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## **WARM LAKE MESSAGES**

**By Duane V. Maxey**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Warm Lake Messages are a series of messages which were delivered by the author during a church Youth Camp, at Warm Lake, Idaho July 18--22, 1988. Not very many months later they were placed in written form under a different title. Other than the title change, the messages appear on this disk quite the same as they were first written.

The subject titles of all of the sermons employ the first nine words of 1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou..." While the focus of the messages was first directed primarily to young people, it is hoped that they will be of spiritual benefit to all who may read them.

Duane V. Maxey  
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho

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MESSAGE 1

I Tim 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" VICTORIOUS.

I Sam. 17:42 "And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth.."

Young people, satan despises you and loves to triumph over you! He will do everything he can to bluff you, buffet you, take advantage of your inexperience, accuse you, discourage you, and defeat you. Goliath, with his awesome size and loud mouth, easily typifies your great foe. He disdained, or despised David, for he was but a youth. And, had David been typical of most young people who face our awesome foe, the devil, he would have cowered with the rest of the crowd facing Goliath, but David was cut out of a different piece of cloth. He was victorious!..and you can be too.

David was victorious by [PREVAILING] over his enemy! Israel was being daily confronted by the menacing giant, and they were half defeated. No, they had not been conquered, but neither had they been victorious. Eliab, David's oldest brother, accused him of coming to "see the battle" like a spectator, but unlike most young people today he did not wish to be entertained by looking on. He wanted to enter into the arena of battle and do all he could to see victory come to Israel. It is one thing to sit back and "see the battle" with no real concern about who wins. It is quite another thing to "see the victory" for God's cause and yourself by "taking the field" against the enemy with urgent concern and taking the foe out of the way by the power of God.

Positive action was desperately needed: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good," says Romans 12:13 It is good to hold out against the assaults of our enemy: "Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me." Ps. 129:1-2 But that's not good enough! Goliath had been verbally afflicting Israel for 40 days: "yet have they not prevailed against me. The plowers have plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows." It was time to get Goliath off of Israel's back. And, you know, young people, if you let him, satan will plow forever on your back and make long, worried furrows on your brow and in your heart. He'll plant doubt in your heart and then run the water of discouragement down those long furrows, and grow a big crop of unbelief and get you to eat the fruit of it which is bitter defeat, if you let him. But don't let him do it! You can get the devil off your back if you get fed up with being half defeated all the time and face him in the power of God with a deep-seated determination to prevail over him! David did that. Enough was enough! "So David prevailed over the Philistine, and smote him to the ground. Like satan against you, young people, Goliath had boasted that he would prevail over little David, but David was the victor. Hallelujah! The devil is a liar children. You can defeat him by faith in Jesus Name: "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." I John 2:14

David was victorious by [PROVING] what was good: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." I Thes. 5:21 "And David girded his (Saul's) sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him." In other words, he proved things before prancing out to face Goliath, discarded what was not good for him to use and held fast to his sling which was good for him to use.

Young person, prove your weapons spiritually. "Young men, because ye are strong" physically don't think you are a match for the devil. He stands taller and wider than any Goliath earth has ever produced! Even if you were big enough physically to fill the armour of some spiritual Saul, you could not prevail over the devil through your physical size and strength. The weapons of your warfare are not carnal. Therefore even mental keenness will not kill the giant, nor any fleshly ability. David put off the wrong weapons, and "now ye also put off all these carnal weapons: "anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth-" Col. 3:8 The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God, nor any fleshly weapon. But, while the weapons of your warfare are not carnal, they are mighty through God. Face the devil with obedient faith in God's Word and you will prevail over him: "Young men...ye are strong...(when)... the Word of God abideth in you!"

Also, prove your words of counsel: "Let no man deceive you with vain words. ..walk as children of light...Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.." Eph. 5:6, 8, 10-11 The devil will always have some worldling around to counsel you wrongly with vain words which would lead you astray if followed. Don't be deceived by satan's counsel!

Prove your wonderful Lord: "Prove Me now...saith the Lord of hosts..! Mal. 3:10 He will not fail you. He has promised you victory over satan. Prove Him by now facing your foe in faith and obedience. And prove that your warfare is accomplished: "Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished.." Make sure your foe is defeated and the old man is slain before taking your victory-bow. Twenty-one year old Jose Cubero, a promising young Spanish bullfighter, made the tragic mistake of turning his back on a bull that he thought he had slain, but while he was taking his victory bow the brute revived and then pierced him through the heart with one of its horns! David made sure Goliath was dead by cutting off his head. Young person, seek until you know clearly by the witness of the Holy Ghost that the work is done. Only then may you safely conclude that your warfare is accomplished in any spiritual contest.

David was victorious by [PRESENTING HIS BODY] a living sacrifice. Spectators can easily diagnose the battle from a safe distance, but victors must die to self in order to win the war. The only way to have the proof of spiritual victory is by presenting your all...by putting your life on the line and on the altar: "Present your bodies a living sacrifice...that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom. 12:1-2 The Valley of Elah -- (the oak, or strong tree) -- was David's "Valley of the Shadow of Death." where he went to the tree of self-crucifixion, as it were, in order to defeat the foe. He foreshadowed the death of Christ, the greater David, and he also portrayed the real, total offering of yourself for the cause of Christ which you must make if you ever receive the proof of your entire sanctification.

David was victorious by [PROMPT ACTION]! He was a youth who was not willing to wait any longer for victory. And, young person, you don't have to postpone the day of your triumph until some later day or year. You must not! Is this your testimony: "The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long furrows."? Listen to the very next verse: "The Lord is righteous: He hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked." Hallelujah! If you will simply believe and obey the Lord right now, He will cut the devil's plow lines so that he can't put any more furrows of frustrating defeat in your heart and life. Jesus will help you immediately turn the devil's plowshare into your sword of victory! Believe Him! Dare and determine to obey Him now, and watch your giant fall!

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## MESSAGE 2

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" DELIVERED.

1 Sam. 17:37 "David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion,.. will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

Ps. 18:16-19 "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy.."

David was victorious because he was delivered. Let us consider some of the ways in which you must be delivered if you are to be really victorious spiritually. Since victory depends upon it:

Be thou delivered from [THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD]: Christ "gave Himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world.." Gal. 1:4 Young person, you cannot be "of the world" and "in victory" at the same time, for "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I Jn. 3:15 The world questions whether our God really satisfies us if we worship their gods: "Wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?" Gen. 31:30 When a professing Christian "steals" into one of the shrines of their pleasure gods such as the theater, dance hall, carnival, sports arena, skating rink, or bowling alley, the world has a right to wonder why that one thirsts for a drink from the cup of their gods if the cup of the Lord completely satisfies the longing of the soul. The fact is, we don't need the world's gods or gadgets to slake our spiritual thirst when the Holy Ghost abides in his fullness. "All the world's fleeting joys are like poor, broken toys" in comparison with the inward, pure "pleasures forevermore" which the sanctified have even now begun to enjoy.

Christ delivers from this present evil world: (1) By taking the world out of us: "he hath set the world in their heart.." Ecc. 3:11 Worldliness is a heart condition, first and foremost, and when worldliness is taken out of one's heart through real regeneration then "There's no thirsting for the things of the world they've taken wings!" Hallelujah! Then, (2) By taking us out of the world: "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.." Pharaoh's daughter called the babe that she drew out of the waters of the Nile, Moses, meaning "Drawn out". She drew him out of the Nile, but God sent from above, took him, and drew him out of Egypt, a type of the world, then used Moses greatly to draw all of His people out of Egypt. And young person, when you are drawn out of this present evil world through real Holy Ghost conviction taking ahold of you, and real Holy Ghost salvation entering into you, then your influence on God's people will be right too. You won't be one of those who "draw back unto perdition those who follow you, but one who draws others out of the Egypt of sin and worldliness.

Be thou delivered from [EVERY EVIL WORK]: "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work.." II Tim. 4:18 Those who make it into the heavenly kingdom will be those who have been delivered from every evil work done by themselves, and every evil work done by others against them. "Deliver me from all my transgressions," Ps.39:8, and "let not any iniquity have dominion over me." Ps.119:133 There is not one sinful practice which Jesus cannot free you from, "For sin shall not have dominion over you" when you get in the kingdom of God and "under grace"! Ro. 6:4 Furthermore, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper" when you are Christ's.

Be thou delivered from [GUILT & FEAR]: "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God.." Ps. 51:14 Christ came to "deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:15 "All their lifetime," it says. What a tragedy for one's life and character to be warped by a constant fear of death and a sense of guilt when Jesus has provided a way to be free from all this! Guilt and fear have driven some to ridiculous extremes in the effort to shield

themselves from anything which might endanger their life. Mental wards are filled with people, who when they were young, began to be twisted mentally by guilt and fear, until now hypochondria, paranoia, or some like disorder, has rendered them unable to cope with life or fit into normal society. Christ is the answer. Hallelujah! He delivers from the crippling, warping bondage of guilt and fear. Young person, don't be distorted by these things, be delivered!!

