning and a small amount of water. Simmer a few minutes, then remove from heat. Divide the pizza dough in half, and pat into two greased 12 inch pans. Spread a layer of the bean mixture on, then a layer of the tomato mixture. Sprinkle with seasoned beef and top with cheddar cheese. Bake in preheated oven for 10 to 15 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted. Turn pizzas halfway through baking.

Vegetable Casserole

by Sister Wanda Walls

- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 2 (15 oz.) cans mixed vegetables
- 1/2 box Velveeta cheese
- Ritz crackers
- Margarine, melted

In a 2 quart casserole dish combine soup and vegetables. Heat Velveeta in microwave until smooth and melted. Stir into vegetable mixture. Top with crushed Ritz crackers and drizzle melted margarine over the top. Cook in oven at 350 until heated thoroughly and top begins to brown.

Double Chocolate Cheesecake

- 24 OREO Cookies, crushed
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 4 (8 ounce) packages PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 (8 ounce) package BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, melted
- 4 eggs
- 1 can Ready Whip Whipping Cream

Heat oven to 325 degrees Mix crumbs and butter; press onto bottom of 13x9-pan lined with foil, allow foil to come up the side for lifting. Bake 10 min. Beat cream cheese, sugar, flour and vanilla with mixer until blended. Add chocolate; mix well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low after each just until blended. Pour over crust. Bake 45 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool. Refrigerate 4 hours. Use foil to lift cheesecake from pan. Slice and Top with whipping cream.

Cheesy Baked Ziti

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 small zucchini, peeled, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced
- 1 (26 ounce) jar sweet Tomato & Basil Pasta Sauce
- 1 (16 ounce) package tube-shaped pasta (ziti), cooked and drained
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

Cook beef and garlic in 12-inch skillet until beef is browned, stirring to break up meat. Pour off fat. Add zucchini and cook until tender. Stir in sauce. Stir beef mixture, pasta, 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese, ricotta cheese and Parmesan cheese in 3-quart shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until hot.



“All Is Not Lost”

from the teaching series on the book of Job

Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for! Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off! Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One. Job 6: 8-10 (KJV)

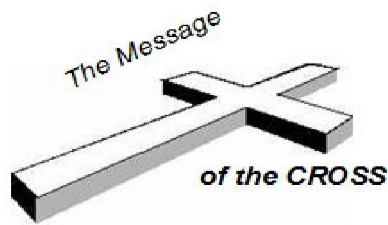
There are times when the calamity or sickness becomes more than we can bear. I remember sitting by the bedside of my dear mother - wracked with pain from her cancer, and with tears in my eyes I said, "Mom, I'm not going to let you go. I am going to fast and pray, and ask God to completely heal you so you can be around for the Rapture. Mom so loved talking about the day when she would see Jesus face to face -- but she always had that strong desire to meet Him in the Clouds. She replied with as much strength as she could muster, "No son, I am ready to go home. I am ready to see Jesus now". The day before her last, I watched while she stared long and hard at a corner of the hospital room, and I was trying to feed her, but she did not respond. She acted as though she was in trance - like she wasn't there. I spoke to her several times, and nothing - she just stared. I figured she was in a great deal of pain and didn't want me to see her suffer - but I had no idea what she was facing. The doctor had come and spoken with us, and told us that it wouldn't be long now. As the doctors did what they had to do, my mother reached over and asked me to sing to her. She said, "You always were my favorite singer". "I wish you could have sang with the Blackwood Brothers". I knew her favorites, and my oldest daughter who was then just 13 (now 37) took my hand as I took my mamas' and we began to sing, "What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see. When I look upon His face, the one who saved me by His Grace. When He Takes me by the hand and leads me to the promised land, what a day, a glorious day, that will be". Before we finished that song one time through she fell asleep never to awaken in this world again... well, except for about 15 seconds. You see the next day, Mom sat straight up in her hospital bed and threw the covers back almost as though the alarm had gone off and she was late for work. She then reached for the window - and slumped back into her bed - and she was home. Right in the hospital room I cried out, "Hallelujah!" Because I knew that's what mama was saying on the other side. There are times when fighting seems almost more than we can bear, and our man Job had come to the place where He honestly believed that to die would be far better than the suffering he was going through. Remember, his suffering was not from God... his suffering was the works of an entity - a power that would have liked to do nothing more than to utterly destroy Job. Yet, God said.... Oh I like it when God is still in control - don't you? You may think you are down for the count - you may believe there is no possible way that you will see tomorrow's curtain and yet GOD SAID, GET UP! I have work for you to do. God told the Old Devil that as far as Job was concerned - and as far as you and I are concerned, "You can test him (Job), but you can NOT kill him. Oh let me say it again my friend... that same power would like to rob you of your life and your happiness and leave you and your family in utter ruin. It is his desire to steal your dreams, your hopes, your health, and even your WILL to fight. But God... you see, He alone has the final answer and knows when your promotion to Glory day will be. I don't fault my mother for choosing to go home. She gave 50 years of her life in ministry to our Lord, and when she passed, her greatest dream was fulfilled - she met Jesus in the clouds. In fact, I believe He was there in the room that day, as she almost came to attention - and then slumped back in her bed, as she was promoted to glory. Your circumstance may be different today. It could be that the struggle you face is not life-threatening - yet it might as well be because your life feels as though it's over. Hear me my friend... I believe Jesus is standing there with you right now, and He is just waiting for your release; not from life... but from the fight. Perhaps that's all that He's been waiting for: for you to let go of the struggle, so that HE can work. I don't know what you are feeling right now, nor do I know what you are thinking. But I know that there are enough people that read this devotional email around the world - that it will touch every situation, and every venue and walk of life. Can I say it again - just for you? Will you let go of the struggle you are facing today - and let God have His perfect work in your life?

