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IF IT COMES FROM GOD -- IT FITS!

By Duane V. Maxey

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INTRODUCTION

The following is a collection of excerpts and interesting stories taken from various publications in the HDM Digital Library interspersed with a few of my own comments. Several of the stories are striking examples of how when a thing is from God, it fits! -- and I have endeavored to weave the entire collection together around that general theme.

My own comments precede the excerpt or story, and sometimes follow as well. In the subtitles I have indicated the HDM Library source of each excerpt or story. It is hoped that the reader will find the material in this document to be both inspiring and useful, and that the reading of these portions from the HDM Library will encourage the reader to also read the publications from which they were taken.

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01 -- FROM THE MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY (1 SAMUEL)

"And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his 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" (1 Samuel 17:38-39).

Saul's armor didn't fit David! -- both as to its size and as to its type of armament -- and, of course, it was not provided by God, but came altogether from a human source. In his commentary on 1 Samuel, Matthew Henry wrote: "It is not to be inquired how excellent any thing is, but how proper. Let Saul's coat be ever so rich, and his armour ever so strong, what is David the better if they fit him not?" Feeling uncomfortable in that which he knew came not from God, David put that ill-fitting armor off of himself and faced Goliath with that which was a perfect fit for him to do battle for God. It is a good thing that he did, and you know the result.

God is a God of that which is tailor-made for each of His servants, and everything that they receive from Him is in every way perfectly "fit in the Lord" (Col. 3:18). Furthermore, even though that which comes to a Christian from the Master may not feel comfortable to the outer-man, the inner-man will sooner or later sense that it is a perfect fit, tailored exactly for him.

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02 -- FROM HDM0631 BY J. T. DRYE

Conversely, things derived from human sources are often ill-fitting. In his book, "Religion in the Foxhole, by J. T. Drye said regarding G. I. (Government Issued) uniforms for American soldiers during World War II -- "In the army your clothes are either too small or too large and they either fit or don't fit. You wear them anyway." Regarding the Heavenly G. I. (God Issued) things, whether or not they "fit the fancy" of God's soldier, they DO fit the man, and when, in spite of human distaste he "wears them anyway," he thereafter finds how perfectly tailored they were for him.

Thus it is, that while the most comfortable things from human sources may be ill-fitting to the soul, the most uncomfortable things from God are always tailored to the exact measurement of a man's spiritual needs.

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03 -- FROM HDM0819 BY F. W. BOURNE

In the following excerpt from the biography of Welsh Coal Miner, Billy Bray by F. W. Bourne, "The King's Son," we read of Billy's complete confidence that God knew how to fit him out with just the right size:

"Billy was very poor when he was converted (a working man who is a drunkard must be very poor); a low-priced fustian jacket was his best, and he said that was better than he deserved; but false shame did not stop him from going out on the Sunday to warn his fellow men to 'flee from the wrath to come.' At the request of a servant girl, an unknown Quaker friend gave him a coat and waistcoat, 'which suited me,' he said, 'as if

they were made for me; and they served me for years.' This reminds me of one of his facetious remarks on a similar occasion. A good friend said to him, 'The Lord has told me to give you a coat and waistcoat, but I do not know whether they will fit you.' 'If the Lord told you to give them to me, they will fit me all right, for He knows my size exactly.'"

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04 -- FROM HDM1603 BY JAMES EVERETT

Let me carry my analogy further by saying that those saints who have "their senses exercised to discern" what really fits their needs can often tell that a thing is not really suited to them, even before "trying it on". I illustrate this with the following, taken from "Adam Clarke Portrayed" by James Everett:

"An amusing circumstance took place, while in this circuit, between himself [Adam Clarke] and one of the 'gentle craft.' He ordered a pair of shoes, and gave particular directions, while the man was measuring the foot, how he wished them made: on the maker presenting them to him, he looked at them, and pronounced them not according to order.

"Shoemaker -- 'They have been made according to the measure, and your own directions.'

"Mr. Clarke -- 'That cannot be; if you had worked according to my directions, the shoes would have fitted.'

"Shoemaker. -- 'How can you tell they will not do before you try them on?'

"Mr. Clarke -- 'I am convinced of it from appearance and I know that my eye is pretty correct.'

"Shoemaker -- 'I defy any man to be able to know, in a case where a shoe has been made according to the measure, till he has tried to fit it to the foot.'

"Mr. Clarke -- 'I will try to put it on, in order to convince you of your error.'