Be thou delivered from [THE BODY OF DEATH]: "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Ro. 7:24 Certain ones sentenced to death in Paul's time had the body of the one whom they had murdered bound to their own body, face to face. Alluding to this, Paul depicts the decaying, slow, but certain death spiritually which the unsanctified will experience unless freed from the corrupt and putrid old man that gradually decays and destroys the new man. No doubt in those Roman days, only one with the proper authority could exert the power needed to cut loose and remove such a body of death, or maybe no one ever could legally, I don't know. But I do know that Christ has both the Divine authority and power to free you from the awful, decaying influence of the old man. He has done it for countless thousands, He did it for me, and He will do it for you. If you aren't soon delivered from him, the rotten old man will eventually cause your spirit and attitude to stink, or he will decay your spiritual life some way. Be delivered from him now.

There is also the danger of being suddenly slain spiritually by the deceitfulness and desperate wickedness of the carnal nature:

A Florida school boy was waiting for his school bus and saw a beautiful coral snake lying there in the sun. He touched it. It did not seem dangerous, and apparently seemed docile, like something that would make a good pet, so he picked it up and put it into his shirt pocket right near his heart. That snake nestled there harmlessly and peacefully on his bus ride to school, while he attended classes that morning, and even when he batted the ball and ran the bases during recess. But when they lined up to go back into the school building after recess, he collided with the student in front of him and the "riled" snake suddenly struck! The coral snake's poison paralyzes the respiratory system, and the boy fell to the ground gasping for breath and was soon dead, the victim of a deceitfully beautiful and docile, but deadly "pet".

Young person, don't make a pet out of carnal self. Carnality can doll up so prettily, and yet destroy you spiritually so suddenly! Let Jesus remove it from the pocket of your heart before it is "riled," rises up and strikes you down into the dust of spiritual defeat and death.

Be thou delivered from [TEMPTATION]: 2 Peter 2:7,9 tell us that God "delivered..Lot," and "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.." God delivered Lot from temptation by pulling him out of its environment. Often the best defence is not a good offence, but rather a good fence between you and that which tempts you to evil and a good distance between yourself and temptation.

Be thou delivered from [THE WRATH TO COME]: "Who hath warned (us) to flee from the wrath to come?" Mt. 3:7 "Jesus, (Who) delivered us from the wrath to come.." I Thes. 1:9-10 He has done so "because there is wrath" to come upon all of the impenitent ungodly. We must

"beware lest" we ever doubt that like Lot's two sons-in-law and perish with this wicked world by failing to come out of it and stay out of it. Job 36:18; Gen. 19:14

Be thou delivered from [YOUR STRONG ENEMY]: "He delivered me from my strong enemy.." Goliath was gigantic, and Saul was "from his shoulders and upward... higher than any of the people," but God delivered David from both of these strong enemies. The first fell suddenly, and the latter fell finally and young person though the thing which threatens your spiritual life looms large, like Goliath, or has hounded you long, like Saul, God will deliver you from it. That which is too mighty for you to defeat in your own strength, God will deliver you from by the power of the Holy Ghost. Believe that, obey the Lord, trust Him, and watch your giant fall. Be thou delivered!

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### MESSAGE 3

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" ON TARGET SPIRITUALLY. -- (PART 1)

Judges 20:16 "Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men left-handed; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss."

When I was a lad, lost in the world, the home team was behind by 1 point at the basketball game with just seconds left to play. One of our boys got the ball and dribbled to about mid-court and threw up a desperation shot. Our eyes were glued on that ball...would it be on target and bring victory for Payette, or would it miss and bring victory for the opposing team? I have your attention now, don't I? But the fact of the matter is, who won that game was of little importance, while whether one is "on target" spiritually is eternally important. Young people who concentrate on worldly targets often "miss it" eternally. But, yes, Sherman Swisher, the Payette lad, made "a swisher" and Payette won the game. Pandemonium broke loose! We yelled and screamed in exultation, and went home just as lost and "off target" eternally as before that ball went through the center of the hoop.

I remember also, when we were swerving so far astray from the heavenly mark, listening to a radio program which played new, popular songs and the M.C. would ask a panel of judges: "Will it be a Hit, or a Miss?" Once again, it really didn't matter what it was. As a matter of fact, young people, generally whatever is a Hit with the world is a Miss with God.

Now-a-days I have been known to "whoop it up" when someone hits the target spiritually at an altar of prayer. Of course while the world "goes wild" when their man hits the mark athletically, they think us insane for getting even slightly excited when the one we have been praying for "strikes fire" spiritually at the altar. Poor, deluded world! Young person, we'd better be a miss in the eyes of the world if that's what it takes to be a hit with God.

David did not miss when he slung that stone at Goliath, and, with one exception, he was "on target" spiritually all through his life. Saul, on the other hand, not only missed the target when

he threw javelins at David, but he "missed it" most of the time throughout his life and probably forever. Young person, be thou "on target" spiritually, and consider these facts about being so:

Being "on target" spiritually concentrates on [STRIKING THE SOURCE]: "I will smite the king only: and I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace." 2 Sam. 17:2-3 Here we see that one man, the king, was the source of the opposition, and Ahithophel counseled Absalom to concentrate on striking him. It was for a bad cause in this case, but it was good counsel nonetheless. Young person, don't concentrate first on the perimeter of your spiritual problem, but aim at the center of your need. Behind every symptom is a source. Strike at getting rid of the source. The source of fear is often guilt; behind sinning is rebellion; beneath carnal uprisings is the old man; in back of the smoke screen of confusion is falsehood, and the fountain of anxiety is doubt. You will miss the mark unless you aim straight at the source of your problem.

Being "on target" spiritually eliminates [SYMPTOMS]: "the man whom thou seekest is as if all the people returned.." Two wordly friends visited Coney Island, and the last attraction they went to was a shooting gallery where they had celluloid balls being bounce up and down on jets of water. A man worked a mechanical pump and the marksman was to take a certain number of shots at those balls to see how many he could knock down. The first of the two friends fired every one of his shots and didn't hit even one of those elusive, bouncing balls. Then, his friend took careful aim, fired one shot, and every one of those balls disappeared! His companion said: "Bill, that's the best shooting I ever saw on earth! How in the world did you do it!?" Bill replied: "I shot the fellow working the pump!" Ha Ha! Take that story "with a grain of salt," but anyway, it illustrates how striking at the source eliminates symptoms, if your're catching on. When the man working the pump was eliminated, than all the uprising symptoms of his work were eliminated with him. And, so it is when the old man is eliminated, or any other source of a spiritual problem.

Striking the source not only eliminates symptoms immediately and totally, it also eliminates them eternally. You remember how the Philistines shaved Samson's hair, but didn't destroy the source of that hair on his head--the roots. As a result, in time "the hairs of his head began to grow again after he was shaven." Judges 16:22 They shaved Samson, but he regained his strength and slew them! Its the same way with the old man of indwelling sin, children. If you just shave off the symptoms of carnality without getting the roots destroyed he will regain his power over you, rise up and pull your spiritual house down on top of you. Don't take the old man to the barbershop for a haircut. Take him to the cross for an execution! Then his symptoms will die forever with him! Consider this scripture: "out of the Serpent's root shall come forth...a fiery flying serpent...I will kill thy root." Hallelujah! Jesus will slay the serpent's root in you and then you will no longer explode like lying serpent yourself when your carnality is crossed, agitated, and ignited! Isa. 14:29-30

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#### MESSAGE 4

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" ON TARGET SPIRITUALLY. -- (PART 2)



Judges 20:16 "Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men left-handed; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss."

David did not miss when he slew Goliath, and with about one exception he was "on target" spiritually throughout his entire life. Saul, on the other hand, was only "on target" spiritually about one time and then "missed it" throughout the remainder of his life. He missed David with his javelin and journeys of extermination. He missed God's will for his life, and probably missed heaven.

In part one of this message we discussed how that it matters not whether some worldly, sports target is hit. People rejoice like they were about to enter the pearly gates when their champion hits the mark or their team wins in some athletic contest, and yet think it strange if we get demonstrative when someone hits the target spiritually at an altar of prayer. Yet, there is far more cause for rejoicing when someone gets "on target" spiritually and eternally than there is when even some noble, worthwhile, earthly goal is achieved.

We discussed in part one how that being "on target" spiritually: (1) concentrates on Striking The Source, and (2) eliminates Symptoms. Let us now consider a third thought: Being "on target" spiritually necessitates Action!

Ya can't hit the target if you never pull the trigger. Ahithophel counseled Absalom to act immediately in his effort to dethrone his father, David. Indeed it was a bad cause involved here, but nonetheless it was good counsel. But, instead of marshaling all of his forces and immediately attacking David, Absalom followed the opposite advice, delayed too long, and made himself the target of 3 darts which pierced his heart. Those who aim too long spiritually without firing their shot which could bring them victory often become the devil's target and are destroyed by him before they ever "pull the trigger". A boastful soldier during the Spanish-American War said: "The bullet has not yet been forged that will kill me." The words were scarcely out of his mouth when he was struck and killed by the missile which he fancied had not even been made yet!

In another, somewhat humorous, and probably fictitious, story, a soldier related how that he was not concerned about a missile hitting him that "had his name on it," but he was worried about one coming his way marked: "To Whom It May Concern". Spiritually concerned individuals endeavor to hit their target before being hit as Satan's mark.

