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**2700-PLUS SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS (B-TOPICS)**  
**Compiled and Arranged Topically by Duane V. Maxey**

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## BACKSLIDERS

0130 -- GOD CAN RESTORE BACKSLIDERS

A great picture by Rubens was discovered in an old picture shop in the Gresham Road in London. An expert with a keen eye went to the sale, and amid a heterogeneous lot of rubbish he detected in the grime and soot and dust of the years, a masterpiece of Rubens. Crushing down the quiver that came into his voice, he asked in as calm a tone as he could of the picture dealer, what he would take for this old bit of canvas. The picture dealer looked at it and said, "I will give it to you for thirty-five shillings." The thirty-five shillings were in the seller's hand in a minute, and the purchaser took it home, got it cleansed and put right, and out from the grime and the dust there shines today a two thousand pound's worth of a picture by Rubens. "God can detect, under the failing and fainting, the grime and the dust of His weakest child's faith, the masterpiece of His Son. His likeness shines through your experience and the Lord can read the facings of His own uniform. He never makes a mistake and only in this uniform will He save you. -- C. Lee Cook

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## BACKSLIDERS

0131 -- LESS SENSE THAN ANIMALS

Clem the cat came home after eight years of being who knows where. A homeowner in Bancroft, Wisconsin, said he heard a cat meowing on the front porch. When he opened the door, a big, long-haired, gray male cat walked in, checked things out, began purring, and then jumped up on his favorite chair. Family members couldn't believe their eyes. But when they compared the cat to pictures taken eight years earlier, they could only conclude that Clem the cat had come home.

What remarkable homing instincts God has given to some animals! On a spiritual level, why is it that the backslidden child of God seems to have less? Why do we in our rebellion show less sense than the animals?

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## BACKSLIDERS

0132 -- THE AUTHOR OF "COME THOU FOUNT"

Robert Robinson had been saved out of a tempestuous life of sin through George Whitefield's ministry in England. Shortly after that, at the age of twenty-three, Robinson wrote the hymn "Come, Thou Fount." Sadly, Robinson wandered far and, like the Prodigal Son, journeyed

into the distant country of carnality. Until one day he was traveling by stagecoach and sitting beside a young woman engrossed in her book. She ran across a verse she thought was beautiful and asked him what he thought of it. "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love." Bursting into tears, Robinson said, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then." -- Kenneth W. Osbeck

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## BACKSLIDERS

### 0133 -- WHITEFIELD'S BROTHER -- SAVED IN THE NICK OF TIME

Mr. Whitefield had a brother, who had been like him, an earnest Christian; but he had backslidden; he went far from the ways of godliness; and one afternoon, after he had been recovered from his backsliding, he was sitting in a room in a chapel-house. He had heard his brother preach the day before, and his poor conscience had been cut to the very quick. Said Whitefield's brother, when he was at tea: "I am a lost man," and he groaned and cried, and could neither eat nor drink. Said Lady Huntingdon, who sat opposite: "What did you say, Mr. Whitefield?" "Madam," said he, "I said I am a lost man." "I'm glad of it," said she; "I'm glad of it." "Your ladyship, how can you say so? It is cruel to say you are glad that I am a lost man." "I repeat it, sir," said she; "I am heartily glad of it."

He looked at her, more and more astonished at her barbarity. "I am glad of it," said she, "because it is written, The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost." With the tears rolling down his cheeks, he said: "What a precious Scripture; and how is it that it comes with such force to me? Oh Madam," said he, "Madam, I bless God for that; then he will save me; I trust my soul in his hands; he has forgiven me." He went outside the house, felt ill, fell upon the ground, and expired. -- C. H. Spurgeon

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## BACKSLIDING

### 0134 -- BACKSLIDING THROUGH TAKING OFFENSE

Once, in an inquiry-meeting, I saw a gentleman weeping very bitterly, and said, "What is the matter with you?" "Matter enough. I am a member of the Baptist church, and two years ago the trustees got me to do a piece of work on the church, and when they settled with me I thought they did not treat me exactly as they ought to, and I said, "I won't have anything more to do with this church -- won't go to communion here again." So I went off; and there is that dear daughter" (a young lady sat there, weeping as if her heart would break); "she was converted and baptized into the church just before that. Now she is backslidden, and my wife is backslidden, and my home is broken, and I have no family altar, and all is sad."

Said I, "My dear sir, have you found out that two wrongs don't make a right?" "Yes," said he, "I see it now." You know, there are a great many people who think, if somebody does a little wrong, that if they do a little wrong, it will make it right. There are not many gray hairs in my head, but there will be a great many more than there are today before you make me believe that two wrongs make a right." "No, no!" Said I, "What are you going to do about it?" "I am going back to the church to make a confession, and the trustees can do as they please. I am going to be right in my heart toward God and man."

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## BACKSLIDING

### 0135 -- BACKSLIDING PREVENTED BY UGLY PROVIDENCES

Two men were painting a picture on the ceiling of a cathedral and were standing on a scaffold high above the pavement below, One of the artists stepped back to view his work, and was about to step back again and accidentally plunge to the pavement below. His fellow worker saw his peril and quickly threw a brush forward onto their painting, suddenly "blotching" it. The one who was about to step backward off the scaffold rushed forward in amazed anger at what his partner had done. One can imagine that what struck the backstepping artist at first as a senseless act, he soon saw in a different light when his partner explained why he did it. The intentional "mess-up" may have saved his life!

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## BACKSLIDING

### 0136 -- EX-CHRISTIAN?

We honor the ex-Mayor, ex-Congressman, or ex-President as perhaps equal to the present incumbent. But ex-Christian does not strike us favorably, because there is no possibility of the Christian having served out his time. He has not been elected for a year, two years, or four years. The terms of his discipleship are that he be faithful unto death. Even death is not a resignation from his name and office. If he dies a Christian, he will be raised a Christian; he will be a Christian in the day of judgment and will enter heaven as a Christian. For the whole redeemed family in heaven, as well as on earth, is named after Christ. Consequently, the ex-Christian has not been honorably discharged, but has forsaken the Lord.

\* \* \*

## BACKSLIDING

### 0137 -- RUST ON THE SURFACE

During a tour of a large manufacturing plant, a visitor noticed a man using a fiery torch of high intensity to work on huge slabs of steel. Operating from a blueprint on a nearby table, a

pointer traced the pattern and then by a clever system of levers enlarged the design as it was burned into the metal. There were times, however, when the flame would not make any impression. When this happened, a chemical substance was applied to the resisting patch, and immediately the cutting could be resumed.

The worker explained that although the torch was able to go through clean steel 8 inches thick, if it encountered the slightest film of rust on the surface, the flame would not penetrate it. The Bible-believing visitor remarked, "It struck me forcefully that this is a picture of the Christian. The Holy Spirit is seeking to produce in us God's perfect design. If the life is unblemished, He is able to continue His efforts; but if we become carnal or backslidden, His work of shaping us is hindered until the area in question has been thoroughly cleansed."

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## BACKSLIDING

### 0138 -- SAVED FROM A FATAL, BACKWARD STEP

An artist was once frescoing the lofty ceiling of a church, and gradually stepping back on the scaffolding to watch the effect of his work, he was so absorbed in his picture that he did not notice that he was about to step off the edge and fall upon the pavement far below. A brother artist, seeing his danger and knowing that a word would but hasten his fall, threw his brush at the picture. The painter, indignant, rushed forward and was saved. God sometimes destroys the pictured hopes of our hearts to startle us from sin and save our souls. -- Peloubet

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## BACKSLIDING

### 0139 -- SPASMS OF RELIGION

A newly converted woman, desirous, as new converts are, "to do something," was detailed by her pastor to invite the backsliders to the protracted meetings. She had been reluctantly admitted into a neighbor's home, where the hostess coldly continued her mopping. Conversation lagged until the visitor remarked: "I have come to invite you to the revival meetings at the church."

Then a change came. Her face softened and the mop rested. "Revival meetings! Did you say, there was going to be revival meetings? Yes indeed, I'll come. Why, John and I have got religion at revivals every winter for the last ten years!" The visitor was perplexed. She repeated, "Got religion every winter for the last ten years! I do not believe I understand. What became of your religion in the summer?" "Laws!" she exclaimed in momentary confusion, "I don't know but somehow it just petered out."

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## BACKSLIDING

## 0140 -- THE AWFUL INFLUENCE OF BACKSLIDING!

Once, in an inquiry-meeting, I saw a gentleman weeping very bitterly, and said, "What is the matter with you?" "Matter enough. I am a member of the Baptist church, and two years ago the trustees got me to do a piece of work on the church, and when they settled with me I thought they did not treat me exactly as they ought to, and I said, 'I won't have anything more to do with this church -- won't go to communion here again.' so I went off; and there is that dear daughter."

A young lady sat there weeping as if her heart would break. "She was converted and baptized into the church just before that. Now she has backslidden, and my wife has backslidden, and my home is broken, and I have no family altar, and all is sad." Said I, "My dear sir, have you found out that two wrongs don't make a right?" "Yes," said he, "I see it now." You know, that there are a great many people who think, if somebody does a little wrong, that if they do a little wrong, it will make it right. There are not many gray hairs in my head, but there will be a great many more than there are today before you make me believe that two wrongs make a right. "No, no!" Said I, "What are you going to do about it?" "I am going back to the church to make a confession, and the trustees can do as they please. I am going to be right in my heart toward God and man." -- Albert P. Graves

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## BACKSLIDING

### 0141 -- THEY WOULDN'T RETREAT OVER HIS BODY

Disheartened by the extraordinary dangers and difficulties of their enterprise, a Roman army lost courage, and resolved on a retreat. The general reasoned with his soldiers. Expostulating with them, he appealed to their love of country, to their honor, and to their oaths. By all that could revive a fainting heart he sought to animate their courage and shake their resolution. Much they trusted, they admired, they loved him, but his appeals were all in vain. They were not to be moved; and carried away, as by panic, they faced round to retreat.

At this juncture they were forcing a mountain pass, and had just cleared a gorge where the road, between two stupendous rocks on one side and the foaming river on the other, was but a footpath, broad enough for the step of a single man. As a last resort he laid himself down there, saying, "If you will retreat, it is over this body you go, trampling me to death beneath your feet." No foot advanced. The flight was arrested. His soldiers could face the foe, but could not mangle beneath their feet one who loved them, and had often led their ranks to victory, sharing like a common soldier all the hardships of the campaign, and ever foremost in the fight. The sight was one to inspire them with decision. Hesitating no longer to advance, they wheeled round to resume their march, deeming it better to meet sufferings, and endure even death itself, than trample under foot their devoted and patriot leader. Their hearts recoiled from such an outrage.

A more touching spectacle bars our return. Jesus, as it were, lays Himself down on our path; nor can any become backslidden, and return to the practice and pleasure of sin, without

trampling Him under their feet. These, Paul's very words call up a spectacle from which every lover of Christ should recoil with horror: "He," says that apostle, "who despised Moses' Law died without mercy...of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God.." -- Dr. Guthrie

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## BAD NEWS

### 0142 -- BAD NEWS THAT SOUNDED GOOD IN COMPARISON

A young coed had two problems common to many students: low grades and no money. She was forced to communicate to both of her parents, who she knew would have trouble understanding. After considerable thought she used a creative approach to soften the blows of reality and wrote:

Dear Mom and Dad,

Just thought I'd drop you a note to clue you in on my plans. I've fallen in love with a guy named Jim. He quit high school after grade eleven to get married. About a year ago he got a divorce. We've been going steady for two months and plan to get married in the fall. Until then, I've decided to move into his apartment (I think I might be pregnant). At any rate, I dropped out of school last week, although I'd like to finish college sometime in the future.

On the next page, she continued:

Mom and Dad, I just want you to know that everything I've written so far in this letter is false. NONE of it is true. But Mom and Dad, it IS true that I got a C in French and flunked Math. It IS true that I'm going to need some more money for my tuition payments.

Even bad news can sound like good news if it is seen from a certain vantage point. So much in life depends on "where you're coming from" as you face your circumstances. The secret in this case and in yours is perspective.