"Here Mr. Clarke made the attempt, but the shoe would not admit the foot. Then, turning to the shoemaker, he said, 'I told you they would not fit!' The man was a good deal surprised, and was at a loss to account for it. Mr. Clarke at length relieved him, by first pointing to his foot, and next to the shoe, saying, 'The defect is in the instep; you should (directing his eye to the part) have taken, according to my directions, about half an inch from one side, in order to relieve the other.'"

Adam Clarke had previously had enough experience to discern by the eye that the shoes would not fit -- before trying them on -- and in like manner, many saints of God have discerned beforehand that this or that which they might accept, was ill-fitted to them spiritually and would, if taken upon themselves, be the source of much spiritual discomfort and blistering to their soul.

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05 -- FROM HDM0104 BY A. B. EARLE

As stated in my title, "When It's From God, It Fits," and Jesus never asks His followers to take upon themselves that which He has not already tried and proven Himself. Along this line, A. B. Earle related the following:

"I am told that Emperor Napoleon once went to a very skillful workman, and inquired of him if he could make a bullet-proof jacket or under garment, one that he himself would feel safe to wear as a protection against bullets. The workman assured him he could make just such a garment; one he would feel entirely safe to wear himself. The Emperor engaged him to make the article, requesting him to take time, and see that it was bullet-proof.

"The workman took much time and pains in its construction. The jacket was finished, and the Emperor notified that it was ready for him. Napoleon, after carefully examining it, asked the maker if he still felt sure a bullet could not pierce it. The workman said he was sure no bullet could penetrate it; that he himself would feel entirely safe with it on in a shower of bullets. The Emperor asked him to put it on, that he might examine it more fully. The maker put the jacket on himself, that the Emperor might see how finely it fitted and protected the body.

"After a careful examination of its make-up and apparent safety, Napoleon stepped back a few feet, and drew his pistol on the man, who cried out:

"Don't try it on me!"

"But the Emperor said:

"You told me it was perfectly safe,' and fired. The armor proved itself bullet-proof.

"So Christ has made an armor that renders its wearer perfectly safe against all the fiery darts that may be hurled against it. Christ has tried it on. He was led out into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. For forty days and nights Satan tried to pierce this armor, but broke all his arrows on it. It could not be penetrated. It was thoroughly tested on Christ, that all who put it on might feel safe."

Unlike the manufacturer of Napoleon's armor, Christ both made, tried, and proved His armor for man's soul.

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06 -- FROM HDM0937 BY JAMES CAUGHEY

But again, if a thing is from the devil, or from the human, blessed is the one who discerns this in advance and never tries it on, or who, like David, puts it off of himself!

In "Revival Miscellanies" James Caughey quoted the following about,

"...Philosophers, who find
Some favorite system to their mind,
In every point to make it fit,
Will force all nature to submit."

It is Satan, if you please, who is the "God of Forces" (Dan. 11:38). Both he, and those who adopt his methods, seek to "force all nature to submit" to their own ill-fitting philosophies and lies -- contrary to nature itself! Sodomy is one of the most striking examples of this. The Evil One has gone to great extremes in forcing off on the world the idea that this very unnatural practice is another form of normality! In the endeavor, "MAKE IT FIT" in God's world, the devil seeks, as it were, to "force all nature to submit" to this absurd and totally false perversion! But it ill-fits humanity, to the point of moral insanity! and its practice is helping to spawn and spread the AIDS virus around the globe!

Spiritual philosophies and garments tailored in Hell must be discerned and spurned by those who hope to inherit the Holy City. They are not FIT for earth, and will be utterly absent in Heaven.

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07 -- FROM HDM0398 BY S. L. BRENGLE

The philosophies of God are found in His Word, the Bible, and everything in its sacred pages perfectly fits the need of the human heart. Samuel Logan Brengle, in his book, "Ancient Prophets," wrote:

"How can I prove the inspiration of the Bible? By the way it answers to the heart of man. The key that fits an intricate lock was evidently made for that lock. **The Bible meets me at every point of my moral and spiritual need; it fits my heart's intricate needs as the key fits the lock,** and I doubt not, I exult to know that the Divine Hand that

fashioned me gives me the Book, and His heart that loves me pours itself with fathomless comforts into my heart through the Book."

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08 -- FROM HDM0072 BY J. W. CHAPMAN

Spurgeon wrote of how God's promises perfectly fit the lock on God's Storehouse holding answers to prayer. This excerpt comes from "Present Day Parables," by J. Wilbur Chapman:

"You cannot get at the difficulty so as to deal with it aright, and find your way to a happy result. You pray, but have not the liberty in prayer which you desire. A definite promise is what you want. You try one and another of the inspired words, but they do not fit. You try again, and in due season a promise presents itself which seems to have been made for the occasion; it fits as exactly as a well-made key fits the wards of the lock for which it was originally prepared. Having found the identical word of the living God, you hasten to plead it at the throne of grace, saying 'O my Lord, thou hast promised this good thing unto thy servant; be pleased to grant it!' The matter is ended; sorrow is turned to joy; prayer is heard."