Let us note here 4 aspects of the action which put deeply concerned individuals "on target" spiritually:

[CHOOSING THE RIGHT WEAPON]...Don Mantoen, the husband of one of my wife's cousins, was in the Pacific theater during World War II. A bombardier approached him with one of the thin cross-hairs broken on his bomb-sight. They didn't have any replacements, but Don contrived the idea of putting a spider-web in the "bomb-sight" and he did so. The plane that bombardier was in made a pass over a Japanese ship. The bombardier zeroed-in with that "spider-web" bomb-sight and the bomb was dropped. I was told that the bomb went right down the smokestack of that ship! Hallelujah! I took the weapon of God's Word, lined up with it, and God dropped the bomb of second-blessing holiness right down the devil's smokestack and killed the old

man dead in the water! Some folks have far less faith in the accuracy of God's Word than they would have in a "spider-web" bomb-sight, but that doesn't change things one bit. It works!

[CHOOSING THE RIGHT AMMUNITION]...You need bullets big enough to bring down the game you're after, and if you're smart you don't shoot bee-bees at a bear. And wise warriors are not nearly as concerned about how much noise their shell makes as they are about how much "knock-down" punch their bullets have. As a matter of fact, too much noise can be a hindrance or hazard sometimes.

Let us consider what the proper ammunition for several spiritual targets is: It takes the bullet of confession to kill guilt. Emotion just won't do the job. It takes the rocket of radical repentance to bring down rebellion. Tears don't even make a dent on the hardened monster. It takes the missile of death-to-self to destroy the old man. A trip to the altar poses no threat in itself. It takes the fire-bomb of truth to expose and explode falsehood. Human rationalization never reveals the need. And, it takes the arrow of faith to pierce the heart of doubt and unbelief. Feeling has little effect. Young person, if you use the right ammunition you will destroy the target of your spiritual problem, because God will propel it and empower it with the mighty power of the Holy Ghost.

[REFUSING TO SPARE THE TARGET]...Saul spared Agag, the heart of the target God told him to destroy. During the Franco-Prussian War, a French gunner named Pierre Hurlat was asked by his general to fire upon a little French cottage in a town which was then occupied by the Germans. A cold sweat came over Pierre after receiving this order, but in obedience to his superior's request he pointed the yawning embrasure of his gun toward the little house and fired. The cottage was demolished, but tears began to course down Pierre's cheeks. "Why, Pierre," asked his commander, "What's the matter?" "Ah, General," replied the old French gunner, "It was my own house!" Its pretty easy to fire without pity or mercy upon another person's need. It calls for death to self when pulling the trigger on your own.

President Herbert Hoover, the Republican president credited with bringing on the Great Depression by some, once visited Charleston, West Virginia, a Democratic area where he was not popular. However, they gave him a 21-gun salute on the occasion. After the last gun had boomed, a heckler in the crowd said: "They missed him!" Well, of course they missed him, for the guns were not fired at him to execute him but for him to honor him and may have been only blanks. Thus it may be too when one is seeking holiness. 21 loud trips to a public altar could be nothing more than loud, harmless, blanks fired in the old man's honour instead of for his execution. There need not necessarily be any loud, public display when zeroing-in and firing on your need, just a total determination to spare nothing Christ tells you to aim at and then the total destruction of that thing by His power.

[USING YOUR ONLY OPPORTUNITY]..I noticed a sign, perhaps about a mile from the entrance to the Warm Lake Campground, which read: "No Shooting Back Of This Sign". And young person, there is a line which one can cross beyond which all spiritual shooting is prohibited by the Lord. All opportunity to get "on target" spiritually is then forever past. Saul apparently crossed that line and "missed it" forever as countless numbers like him have done. In reality, we only have 1 opportunity to "hit the mark" spiritually, and that is "Now...while it is called Today.

Don't assume that you'll get another "shot at it" somewhere beyond right now, for you may not. Get ready, aim, and fire right now on the target of your need. Tomorrow may be forever too late!

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## MESSAGE 5

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" WHAT GOD PURPOSED YOU TO BE. --  
(PART 1)

Nehemiah 8:4 "Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose.."

Amos 2:11-12 "I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites...But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not."

Romans 9:17 "Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew My power in thee, and that My name might be declared throughout all the earth."

Each of us has been made by our Creator: "It is He that made us, and not we ourselves." Ps. 100:3 There are no self-made men. Furthermore, God made each of us for a purpose. Through the prophet Amos, God said that He had raised up their sons for the purpose of making prophets out of them, and He had raised up of their young men those whom He purposed to make Nazarites. But, tragically they were influenced away from the fulfillment of God's purpose for them by their own parents! Young Nazarites polluted their purity and young prophets did not answer God's call through the corrupt influence of their own families. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with King Nebuchadnezzar's wine, but these young Nazarites, perhaps thinking that surely their own parents would not lead them astray, violated their vows and missed God's purpose for their lives.

Some trees had been felled and the logs were shoved down the side of the mountain to hit a stream below so as to be carried to the mill where they would be cut and planed for the purpose of building. One log, unfortunately, had reached the stream too near a back-eddy, and instead of being pulled on down stream toward the fulfillment of the purpose for which it had been cut it was completing circles over and again under the influence of this revolving current aside from the main stream. A man beheld this unfortunate log as it repeatedly circled and shot toward the main stream. It would break into the current of the main stream a little, then be pulled back into the eddy, next time to complete a wider arc and shoot toward the main stream with greater force. Up to a certain point, it would increasingly enlarge its arc and propulsion toward the main current, and at times it would be enough influenced thereby that it looked like it might escape the eddy, but it never did. Curious, the man returned in the evening to see if the log had broken out of its useless circles, but the man wrote: "The poor log was still there, busy as ever in not going onwards: and I went upon my journey, feeling very melancholy for this tree, and thinking there was very little hope for it." (Dict. Ill. #4539)

Young person, don't let anyone, devil or human, influence you out of the mainstream of God's purpose for your life. You can spend a lifetime going in useless, vain circles and doing nothing of eternal value. What is more, once you are caught in that back-eddy, you may never escape!

Be thou what God purposed you to be in [THE PATTERN OF HIS IMAGE]. God made us after His likeness in order to reflect His noble image. The King of Prussia once visited a school, and holding up an orange he asked: "To what kingdom does this belong?" The Vegetable kingdom," answered a little girl. Then, holding up a gold coin, he asked: "To what kingdom does this belong?" The little girl answered: "The Mineral Kingdom". Then, the king asked her, "And to what kingdom do I belong?" The little girl blushed, not wanting to identify her king as belonging to the Animal kingdom. Then, suddenly she remembered the scripture which says that God created man in his image, and she replied: "To God's Kingdom, sire!" A tear stood in the king's eye, and placing his hand upon her head, he said, "God grant that I may be counted worthy of that kingdom." Oh, young people, may God help us fulfill the noble purpose of reflecting His image and belonging to His kingdom for time and eternity.

In Greek mythology it is, perhaps, that the story is told of Grillus, a man who had been turned into a hog. Eulysses wanted to change him back into a man, but Grillus would have none of that. When asked if he took no account of the finer things such as poetry, music, and eloquence, Grillus let it be known that he would rather "oink" than be eloquent. Referring to the filthy pig-sty in which he who had once been a man was now wallowing, Eulysses asked Grillus: "How can you endure this nastiness and stench?" "It all depends on the taste," oinked Grillus, "The odor is sweeter than amber to me, and the filth than the nectar of the gods!"

Young person, "God hath made man upright," Ecc. 7:29, but a world of individuals are so degenerated from that purpose that they actually enjoy the nastiness of sin more than the nectar of salvation. Don't join that crowd, or you may end up lower than an animal.

Be thou what God purposed you to be through [THE PERCEPTION OF HIS CALL]: "God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not...Then He openeth the ears of men...That He may withdraw man from his purpose.." Morally and spiritually speaking, most men and women today are purposing to be pigs rather than to be pure. God speaks but man's ears are plugged with the mud of sin. God has to open dirty ears before they can hear the message of God's pure purpose. Then, when fallen, filthy man's ears are opened through the convicting power of the Holy Ghost, He says: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...therefore glorify God in your body and spirit which are God's!... Come out from among them -- (the pig's and husks of sin) -- and I will receive you.." Young person, have you perceived the purity of God's purpose for you life? Then come out from among those whose filthy influence defiles all who touch them, and be washed in the blood of Christ and separated unto the gospel.

Be thou what God purposed you to be in [THE POWER OF GOD'S SPIRIT]: "For this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew My power in thee.." Whether it be negatively, as in the case of Pharaoh, or positively, as in the case of Moses, God always raises us up for the purpose of manifesting His power in us. The man who wrote the story of the circling log caught in the back-eddy entitled it: "Want of Purpose". I have a better name: "Want of Power".

There was no lack of purpose for that log it would appear, simply a lack of power. That log needed to be hooked on to some external power to pull it out of the influence of the back-eddy and into the mainstream of its purpose. Hallelujah! When I too was caught in the back-eddy of sin, some looking on at my useless circling may have turned away with the melancholy feeling that there was very little hope for me. And, "You're doomed now for aye," I heard satan shout, then Jesus reached down, and lifted me out! Young person, in yourself, or in others, you will never find the power to escape the meaningless spin of a useless life in the grip of satan, but don't give up all hope. You can be free. Turn to Jesus. Cry to Him. Yield your all to Him. "His power can make you what you ought to be." He will reach down and pull you, even you, out of satan's grasp.