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## BAPTISM

### 0143 -- MORE THAN WATER BAPTISM REQUIRED

"James," said the American planter, "suppose I take an ink-bottle and cork it tight and put a string around the neck and drag it through the river. How long will it take to clean out the inside?" James' face lighted up in a moment, and he replied: "Massa, you'll never get it clean that way in the world." The master seized upon this confession and showed James that baptism by water availed nothing apart from the inward cleansing by the Holy Spirit. -- Sunday School Chronicle

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## BELONGING -- TO CHRIST

### 0144 -- DOUBLE CITIZENSHIP DENIED

"No man can serve two masters." You cannot belong to two kingdoms at once. Lord Brougham grew to be so fond of Cannes that he sought to be naturalized as a Frenchman, but found it was impossible to be both a peer of England and a citizen of a French town; he must renounce the one to become the other. Coming out from under the authority of darkness, one gets the right or authority to become a son of God, and have the standing of children in the family.

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## BELONGING -- TO CHRIST

### 0145 -- GOD'S KINGDOM

The king of Prussia, while visiting a village in his land, was welcomed by the school children of the place. After their speaker had made a speech for him, he thanked them. Then, taking an orange from his plate, he asked: "To what kingdom does this belong?" "The vegetable kingdom, sire," replied a little girl. The king took a gold coin from his pocket and holding it up asked: "And to what kingdom does this belong?" "To the mineral kingdom," said the girl. "And to what kingdom do I belong then?" asked the king. The little girl blushed deeply, for she did not want to say, "the animal kingdom, " and thereby offend the king.

Just then, it flashed into her mind that "God made man in His own image," and looking up with a brightening eye, she said: "to God's kingdom, sire." The king was deeply moved. A tear stood in his eye. He placed his hand on the child's head and said, most devoutly, "God grant that I may be accounted worthy of that kingdom!" -- Selected

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## BELONGING -- TO CHRIST

### 0146 -- MINE TWO WAYS

There is a little story that illustrates the truth of this. A small boy, it is said, made a toy sailboat. He fashioned it with loving care and finally it was ready to sail. With what pride he surveyed it, brave in its fresh red and white paint. The little boat, lifting its sails proudly to the wind, escaped from his eager fingers and swept down, down the river away from its grief-stricken owner. Though he looked long and diligently he could not find his little boat. One day, several weeks after, he chanced to be walking down the street when, lo, his eye was suddenly caught by a flash of red and white in a pawnshop window. It was his own boat! The one he had made himself! He rushed into the shop and demanded that the man give him his boat. He met with a brusque

refusal. The shopkeeper said that he had paid for the little boat and before the boy could have it he would have to pay the stated price.

With a sad heart the little fellow walked out of the store. It would take many a day for him to secure all that money, and for his own boat! But he went to work with a will and in a shorter time than he had thought possible he had earned the needed sum. With a light step he went to the store, laid down the money on the counter, and again demanded his boat. This time he received it. As he went out of the store to the street, with his little boat tucked under his arm, he was heard to say tenderly, "You are mine, little boat, twice mine; once because I made you, and twice because I bought you." Thus, we belong to Christ -- because He made us, and because He bought us on His Cross. -- The Gospel Herald

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## BENEVOLENCE

### 0147 -- CHRIST HAS WHAT HE WILLS TO GIVE

Dr. Guthrie, in his autobiography, describes an odd character among his Scotch country parishioners at Arbirlot "who died as he lived, a curious mixture of benevolence and folly." The lawyer who drew his will, after writing down several legacies of five hundred pounds to one person, a thousand to another, and so on, at last said, "But, Mr. \_\_\_\_, I don't believe you have all that money to leave." "Oh!" was the reply, "I ken that as well as you; but I just wanted to show them my goodwill." -- Christian Age

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## BENEVOLENCE

### 0148 -- PADEREWSKI AND HONOR

Many years ago two young men were working their way through Stanford University. At one point their money was almost gone, so they decided to engage the great pianist Paderewski for a concert and use the profits for board and tuition. Paderewski's manager asked for a guarantee of \$2,000. The students worked hard to promote the concert, but they came up \$400 short. After the performance, they went to the musician, gave him all the money they had raised, and promised to pay the \$400 as soon as they could. It appeared that their college days were over.

"No, boys, that won't do," said the pianist, "take out of this \$1,600 all your expenses, and keep for each of you 10 percent of the balance for your work. Let me have the rest."

Years passed. Paderewski became premier of Poland following World War I. Thousands of his countrymen were starving. Only one man could help, the head of the U. S. Food and Relief Bureau. Paderewski's appeal to him brought thousands of tons of food. Later he met the American statesman to thank him. "That's all right," replied Herbert Hoover. "Besides, you don't remember, but you helped me once when I was a student in college."

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## BENEVOLENCE

### 0149 -- THE MISER OF MARSEILLE

I remember hearing about "The Miser of Marseilles." About twenty-three years ago, he was a figure on the streets of that town. He lived for nothing but money. He gripped, and he grabbed, and he kept. A miser, a moneygrub, and very wealthy he was known to be. He was the object of derision throughout the whole of Marseilles, and the South of France. When he appeared in the streets, the boys hooted at him. When he was mentioned among his business associates, they jeered at him, the old skinflint, the miserable old wretch, heaping up money, storing it up. Ah, he was contented thus to live, and thus to die; and his body was carried to the grave without a single attendant. There was not a soul in Marseilles but gave a kind of sneer, and a kind of curse, as he passed the body of the miser on the way to the grave.

Ah, yes, but when his will was read, what is this that brings mourning and lamentation to the whole city: It is this: "From my infancy, I noticed that the poor of Marseilles had great difficulty in getting water. I noticed that water, the gift of God, was very dear, and very difficult to obtain in this city, pure and sweet: and I vowed before God that I would live but for one purpose, for one end. I would save money, money, money; and now I give it to the city, on one condition, that an aqueduct be made from yonder lake on the hills to Marseilles."

As they drink the sweet, luscious, fresh water of that city, I believe the poor say, "Ah, when he lived we misunderstood him, but he did it for us." The bubbling fountain in Marseilles was the gift of the man who was misunderstood and jeered at.

Do you catch it? Jesus was there on the Cross, and the priests said: "If you be the Son of God, come down from the cross," and they all mocked Him, and jeered at Him. Yet, it is from this despised One, this Christ, that the souls, needy and thirsty and despairing, are drinking tonight the water of life. -- John Robertson

The Miser of Marseilles (an illustration of how Christ's ministry and sacrificial death were maligned and misunderstood by his contemporaries) A man of the name of Guyo lived and died in the town of Marseilles, in France. He amassed a large fortune by laborious industry and severe habits of abstinence and privation. His neighbors considered him a miser, and thought that he was hoarding up money from mean and avaricious motives. The populace pursued him, whenever he appeared, with hootings and execrations, and the boys sometimes threw stones at him. He at length died, and in his will were found the following words: "Having observed from my infancy that the poor of Marseilles were ill supplied with water, which can only be purchased at a great price, I have cheerfully labored the whole of my life to procure for them the great blessing; and I direct that the whole of my property shall be laid out in building an aqueduct for their use."

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## BEREAVEMENT

### 0150 -- I TOOK IT -- CONSOLED BY THE MASTER

I heard lately a simple but significant story. A gardener had a rare and beautiful flower in his charge. He had bestowed great care on it, and it was approaching perfection. One day it was missing; some hand had cut it from the stem. He was troubled and anxious, but was calmed and satisfied at once when the Master came round and said, "I took it." -- Dr. Raleigh

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## BETRAYAL

### 0151 -- HOW LEGALISM BETRAYS ITS BENEFACTORS

An affecting case occurred in the north of Holland, which for its peculiarity deserves brief mention. A poor Anabaptist, guilty of no crime but his fellowship with a persecuted sect, had been condemned to death. He had made his escape, closely pursued by an officer of justice, across a frozen lake. It was late in the winter and the ice had become unsound. It trembled and cracked beneath his footsteps, but he reached the shore in safety.

The pursuing officer was not so fortunate. The ice gave way beneath him and he sank into the lake, uttering a cry for help. There were none to hear him except the fugitive whom he had been hunting. Dirk Willemzoon, for so was the Anabaptist called, instinctively obeying the dictates of a generous nature, returned, crossed the quaking and dangerous ice at the peril of his life, extended his hand to his enemy and saved him from certain death. Unfortunately for human nature, it cannot be added that the generosity of the action was met by a corresponding heroism. The officer was desirous, it is true, of avoiding the responsibility of sacrificing the preserver of his life, but the burgomaster of Asperen sternly reminded him to remember his oath. He accordingly arrested the fugitive, who on the sixteenth of May following, was burned to death under the most lingering tortures.

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## BETRAYAL

### 0152 -- THE VACANT NICHE

I was once a pastor at Schuylerville N. Y. where, on the Burgoyne surrender grounds, stands a celebrated monument. It is beautiful to look upon. On one side of it, in a niche, is a statue of General Schuyler, and on the other side, if I remember correctly, is one of General Gates. On the third, in the same sort of a niche, another distinguished general is to be seen, but the fourth niche is vacant. When I asked the reason, I was told that it is the niche which might have been filled by Benedict Arnold, had he not been a traitor. -- J. Wilbur Chapman

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## BIBLE

### 0153 -- BETTER THAT IT WAS HIDDEN IN HER HEART

One day, I taught my young class the story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha. I carefully explained how Mary and Martha had hurried to clean the house and cook a special meal. Then I paused and asked, "What would you do if Jesus was going to visit your house today?" One little girl quickly responded, "I'd put the Bible on the table!" -- Louise Day

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## BIBLE

### 0154 -- BIBLE WEALTH NOT APPROPRIATED

History tells us that when Crowfoot, the chief of the Blackfoot nation in southern Alberta, gave the Canadian Pacific Railway permission to lay track from Medicine Hat to Calgary, he was given in exchange a lifetime railroad pass. Reportedly, Crowfoot put the pass in a leather pouch and wore it around his neck for the rest of his life -- but he never once availed himself of the rights and privileges it spelled out. What a tragedy it is when Christians do the same thing with the Word of God, using it as a decorative badge of Christianity, but never availing themselves of the wealth of access to God's thoughts it affords.

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## BIBLE

### 0155 -- FINDING GOD IN HIS WORD

Her mother was startled to find seven-year-old Karen going through a new Bible storybook and circling the word God where ever it appeared on the page. Stifling her urge to reprimand the child for defacing the book, the mother quietly asked, "Why are you doing that?"

Karen answered matter-of-factly, "So that I will know where to find God when I need Him."

Actually, Karen may have the right idea. In times of need it would be helpful to know where to look in the Bible to find the Lord's help.

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## BIBLE

### 0156 -- GROSSLY ERRANT ELECTRONIC ANALYSIS

As an illustration of "learned" scholars tampering with the Scriptures, I quote from a newspaper article: "An electronic computer figures that St. Paul is the author of only four of the 14 epistles attributed to him in the New Testament. Two researchers fed the computer a quarter of a million words of Greek prose to reach this conclusion. They said the method could be used to determine the authorship of any part of the Bible."

Truly amazing -- a mindless machine questioning the Word of God! If its findings were correct, they would make Paul a liar, for he claims the authorship of at least 13 of the epistles. Just think, a lifeless mechanism "proving" that the Bible is not true! The computer is now a disputer. Strangely enough, it was proven by the same computer analysis that the man who wrote the book about these conclusions couldn't have been its author.

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## BIBLE

### 0157 -- REVERENCED, BUT NOT READ

Louis L'Amour, famed writer of novels about the American West, wrote a short story that described a man who liked books. The man was noticed acting suspiciously as he perused the shelves in a library. He took down a leather-bound copy of Shakespeare's King Lear and ran his fingers gently over the cover. He opened the book and felt the pages. Suddenly he tucked it under his coat and bolted out the door.

Someone who had been watching him ran after the thief and stopped him. The man willingly surrendered the book. Then he explained. All his life he had loved books, but he had never learned to read. So he would come to the library just to hold books. He loved the way they felt in his hands. That's why he had stolen Shakespeare.

Some people are like that with their Bibles. They enjoy the feel of the leather as they carry them to church. They love the smell of the pages. But they never read them. What a shame!

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## BIBLE

### 0158 -- SHE READ, AND GOD REMEMBERED

A 91-year-old woman wrote, "I spend about one hour each day with my Lord, reading my Bible and Christian literature. When people ask what good all my reading does if I can't remember what I've read, my answer is always the same. I'm in pretty good health, have a roof over my head, and have plenty of food to eat... I also have two sons and one grandson who love me dearly. My cup runneth over. I am not concerned about my memory. I just do my reading and God does the remembering."

Does the way look dark? Keep reading God's Word. if you can no longer read, listen to it on tapes. Thank the Lord daily for meeting your physical needs. Draw on the support of other Christians.