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09 -- FROM HDM1625 BY C. J. FOWLER

Charles J. Fowler, in a "Sermon From First Corinthians," also wrote about a fitting prayer -- one that helped him get sanctified -- but it was preceded by a prayer that was ill-fitting to his need, which probably emanated from the human:

"I was brought out from darkness into light as clear as day. I can say that I was never tempted from that minute to this to doubt that I was converted, that night in the old Methodist Church in the White Hills of New England. I got conversion in that little old church. I need not tell you; I could not tell you, those heavenly sensations that accompanied it, and God has used me as an instrument to bring thousands of precious souls to Christ. On the occasion of my sanctification, I went into a service and they were praying for somebody. I didn't know who. I knew it fitted me.

"I was pastor of a large church at the time. I went forward and Deacon Morse came and knelt by my side and began to pray. He said: 'O, God, we are unworthy to pray for this preacher. He has been a successful preacher.' I hate to say this, but this is what he said: 'He has been a successful preacher, a useful preacher. He is pastor of a commanding church. We are unworthy, etc.'

"I knew that man wasn't working along Gods line. That prayer enhanced my suffering. He seemed to be conscious of this; He stopped to take breath and said: **'God take the devil out of this fellow.'**

Here I was, pastor of a large church, and here I was down on the floor, but I said: 'If the devil is in me, I want that prayer answered. If he is not he must not come in now,' and I stuck to it and God brought me in and I am in now."

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10 -- FROM HDM0043 BY BEVERLY CARRADINE

The verses of First Corinthians 13 come from God, and exactly fit the experience of Perfect Love. But in his book, "Living Illustrations," Beverly Carradine thinks of this chapter as "a coat or dress" which would not fit "some avowed Christians":

"If the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians could be likened to a coat or dress, what a time some avowed Christians would have in getting it on and making it fit! How it would hitch up on the fourth verse; how it would pucker on the fifth, and what a tearing and rending on the 7th!

"Suppose that 1 Peter, chapter 2, verses 19-23 was a garment -- 'For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully;' 'If when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps; who did no Sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.' What a time some of God's professed people would have getting this character garment on. It would never fit them in the world. And if they do not wear it in this life, they cannot do so in the life to come. There is no alteration of doctrine at death. There is no cutting out of new patterns at the grave. A loveless, pitiless soul on earth is a loveless, pitiless soul in eternity."

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11 -- FROM HDM0899 BY LOUIS A. BOUCK

The perfect fitness of God's Word provides all that a Christian needs to recognize the devil and to avoid his delusions. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). Those who best have their spiritual senses keen to pick up in advance on those ill-fitting things emanating from hell are among those who know best God's Word and God's revealing descriptions of the devil, who really does exist.

In his book, "Mark The Perfect Man," Louis A. Bouck wrote:

"One of Satan's major triumphs has been to convince intellectuals that he does not really exist, except in the minds of ignorant, superstitious people. The old verse says:

And so the devil has had to go.
We've voted him out and he's done,
But simple people would like to know
Who carries his business on.

"His business is definitely being carried on by someone who fits perfectly the Bible picture of Satan."

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12 -- FROM HDM0707 BY W. E. SHEPARD

For any honest seeker, there is enough plain evidence in the Bible to convict Satan as the one whose lies caused death to pass upon mankind. In his book, "Sin, The Tell-Tale," William Edward Shepard wrote of a man who was murdered: "Six months after the deed a farm hand dug up a hand, no clue apparently, except that a friend, a medico-legal expert, took note of certain callosities in the palm, rather peculiar ones, and soon after begged of the son his father's stick as a memento. The curiously carved knob exactly fitted the skeleton hand and the son was convicted of the murder."

Exactly fitting, Biblical evidence, designed to reveal the reality of the devil, the fact of his guilt, and the nature of his deeds, is there for all to read, and take heed. God's information about him is fitting, and reveals how ill-fitting are those things that he has tailor-made and brought into the world to damn souls.