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## MESSAGE 6

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" WHAT GOD PURPOSED YOU TO BE. --  
(PART 2)

Nehemiah 8:4 "made for the purpose"

Amos 2:11-12 "I raised up of your sons for prophets...your young men for Nazarites.."

Romans 9:17 "for this same purpose have I raised thee up.."

Young person, be thou what God purposed you to be in The Pattern of His Image, through The Perception of His Call, and in The Power of His Spirit, and also in the following ways:

In [THE PARDON OF HIS LOVE]...William Scott was a young Union soldier from Vermont during the Civil War. The Northern Army was at Chain Bridge, an area where it was important that their watchmen be alert. But, Will Scott had been without rest for 48 hours and fell asleep at his post. Because of the danger discipline had to be maintained, and Will was court-martialed and sentenced to be shot. Someone interceded for him with President Lincoln, and the day before his execution President Lincoln appeared in Will Scott's tent. After some other conversation with him, Mr. Lincoln said: "My boy, stand up here and look me in the face. You are not going to be shot tomorrow. I believe you when you tell me that you could not keep awake. I am going to trust you and send you back to your regiment. But I have been put to a great deal of trouble on your account. I have had to come up here from Washington, when I have a great deal to do; and what I want to know is, how are you going to pay my bill?"

With a deep sense of gratitude, Will Scott mentioned various ways in which he might, in time, be able to repay his debt, at least in part. But, placing his hands on Will's shoulders, Mr. Lincoln let him know that the only way he could repay that debt was by being, in the future, the soldier he ought to be: "If from this day William Scott does his duty, so that if I should be present when he came to die, he could look me in the face as he does now, and say, 'I have kept my promise, and I have done my duty as a soldier,' then my debt will be paid. Will you make that promise and try to keep it?"

The promise was given, and it was kept nobly. Then, in one of the battles in Pennsylvania, William Scott fell, mortally wounded, but before his death he said to his comrades: "If any of you ever have a chance, I wish you would tell President Lincoln that I have never forgotten the kind words he said to me at Chain Bridge, and, now that I am dying, I want to thank him again because he gave me the chance to fall like a soldier in battle, and not like a coward by the hands of my comrades." (from 1000 Ill.G.P.Eckman) Young person, we all need to say "Thank you again, Jesus, for providing me with the pardon of your love that gave me a second chance to be what you purposed that I should be," and then we need to demonstrate our gratitude by doing our duty unto death.

In [THE PRODUCT OF HIS WISDOM], be what God purposed you to be. He didn't make a mistake. He really did make you just like He wanted you to be physically and mentally in this life. A minister visited an institution for the "deaf and dumb," as those who could not hear or speak were once called. The purpose of his visit was to test those who were there on their spiritual or Biblical knowledge. The minister wrote on a blackboard: "Who created the heavens and the earth?" A little boy came forward, took the chalk and wrote the answer: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Then the minister wrote: "Why did Christ come?" The little boy wrote in reply: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Then the minister wrote a question, which, after the lad had read it, caused him to be momentarily crest-fallen: "Why did God create me able to hear and speak and create you deaf and dumb?" But God gave that little boy the answer, and he wrote on the board: "Even so Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight!" Young people, don't bemoan being what you are in the human. That "handicap" that you may have, or feel that you have could be the very thing that will help you the most to be a blessing to others and make it into heaven. "Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast Thou made me thus?" Ro. 9:20 The answer to that question is always, No! He knew best when He made us like we are humanly, no matter how impossible it may be to understand why He did so.

In [THE PERFECTION OF HIS WORKMANSHIP], be what God purposed you to be: "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it -- (or, finish it, margin) -- until the day of Jesus Christ." Philip. 1:6 Among the art treasures of Rome, it has been said, there was a mysterious, unfinished statue of a barbarian king. The work was wrought with great care up to a certain point--then mysteriously, it was never finished. Why, no one seems to know. Perhaps the sculptor died, or for some other reason was simply unable to complete the good beginning he made. This never happens when Jesus is the Sculptor of one's salvation. He ever liveth and never faileth to finish what He has begun, if we allow Him to do so.

A little boy was building a snow man. He had it completed, all but one arm, when he left it. When he returned, the sun had melted his snow man into nothing but a puddle. Later, when the boy was up town with his mother, he saw a one-armed man walking down the street. Running up to this man, the little boy cried out: "Mr. Snowman! Mr. Snowman! Why did you run away before I was finished with you?!" Ha Ha! Yet, how sad it must make the Lord when someone that He is working on spiritually runs away from Him before He finishes the work which He is performing on their soul. Young person, hold steady during the grind of daily life or the fires of tribulation. He'll bring you out of it when He has finished the work He is doing for your soul.

In closing, be what God purposed you to be in [THE PURPOSE OF YOUR OWN WILL] A melancholy lawyer moved to a new town and began to immerse himself in his practice. He was observed sometimes walking along in the evening with shoulders slumped, head down, and a look of distress upon his face. One day, an artist who had a downtown studio struck up a conversation with the sad lawyer, and the lawyer told him that he had made one big mistake in his life. They parted, and for some time the lawyer didn't see that artist, but the day came when the artist invited the lawyer over to his studio to view a portrait which he had done and thought might be his masterpiece. Accepting the invitation, the lawyer was surprised to see, upon the unveiling of the painting, a portrait of himself. Only in the artist's painting he was standing straight, with head up, and a sunny look of hope and determination was seen in his countenance. Inspired by what he saw before him, that lawyer said to himself: "If he sees that in me, then I can see that in me. If he thinks I can be that man, then I can be that man, and what is more, I WILL BE!"

Dear young person, Jesus does not simply see you as you are now. He sees what He can make of you through His grace. Like Daniel of old, purpose in your own heart and will just now to be what He purposes you to be, and you can be radiant with a positive glow of His grace from your being.

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#### MESSAGE 7

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" WHAT GOD PURPOSED YOU TO BE. --  
(PART 3)

Nehemiah 8:4 "made for the purpose"

2 Peter 2:12 "made to be taken and destroyed"

My wife had a cute little white and brown cocka-poo named "Little Bits". One day "Little Bits" ran across the street into a neighbor's yard where her little dog "Bimbo" was. Then, from down the street a great big Siberian dog came bounding over to where the two little dogs were....He took a big bite around the top of "Little Bits' " back, picked him up and shook him like a rag doll in the air. He did that to "Little Bits" maybe twice before he quit and made hamburger out of his sides. We rushed the little cocka-poo to the vet, but he died about 7 hours later and we buried him in the garden. I felt like that brute Siberian dog deserved to be "taken and destroyed," for he seemed to have the killer instinct.

The apostle Peter referred to certain self-willed individuals who despised government and were not afraid to speak evil of dignities thus: "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of things that they understand not.." Young person, we will be either made according to God's purpose and become a harmless sheep or gentle shepherd, or we will be made according to satan's perversion and become a grievous wolf, a brute beast, that enters in among the flock to destroy it. Thus, we will be either "made for the purpose" of God, or we will be "made to be taken and destroyed"! Don't let the devil make you after his image, fit for nothing but destruction. Be what God purposed you to be:

In the [CHOICE] of your mind: "Should it be according to thy mind? He will recompense it, whether thou refuse, or whether thou choose.." Job 34:33 Yes, young person, it should be according to your mind, because God has created you with both the ability to choose and the moral freedom to make up your own mind what you will be spiritually. You can, you may, you must choose for yourself. God will not decide for you, nor will He allow anyone else to make your decision. And, "He will recompense it" whatever you decide to be. If you decide to be made according to His purpose, He will honor and reward that choice both now and forever, or if you refuse that and choose to be made for destruction, He will permit you to do so and reward you with eternal wrath. Its up to you.

In the [CHILDHOOD] or youth of your life: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6 A little boy ran up to the depot to catch a train, but got there too late and the train was already pulling out. A man who was watching said: "You didn't run fast enough, did you?" The boy replied: "Yes I did. I ran as hard and as fast as I could. I just didn't start soon enough!" And that's the problem lots of times spiritually. People just don't start seeking and serving the Lord soon enough, and they end up missing it later on. After it is too late, they make a mad dash to get on board the salvation train but discover that it has already pulled out of the station as far as they are concerned. "In the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young," Josiah "began to seek after the God of David his father." 2 Chr.34:3 Seek him now children, young people, while there is time to catch the train spiritually.

In the [CHASTENINGS] of your Father in heaven: "What son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?" Heb. 12:7 The son whom the Father does not chasten is not a son of God, for the Lord "scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." 12:6 Through Jeremiah the Lord asked: "How shall I put thee among the children?" And then He answers that question at the end of the verse: "Thou shalt call me, My Father, and shalt not turn away from Me." Jere. 3:19 Many are content to call God their Father. Few consent to His chastenings and turn away from any preaching He sends their way through faithful servants who rebuke their sin. But God puts us among His children by rebuking and scourging us unto repentance from all sin, and if we turn away from that chastening we make ourselves spiritual bastards -- (false children) -- and not true sons of God.