Even if you forget God's promises, you'll discover that He never forgets them. He'll strengthen you and stand with you.

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## BIBLE

### 0159 -- THE BOOK MOMMY LOVED WAS NOT THE BIBLE

A woman wanting to impress the pastor when he came to visit, said to her little girl, "Honey, go get the book that Mommy loves so much." The little girl soon returned carrying the new Sears catalog.

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## BIBLE

### 0160 -- WARM YOURSELF TWICE

Henry Ford is credited with saying, "Cut your own wood and you warm yourself twice." What he meant was that the man who chops his own firewood not only enjoys the heat from the logs burning in his fireplace, but he also gets physically warmed from the exercise involved in his labor.

If you really want to enjoy your Bible, you should "cut your own wood" by studying things for yourself. Check the cross references, look up the meaning of key words, and ask God to show you how the passage on which you are meditating applies to your life. The truth you discover for yourself in the Word will have a fresh, new flavor.

Have you tried to "cut your own wood?"

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## BIBLE -- ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY

### 0161 -- GOD'S WORD, A TRUE COMPASS

A man started out through a forest so thickly covered with trees that one day he could not see the sun or sky. After traveling for a long time he knew it was getting night time, so started for what he thought was home. He was so certain that his direction was right that he did not look at his compass. But when he did look at it, he was surprised to find that he was going west when he thought he was going east. He was so sure he was right that he started to throw his compass away.

Then he thought, "You have never told me an untruth, and I'll trust you now." He followed the compass and came out right. We, too, have a compass that will never tell us an untruth. It in God's Word -- the Bible. If we always follow it we will be safe, even though we think we are right. If it tells us some thing different, then let us follow what it says, for that is the only safe thing. -- Gospel Herald

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#### BIBLE -- ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY

##### 0162 -- PROVEN TRUE IN UNUSUAL WAYS

A Haifa policeman, well versed in the Bible, managed to track down a band of smugglers by applying a passage from the Prophets. The gang used an ass drawn caravan to cross the border into Israel and the policeman was able to capture some of the asses but the smugglers got away. The cop let the beasts of burden go without food for several days and then turned them free. And just as predicted in Isaiah: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib;" the starving animals led police directly to the smuggler's hideout.

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#### BIBLE -- ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY

##### 0163 -- THE INFALLIBLE BIBLE-BAROMETER

In September, 1938, a man who lived on Long Island was able one day to satisfy a lifelong ambition by purchasing for himself a very fine barometer. When the instrument arrived at his home, he was extremely disappointed to find that the indicating needle appeared to be stuck, pointing to the sector marked "Hurricane."

After shaking the barometer very vigorously several times, its new owner sat down and wrote a scorching letter to the store from which he had purchased the instrument, and on the following morning, on his way to his office in New York, he mailed the letter. That evening he returned to Long Island, to find not only the barometer missing, but his house also. The barometer's needle had been right. There was a hurricane!

What the Bible points out is always true. People may think there is something wrong with what the Bible says, and they may write scorching letters to the faithful preachers of God's Word. Still, the indications and predictions of the Bible will come to pass. Many of those who are angered by the truth will one day discover their grievous error. The storm of God's final Judgment will strike, and all that they have will be swept into eternal destruction! -- Duane V. Maxey

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#### BIBLE -- BOOK OF THE AGES

## 0164 -- ITS MAJESTY IS TOO GRAND FOR HASTY OBSERVATION

Taking a few minutes each day to read a chapter is a good way to start. But we should also block out extended periods of time for exploring God's Word and reflecting on what He is saying to us. The importance of spending much time with something of great value and beauty is illustrated by a quote from the National Geographic magazine about Carl Sharsmith, an 81 year old guide in Yosemite National Park.

"Carl was back at his tent quarters after a long afternoon with tourists. His nose was flaked white and red with sunburn; his eyes were watery, partly from age but also from hearing again an old question after a half century of summers in California's Yosemite National Park. A lady tourist had hit him with a question where it hurt: "I've only got an hour to spend at Yosemite," she declared. "What should I do? Where should I go?"

The old naturalist-interpreter-ranger finally found voice to reply. "Ah, lady, only an hour." He repeated it slowly. "I suppose that if I had only an hour to spend at Yosemite, I'd just walk over there by the river and sit down and cry."

A whole lifetime is not long enough to appreciate fully the beauty and learning and value of the Bible. That's why we must take time to study its truths and make them real in our lives.

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## BIBLE -- BOOK OF THE AGES

### 0165 -- THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO ALL

A poor Welsh woman insisted that Jesus Christ was a Welshman. They said, "Oh, no, Jesus Christ was a Jew." "But He speaks to me in Welsh," was her reply. Even so, this one book of all the ages, and tribes, and languages, speaks to men of every nation, and tells them in their own tongues wherein they were born, of "the wonderful works of God." -- H. L. Hastings

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## BIBLE -- DESPISED AND ATTACKED

### 0166 -- HE TREATED THE BIBLE LIKE TRASH

A friend told me this tale a few years ago as we paced together the deck of a steamship on the Mediterranean and talking of the things unseen. The chaplain of a prison, intimate with the narrator, had to deal with a man condemned to death. He found the man anxious, as he well might be -- nay he seemed more than anxious; convicted, spiritually alarmed. The chaplain's instructions all bore upon the power of the Redeemer to save to the uttermost; and it seemed as if the message were received and the man were a believer.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the chaplain had come to think that there was ground for appeal from the death sentence. He placed the matter before the proper authorities, and with success. On his next visit, very cautiously, and by way of mere suggestions and surmises, he led the apparently resigned criminal towards the possibility of a commutation. What would he say? How would his repentance stand if his life were granted him? The answer soon came. Instantly, the prisoner divined the position; asked a few decisive questions; then threw his Bible across the cell and, civilly thanking the chaplain for his attentions, told him that he had no further need of him nor of his Book. -- Bishop Moule

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#### BIBLE -- DESPISED AND ATTACKED

##### 0167 -- THE BIBLE, A DESPISED MICROSCOPE

Through a microscope a native of India, was shown the germs in the water from the Ganges, and was told not to drink that water any more. He didn't like the looks of the germs wiggling round in the water, so he took a heavy club and broke the microscope and continued to drink the water. -- Exchange

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#### BIBLE -- DESPISED AND ATTACKED

##### 0168 -- THE BIBLE, A HATED MIRROR

A certain society in order to gain access for a missionary to some African tribes, sent down trinkets to be bartered with the natives. Among them was a package of those little hand glasses, such as ladies use. The natives had never seen their own faces, except in the waters of some lake or stream, and the news of this wonderful instrument, by which people could see their own features, was spread abroad until the missionary was invited by tribe after tribe to visit them, with his hand glass.

It happened that away in the interior there was a princess in one of the tribes, who had been told that she was the most beautiful woman in the tribe, and that her face was the most beautiful on earth. When she heard of this instrument in which she might see what a beautiful creature she was, she sent for the missionary and bade him bring one of those mirrors.

The truth was, the princess was the least attractive woman in the tribe. So she got the mirror, and went into the hut to take one good long delicious look at her beauty, but when she held up the glass and saw what a hideous creature she was, how ugly in every feature, she lifted her royal fist and dashed the glass to pieces, banished the missionary, and made a law that no mirror should ever be brought into the tribe.

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## BIBLE -- DIVINELY INSPIRED

### 0169 -- FROM THE AUTHOR

After a little girl had prayed about what gift would be best for her father's birthday, she felt led to buy a Bible. She wondered what to write on the flyleaf. "From Maggie" seemed too cold. "From your little daughter" would not do, either, for her father had said she was getting to be a big girl. Would "From one who loves you" do? Scarcely, for quite a lot of others loved him, too. Finally she went to her father's library. She found that one of the books had this on the flyleaf -- "From the Author." Later, when her father opened his gift, and saw "From the Author," he realized that he was not acquainted with the Author of the Bible. He began to study his Bible, was converted, and became a preacher. In telling the story of his conversion, he often held up the little Bible, and told about the inscription, "From the Author." Let us then accept it, read it, believe it, confess it, and tell to others that it is a love gift for them "From the Author." -- Golden Sheaves

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## BIBLE -- DIVINELY INSPIRED

### 0170 -- THE BIBLE'S INFLUENCE, INDICATIVE OF ITS SOURCE

When Columbus saw the river Orinoco, someone said that he had discovered an island. He replied: "No such river as that flows from an island: That mighty torrent must drain a continent." So, any candid reader must recognize that this Book of books must have had its spring in the heights of heavenly wisdom, and must have drawn its, volume and impetus from the unseen universe of God's Spirit.

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## BIBLE -- DIVINELY INSPIRED

### 0171 -- THE BOOKS OF MOSES

Researchers in Israel, after subjecting the first five books of the Bible to exhaustive computer analysis, came to a different conclusion than expected. The Torah, or Books of Moses, had long been assumed by skeptics to be the work of multiple authors. But Scripture scholar Moshe Katz and computer expert Menachem Wiener of the Israel Institute of Technology analyzed the book's material through sophisticated computer analysis. They discovered an intricate pattern of significant words concealed in the canon, spelled by letters separated at fixed intervals. Mr. Katz says that the statistical possibilities of such patterns happening by chance would be one to three million. The material suggests a single, inspired author. In fact, it could not have been put together by human capabilities at all. Adds Mr. Wiener, "So we need a nonrational explanation. Ours is that the (Torah) was written by God through the hand of Moses." -- Associated Press

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## BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

### 0172 -- JUDSON'S BURMESE TRANSLATION -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

Twenty years after Adoniram Judson reached Burma the New Testament was translated into the Burmese tongue. In 1824, when war was waged between England and Burma, Mr. Judson was thrown into prison, and Mrs. Judson buried the precious manuscript, just ready for the printer, in the earth beneath their house. But as mold was gathering upon it, on account of the dampness caused by heavy rains, with a woman's ready wit, she sewed the treasure inside a roll of cotton, put on a cover and took it to the jail to be used by Mr. Judson as a pillow. In nine months he was transferred to the inner prison, where five pairs of fetters were upon his ankles, and it was announced that he, with a hundred others, fastened to a bamboo pole, were to be killed before morning.

During this terrible night, much prayer ascended for the precious pillow. It had fallen to the share of the keeper of the prison, but Mrs. Judson, producing a better one, induced him to exchange. Mr. Judson was not killed, but was hurried away to another place, and again the pillow was his companion. But one of the jailers untied the mat that served as its cover and threw the roll of cotton into the yard as worthless.

Here a native Christian, ignorant of its value, found and preserved it as a relic of his beloved master, and with him months afterward its contents were discovered intact. After the close of the war this New Testament was printed, and in 1894 the whole Bible was translated into the Burmese language -- a language peculiarly difficult on account of its construction and curious combinations. -- Stories of Bible Translation

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## BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

### 0173 -- NO BETTER BOOK

A society of gentlemen, most of whom had enjoyed a liberal education, and were persons of polished manners, but had unhappily imbibed infidel principles, used to assemble at each other's house for the purpose of ridiculing the Scriptures, and of hardening one another in their unbelief. At last they unanimously formed a resolution solemnly to burn the Bible, and so to be troubled no more with a book which was so hostile to their principles and disquieting to their consciences.

The day fixed upon arrived; a large fire was prepared, a Bible was laid on the table, and a flowing bowl ready to drink its dirge. For the execution of their plan they fixed upon a young gentleman of high birth, brilliant vivacity, and elegance of manners. He undertook the task, and after a few enlivening glasses, amidst the applause of his jovial compeers, he approached the table, took up the Bible, and was walking leisurely forward to put it into the fire; but, happening to give it a look, he was seized with trembling, paleness overspread his countenance, and he seemed convulsed.

He returned to the table, and, laying down the Bible said, with a strong assertion, "We will not burn that book till we get a better." Soon after this, the same lively young gentleman died, and on his deathbed was led to true repentance, deriving unshaken hopes of forgiveness and of future blessedness from that book which he was once going to burn. He found it, indeed, the best book not only for a living but a dying hour.

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#### BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

##### 0174 -- ONLY THREE FROGS

Are you beginning to tremble for the safety of your Bible? Do you fear that the "critics" are about to utterly destroy it? Have you concluded that these scholarly destructionists are multiplying so that their name is legion? The destructive critics are few, but noisy. They remind us of a story we heard awhile ago.