In The Garden Ministries - www.inthegarden.us - P.O. Box 8883 Saint Joseph, MO. 64508

The above message is part of a series of messages on the book of Job entitled **“All Is Not Lost”** if you are interested in receiving this POWERFUL teaching series by Pastor Wayne Clabaugh it is available on CD.

You can order the series by sending a Love Gift of any size to VOTL Ministries at
P.O. Box 541 Livermore, KY 42352 or by Credit Card through our website www.voiceofthelordministries.com

Please make sure you request the “Job” series when you send your offering.



And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto you, Today shall you be with Me in Paradise (Luke. 23:42–43).

The conversion of the thief is peculiar to Luke. It is one of the most remarkable conversions in the Bible. In one flash of light, the Holy Spirit revealed Christ to him and taught him of the Lord's future Kingdom of Glory, though, at the moment, He was hanging in shame and agony on the tree. The thief did not ask for any physical relief to his pain, but only for a remembrance in

the future Kingdom. They were in the same condemnation—he justly, but the Lord only as a Sin Offering—and He prayed that they might be together in the same Glory. So the Precious Blood, then flowing for his sins, cleansed him so effectually that it made him at that moment as fit to enter Paradise as Christ Himself. The Divine Nature of the thief's Repentance was evidenced by six steps: 1. His concern about his companion (23:40). 2. His confession of his own sinfulness (23:41). 3. His confession of Christ's innocence (23:41). 4. His faith in Christ's Power and willingness to save him—he called him Lord, and declared his belief that He had a Kingdom (23:42). 5. He prayed to Him (23:42). 6. He asked for no great thing, but only to be remembered; this was humility. The thief's short prayer embodied a great creed; he believed: A. That his soul lived after death; B. That the world to come would be one of felicity or misery; C. That a Crucified Jew was the Lord of Glory; D. That His future Kingdom was better than this present world; E. That Christ intended to have pardoned sinners in that Kingdom; F. That He would receive into it the truly penitent; G. That the key of that Kingdom was hanging at Christ's girdle, though He Himself was hanging naked on the Tree; and, H. That by resting his soul for eternal Salvation upon this dying Saviour, he had that Kingdom assured to him. The thief's spiritual intelligence seemed to exceed that of most all of the Apostles prior to Pentecost. Near the Cross of the dying thief stood the Apostle John, the Virgin Mary, her sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. But to none of these exalted Saints did the malefactor turn for help. He turned from them and prayed directly to Jesus, with nothing and nobody between his sin-stained soul and the sin-atonement Saviour. He did not cry, "Oh Holy Mother of God! Refuge of sinners, pray for me! I put my whole trust and confidence in the power of your intercession." Nor did he appeal to her sister, as being the Holy Aunt of God, nor to John, as being the Beloved Apostle of God. Had he trusted any one of these great Saints, he would have perished, for Salvation is in Christ and in none other. He is the One and only refuge of sinners

Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart - www.jsm.org

His Voice

Sister Nancy Willis

MATTHEW 4:20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

They immediately left their nets. How often do we immediately do what God is asking of us? How often do we say Do you really mean that, God, or Do I have to do it now? We need to get into the habit of saying, Yes Lord, and immediately doing what he wishes. Just think what this world could be if every Christian, IMMEDIATELY, responded to the Lord's commands. Just think about the number of people who would be reached and brought into the Kingdom. I remember a lady telling about how one night the Lord told her to go to a certain house RIGHT THEN, she called a couple of ladies from church to go with her. When they got there she told one of the ladies to go up and knock on the door, the lady replied, the Lord told you to come here, you knock, so she did, and the man that lived in the house had tied up his wife and kids and was about to shoot them, and then himself, but because this lady went when the Lord told her, he intervened, now had she not went, these peoples blood could very well been on her hands. It's so important to be obedient to the Lord. Resolve that from this day forward you will respond to God's Words to you. Resolve that you will listen for and hear his voice clearly. That you will learn to recognize his voice, so you too can respond IMMEDIATELY.

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*The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. Psalms 29:4
And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him:
for they know his voice. John 10:4*



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What Do You Have?

Peter and John went up to the temple to pray. The lame man lay at the gate called Beautiful begging for alms. As you know, Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." The lame man didn't need alms (money), he needed healing. The question is, whether you are a minister or not, "WHAT DO YOU HAVE?" If it's false doctrine, it brings deception. If the only message is prosperity, it becomes covetousness. I've heard of those who claimed other people's property for what they wanted. Our children ask, "WHAT DO YOU HAVE?" Like Peter, can we say, "Such as I have give I thee?" We've come to the time when much of the church is not giving what is needed and that is, the Pure Gospel. The drug addict and the alcoholic do not need more money for drugs or alcohol. This lost and dying world needs an answer. "WHAT DO YOU HAVE?" Can we say, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee?" When the Holy Ghost truly comes to the church again, He will tell us all what we need. He will not come where they believe "we are rich and are in need of nothing." When the Holy Ghost comes, He will not give them what they want, He will give them what they need. We need only Jesus and the indwelling of the blessed Holy Ghost. Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me." My prayer is, "Lord Jesus, do a fresh work in my life." Until next time, the Lord bless you,

His Handmaiden, Sister Betty Jean Robinson

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