One day when the saintly Fletcher was a boy, he ran away from his father instead of taking the whipping that he knew he had coming. As he was doing so, suddenly it came to him: "Do I run away from my father? Perhaps I shall live to have a son that shall run away from me!" There's a watch ad that said: "It can take a licking and keep on ticking!" Children, take your licking from the Lord whenever you have it coming. He'll put you among His true children and you can keep on ticking down the road toward heaven.

In the [CHANGING] of your heart attitude: A godly old farmer and his wife had a conference with their college-age son, and it was decided that they would sacrifice and send the boy to college quite some distance away. And, after the son had been away to school for a considerable length of time, the old father told his wife that he couldn't stand it any longer and decided to go see the boy at the college. After their sacrificing to send him to school, they didn't have enough money for train fare, so the old father hitched up their horse to a wagon, a rather comical sight in the eyes of the city folk, and made his way across the miles to the college. It took



him days and days, but finally he arrived on campus. 3 boys were walking toward him and laughed as they beheld the old man with the horse and wagon. The old father recognized one of them as his son and ran up to him and greeted him. Pretending that he didn't even recognize him, the heartless son who had become ashamed of his humble father, said: "You are not my father!" Without a word, the heart-broken old man turned and left, got in his wagon, rode back across the miles, went into the old farmhouse, sat down in the old chair, and his head slumped forward on his breast. He was dead.

Children, that's just the way the world has treated God the Father. He came to us in the Person of Jesus, but was disowned and crucified. Let us own Him as our Wonderful Heavenly Father though the world mocks Him. Change your attitude toward Him, if you haven't already. Own Him before a proud world, and always express and show Him your love and appreciation for what He is and for all that He is doing for you.

In the [CHAIN-REACTION] of your example: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers.." God wants you to pull people up toward heaven by your example "in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." I Tim. 4:12 Don't pull people down with your example:

Two boys were climbing on some rafters far above what may have been a paved or concrete surface in an old warehouse or some such building. They slipped, but one of the boys managed to get a hand-hold on a rafter. The other boy was hanging on to his legs. It would mean death if they fell, but with the weight of the other boy hanging on to his legs, the boy holding on to the rafter felt that he couldn't thus hold on much longer. Realizing that if he held on to the legs of the boy above him that they would both soon fall, the lower lad made a noble decision. He let loose, and fell to his death rather than pull the other boy down with him, and as a result the top boy was saved. Sinners, however, like Eve, generally pull some else down with them. Young people, if you pull other people, do your best to pull them up, not down.

This for the parents in closing...A minister and his wife and son were crossing a stream with a horse and wagon. They were swept into the water. The minister went for help while the lad and his mother held on to a log or something in the water. Weakening in the cold water, the mother was about to let go, but was quickened with the determination to hold on after the boy said: "Mother, If you let go, I'll let go!" By the chain-reaction of your influence, help others be saved!

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## MESSAGE 8

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" WISE UNTO SALVATION. -- (PART 1)

Gen. 3:6 "the woman saw that the tree was...a tree to be desired to make one wise"

2 Tim. 3:15 "the holy scriptures...are able to make thee wise unto salvation"

Through his word, satan made man wise unto sin. Through His Word, God makes us wise unto salvation. Adam and Eve were already wise unto good, and God did not want them wise unto evil. He forbade them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in so doing, beyond their present knowledge of good, they would thereby know evil. Its fruit would make them wise unto sin, a wisdom that descended not from above, but rather a wisdom that was earthly, sensual, and devilish. Jas. 3:15 There would be no real knowledge of good experienced from its taste, no matter how pleasant it initially seemed, but only the bitter knowledge of having been deceived, robbed of innocence and eternal life, and brought under the curse of guilt and death. Nevertheless, Eve fell for the serpent's lie which suggested that more, and even greater, good would be known by eating of the forbidden tree. Instead, she and Adam became wise only unto that which is beyond the bounds of all good -- and that is evil, or sin, and in being made wise unto sin they knew what God never intended man to know, the curse of guilt, inward depravity, and eternal death.

Since the fall, because of man's inherited evil nature, every man is initially wise unto sin. He knows that, from a child, without it being taught him. But, in His infinite mercy, God has provided through Christ our way of escape from the penalty and power of evil. And, from a child, He would have us be made wise unto that salvation. How so?

[SCRIPTURALLY]: "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.." Following satan's word brought the knowledge of sin...Following God's Word brings the knowledge of salvation. Ever and anon the devil reverses God's Word. "I have received commandment...and I cannot reverse it" must be our constant position in regard to God's Word. Nu. 23:20 But satan did a 180-degree reverse on God's Word to Eve: "Thou shalt surely die" turned backwards to "Ye shall not surely die". Do you remember when the Lord called Moses? He had Moses cast down his rod, a good type of God's Word, and when he did that rod became a serpent. Later, when Moses held up the rod over the Red Sea it became the power of God unto salvation like the Gospel. Here's the picture: God's rod, or Word, exalted in obedience makes us wise unto salvation, but God's Word cast down in unbelief becomes satan's word and will make us wise unto sin if we take it by the mouth. Now that's what Eve did. She took the serpent by the mouth, or as if he spoke the truth. God told Moses to "take it by the tail," and when he did it became a rod again. Children, when the devil talks to you, don't take him by the mouth. Turn whatever he's telling you 180-degrees around; take him by the tail, and you'll have God's Word again on the matter. Take God's Word straight forward, but take the devil's word by the tail and it will save you a lot of needless confusion and protect you from sinning. Receive the Word of God, "as it is in truth, the Word of God," and it will "effectually work" to make you wise unto salvation. I Thes. 2:13 I've found it so.

[EXPERIENTIALLY]: "she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat...and he did eat...and they knew.." Adam and Eve had received both the Divine and satanic explanation of the results of eating of the forbidden tree, and now they knew by experience what those results were, and God, not satan, was right. When they tasted that fruit they knew that good was gone and guilt had come. Likewise, when we obey God and taste of the fruit of salvation, we know that guilt is gone and good is come! Hallelujah! When we obey God's explanation of salvation and how to receive it, then we get God's experience of salvation. Sin is known by tasting its fruit, and likewise salvation is known by tasting its fruit. The fruit of the Spirit and the Witness of the Spirit are essentially one and the same thing. If you know that you have the fruit of God's Spirit, then you should also know

that you have the last state of grace to which God brought you. Jesus said: "By their fruits ye shall know them," and by our fruits we know ourselves. Fruit is the evidence of life-giving sap in the tree, and dear young person, don't let the devil confuse you: If you know that inwardly you have the Spirit of God bringing you love, joy, peace, etc., then that is God's witness to you that you still have that grace which God last bestowed upon you. If you know you were saved, then you're still saved. If you know you were saved and sanctified, then you're still saved and sanctified.

[BELIEVINGLY]: "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." When did Eve dare to touch and take the fruit of the forbidden tree? It was only after she believed satan's false word. First she believed it, then by that faith took the fruit, and finally she knew evil by tasting it. And, when do we dare reach out and take any fruit of salvation? It is only after we believe God's true Word. First we believe it, then by that faith we take of the fruit of salvation, and finally we know we have it by tasting its fruit. As long as Eve distrusted the serpent's word enough so as not to act upon it, she did not, could not, know sin. And as long as an individual distrusts God's Word to the extent that he will not act upon it, he will not, cannot, know salvation. Believe the devil enough to reach out and take what he offers, and you will surely know sin and its blight. Believe God enough to reach out and take what He offers, and you will surely know salvation and its blessings.

[FULLY]: "the scriptures..are able to make thee wise unto salvation...that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished.." 2 Tim. 1:15,17 God wants you to be wise unto full salvation. The 5 wise virgins of Matthew 25 were those who had "the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ." Rom. 15:29 There are two works of grace in this life, and God wants you wise unto both of them:

A pesky business man was habitually robbing his own till without leaving any written note telling his employees how much he had taken out of the cash register. So, they complained to him about it, explaining that they were unable to balance things out monetarily because they never knew just how much money he had taken. They asked him to please leave a note in the till in the future so they would know how much he took. The next day he took money out of the cash register, and sure enough, he left a note. But when the head cashiers read the note it simply said: "I Took It All"!

Hallelujah! Young person, be like that boss. Don't fuss around trying to figure everything out. God has all the grace you need to make you wise unto full salvation. Just reach into His exhaustless supply in obedient faith and Take It All!

[SHARINGLY]: "She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto husband with her." She was made wise unto sin and anxiously shared it with her husband. We are made wise unto salvation and too often keep it to ourselves.

An old mountaineer fell in love with bass fiddle playing. He would walk for miles to hear it, and one day he bought a second-hand bass fiddle for himself. It only had one string, and for about two weeks he put his finger on one spot and sawed on that fiddle all the time on that one spot. Finally, his wife said, "John, why don't you move your finger up and down the string like other fiddle players!" He replied: "Oh, I don't have to. I found what they was lookin' for!"

We've found what the world is looking for, young people. May the Lord help us to share it with them.

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## MESSAGE 9

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" WISE UNTO SALVATION. -- (PART 2)

Genesis 3:6 "the woman saw that the tree...was pleasant to the eyes..."