A man came to a hotelkeeper and asked him if he would buy two car loads of frog legs. "Two carloads!" exclaimed the astonished landlord. "Why, I could not use them in twenty years!" "Well, will you buy half a carload?" "No." "Twenty or thirty bushels?" "No." "Twenty or thirty dozen?" "No." "Two dozen?" "Yes." A few days later the man returned with three pairs of legs. "Is that all?" said the landlord. "Yes. The fact is, that I live near a pond, and the frogs made so much noise that I thought there were millions of them; but I dragged the pond with a seine, drained it and raked it, and there were only three frogs in the whole thing! You have already made your application. -- Epworth Herald

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#### BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

##### 0175 -- SURVIVES ITS ENEMIES

Ingersoll held up a copy of the Bible and said, "In fifteen years I'll have this book in the morgue." Fifteen years rolled by. Ingersoll was in the morgue, and the Bible lives on. Voltaire said that in one hundred years the Bible would be an outmoded and forgotten book, to be found only in museums. When the one hundred years were up, Voltaire's house was owned and used by the Geneva Bible Society. And recently ninety-two volumes of Voltaire's works were sold for two dollars! -- Eugene M. Harrison

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#### BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

##### 0176 -- THE BIBLE OFTEN SPEAKS TO MEN

A woman whose husband was a confirmed drunkard led a most miserable life until one day a colporteur came to her poor home and brought her a Bible. She found much comfort in reading it and soon came to treasure it above everything. Her husband sneered and railed at her about it. One day, when he came home half intoxicated, and found her sitting over her newly found treasure, he snatched the Bible from her, threw it into the stove, and set fire to it. "Now we shall see," said he, "what will be left of your new religion."

The next day he opened the door of the stove, and taking the fire tongs, was about to stir up the cinders, which, as he thought, were all that was left of the Bible, when his eye fell upon the words: "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Having been thrown in closed, some pages of the Book were partly preserved, and these words stood out clear and distinct. They were like a revelation to the man; he stood convicted and awe-stricken. Soon after he was converted, and led a different life. -- Sunday School Times

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#### BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

##### 0177 -- THE GOSPEL WILL NOT BURN!

A woman had often been urged by Christians to receive the Lord. In spite of their persistent efforts, she continued to harden her heart. One day she threw into the blazing fireplace a Bible and several tracts someone had given her. One of the leaflets fell out of the flames, so she cast it in again. A second time it slipped down, and once more she put it back. Again her evil intentions were frustrated. The third time, however, part of it became scorched. That night when the fire had died down, she picked up the portion that remained and exclaimed, "Surely the devil must be in that paper, for it will not burn!" Out of curiosity she began to read the partially destroyed tract. Being a message on salvation, it brought deep conviction to her heart. Finally, through that half-charred leaflet she was led to Christ!

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#### BIBLE -- DIVINELY PRESERVED

##### 0178 -- THE ONLY BOOK SALVAGED

Before Alexander Duff, the missionary, reached India, he was twice ship-wrecked. On the very coast of India, only a few miles from the place that was to be his home, an awful storm struck the ship and wrecked it upon the shore. The first night in India he slept in a heathen temple. He was sailing from his home for India in the "Lady Holland." He had been a great student and had won many honors in college and gathered together a library of eight hundred volumes. He loved these books very much. When the ship was wrecked; he lost all of them, Everything was gone! All gone! When the people were safe on land, they looked like an unhappy company.

From the shore the missionary watched, hoping he might see something from the wreck floating on the sea. All of a sudden he jumped up, for he saw something very small on the water.

He thought it hardly worth saving. It was washed up on the shore and when he picked it up he found it was his own Bible. He thought it was very strange that out of all his eight hundred books, only one was saved, and that one was his Bible. He thought God wished him to know that one Book was worth more than all the other seven hundred and ninety-nine which he had lost, and that he was to make it the chief study of his life.

He opened it, and there on that lonely shore he read to his friends' these words from one of the Psalms: "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep."

When Alexander Duff began his work in India he started a school to educate the Hindu boys. In that school the Bible was taught. He loved the Bible and he wanted to teach it to others who did not know it. After a few years there were a thousand scholars, and several big school buildings. Often they sang: "Holy, Bible! Book Divine, Precious Treasure, thou art mine; Mine to tell me whence I came, Mine to tell me what I am." -- Children's Missionary Story Sermons

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#### BIBLE -- FOOD FOR THE SOUL

##### 0179 -- UNABLE TO FORAGE FOR THEMSELVES

If you've ever been to Yellowstone National Park, you were probably given a piece of paper by a ranger at the park entrance. On it in big letters was the warning "Do Not Feed the Bears." You no sooner drive into the heart of the park, however, than you see people feeding the bears. When I first saw this I asked a ranger about it. "Sir," he answered, "you have only a small part of the picture." He described how the park service personnel in the fall and winter have to carry away the bodies of dead bears... bears who have lost their ability to fend for food. That's what's happening to us. -- Howard Hendricks

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#### BIBLE -- FURNISHES A LIGHT

##### 0180 -- BIBLE MANIFESTS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR OUR SALVATION

A London clergyman, called to the garret of a dying man, found him plunged into anxiety over the mystery of a torn text. A stray leaf from a torn Testament had caught his eye. It was part of Romans 3. He read the portrait of the sinner, and recognized it as his own; but as he read on "But now the righteousness of God without the law is" the leaf was torn off. "Is what" cried the dying man. What worlds on worlds hang on the answer! Withheld, refused, withdrawn, forgotten, canceled? The rest of the verse he drank in as life to the soul "is manifested." -- The Dawn

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#### BIBLE -- FURNISHES A LIGHT

## 0181 -- CANNIBALS OR CHRISTIANS

The story is told of a college professor who visited the Fiji Islands. Being agnostic, he critically remarked to an elderly chief, "You're a great leader, but it's a pity you've been taken in by those foreign missionaries. They only want to get rich through you. No one believes the Bible anymore. People are tired of the threadbare story of Christ dying on a cross for the sins of mankind. They know better now. I'm sorry you've been so foolish as to accept their story." The old chief's eyes flashed as he answered, "See that great rock over there? On it we smashed the heads of our victims. Notice the furnace next to it? In that oven we formerly roasted the bodies of our enemies. If it hadn't been for those good missionaries and the love of Jesus that changed us from cannibals into Christians, you'd never leave this place alive! You'd better thank the Lord for the Gospel; otherwise we'd already be feasting on you. If it weren't for the Bible, you'd now be our supper!

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## BIBLE -- FURNISHES A LIGHT

### 0182 -- IT IS STILL BURNING, FATHER

The Book should still be burning in our hearts: In one of the mines in England a youth about fifteen years of age was working by the side of his father; who was a pious man, and governed and educated his family according to the Word of God. The father was in the habit of carrying with him a small pocket Bible; and the son, who had received one at the Sabbath-school, imitated his father in this. Thus he always had the sacred volume with him, and whenever enjoying a season of rest from labor he read it by the light of his lamp.

They worked together in a newly-opened section of the mine, and the father had just stepped aside to procure a tool when the arch above suddenly fell between them, so that the father supposed his child to be crushed. He ran towards the place and called to his son, who at length responded from under a dense mass of earth and coal. "My son," cried the father, "are you living?" "Yes, father but my legs are under a rock." "Where is your lamp, my son?" "It is still burning, father." "What are you doing, my dear son?" "I am reading my Bible, father, and the Lord strengthens me." These were the last words of that Sabbath-school scholar; he was suffocated.

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## BIBLE -- FURNISHES A LIGHT

### 0183 -- IT POINTS RIGHT WHEN WE'RE WRONG

The Bible is not only, to be read, it is to be followed. An old hunter in Michigan, when the country was new, got lost in the woods several times. He was told to buy a pocket compass, which he did, and a friend explained to him its use. He soon got lost, and lay out as usual. When found, he was asked why he did not travel by the compass. He said he did not dare to. He wished to go

north, and he "tried hard to make the thing point north but it wasn't no use; "'twould shake, shake right round, and point southeast every time." A great many people fail of the right direction in life for the same reason of the mishap which befell our Michigan friend: they are afraid to take the Bible and follow just as it points.

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#### BIBLE -- FURNISHES A LIGHT

##### 0184 -- SPURGEON'S GIFT OF A TESTAMENT

We can shine in the literature that we circulate. Spurgeon said: "I have very seldom found it to be a lost thing to give a present of a Testament. I was greatly astonished about a month ago. A cabman drove me home, and when I paid him his fare he said, 'A long time since I drove you last, sir.' 'But,' said I, 'I do not recollect you.' 'Well,' he said, 'I think it was fourteen years ago; but perhaps you will know this Testament?' pulling one out of his pocket. 'What,' I said, 'did I give you that?' 'Oh yes,' he said, 'and you spoke to me about my soul, and nobody had done that before and I have never forgotten it.' 'What,' said I, 'haven't you worn it out?' 'No,' he said, 'I could not wear it out; I have had it bound!' and he kept it very carefully indeed." -- Topical Illustrations

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#### BIBLE -- FURNISHED A LIGHT

##### 0185 -- THOMAS GUTHRIE'S STATEMENT

Paul explicitly states that the sword of the Spirit is Scripture, the word of God. The Scottish pastor and writer Thomas Cuthrie said, "The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons, a laboratory of infallible, medicines, a mine of exhaustless wealth. It is a guidebook for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every malady, and a balm for every wound. Rob us of our Bible and our sky has lost its sun."

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#### BIBLE -- IGNORANCE OF PERILOUS

##### 0186 -- BOOK OF RUTH NOT RECOGNIZED AS PART OF THE BIBLE

One could say much of the merits and message of the book to which Ruth gave her name, as well as of the many lessons to be gathered from it. Benjamin Franklin, who was ridiculed at one time in Paris for his defense of the Bible, was determined to find out how much of it his scoffer had read. He informed one of the learned societies that he had come across a story of pastoral life in ancient times that seemed to him very beautiful but he would like the opinion of the society. A night was arranged for Franklin to read to the assembly of scholars a lyric which impressed him. The Bible lover read the Book of Ruth, and when he had finished the scholars were in ecstasies

and begged Franklin to print it. "It is already in print," said Franklin. "It is a part of the Bible you ridicule." -- All the Women of the Bible.

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#### BIBLE -- IGNORANCE OF PERILOUS

##### 0187 -- DON'T READ IT TO SCORN

The Bible is the last voice. It is the voice that speaks to us from the other world, or God has never spoken. The truth about the Bible is told in those words in "The Monastery" which Scott puts into the mouth of the apparition which speaks to the young Glendinning: "Within that awful volume lies The mystery of mysteries! Happiest they of human race, To whom God has granted grace To read, to fear, to hope, to pray, To lift the latch, and force the way; And better had they ne'er been born, Who read to doubt or read to scorn."

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#### BIBLE -- IGNORANCE OF PERILOUS

##### 0188 -- GALLUP POLL

A Gallup poll conducted some years ago revealed that 60 percent of Americans did not know what "the Holy Trinity" was. Sixty-six percent couldn't say who delivered the Sermon on the Mount, and 79 percent were unable to name a single Old Testament prophet. When people are questioned about the Bible on radio or television, it is remarkable and disconcerting to see their complete lack of knowledge on the subject. Some are almost as confused as the little boy who wrote on his test paper that "the epistles were the wives of the apostles, and that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife."

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#### BIBLE -- IGNORANCE OF PERILOUS

##### 0189 -- NOT ME, SIR!

A pastor asked a class of Sunday School children, "Who broke down the walls of Jericho?" A boy answered, "Not me, sir!" Upset, the pastor asked the teacher, "Is this typical?" She replied, "I believe this boy is honest, and I really don't think he did it." The pastor went to the head deacon. "I've known the boy and the teacher for years," said the deacon, "and neither of them would do such a thing." Aghast, the pastor went to the Christian Education Board. "Pastor," said the chairman, "let's not make an issue of this. Let's just pay for the damage and charge it to maintenance."