Prov. 2:10-11 "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;...understanding shall keep thee"

That which is pleasant to the eyes is often bitter to the soul. When Eve was made wise unto sin she began to learn this by sad experience. Conversely, repentance often seems bitter to begin with, but afterwards when the peaceable fruits of righteousness are tasted therefrom that knowledge is exceedingly pleasant to the soul. Being made wise unto sin involves a momentary outward pleasantness which is soon surpassed by the inward and eternal bitterness it brings, and being made wise unto salvation involves a momentary outward bitterness which is soon surpassed by the inward and eternal pleasantness it brings.

But let us further consider several of the ways in which one should be made wise unto salvation:

[UNDERSTANDINGLY]: "When...knowledge is pleasant...understanding shall keep thee.." Did you know, young person, that the experiences of salvation by themselves will not keep you. God must keep you, and in order for God to keep you there are some things you really do need to understand. "I beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding." Prov. 7:7 Lack of understanding is not just the downfall of young people who know not God. It is the very thing satan uses to trip-up and bring down into defeat countless young people who have really been trying hard to serve the Lord.

A Science teacher asked a student to stand up and define "density". The student said: "I can't define it, but I can illustrate it." The teacher replied: "The illustration is good. You may sit down!" Ha Ha.

Too often we are an illustration of spiritual density through our lack of a clear understanding of what the Lord would have us learn. A little girl was asked what her baby brother's name was. She replied: "I don't know. I can't understand a thing he says!" Once again, Ha Ha, and yet it's no joke when the devil defeats you over and over again because you just don't understand like you should what the Lord is saying.

One more non-sensical illustration, and then I'll forbear...for now: A man was swimming in ice-cold waters trying to make it to shore. He grew faint, then dizzy, and he feared he wouldn't make it, but finally his head began to swim and it brought him right on in to shore. You must take

this one with a grain of "sand"! But, young person, when your head begins to swim spiritually speaking it can take you far out to sea and down unless you get your thinking straightened out with the help of the Holy Spirit. Lev. 13:44 says "his plague is in his head." And many, many times, when a young person's heart is pure the devil will defeat them after they get all mixed up in their head. But it need not happen. Get quiet before the Lord. Listen to His personal instruction for you, and "understanding shall keep thee". The testimony of the Lord is sure -- (He doesn't speak confusingly) -- making wise the simple.. "None of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.." Ps. 19:7; Dan. 12:10

Understand: (1) The difference between sin and a mistake..A woman confessed to a Catholic priest that she had sinned by looking into the mirror and thinking how beautiful she was. He replied, "That's no sin. That's a mistake!" Ha Ha. Anyway, young person, learn the difference between a sin and a mistake. A sin is something you know clearly in advance to be a violation of God's commandment and yet you willfully go ahead and do it. cf. Heb. 10:26 A mistake is something you did that was a "judgment decision" which was wrong, but you had no intention of sinning when you did it and if you had known clearly it was sin you wouldn't have done it. Sin is a known, willful thing. Mistakes are in ignorance or uncertainty with no willful intent whatsoever to rebel against God. cf. Lev. 5:3

Understand: (2) The difference between carnality and humanity..Carnality is evil by nature. Humanity is emotional by nature. A scorpion asked a turtle for a ride across a body of water. "No!" said the turtle, "You might sting me, and then I'd sink and drown!" Where would be the logic in that?" replied the scorpion, "If I did that while riding on your back then we'd both drown!" "You're right," said the turtle, "Hop on". Then about midway across the scorpion gave the turtle a mighty sting, and they both began to sink. The turtle said to the scorpion as they continued to sink: "You said there'd be no logic in your stinging me. Why did you do it?" "It has nothing to do with logic," replied the scorpion, "It's my nature!" Yes, carnality is evil by nature, and if one is unsanctified that inward evil will cause evil attitudes and actions to spring forth that have no logical explanation whatsoever. But, on the other hand, humanity is emotional by nature. God does not remove even one of the emotions He created us with. He purges away the evil nature so that the emotional nature is properly expressed with both holy logic and sweet reasonableness.

These are just two of the many things you must understand if you are to be kept from the "swimmy-headed" spiritual confusion, discouragement, and defeat which has befallen so many young people. Other things you should understand include: the difference between head-knowledge and heart-knowledge, accusation and conviction, failure and backsliding, feelings and facts. But, let's go on.

Be wise unto salvation:

[INCREASINGLY]: "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning." Alas, like many of us who are more advanced in years, you will probably come to understand much only by "trial and error". However, it need never be by trial and sin. God will increase your understanding by increasing your light as you proceed along the holy way, for "the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18

[PATIENTLY]: "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Jas. 1:4 If you want, that is lack, understanding along some line and satan keeps tormenting you because of it, don't impatiently throw up your hands and stop trying. A neighbor asked a little boy where his brother was. The boy replied: "He's in the house playing a duet. I finished first!" Jesus wants to play a beautiful melody with you on the keyboard of salvation. He never makes a mistake in His part of the duet, but just because you've muffed it over and over again because of your lack of understanding don't throw up your hands, proclaiming you're finished, and run out of the house of God to try and have fun in the field of sin. Keep trying! Jesus is so patient. He'll help you get it right. And if you've run off. Come back. He's waiting there at the keyboard, and you do may just be amazed at how well you do if you just try again. I was, for He performed a miracle for me which to this day I cannot fully comprehend.

[SWEETLY]: "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant.." A Tennessee mule trainer got the reputation of training the best mules around. A newspaper article related how that he said he trained his mules with honeyed words and kindness. So, a lady from the SPCA went to see for herself, but when the mule trainer gave her a demonstration of how he trained mules the first thing he did was take a big 2x4 and "whack" the mule with it. The lady was furious! "I thought you said that you trained your mules with honeyed words and kindness!" she said. "I do," replied the mule trainer, "but first I have to get their attention!!"

Young person, "no chastening for the present seemeth joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:11 Even God's hardest chastening is designed to make you wise unto those things which will in time be very pleasant and sweet to your soul.

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## MESSAGE 10

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" HOME SAFE!

2 Samuel 18:32 "Is the young man Absalom safe?"

Luke 7:14 "Young man, I say unto thee, arise."

Luke 15:27 "Thy father hath...received him safe and sound"

The following comparison is not intended to encourage anyone to listen to, look at, attend, or participate in a worldly, professional baseball game. Far from it...but rather it is intended to draw a vivid picture of what it is going to take to round the base pads of Christian experience and life so as to make it "Home Safe" to Heaven at last. -- Duane V. Maxey

The young man Absalom was not safe! He was caught off base trying to steal, was thrown out in life's contest and ejected from life's field into outer darkness. Consequently, there was a great mourning: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O

Absalom, my son, my son!" The Prodigal, in contrast, reached home "safe" and his father rejoiced with him. You want to make it all the way around the bases and get home safe, don't you young person? Let's consider now how you can do that:

By [JOINING THE FATHER'S TEAM]: "Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom.." When I was a young man in high school a professional baseball team bought one of the boys I went to school with for, the then astronomical sum of, \$33,000. It seemed like a fortune to me in those days. They didn't even bother making an offer for me, but Jesus did. He bought me with the greatest fortune ever paid, His death in my behalf. I signed up and joined the Heavenly Father's winning team. David lamented over Absalom, who was thrown out, that he had not died for him, as the Heavenly Father laments over other eternal losers who declined to accept His offer to buy them for His team through His own death in their behalf in the person of Christ. Absalom was called out because instead of joining the father's team he formed his own team in opposition to his father, just like many young people form their own team in opposition to the Heavenly Father. But young people, it won't succeed. For you to oppose the Heavenly Father's great winning team is like a pee-wee leaguer facing a seasoned professional...You don't stand a chance. Do you think your little pip-squeak squad can score even once against heaven's all-powerful line up? If you do, you're sadly mistaken. It will be a shut out in favor of God's saints and angels. Like Absalom, you will be thrown out of life's contest into total defeat and eternal damnation. You are bought with a price. Join the Father's team before it's too late!

By [LEAVING THE DEVIL'S DUG-OUT]: "Young man, I say unto thee, arise." "And he arose, and came to his father.." Lu. 7:14; 15:20 To join the Father's team you must first get out of the devil's dug-out. Make up your mind that you are done playing on his losing team. His dug-out is a dug-out of iniquity. It is a dug-out of darkness and death...Jesus bade the young man arise from death. It is a dirty dug-out...the prodigal had to arise from the hog-pen of filth. It is an "every man for himself" dug-out...no man gave unto the prodigal in his need. The devil's players care only for themselves and how much pay and glory they can get for themselves. In contrast the Father's dug-out is one of humility. You have to step down into it with a sense of your total unworthiness: "I am not worthy to be called thy son." The Elder brother didn't want to humble himself to go in to this humble, but happy environment where all the players mutually help and cheer one another on. It is filled with light and spiritual life and real winners. Come on in. The fellowship is wonderful, and it's the best team on earth.

By [GETTING ON BASE SPIRITUALLY]...After you accept the Father's offer to buy you with Jesus' blood and leave the devil's dug-out to join the Father's team, you must get on base spiritually. You can't reach home safe without getting on base. Therefore you must:

(A) Get up to bat...do what you must to get on base. Watch Jesus' signals from the dug-out and you'll get on.

(B) Watch what you swing at!

1. Don't swing when it's too high..."Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Don't be proud. Be humble and you'll get on.