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## BIBLE -- IGNORANCE OF PERILOUS

### 0190 -- TO NEGLECT IT, IS TO IMPERIL ONE'S SOUL

A former park ranger at Yellowstone National Park tells the story of a ranger leading a group of hikers to a fire lookout. The ranger was so intent on telling the hikers about the flowers and animals that he considered the messages on his two-way radio distracting, so he switched it off. Nearing the tower, the ranger was met by a nearly breathless lookout, who asked why he hadn't responded to the messages on his radio. A grizzly bear had been seen stalking the group, and the authorities were trying to warn them of the danger. Any time we tune out the messages God has sent us, we put at peril not only ourselves, but also those around us. How important it is that we never turn off God's saving communication! -- Harold M. Wiest

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## BIBLE -- LOVED BY THE SAINTS

### 0191 -- HE READ IT WITH HIS TONGUE

A man in Kansas City was severely injured in an explosion. Evangelist Robert L. Summer tells about him in his book *The Wonder of the Word of God*. The victim's face was badly disfigured, and he lost his eyesight as well as both hands. He was just a new Christian, and one of his greatest disappointments was that he could no longer read the Bible. Then he heard about a lady in England who read Braille with her lips.

Hoping to do the same, he sent for some books of the Bible in Braille. Much to his dismay, however, he discovered that the nerve endings in his lips had been destroyed by the explosion. One day, as he brought one of the Braille pages to his lips, his tongue happened to touch a few of the raised characters and he could feel them. Like a flash he thought, I can read the Bible using my tongue. At the time Robert Sumner wrote his book, the man had "read" through the entire Bible four times.

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## BIBLE -- LOVED BY THE SAINTS

### 0192 -- SHE FOUND A WAY TO READ IT

A blind girl had been in the habit of reading her Bible by means of raised letters such as are prepared for the use of the blind; but after a while, by working in a factory, the tips of her fingers became so callused that she could no more by her hands read the precious promises. She cut off the tips of her fingers that her touch might be more sensitive; but still she failed with her hands to read the raised letters. In her sorrow she took the Bible and bid, "Farewell, my dear Bible. You have been the joy of my heart!" Then she raised the open page to her lips and kissed it, and as she did so she felt with her mouth the letters, "The Gospel according to St. Mark." "Thank God!" she said; "if I cannot read the Bible with my fingers, I can read it with my lips." -- Talmage

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## BIBLE -- MISINTERPRETED

### 0193 -- THE REVERSED VERSION

A missionary candidate was engaged in colportage work in the home land before leaving for the foreign field. He called at a farm and was met at the door by an old lady. "May I sell you a Bible, madam?" he asked. "My! Bless you!" she replied, "We have more Bibles now in this house than we use. We have the Old Testament Bible, the New Testament Bible, the Holy Bible, and besides we have the Reversed Version Bible also." "True," thought the missionary, "it is this last mentioned Bible that is evidently read by most Christians. The Reversed Version! When the Word says "GO" they all with one accord stay at home. When it says "GIVE" and "SEND" the Gospel to all the world, they all seem to think it says, "Enough to do at home." -- Alliance Tidings

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0194 -- HE WAS TOO LATE

A person in Birmingham, who lived in the neglect of the worship of God and of reading the Bible, was on a Lord's Day sitting at the fire with his family; he said that he thought he would read a chapter in the Bible, not having read one for a long time. But, alas! he was disappointed; it was too late, for in the very act of reaching it from the shelf he sank down and immediately expired. -- Whitecross

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0195 -- INTO THE NEWSPAPER LONG AGO

A story is told of a preacher who taught an old man in his parish to read. He proved a proficient scholar. After the teaching had come to an end the minister was not able to call at the cottage for some time, and when he did he only found the wife at home. "How's John," said he. "He's canny, sir," said the wife. "How does he get on with his reading?" "Nicely, sir." "Ah, I suppose he will read his Bible very comfortably now." "Bible, sir! Bless you he was out of the Bible and into the newspaper long ago." There are many other persons who, like this old man, have long been out of the Bible and into the newspaper. They have forsaken the fountain of Living waters, and have gone about among muddy pools and stagnant morasses to seek something which might slake their thirst. -- Clerical Library

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0196 -- IT COST HIM TO SPURN THE BIBLE

The only way we can really have the desire of our heart is by accepting and obeying God's Word. Those who spurn the Scriptures will someday discover this truth:

A young man from a wealthy family was about to graduate from high school. It was the custom in that neighborhood for parents to give their graduate an automobile.

"Bill" and his father had spent months looking at cars, and the week before graduation, they found the perfect car. Bill was certain that it would be his on graduation night. You can imagine his disappointment when, on the eve of graduation, Bill's father handed him a gift-wrapped Bible. Bill was so angry, he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again.

Only his father's death brought Bill home again. As he went through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the Bible his father had given him. He opened it to find a cashier's check, dated the day of his graduation -- in the amount needed for the car they had chosen -- together. -- Beckah Fink

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0197 -- MUELLER'S TESTIMONY

George Mueller said this about God's word: "The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts. I solemnly state this from the experience of 54 years. The first 3 years after conversion I neglected the word of God. Since I began to search it diligently the blessing has been wonderful. Great has been the blessing from consecutive, diligent, daily study. I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the word of God."

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0198 -- NEEDED FOR THE VOYAGE

A minister was once asked unexpected to conduct a service in a country home. He called for a Bible, but none could be found. At last, however, they found one in an old sea chest in the attic. Strange to say, on the outside of the chest were the words, "Not wanted on the voyage," Be sure you make your voyage through life with God's Word as your guide always. -- Sunday School Times

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0199 -- REPLACED BY TV GUIDE

On the table side by side; A Holy Bible and the TV Guide, One is well worn but cherished with pride, (Not the Bible, but the TV Guide). One is used daily to help folks decide, No! It isn't the Bible; it's the TV Guide. As pages are turned, what shall they see? Oh, what does matter, turn on the TV. So they open the book in which they confide (No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide). The Word of God is seldom read, Maybe a verse ere they fall into bed. Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be, Not from reading the Bible, but watching TV. So, then back to the table, side by side, Is the Holy Bible and the TV Guide. No time for prayer, no time for the Word; The plan for salvation is seldom heard. Forgiveness of sin so full and free Is found in the Bible, not on TV!!

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0200 -- SPECTACLES FOUND IN THE BIBLE

The committee of a Bible Society in Scotland, some time ago, resolved that a house-to-house visitation should be made by some of the members to ascertain if possible whether every family in the village possessed a copy of the Scriptures, and if not, to supply the want where they found it necessary. Among others visited was an elderly woman who, on being informed what object the visitors had in view, asked them indignantly if they had come to her thinking she was a heathen who hadn't the Word of God in her house. She assured them that she had, and to convince them of the truth of her statement she called to her granddaughter, who was in the room, "Bring the Bible from the press, lassie, and let the gentlemen see that I have a Bible."

The girl did as she was bid, brought the Bible, and laid it on the table. It was observed that the book was kept partly open by something placed between the leaves. On finding what it was the manner of the old woman immediately changed. Instead of upbraiding, she now thanked the gentlemen for their visit, saying, "It's really a good thing you came, gentlemen; for there, ye see, I've found my spectacles that I have not seen for the last three years. Though I looked for them every place I could think of, I never could find them, and there they are." -- James Douglas

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## BIBLE -- NEGLECT OF

### 0201 -- UNDISCOVERED RICHES

Several years ago an old man living in New Jersey discovered about \$5,000 in a family Bible. (a sum which was quite large in that day) The bank notes were scattered throughout the Book. In 1874 the aunt of this man had died, and one clause of her will was as follows: "To my

beloved nephew, Steven Marsh, I will and bequeath my family Bible, and all it contains, with the residue of my estate after my funeral expenses and just and lawful debts are paid."

The estate amounted to a few hundred dollars, which were soon spent, and for about thirty-five years his chief support had been a small pension from the Government. He lived in poverty, and all the time within his reach there was the precious Bible containing thousands of dollars, sufficient for all his wants. He passed the Bible by. His eyes rested on it, perhaps his hands handled the old leather-bound Bible, with its brass clasps, but he did not open it once.

At last, while packing his trunk, to move to his son, where he intended to spend his few remaining years, he discovered the unknown riches which were in his possession. What thoughts of regret must have come to his mind. If he only had opened that Bible years ago, he then might have used the money to great advantage. Instead of it the treasure lay idle for thirty-five years. And he might have had it and enjoyed it all that time.

This is a sad story. But there is some thing infinitely sadder than the experience of this man. It is the neglect of the Bible by God's people. Our God has given to His people a costly treasure in His own Word. In this Book of books the riches of the wisdom and knowledge, the love and grace of God are made known. All the child of God needs spiritually is to be found on its pages; all wants are there supplied. And yet these riches, put at our disposal by a loving Father, are unknown and unused riches. Instead of being enjoyed, used, and in using them multiplied, they are neglected. Oh, the neglected Bible! May we arise and possess our possession. -- Faithful Words

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BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

0202 -- BREAD SOWN UPON THE WATERS

The editor of The Dawn vouches for this incident, which he received from one of the persons concerned. Some years ago a steamer was wrecked. One of the crew succeeded in supporting himself upon a piece of wreckage, and the horror of his position awoke the pangs of conscience. It was a mail steamer, and hundreds of letters floated by him in the water. One, the envelope of which the water had made transparent, caught his eye: he saw a verse of Scripture, and he seized the letter. It was from a lady in England to a soldier in India. That letter brought him to Christ there and then. When he landed, for he was rescued, he found the lady from the address on the letter. She said: "I felt God tell me to write that letter to the soldier; but I confess that when I heard the mail boat had gone down, I wondered why God had done it." He said: "You may write another letter to the soldier if you wish; but this letter goes with me to my grave." -- The Alliance Weekly

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BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

0203 -- EFFECTIVENESS NOT DULLED BY ITS ENEMIES

Ralph C. Norton, who was the Director of Personal Work for the Chapman-Alexander Missions and Director of the Belgian Gospel Mission, was talking with some friends about the supreme work of winning men one by one, in which God has used him so wonderfully. When they noticed the almost exclusive place he gave to the Bible in personal work, one asked him: "What do you do Mr. Norton, in cases where the unsaved man does not accept the Bible as having any authority?" "Well, if I had a fine Damascus sword with a keen double-edged blade I would not sheath it in a fight just because the other man said he did not believe it would cut." -- Sunday School Times.

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#### BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

##### 0204 -- GOOD SEED, EVEN ONE GRAIN

To show the need of circulating the Scriptures all over the world, the following remarkable incident will bear witness. An American missionary was sent to Burma to make inquiries about the languages. He himself spoke Burmese, and traveled up the country for many hundred miles. One night he encamped near a small village. Here he heard prayer going on in Burmese. He listened, and to his utter astonishment heard, not the name of Buddha, or that of any idol, but the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was the more surprised, for he knew that no missionary or white man had ever been to that part of the world, and so he went into the village and began to make inquiries.

He found that the head man of the village had, some years previously, been down to another village some miles distant and had brought an article of food wrapped up in a Burmese printed paper, which happened to be one single chapter of the Word of God with a piece torn out of the corner. He read it, and having himself sought to put sin away, he found that Savior Who is the Son of God, and Who he found was able to cleanse from sin.

He now called his friends together, and read that piece of the Scriptures to them, and induced them to put away their idols. When this missionary found them they had been for six years praying to Christ as the Savior of sinners. This is the blessing of God upon the glorious work of spreading abroad simply and solely the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. -- Friends Witness

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#### BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

##### 0205 -- HANDBOOK TO HEAVEN

When a Soviet official was asked why a study of the Bible was frowned upon in his country, and why those who dared to print and distribute it were severely punished, he replied, "We find that the reading of the Book changes people in a way that is dangerous to our state!"

During World War II when the Nazis occupied a new territory, they immediately placed all Christians in concentration camps if they made public commitments to the Word of God. They had found that those who clung to the Bible would not compromise their faith or yield to the evil edicts of a godless dictator.

The same type of opposition was manifested during the Boxer Rebellion in China. A little girl whose father had been murdered because of his faith hid herself in a cornfield to elude her persecutors. She was soon discovered and threatened with death if she did not reveal where the family Bible had been concealed. Testifying that it was her daily strength and stay, she refused to tell them and was soon cruelly martyred. She chose to die rather than give up that treasure Volume!

Those who oppose civil and spiritual liberty continue to suppress the God-inspired Scriptures, for they consider them "dangerous." To the believer, however, it remains his beloved "Handbook to Heaven"!

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#### BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

##### 0206 -- HAS GOD'S BOOK ARRIVED

A lady missionary in Africa saw an unknown native coming toward her. He was dressed in the customary skins, and was leading a goat. He put down his spear and tied up the goat, and then said: "White lady, has God's Book arrived in our country?" "Are you interested in God's Book?" she inquired. "Yes," replied the native. "My son brought me these pieces of paper, and he has been teaching me the words, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." I heard that God's Book had arrived, and I have walked for five days, and brought this goat to buy God's Book." She then showed him a copy of the Bible and found the place where the words were printed. "Give me that Book," he entreated, "and you can keep this goat." Then he walked up and down before her, pressing the Book to his heart, saying: "God's Book. He has spoken to us in our own language!" He returned to his own village with God's Book -- a section where no missionary was. -- Apples of Gold

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#### BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

##### 0207 -- KNOWING WHERE TO HIT

A small factory had to cease operations when a vital piece of machinery broke down. The firm's own mechanics couldn't get a thing working again so an outside expert was called in. He looked the situation over for a couple of minutes and then took a hammer and tapped the machine in a certain spot and it started running beautifully. When he submitted a bill for \$100 the plant owner figuratively hit the ceiling and demanded an itemized bill, which subsequently was forthcoming as follows: \$1.00 for hitting machine; \$99.00 for knowing where to hit. God uses His word to "hit" us where we need fixing. (Hebrews 4:12)

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## BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

### 0208 -- NOT OUT OF DATE

As a converted African cannibal sat reading his Bible a European trader passed by and asked him what he was doing. "Reading the Bible," was his reply. "That Book is out of date in my country," said the trader. "If it had been out of date here," said the African, "you would have been eaten long ago." -- Record of Christian Work

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## BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

### 0209 -- OUR TOOL FOR SOUL WINNING

If we hope to lead people to Christ, it is vital that we learn to rely upon the "Sword of the Spirit." Dr. Broadus, a Southern Baptist professor and preacher, was asked on one occasion by a fine student, not a Christian however, to write in his autograph book. Dr. Broadus wrote in it three Greek words which mean: "One thing thou lackest." Years later Dr. Broadus received a letter from a distinguished medical doctor in Texas. In the letter the doctor stated that he had never been able to forget that one sentence in his album and trusted that now he had the one thing that formerly he lacked.

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## BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

### 0210 -- THE BIBLE WON'T LET ME ALONE

An infidel lecturer in England was once asked, "Why can't you let the Bible alone, if you don't believe it?" The honest reply was at once made, "Because the Bible won't let me alone!" This is the fact. Either in its own pages or in the lives of its faithful followers it meets man and speaks with an authoritative voice. It gets a grip on the conscience, testifying of sin, of penalty, of judgment. The Holy Ghost works with the written Word of God. God's Word will never let men alone until they yield to obey, and love their Savior.

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## BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

### 0211 -- THE BIBLE, A POWERFUL WEAPON

In the early morning darkness of January 8, 1991, an Iraqi Scud missile streaked high over the Saudi Arabian desert, bound for the coalition forces allied against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. But as the Scud raced across the night sky, it was fixed in the invisible spotlight of American radar. Sent rushing up to meet it was a 17-foot-long rocket called the Patriot. Three miles above the earth, the Patriot destroyed the Scud in an immense orange fireball. American forces also have stealth bombers that can evade enemy radar and smart bombs that hit their targets with pinpoint accuracy. But for all of our technology, we haven't a single military weapon that can penetrate the human heart or defeat spiritual enemies.

Thankfully, God has given us the ultimate spiritual weapon, designed by Him to assure our victory. Like a soldier wrapping his fingers around a finely balanced, razor-sharp sword, we are to take up the "sword of the Spirit" which is God's Word.

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## BIBLE -- POWERFUL IN ITS INFLUENCE

### 0212 -- THE RESTRAINING POWER OF THE BIBLE

Wherever God's law is supreme, life and property are safe. Wherever the Bible is despised or discarded, neither life nor property is secure. When infidel friends were discussing their theories around the dining table one day, Voltaire said: "Hush, gentlemen, till the servants are gone. If they believed as we do, none of our lives would be safe." The influence of the Bible in restraining sin and promoting righteousness is one of the evidences that it is a supernatural and divine revelation. -- Otterbein Teacher

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## BIBLE -- PREACHING AND HEARING

### 0213 -- PREACH IT!

J. I. Packer said, "Certainty about the great issues of the Christian faith and conduct is lacking all along the line. The outside observer sees us staggering on from gimmick to gimmick and stunt to stunt like so many drunks in a fog, not knowing at all where we are or which way we should be going. Preaching is hazy; heads are muddled; hearts fret; doubts drain strength; uncertainty paralyzes action. Unlike the first Christians who in three centuries won the Roman world, and those later Christians who pioneered the Reformation, and the Puritan awakening and the Evangelical revival, and the great missionary movement of the last century, we lack certainty.

Why is this? We blame the external pressures of modern secularism, but this is like Eve blaming the serpent. The real truth is that we have grieved the Spirit. We stand under divine judgment. For two generations our churches have suffered from a famine of hearing the words of the Lord." That's a tragic truth.

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## BIBLE -- PREACHING AND HEARING

### 0214 -- THE BIBLE, OUR SPIRITUAL TUNING FORK

Yes, the Bible gives to man the guidance he needs because it is God's unchanging Word -- good for every age and every generation. I once read about a musician who went to see his aged music teacher. During the visit, the elderly mentor struck a tuning fork and said, "That is 'A.'" Just then, from the floor above came the voice of a singer. "She sings sharp," said the old teacher. He paused for a moment, then lifted the tuning fork again. The second time he struck it he said, "But this 'A' -- always has been, always will be -- 440 vibrations per second. It will be the same 5,000 years from now." And that's the way it is with the Word of God: it is constant and unchangeable.

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## BIBLE -- PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING

### 0215 -- MAKES ONE WISER THAN MANY TEACHERS

A little girl, being asked by a priest to attend religious instruction, refused saying it was against her father's wishes. The priest said she should obey him, not her father. "Oh sir, we are taught in the Bible, 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'" "You have no business to read the Bible," said the priest. "But, sir, our Savior said, 'Search the Scriptures.'" "That was said to Jews, and not to children. You don't understand it," said the priest in reply. "But Paul said to Timothy, 'From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures.'" Said the priest, "Timothy was being trained to be a bishop and he was taught by the church authorities." "No, sir," said the child, "he was taught by his mother and his grandmother." The priest turned away, saying she "knew enough of the Bible to poison a parish." -- Sunday School Times

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## BIBLE -- PURIFIES THE LIFE

### 0216 -- WHY JENNY LIND QUIT THE STAGE

The Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind, made a great success as an operatic singer, and money poured into her purse. Yet she left the stage when singing her best and never went back to it. Once an English friend found her sitting with a Lutheran Bible on her knee, looking out into the glory of a sunset. They talked, and the conversation drew near to the inevitable question: "Oh, Madam, how is it that you ever came to abandon the stage at the very height of your success?" "When, every day," was the quiet answer, "it made me think less of this (laying a finger on the Bible) and nothing at all of that (pointing to the sunset), what else could I do?"

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## BIBLE -- READ

## 0217 -- GARFIELD'S NIGHTLY BIBLE READING

In a meeting to pray for Garfield's recovery, one who was there said, "Twenty-six years ago tonight, and at this very hour, our class was on the top of Graylock to spend the Fourth of July. As we were about to lie down to sleep, Garfield took out his pocket Testament and said, "I am in the habit of reading a chapter every night at this time with my mother. Shall I read aloud?" They assented, and when he had read he asked the oldest member of the class to pray. And there, in the night, and on the mountain-top, we prayed with him for whom we are now assembled to pray." --  
Topical Illustrations

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## BIBLE -- READ

### 0218 -- HOW IT SHOULD BE READ

I supposed I knew my Bible, Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,  
Now a bit of John or Matthew, Now a snatch of Genesis;  
Certain chapters of Isaiah, Certain Psalms (the twenty-third),  
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs, Yes, I thought I knew the Word.  
But I found a thorough reading Was a different thing to do,  
And the way was unfamiliar When I read the Bible through.

You who like to play at Bible, Dip and dabble here and there,  
Just before you kneel a-weary And yawn out a hurried prayer;  
You who treat the Crown of Writing As you treat no other book --  
Just a paragraph disjointed, Just a crude, impatient look --  
Try a worthier procedure, Try a broad and steady view --  
You will kneel in very rapture When you read the Bible through.

-- Amos R. Wells

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## BIBLE -- READ

### 0219 -- IT WORKED

While holding meetings some years ago in Valparaiso, Indiana, a mother gave this testimony: "I was left with five children. My oldest boy became wicked and I could do nothing with him; he would lie and steal, and I began to think that I would have to put him in the reformatory. One night I dreamed that a voice came to me telling me to read the Bible with my children. I had never read the Bible with my children, though I had a beautiful one for an ornament on the parlor table. I began to read it with the children, and, oh, what a difference it made in our home! The children would gather around me as gentle as kittens, and my eldest boy, two or three

days after I commenced, broke down and, putting his arms around my neck, promised he would be a good boy and be saved. Truly, 'the entrance of thy word giveth light.'" -- Norman V. Williams

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BIBLE -- READ

0220 -- OPEN THE LOVE LETTER

The Bible is actually a beautiful "love letter" from God, and the writer of Psalm 119 admonishes us to delight in its message and to meditate upon its contents. How sad that many Christians neglect it!! Sadder still that countless lost souls have never opened the Book at all.

When Elizabeth Barrett became the wife of Robert Browning, her parents disowned her because they disapproved of the marriage. The daughter, however, wrote almost every week, telling them that she loved them and longed for a reconciliation. After 10 years she received a huge box in the mail that contained all the notes she had sent. Not one had been opened! Although these "love letters" have become an invaluable part of classical English literature, it's really pathetic to think that they were never read by Elizabeth Barrett's parents. Had they looked at just one, the broken relationship with their daughter might have been healed.

All of us are alienated from God because of sin. But He has provided a way of reconciliation. In the Bible He tells about it, and also expresses His earnest longing for fellowship with us. If you are a born-again child of God, how precious His love message from Heaven ought to be to you! Are you reading it often? If you are not a believer and pay no attention to the Bible, you're no different from Elizabeth Barrett's parents. You're cheating yourself, and someday you'll stand before God condemned and lost forever. Then you'll wish you had opened and read His "love letter" to you. Why not do it right now?

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BIBLE -- READ

0221 -- OUR WARRANT TO SEARCH IT

A Roman Catholic priest in Ireland reprimanded a peasant for reading the Bible. "But I have a search warrant to do so," replied the man. "What do you mean, sir?" said the priest in anger. "Why," answered the peasant, "Jesus said, 'Search the scriptures,' and I am doing only what he tells me to do." The argument was unanswerable -- The King's Business

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BIBLE -- READ

0222 -- THE SCRIPTURES PRAISED IN IGNORANCE

When Franklin was in Paris among the infidels and scoffers of that day, he was ridiculed for loving the Bible. He determined to find out how many had read the Book at which they scoffed. He informed one of the learned societies of which he was a member that he had come across a story in pastoral life in ancient times that appeared to him very beautiful, but he would like the judgment of the society upon it. On the evening appointed, Franklin had a reader, of finely modulated voice, to read to them the Book of Ruth. They were in ecstasies over it, and one after another rose to express gratification and admiration and the desire that the manuscript should be printed. "It is printed," said Franklin, "and it is part of the Bible."

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#### BIBLE -- READ

#### 0223 -- USIN AND THUMMIN

The story is told of a young curate in the Church of England who was greatly helped in his understanding of the Scriptures by frequent conversations with an uneducated cobbler who was, nevertheless, well acquainted with the Word of God. On one occasion when a friend of his, a young theologian, was visiting him, he mentioned this remarkable knowledge of the Bible which the cobbler possessed. The young theologian, in a spirit of pride, expressed a desire to meet him, saying he felt sure he could ask some questions which he would be quite unable to answer.

Upon being introduced to the man in his little shop, the question was put, "Can you tell me what Urim and the Thummim were?" The cobbler replied, "I don't know exactly; I understand that the words apply to something that was on the breastplate of the high priest. I know the words mean 'Lights and Perfection,' and that through the Urim and Thummim the high priest was able to discern the mind of the Lord. But I find that I can get the mind of the Lord by just changing two letters. I take this blessed Book, and by 'usin' and 'thummin' I get the mind of the Lord that way." -- H. A. Ironside

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#### BIBLE -- READ

#### 0224 -- YOU'LL BE SORRY AND GLAD

A parable told by William Cunningham, education adviser to Gov. George Deukmejian of California: A man was out walking in the desert when a voice said to him, "Pick up some pebbles and put them in your pocket, and tomorrow you will be both sorry and glad." The man obeyed. He stooped down and picked up a handful of pebbles and put them in his pocket. The next morning he reached into his pocket and found diamonds and rubies and emeralds. And he was both glad and sorry. Glad that he had taken some... sorry that he hadn't taken more. And so it is with God's word.