2. Don't swing when its too low...You'll miss it if you try to make a hit by striking at the low things morally. Don't go for those low, base things that satan throws your way.

3. Don't swing when its outside..."That no man go beyond" Don't go for those things that are outside the bounds of God's commandment and will.

4. Don't swing when its inside...You can be too hyper-consciencious. Some unwise preaching is so close that even the Angel Gabriel would strike out if he had to swing at it.

5. Swing away!...when the truth comes right down the pipe...right down the heart of your strike zone. Don't let it go pass you. You can strike out by doing nothing but watch the truth go by. Can you imagine someone just watching a perfect strike go by when its the bottom of the 9th, the bases are loaded with the winning run on third, and the count is 3 and 2? A player who just stood there and let himself be called out by watching a perfect strike go by would not only be called out by the umpire, he'd be "chewed-out" severely by his coach and perhaps cast out of the line up with no further chance to get on base!

(C) Get on base...either by obediently walking to first after avoiding 4 bad pitches, or by swinging at the truth when it was right down the heart of your strike zone, and doing so accurately = honest confession, and timingly = meeting the right truth at the right time.

By [ALLOWING ONLY THE OFFICIAL UMPIRE TO CALL YOUR GAME]:"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.." Col. 3:15 The Greek word for rule here is brabuo, which literally means umpire. Young people allow only the Holy Spirit to call your game spiritually, not yourself, others, or the devil. You must make sure that the Holy Spirit calls the balls and strikes, fair and fowl in your contest, for He is going to call the safe and the out!

By [ROUNDING THE BASES]...First Base = Salvation, and the important thing is to get there quickly, before its too late. In nearly any baseball game there are a number of players who get there almost on time, but not quite. Run to 1st and make it on time. Touch the pad and make sure the umpire signals safe before assuming you're on base spiritually. Don't be thrown out by the devil after you get on by "grandstanding" or daydreaming between 1st. and 2nd. Play it safe. The devil is a sly pitcher. He'll catch you off base if you don't watch it!

Second Base = Entire Sanctification, and you must go on to second or you'll be forced out. Our Baptist friends think there are no more base pads and that they can go right home from first base, but I have never seen a baseball game without second and third. There is a second work of grace, and you just go on to it and receive the umpires signal that you have safely arrived.

Third Base = Maturation, and it will take the steps of continuation, determination, and progression to get there. Along the way you may meet opposition and persecution to try and throw you out, but keep on going, and you'll experience revelation of all you need to see to mature as you "follow on to know the Lord. When you reach the 3rd base of maturity after advancing from purity on 2nd, you'll be the lead runner. Others have gone home before you, but younger ones are following you. Now you must take the steps of obligation to reach home, for if anyone scores it should first be you. Never mind the hoots of the devil's crowd in the grandstand. In the upper



balconies of heaven a great cloud of heavenly witnesses is cheering you on. You can make it. Then, about mid-way between 3rd and Home you'll begin to take those final steps of anticipation.

The goal is close, but press on for while you have purity and maturity you don't quite have security yet. The devil would love to trap you between 3rd and home if he could, but Jesus will help you reach home safe if you press on. Don't hesitate, for other runners could stack-up behind you and be thrown out if you do. Its tougher now to run, for you're getting tired, but keep striving for home and you'll make it with others scoring behind you. Hallelujah!

Home Base = Termination and glorification...In contrast to other games, the game of baseball is "not over 'til its over," and there's no way to score without personally reaching the goal. But young person, you can take that last step in life safely, and as you cross the home plate of termination you can experience the wonderful assurance of the Holy Spirit, your Heavenly Umpire, signaling to you safe...you're Home Safe!! Glory be to God forever! I plan to make the crossing with that assurance, don't you? We all can, if we will. And, Home Safe will mean glorification as well as termination. The runners who cross home plate safely will receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Young person, [JOIN THE CELEBRATION]!!...The Father's team will "win it all" at last and rejoice in the balconies of heaven forever. Don't be among the eternal mourners and losers. Don't be called out like Absalom. Join the Father's team once again, like the penitent Prodigal. Can you hear Jesus saying, "Young man, I say unto thee, arise?" You can reach "Home Safe" if you get out of the devil's dug-out, get up to bat and reach first before its too late, then round all the bases carefully and prayerfully in succession. If you haven't already, start right now, and if you mind Him God will bring you "Home Safe" as a victor and rejoicer in His eternal celebration. Praise His Wonderful Name!

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## MESSAGE 11

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" READY.

Psalm 88:15 "I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer Thy terrors I am distracted."

A youth of 18 went hunting for seaweed at a beach. Those of you who have been to the sea coast are perhaps familiar with the fact that in some stretches of rocky coast line there are horseshoe-shaped areas into which one can enter around a tip of the horseshoe when the tide is out, but if you don't exit these concaves before the tide reaches their tips you are trapped by the incoming tide. Into such an area the young man went, and, becoming absorbed in his search for seaweed, he was trapped and drowned. The next day they found his body, and written on the fly-leaf of his pocket Bible was this testimony:

"In danger -- surrounded by water -- If help does not speedily arrive I must be drowned. But Jesus, to Whom I gave myself 5 years ago, is with me. I am perfectly happy. May he bless and

comfort my beloved parents, and bring my dear little brothers and sisters to Himself so that we may all meet in heaven."

Young person, it pays to be ready. Here was a young man that was ready. Are you ready? Let us now consider the Ways, Times, Reasons, Effort, and Means to be ready spiritually:

The [WAYS] to be ready...

Be ready to [Hear]..."When thou goest to the house of God..be more ready to hear.." You never know when you'll hear your last gospel message. How many there are of us who need to be "more ready to hear"! We should value each gospel message like it will be our last and heed this admonition in Ecclesiastes 5:1. The Father said on the mount of transfiguration to the disciples: "This is My beloved Son, hear Him!" If Jesus were here in His glorified bodily form no doubt you would hear Him with great awe and reverence, but He is here. He said to His apostles: "He that heareth you heareth Me!" In this way, "God Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past" speaks to us today:

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time -- (by failing to recognize that Jesus actually is speaking through His anointed messenger) -- we should let them slip!" Heb. 2:1

Be ready to [DO WHATEVER HE COMMANDS]: "Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint." At a time when many of David's servants had deserted him to follow the ill-fated Absalom, these men were ready to do whatever David, the legitimate king, appointed. Thus, we should pledge to do Jesus' will in this hour of apostasy.

(1) Readiness to do His will brings the supply of your need: "Go unto Joseph -- (a beautiful type of Jesus) -- ; what he saith to you, do." And, when they did, "Joseph opened storehouses" and supplied their needs.

(2) Readiness to do His will may require you to leave parents like Rachel and Leah: They followed Jacob, telling him: "Whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do!"

(3) Readiness to do His will may prevent an outpouring of God's wrath: "Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done ...for why should there be wrath..?"

(4) Readiness to do His will may require you to preach the gospel: "I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." "Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

(5) Readiness to do His will may bring the miraculous manifestation of Christ's glory: "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it...This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory." (cf. 2 Sam. 15:15; Gen. 41:55,56; Ezra 7:23; Rom. 1:15; Jere. 1:7; Mt. 28:30; John 2:1-11)

Young people, will you permit me a personal reference here. I remember when as a young man at BMI we had "Doc" Huffman for a meeting there the winter of 1959-60. I got so hungry to get real holiness of heart. "Doc" began to preach, but I was so hungry I rose from my seat and went forward with both arms up in the air proclaiming that I was going to "get in," meaning into the experience of real holiness. About 5 days later the Holy Ghost struck my soul with Holy Ghost fire! I skipped back and forth along the outside wall of that old chapel in the ecstasy of the Spirit like a boy going to the candy store. Then, one after another of the other students struck fire. Classes shut down, and for about 6 weeks we had Holy Ghost revival! I minded God, and it helped clear the channel for a manifestation of Christ's glory. Young person, you do whatever He tells you, and it may be the beginning of a miraculous manifestation of the power and glory of Christ that you won't forget to your dying day.

Be ready to [WITNESS]: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. Other young people are watching you, children, and they want to know why you are different. Don't just be ready to explain why you dress, talk, and act differently, but be ready to testify to them of a real, inward experience of grace. Let them know that you're not dressing and behaving differently just to be different, but because Jesus lives within you. If you can't witness to that, then your outward actions and appearance won't really draw them to Christ or convince them that they need to change.

Be ready to [DIE]: "I am...ready to die from my youth up.." Peter said he was ready to die, but wasn't fully ready: "Lord, I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison, and to death." Lu. 22:13 Actually, he was about ready to deny, rather than to die, because he was unsanctified. In contrast, Paul gave an almost identical testimony, but in his case he really was ready because he was sanctified wholly: "I am ready, not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 21:13 Young person, be ready to die by making sure you have been sanctified wholly, for only then are you fully ready to suffer or die for Christ.

Be ready for [JESUS' RETURN]: "Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh." Mt. 24:44 We do not know the hour of our death or the hour of Jesus' return. Therefore, we must be ready at a moment's notice for these climactic events.