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#### BIBLE -- STANDARD OF FAITH AND DUTY

## 0225 -- OUR PRICELESS SWORD

Last December three masked burglars broke into the Louvre Museum in Paris and stole the 152 year old diamond encrusted dress sword of the French king, Charles X. A museum spokesman said that the sword, made in 1824 by French artist Frederic Bapst for Charles' coronation, has such historical value that "one cannot set any value on it."

Have you ever noticed that it is always the Bible, the Sword of the Spirit, that is the object of attack by false cults? That priceless Sword becomes their target. They aim to deprive the Church of the one weapon that has been given to us. Let us not sleep as the cultists make their assault.

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## BIBLE -- STUDY OF COMMANDED

### 0226 -- FACTS OR TRUTH?

In a study of the King James Version of the Bible someone gathered the following facts: "The Scriptures contain 3,586,489 letters, 773,692 words, 31,173 verses, and 1,189 chapters. The word 'and' occurs 1,855 times, but the word 'revered' only once. Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except 'J.' The longest verse is Esther 8:9, and the shortest in the English language is John 11:35." Knowing miscellaneous facts about the Bible is fine. But far better is the diligent searching of its truths for knowledge.

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## BIBLE -- STUDY OF COMMANDED

### 0227 -- FULL BIBLE INTELLIGENCE

When a new FBI agent is hired he is given intensive training. As part of the program, he is taught to watch for counterfeit money. He makes a thorough study of the genuine bills -- not the phonies -- so that he can spot the fake currency immediately because of its contrast to the real thing.

The child of God can learn a lesson from this. While it is helpful to study false religions and be fully aware of their dangerous dogmas, we should be so familiar with God's Word that whenever we encounter error, we will spot it at once. Today many are being led astray by cults and isms because they don't recognize how they are being deceived. The only way to prevent this is to indoctrinate believers with the truth so they will be much more discerning. A thorough knowledge of essential biblical doctrines is the only way to detect their counterfeits!

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## BIBLE -- STUDY OF COMMANDED

### 0228 -- HOW LUTHER STUDIED THE BIBLE

Luther said he studied his Bible as he gathered apples. First he shook the whole tree, that the ripest might fall; then he shook each limb, and when he had shaken each limb, he shook each branch, and after each branch, every twig; and then he looked under every leaf. Search the Bible as a whole, shaking the whole tree. Read it rapidly, as you would any other book. Then shake every limb -- study book after book. Then shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then shake each twig, by a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences. And you will be rewarded if you will look under each leaf, by searching the meaning of the words.

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## BIBLE -- STUDY OF COMMANDED

### 0229 -- MUELLER'S RULE CONCERNING BIBLE STUDY

George Mueller, after having read the Bible through one hundred times with increasing delight, made this statement: "I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God. Friends often say, 'I have so much to do, so many people to see, I cannot find time for Scripture study.' Perhaps there are not many who have more to do than I. For more than half a century I have never known one day when I had not more business than I could get through. For 4 years I have had annually about 30,000 letters, and most of these have passed through my own hands.

"Then, as pastor of a church with 1,200 believers, great has been my care. Besides, I have had charge of five immense orphanages; also, at my publishing depot, the printing and circulating of millions of tracts, books and Bibles; but I have always made it a rule never to begin work until I have had a good season with God and His Work. The blessing I have received has been wonderful."

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## BIBLE -- WRITTEN WITH A PURPOSE

### 0230 -- WAITING ON GOD'S WORD

Sam was my best dog, ever. A field trial dog who found birds and pointed them with contagious enthusiasm, Sam taught me the joy of becoming part of nature. If his point said a bird was hiding in a clump of bushes, it was there. He was so much more than a bird dog, though. Often we'd share together lazy lunches in an abandoned apple orchard, and the snooze that followed. Late one afternoon, Sam and I became separated. Neither of us was familiar with the area. I called and whistled. No sign of Sam. I had to get back to town for an important appointment. But how could I leave Sam? If he finally came back and I wasn't there, would I lose him for good?

Then I remembered a trick an old dog trainer had passed on. I unbuttoned my jacket, removed my shirt and laid it on the ground under the branches of a small bush. I worried all night. But when I returned the next morning there was Sam curled up with his nose under the sleeve of my shirt. He looked up and wagged his tail. "Where've you been friend?" his eyes seemed to say. "I've been waiting for you all night. But I knew you'd come back."

Later I wondered. When I get lost, do I have the trust to look for some part of God's word and curl up in it? To wait patiently, knowing that my Friend will find me if I just have faith in him?  
-- Scott Harrison

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## BLINDNESS -- SPIRITUAL

### 0231 -- A BLIND GUIDE

An elderly woman stood on a busy street corner, hesitant to cross because there was no traffic signal. As she waited, a gentleman came up beside her and asked, "May I cross over with you?" Relieved, she thanked him and took his arm.

The path they took was anything but safe. The man seemed to be confused as they dodged traffic and walked in a zig-zag pattern across the street. "You almost got us killed!" the woman exclaimed in anger when they finally reached the curb. "You walk like you're blind!" "I am," he replied. "That's why I asked if I could cross with you."

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## BLINDNESS -- SPIRITUAL

### 0232 -- HELEN KELLER

Helen Keller tells of the dramatic moment when Annie Sullivan first broke through her dark, silent world with the illumination of language.

We walked down the path to the well house, attracted by the fragrance of the honeysuckle with which it was covered. Some one was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the spout. As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten -- a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that "w-a-t-e-r" meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free! There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away.

Certainly, this was how the blind man must have felt when he saw water for the first time as he washed his eyes in the pool of Siloam. Just as the Light of the world gave sight to the blind

beggar, and just as that "living word" awakened the soul of Helen Keller, so Jesus can awaken your life with the tender touch of His hand. He can give you light, hope, joy, and freedom like you've never known before. Surely there will still be barriers in your life, but barriers that can be swept away in time. -- Helen Keller

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## BLINDNESS -- SPIRITUAL

### 0233 -- UNNECESSARILY BLIND

A woman named Rose Crawford had been blind for 50 years. "I just can't believe it!" she gasped as the doctor lifted the bandages from her eyes after her recovery from delicate surgery in an Ontario hospital. She wept for joy when for the first time in her life a dazzling and beautiful world of form and color greeted eyes that now were able to see. The amazing thing about the story, however, is that 20 years of her blindness had been unnecessary. She didn't know that surgical techniques had been developed, and that an operation could have restored her vision at the age of 30. The doctor said, "She just figured there was nothing that could be done about her condition. Much of her life could have been different."

As I read the news account of her case, some questions came to mind. Why did she continue to assume that her situation was hopeless? Had no one told her about the wonderful advances in eye surgery? Then I thought of the plight of those unreached by the Gospel. How many will go on living in moral blindness unless we bring them to the Savior? Millions will never know anything but spiritual darkness because no one has shared with them the Light that has come into the world. (Romans 10:14)

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## BLOOD OF CHRIST

### 0234 -- IS THE BLOOD SPRINKLED ON THE LINTEL?

There is a legend that on that night of the Exodus a young Jewish maiden, the first-born of the family, was so troubled on her sickbed that she could not sleep, "Father," she anxiously inquired, "are you sure that the blood is there?" He replied that he had ordered it to be sprinkled on the lintel. The restless girl will not be satisfied until her father has taken her up and carried her to the door to see for herself; and lo, the blood is not there! The order had been neglected, and before midnight the father makes haste to put on his door the sacred token of protection. The legend may be false; but it teaches a very weighty and solemn admonition to every sinful soul who may be near eternity and is not yet sheltered under the Atonement of Jesus Christ. -- Cuyler

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## BLOOD OF CHRIST

## 0235 -- OUR PASSWORD TO HEAVEN

Every one must have personal faith and belief in the blood for himself. It is said that during the war, George H. Stuart, a princely merchant of Philadelphia, and a Christian man of large heart and faith, was President of the Christian Commission. One day he had occasion to go down into Virginia, and cross the picket lines, to visit a soldier. He came along, and the sentinel was pacing up and down. Mr. Stuart rode up to the lines. "Halt!" Mr. Stuart stopped. "Who is there?" "A friend." "Advance and give the countersign." Mr. Stuart rode up, and leaning forward, whispered, "Chicago." "No," said the sentinel, "that is not the right word today; and it will be death for me to let you go over without the right word, and death for me to give it to you. You must go back to headquarters and get it."

Stuart went back to the headquarters, and having obtained the correct word, hastened back. As he approached the lines the sentinel shouted, "Halt!" Stuart stopped. "Who is there?" "A friend." "Advance and give the countersign." He rode forward and said, "Massachusetts." "That is right." Mr. Stuart rode over the lines, stopped, whirled upon his horse, and said, "Sentinel, I came here today to cross these lines, and I had the wrong countersign; but I had opportunity to go back and get the right one. But, sir, you are approaching lines of eternal consequences, and if you come with the wrong countersign, you never will have opportunity to go back and get the right one."

"Yes, sir, I know what you mean." "What do I mean?" "The judgment seat of Christ." "That is right." "Sir, have you got the right countersign?" "I have." "What is it?" "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin?" "Where did you get that?," said he. "In a prayer meeting where you were."

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## BLOTTED OUT -- SINS AND TRANSGRESSIONS

### 0236 -- JOHN MAYNARD'S COPYBOOK

John Maynard attended an old-time, country schoolhouse. Most of the year he had drifted carelessly along, but in mid-winter some kind words from his teacher roused him to take a new start, and he became distinctly a different boy and made up for the earlier faults. At the closing examination, he passed well to the great joy of his father and mother, who were present. But the copybooks used through the year were all laid on a table for the visitors to look at, and John remembered that his copybook, fair enough in its latter pages, had been a dreary mass of blots and bad work before. He watched his mother looking over those books and his heart was sick. But she seemed, to his surprise, quite pleased with what she saw and called his father to look with her. Afterward, John found that his kind teacher had thoughtfully torn out all those bad, blotted leaves and made his copy book begin where he started to do better. To all who forsake sin, God offers a new chance and promises to blot out all old sins and make the record begin with the new start. -- Rev. Franklin Noble

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## BLOTTED OUT -- SINS AND TRANSGRESSIONS

### 0237 -- A CLEAN SLATE

A lad was told by his mother not to play near a certain pond. One day the temptation was too much, and, venturing too close, he fell into the water. He was very conscious of his wrongdoing, and most uncomfortable. So he wrote on his school slate: "Dear mother, I am sorry I have been bad. If you to forgive me, please rub it out." Back came the slate, perfectly clean! How like the love of God who said, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins." (Isa. 44:22) -- King's Business

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## BOASTING

### 0238 -- NAPOLEON DID NOT DISPOSE

When Bonaparte was about to invade Russia, a person who had endeavored to dissuade him from his purpose, finding he could not prevail, quoted to him the proverb, "Man proposes but God disposes;" to which he indignantly replied, "I dispose as well as propose." A Christian lady, on hearing the impious boast, remarked, "I set that down as the turning-point of Bonaparte's fortunes. God will not suffer a creature with impunity thus to usurp His prerogative." It happened to Bonaparte just as the lady predicted. His invasion of Russia was the commencement of his fall. -- Whitecross

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## BOASTING

### 0239 -- WHY THE FROG FELL

Two geese, when about to start southwards on their annual autumn migration, were entreated by a frog to take him with them. On the geese expressing their willingness to do so if a means of conveyance could be devised, the frog produced a stalk of long grass, got the two geese to take it one by each end, while he clung to it by his mouth in the middle. In this manner the three were making their journey successfully when they were noticed from below by some men, who loudly expressed their admiration of the device, and wondered who had been clever enough to discover it. The vainglorious frog, opening his mouth to say, "It was me," lost his hold, fell to the earth and was dashed to pieces. -- J. Gilmour

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## BODY -- HUMAN

### 0240 -- AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, DEFINED

A Chinese student attending one of our colleges was writing back to China and telling his friends and relatives about America and its institutions. He defined an American university as follows: "An American university is a vast athletic association where, however, some studies are maintained for the benefit of the feeble-bodied."

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## BONDAGE

### 0241 -- SCORPION AND THE TURTLE

A scorpion, being a very poor swimmer, asked a turtle to carry him on its back across the river. "Are you mad?" exclaimed the turtle. "You'll sting me while I'm swimming and I'll drown." "My dear turtle," laughed the scorpion, "If I were to sting you, you would drown and I'd go down with you. Now where is the logic in that?" "You're right," cried the turtle. "Hop on." The scorpion climbed aboard and halfway across the river gave the turtle a mighty sting. As they both sank to the bottom, the turtle, resigned, said, "Do you mind if I ask you something? You said there is no logic in your stinging me. Why did you do it?" "It has nothing to do with logic," the drowning scorpion replied. "It's just my nature."

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## BONDAGE -- SPIRITUAL

### 0242 -- FREE AS A BIRD?

Recently we put up a hummingbird feeder with four feeding stations. Almost immediately it became popular with the hummingbirds that live in our area. Two, three, or even four birds would feed at one time. We refilled the feeder at least once a day. Suddenly the usage decreased to almost nothing. The feeder needed filling only about once a week.

The reason for the decreased usage soon became apparent. A male bird had taken over the feeder as his property. He is now the only hummingbird who uses our feeder. He feeds and then sits in a nearby tree, rising to attack any bird that approaches his feeder. Guard duty occupies his every waking hour. He is an effective guard. The only time another bird gets to use the feeder is when the self-appointed owner is momentarily gone to chase away an intruder.

We soon realized that the hummingbird was teaching us a valuable lesson. By choosing to assume ownership of the feeder, he is forfeiting his freedom. He is no longer free to come and go as he wished. He is tied to the work of guarding his feeder. He is possessed by his possession. His freedom of action is as circumscribed as if he were in a cage. He is caged by a situation he has created. -- W. L. Barnes

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## BONDAGE -- SPIRITUAL

## 0243 -- FREEDOM FROM THE SINFUL NATURE

At the close of an important speech to Congress on January 6, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt shared his vision of the kind of world he wanted to see after the war in Europe was over. He spoke of four basic freedoms which should be enjoyed by all people: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Of course, World War II exploded far beyond Europe, and the world never achieved Roosevelt's ideal. Even if it did, however, we should still desperately need another freedom the president didn't mention: freedom from ourselves and the tyranny of our sinful nature.

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## BORN -- OF GOD

### 0244 -- THOSE BORN OF GOD FEAR AND HATE SIN

I once walked into a garden with a lady to gather some flowers. There was one large bush whose branches were bending under the weight of the most beautiful roses. We both gazed upon it with admiration. There was one flower on it which seemed to shine above all the rest in beauty. This lady pressed forward into the thick bush and reached far over to pluck it. As she did this a black snake which was hidden in the bush wrapped itself around her arm. She was alarmed beyond all description and ran from the garden screaming and almost in convulsions. During all that day, she suffered very much with fear; her whole body trembled and it was a long time before she could be quieted. That lady is still alive. Such is her hatred now of the whole serpent race that she has never since been able to look at a snake even though it were dead. No one could ever persuade her to venture again into a cluster of bushes even to pluck a beautiful rose.

Now this is the way those who are born of God react to sin. They think of sin as the serpent that once coiled itself round them. They hate it. They dread it. They fly from it. They fear the places it inhabits. They do not willingly go into its haunts. They will no more play with sin than this lady would afterwards have fondled snakes. -- Bishop Meade

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0245 -- HE KILLED HIS OWN BROTHER IN MILITARY BATTLE

Manila, Philippines...Cpl. Robert Salvador cheered after destroying a rebel armed vehicle with his bazooka. Moments later, he discovered his brother, Roger; was dead in the flaming vehicle. The two brothers fought on opposite sides during clashes between government forces and mutineers seeking to topple President Corazon Aquino. The mutiny began Friday, and shooting continued in parts of Manila today. At the height of the uprising Sunday, rebels fiercely attacked the country's military headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo. Rebels entered the main gate behind an armored personnel carrier, which began firing. Robert Salvador, 25, aimed his bazooka at the

vehicle and fired. It was a direct hit and the vehicle burst into flames. "At last, I got him!" he shouted. He then raced to the tank and discovered to his horror that his brother, Sgt. Roger Salvador, 29, was among the crew.

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0246 -- HE MOVED THE FENCE

Rita Snowden tells a story of the war. In France some soldiers with their sergeant brought the body of a dead comrade to a French cemetery to have him buried. The priest told them gently that he was bound to ask if their comrade had been a baptized adherent of the Roman Catholic Church. They said that they did not know. The priest said that he was very sorry but in that case he could not permit burial in his churchyard. So the soldiers took their comrade sadly and buried him just outside the fence. The next day they came back to see that the grave was all right and to their astonishment could not find it. Search as they might they could find no trace of the freshly dug soil. As they were about to leave in bewilderment the priest came up. He told them that his heart had been troubled because of his refusal to allow their dead comrade to be buried in the churchyard; so, early in the morning, he had risen from his bed and with his own hands had moved the fence to include the body of the soldier who had died for France. -- William Barclay

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0247 -- SHE WANTED HUMAN LOVE AND ASSURANCE

Frightened by the clamor of thunder in the night, a little child cried out. Holding her securely in his arms, her father explained that she needn't fear. God would take care of her because He loved her greatly.

"I know God will take care of me and love me," she replied. "But right now, Daddy, I want someone with skin on to love me."

We are to be God's love, with skin on!

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0248 -- IT HASN'T GOT A LAP

An ingenious teenager, tired of reading bedtime stories to his little sister, decided to record several of her favorite stories on tape. He told her, "now you can hear your stories anytime you want. Isn't that great?" She looked at the machine for a moment and then replied, "No. It hasn't got a

lap." We all need a lap. We all need the closeness of relationship. We all need to know we are loved.

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0249 -- MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION

An incident is told about two soldiers who had recently been released from a prison camp in Siberia following World War II. "We did our best," said an officer, "to repatriate the men as fast as possible, but many were still there when winter threatened to close up the port." Only a limited number could board the last small boat. Among those waiting to be transported were two who had been chums all through the war. One of them was selected, but the other seemed doomed to remain behind. An order was given that those who were leaving could take only one important item of luggage. The heart of the man who was chosen went out to his buddy, so he emptied his duffel bag of its prized souvenirs and his personal belongings and told his companion to get into the canvas sack. Then carefully lifting the bag on his shoulders, he boarded the ship with his friend as his single, most precious possession. This man truly loved his neighbor as himself.

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0250 -- NEW HOPE FOR EDDIE

In his book "Open the Door Wide to Happy Living," T. Huffman Harris told of a young man named Eddie who became tired of life and decided to leap from a bridge into a turbulent river. Jim, a total stranger, saw Eddie being swept downstream and plunged into the water in an effort to save him. Eddie, a good swimmer, noticed the man floundering desperately in the strong current and knew that without his help he would drown. Something stirred within him. With all of his strength, Eddie swam over to the man and rescued him. Saving that stranger, who had attempted to save him, brought new hope and meaning to Eddie's life.

Sometimes it does take a crisis to shock us out of a "poor-me attitude." When shocked sufficiently, we can begin to see once again our value to God and to others.

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0251 -- NO BURDEN -- HE'S MY BROTHER

An American who was walking down the streets of a Chinese city was greatly interested in the children, many of whom were carrying smaller children upon their backs, and managing at the same time to play their games, says a writer in the Youth's Companion. "It is too bad," the

American sympathetically said to one little fellow, "that you have to carry such a heavy burden!" "He's no burden," came the quick reply; "he's my brother." "Well, you are chivalrous to say so!" said the man, and he gave the boy some money. When the American reached home he, said to his family: "A little Chinese boy has taught me the fullest meaning of the words, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. He recounted his interview, and added: "If a little Chinese boy can carry and care for his brother and refuse to consider him as a burden, surely we ought not to think it a burden to carry our little brothers, the weak and the needy ones, who look to us for help. Let us rejoice as we carry one, and say, by our actions, "He's no burden; he's my brother." -- Rescue Journal.

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0252 -- RELATING TO OTHERS

British statesman and financier Cecil Rhodes, whose fortune was used to endow the world-famous Rhodes Scholarships, was a stickler for correct dress -- but apparently not at the expense of someone else's feelings. A young man invited to dine with Rhodes arrived by train and had to go directly to Rhodes's home in his travel-stained clothes. Once there he was appalled to find the other guest already assembled, wearing full evening dress. After what seemed a long time Rhodes appeared, in a shabby old blue suit. Later the young man learned that his host had been dressed in evening clothes, but put on the old suit when he heard of his young guest's dilemma. -- Moody

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0253 -- THAT'S ANOTHER STORY

To dwell above with saints we love,  
That will be grace and glory.  
To live below with saints we know;  
Well, that's another story!

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## BROTHERLY LOVE

### 0254 -- THE MAN WHO NEEDED RESCUE WAS HIS BROTHER

A storm swept the ocean just off the coast of Scotland. Far out in the black trough of the angry waters a ship had gone to pieces. The lifeboat set out from shore in the face of what seemed almost certain disaster, but it came back with all the ship's crew except one. To have taken another

in would have meant the sinking of the boat. As they came to shore the leader said, "There's another man! We need volunteers for his rescue. These men are exhausted."

Among those stepping forward was a fine-looking young Scotchman in the very prime of his life. His white-haired mother came and put her arms about him and said, "Don't go, John; years ago your father perished in the storm at sea. You know that just last year your brother William went to sea and never came back, and I guess he, too, must have gone down. John, you are the only one left, and if you should perish what would I do? Don't go, John; your mother begs you to stay."

He took her arms from about his neck and said, "Mother, I must go; a man is in peril and I would feel like a coward not to go. God will take care of us." He printed a kiss on her cheek and sprang into the boat. Every minute the fury of the storm increased. The elements seemed to vie with each other to see which one could do the worst. Down into the trough and up over the waves they went. A whole hour they were gone, and finally in dim outline they were seen beating their way back.

As they came within hailing distance someone from the shore cried, "Have you found the man?" Standing in the bow of the boat John shouted back, "Yes, we've saved him, and tell my dear old mother it's brother William!" -- William E. Biederwolf

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## BURDEN OF SIN

### 0255 -- HOW WE KNOW IT IS GONE

A man, carrying a bag of potatoes on his back, was asked by a skeptic: "How do you know you are saved?" The man took a few steps and then dropped the bag. Then he said: "How do I know I have dropped the bag? I have not looked around." "No," replied the man. You can tell by the lessening of the weight." "Yes," replied the other, "that is how I know I am saved. I have lost the guilty feeling of sin and sorrow, and have found peace and satisfaction in my Lord and Savior." -- The Elim Emanuel

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## BURDENS

### 0256 -- EARTHLY ATTRACTIONS MAKE SPIRITUAL BURDENS HEAVIER

Sir Robert Ball, the great astronomer, said that a man who carries a sack of corn on earth could as easily carry six sacks of corn on a globe the size of the moon. But in a world as vast as the sun, even to pull out a watch from the pocket would be to tug at a weight of five or six pounds. It would be impossible to lift an arm, and if once a man were to lie down there he could never get up again.

So, in the spiritual realm the weight of our burdens depends on the attractions of the earth. If the world is all to us, alas! How true it is that its burdens crush and overwhelm us. -- Sunday At Home

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## BURDENS

### 0257 -- HE WANTED A BURDEN FOR SOULS

"Tom, you're the sort of Christian I like." The speaker was a young man of no religious profession. His companion was a church member in good and regular standing. "You're the sort of a Christian I like. You never seem to bother yourself about a fellow's soul." The words were lightly spoken, but they pierced like an arrow. If we had listened at Tom's chamber door that night, we would have heard something like this: "O God, forgive me that I seemed indifferent to the welfare of my friends! Help me to trouble myself more and more about them. Give me a passion for souls!"

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## BUSINESS CARES

### 0258 -- HOW CAREY PAID EXPENSES

A characteristic incident is told about Dr. Carey, the pioneer missionary in India, who, before he left this country, was a shoemaker, or, rather, as he himself put it, a cobbler. He used to go about from village to village preaching, for his soul was filled with the love of God. One day a friend came to him and said: "Mr. Carey, I want to speak to you very seriously." "Well," said Carey, "What is it?" The friend replied, "By your going about preaching as you do you are neglecting your business. If you only attended to your business more you would be all right, and would soon get on and prosper, but as it is you are simply neglecting your business."

"Neglecting my business," said Carey, looking at him steadily. "My business is to extend the Kingdom of God. I only cobble shoes to pay expenses." -- Gospel Herald

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THE END