Be ready for [ETERNITY]: In Exodus 19:11 I see a picture of what will occur at Jesus' return. And, in Hebrews 13:8 three days are spoken of: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday -- (day 1), today --- (day 2) --, and forever -- (the 3rd day)." Exodus 19:11 says: "Be ye ready against the third day -- (the "forever" day) -- : for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people.." On the eternal Day of the Lord, Jesus will come and every eye shall see Him. Be ready for that day because then in whatever state you are even thus must you remain forever!

The [TIMES] to be ready...From your youth up: "I am..ready to die from my youth up. The young 18 yr. old who was drowned while searching for seaweed was saved at about age 13. Little did he know that he would die 5 years later, but he was ready. Be ready now: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." 2 Tim. 4:6 Demas had forsaken Paul because he was ready to depart in love of that present world. Paul was ready right then to die in love of Christ. Be ready always: "Be ready always to give an answer" to men and God concerning your relationship with Christ. I Pet. 3:15 Be ready before: I Kings 6:7 "The house was built of stone

made ready before it was brought thither.." You will only "fit" in the heavenly temple if you have been made ready before you are brought to judgment.

The [REASONS] to be ready...Because of the unexpected! "Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not" death could strike you or Jesus may return. Because of the unescapeable!.."Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Ecc. 11:9 "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment," and it is unescapeable! Heb. 9:27 Because of the unadmissible!.."And they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut!" Mt. 25:10 A sign on heaven's eternally closed door could properly read: "NO ADMISSION TO THOSE NOT READY!" Because of the unbearable!.."I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer Thy terrors I am distracted." The terrors of Holy Ghost conviction distract those who are not ready to die, but the terrors of eternal damnation will distract and distress those who die not ready. In this life when conviction becomes unbearable, we can find relief through repentance and God's sweet forgiveness, but in the eternal world when the terrors of damnation are unbearable, there will be neither any relief nor any escape from their torment. If one had no other reason to get ready for heaven, this alone would be enough.

The [EFFORT] to be ready..."The marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." Young person, when you were an infant and small child unable to make yourself ready, your parents made you ready before they took you here or there. But the time came when you were able to make yourself ready to go to these places, and your parents began to insist that you do so for yourself. In like manner, when you were an infant and small child unable to make yourself ready spiritually, your Heavenly Father Himself made you ready provisionally by the blood of Jesus. But the time comes when He begins to insist that, because you are now able to do so, you must make yourself ready. He will no longer do that for you. You have reached the age when you have both the knowledge and the ability to get ready for your appointment at the judgment. No one else can make you ready, and God will not make you ready or make you get yourself ready. Of your own volition and action you must make yourself ready or be eternally unprepared and unfit for heaven.

The [MEANS] to be ready..."These are they which...have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.." Rev. 7:14 Young person, worthiness is not what makes one ready. It is willingness to repent and be washed in Jesus' blood. Will you do that right now? "Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 55:18

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## MESSAGE 12

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou" ONE WHO GOES FORWARD.

Exodus 14:15 "Speak unto the children...that they go forward"

An officer requested that some of his soldiers volunteer for a dangerous mission. The soldiers were standing in rank, and the officer said, upon making the request, that he would turn his back and every soldier who would volunteer for the mission was to take one step forward out of the ranks. The officer turned his back, giving sufficient time for those who would step forward to do so, but when he turned around he saw all of the soldiers standing abreast of one another. "What?" asked the astounded officer, "Is there no one who will step forward and volunteer for this mission?!" "Sir," explained one of the other officers, "They have all stepped forward!" Praise God! Young person, every one of Jesus' brave soldiers is willing to "go forward". Be one of that number!

Let us use the letters F-O-R-W-A-R-D to spell out 7 ways God would have us all go forward:

(F)...By Faith, go forward. A little boy some time ago was riding home from Sunday school in the city where he lived. He was riding on the street car, and he had in his hand a little card which he had received at Sunday school which had on it the verse: "Have faith in God". Holding this treasured card in his hand, he stuck his hand out the window and let it sail against the current of air that was rushing along the side of the street car. Suddenly the air current snatched the card from his grasp. Immediately the little boy pulled the stop-signal cord and cried out: "Stop the car! I've lost my 'Faith in God' "! And you know, children, your forward progress is always stopped when you lose your faith in God. Hold on to it, and go forward. Another story illustrates how unbelief will "bog you down" spiritually: Old Bro. Blank would get up in church and testify over and over again: "I'm not making much progress, but I am established." Well, one day Bro. Blank took his horse and wagon and got a big, heavy load of whatever, and started home. It had rained, and the dirt road he took had turned into a "bog". The wagon sunk in clear up to the bed nearly, and try as he could Bro. Blank just couldn't get out. Would you believe it? Along came the preacher and after observing Bro. Blank's predicament he remarked: "Well, Bro. Blank, I see that you are not making much progress, but you are established!" Ha Ha! Don't get "bogged down" in unbelief, young person, for you may stay there longer than Bro. Blank. Instead, by faith in God's Word take the Sword of the Spirit and slay the enemy that stands in the way. Often young people fear to do so: "But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth." Ju. 8:20 Don't be that way, but get a firm grip on God's Word, slay the lies of satan, and go forward.

(O)...by Obedience, go forward. Children, both disobedience and obedience are first, and foremost, matters of the heart: "Our fathers would not obey, but.. ..in their hearts turned back.." You're not backslidden unless or until your heart turns back. My brother Parker tried to help me one time when I was a young man by asking me: "Which way is your heart leaning?" Hallelujah! If your heart is turned toward and leaning toward God, then just get up and go forward right from where you may have stumbled. There's a vast difference between getting momentarily tripped up and out and out backsliding. "But God be thanked,..ye have obeyed from the heart.." Rom. 6:17 If you know that you haven't intentionally sinned, even though you may have made what you now see to be a horrible mistake, then commit yourself to the blood, profit by your error, and keep right on going forward down the highway of holiness.

(R)...By Relying on Jesus promise never to forsake you: "He hath said I will never leave thee nor forsake thee!" Heb. 13:5 That means that if there is any separation between you and Him,

you must do the leaving by knowingly, willingly sinning against God. King Victor Emmanuel of Greece was on the field with his soldiers, and during the battle one of his soldiers heard a horn honk in the distance, followed by a whispering in the ranks that the king had left the scene. Things were going bad, and in frustration the soldier cried out: "Even the king has gone!" But just then he felt a hand on his shoulder. He turned, and there was the king, who said to him, "My boy, the car has left, but the king is still with you!" Children, the devil just loves to lie to Jesus' soldiers, and discourage and defeat them, by telling them that Jesus has abandoned them in the battle. If you know that you haven't left Him, then no matter what you feel or don't feel, do not believe satan's lie! He Whose name shall be called "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us," has assured us with these words: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Mt. 1:23; 28:20 Indeed, His bodily presence is gone, but He is with us in the Person of His Holy Spirit, and He will never leave us nor forsake us in our battle against the powers of darkness. Rely on that, and go forward!

(W)...By Widening your concept of Christ's love, go forward. Many of us are familiar with F. W. Faber's song: "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in His justice which is more than liberty." Well, there is a verse that reads as follows: "But we make His love too narrow by false limits of our own, And we magnify His strictness with a zeal He will not own." Young people, listen to me. When beholding "the goodness and severity of God," always remember this: God is first Good to us, because it is His nature and He loves to show us His goodness, and God is Severe to us only when it is necessary to make it possible once again to reveal His goodness. Young Christians particularly are often impeded in their spiritual progress, and sometimes even stopped completely, by false limits of their own. They make rash vows and draw extreme limitations for themselves which even the angel Gabriel could not live by, and then they are defeated when they break over those false limitations. Do not try to grow spiritually that way. Let the Holy Ghost draw your lines and hold your reins. You may be amazed at how much room He gives you to be yourself and be a human being, for His "yoke is easy, and (His) burden is light".

(A)...By Accepting God's grace as His free gift: "To him that worketh is the reward --(of God's grace) -- not reckoned of grace, but of debt." The returned Prodigal asked to "hire on" as a wage earner from his father, but his father would have none of that. He was perfectly willing to supply all of his penitent son's needs, but not as a debt to be paid him, only as a free, unmerited gift. And children, while God wants you to seek His grace early and earnestly, you must never try to obtain it earningly! 44 trips to an altar won't buy you 1 ounce of grace. You can never reach the place where you are worthy to receive any part of salvation. You can, however, reach the place where you are welcome to do so as your Heavenly Father's free gift.

(R)...By Reaching every terminal, go forward. The journey of salvation begins at the depot of salvation. Get there by taking every step of complete repentance and faith. Then, go on, and take the steps of consecration and faith to reach the terminal of entire sanctification. Go on from there by taking all the steps of obedience and faith and you'll reach the Grand Central Station of Glory. Hallelujah!

(D)...By Death-to-self Determination, go forward. Isaac was willing to die on Abraham's altar, and because he was, "both of them went together" forward to that terminal. Elisha was

determined to have the double portion of Elijah's spirit, and because he was, "they went down to Bethel; they came to Jericho; they two went on -- (across Jordan); and they still went on" until Elijah was taken up and his mantle fell upon Elisha, fulfilling his request. Gen. 22:8; 2 Kings 2:1-15 Elisha saw Elijah when he was taken up. Young people, like Isaac, go forward by total death to self, and like Elisha by determination to see your Master at the all important moment. Do that, and you'll see Jesus at the rapture in the air!

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THE END