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13 -- FROM HDM0927 BY WILLIAM M. SMITH

In the Bible, we see that Jesus was all that He claimed to be -- including the fact that He is the perfectly-fitted "Head Stone of the Corner". William M. Smith, in his booklet, "Twenty Lessons in the Gospel of Luke," commented on the truth of Jesus as "The Stone the Builders Rejected":

"It will be recalled that the stones for Solomon's temple were prepared at the quarry so that no chiseling or fitting was necessary by the builders.. It is readily suggested that these builders found a stone that they could not fit as they proceeded with the building, so it was laid aside. But when they came to the top of the corner, they found this stone just exactly fitted, and became the head of the corner. From the

beginning of the Bible, prophecy looked forward to Jesus as the final goal toward which all history tended. But these Jewish builders of the parable, rejected Him. But some day He will be the head of the corner and fitted into His intended place. As a comment on this stone, read I Peter 2:4-8. He Who is the capstone of the Jewish dispensation is the corner stone of the church."

Though mismeasured by the men who rejected and crucified Him, Jesus of Nazareth exactly fit as the Chief Cornerstone in God's Eternal Temple -- because He both came from God and WAS God. He was not then, and is not yet, fully exalted in the eyes of men into His fitting place, but on the Day of the Lord, HE SHALL BE! The assembled universe shall behold it when "The Stone which the builders rejected.. is become the Head of the Corner" and the Holy servants of God shall declare, **"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes!"** (Matt. 21:42). How fitting! How perfectly fitting! that exaltation shall be!

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14 -- FROM HDM0892 BY A. M. HILLS

God's plan of salvation perfectly fits the needs of ALL MEN, not just those of a select few, as is erroneously taught by some narrow-minded predestinarians. The following comes from "The Whosoever Gospel" by Aaron Merritt Hills:

"Now, let us notice to whom this gift was given. There are people who like to narrow the plan of salvation to make it fit the measure of their little narrow minds. There are people who talk about provision being made in God's infinite love and grace for some few favored mortals, who, without any reason in themselves, had some special gift bestowed upon them to please an arbitrary God. They tell us that God gave His Son to die only for the elect. Can you believe that? Do you not know that that idea would paralyze faith itself, and defeat the very scheme of salvation? Suppose that the richest citizen in this city, whoever he may be, should will all his millions to some elect souls in Hamilton County, Ohio. Could you put in a claim at the Probate Court here under such a will as that? You could not prove that you were some of the elect souls, and if no other heirs could be found that could put in a better claim than that, the whole will would be null and void, and the property would revert to the State.

"Suppose my text read, 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that some elect souls might not perish.' Do you not know there is not one of us that would dare to put in a claim on such a will as that? Such a text as that would paralyze the hope of the sinner, and defeat redemption by making faith impossible, and would consign us all to a hopeless doom. O, I thank God for that word "world" in the text, for it means all humanity. And again, I thank God for that precious word "whosoever" in my text. That means me."

The Truth is, Satan is the manufacturer of the false teaching of a limited salvation that is available only to those predestined to be saved. Blessed is the one who recognizes it for the error that it is, and who stamps "RETURN TO SENDER" in large red letters upon its falsehood, and promptly ships it back from whence it came. It ill-fits the needs of the world, and only fits back where it was manufactured -- in the devil's workshop.

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15 -- FROM HDM1541 BY RICHARD S. TAYLOR

Further, the Bible presents the perfectly fitting name for the way to the Heavenly City. In his book, "Talks By The Way To Highway Travelers," Richard S. Taylor wrote:

"First, there is the law of Identification . . . 'it shall be called **The Way of Holiness**.' This highway is given a name. It is not called 'the higher life' or 'the victorious life,' though it is that in fact; it is called 'The Way of Holiness.' No other name could be so fully and exactly fit. To change its name is to confuse its character and disqualify one for walking on it. If you would seek to avoid the stigma of the name by hiding it and your own association with it you are not entitled to its privileges and will very soon discover that you have lost your footing upon it, for the highway of holiness is incompatible with pride of heart. My meaning is clear: if you are to walk this way you must identify yourself with it, and that means with true holiness people and holiness doctrines."

It is no wonder that the way of holiness does not fit the desires of the world, the flesh, and the devil -- it was not built by any from such sources -- it is the handiwork of God, and though despised by millions, it is the fitting and only path to Glory, and they only travel it who have gone forth to Christ, without the camp, bearing His reproach every mile of the way to the City.

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16 -- FROM HDM0165 BY W. M. TIDWELL

Again, the experiences of salvation that genuinely come from God perfectly fit the individual -- including the experience of entire sanctification. In his book, "Effective Illustrations," William Moses Tidwell told of a woman who wanted an experience like that of Stephen Merritt:

"A good lady who for a long time had sought the blessing of sanctification, had the following experience. She said, 'If I could just have an experience like Brother Stephen Merritt's I would be sanctified.' Brother Merritt was one of those happy, hilarious souls who had had the blessing for years. Brother Merritt knew of her desire to obtain an experience like his. One day he came to her home with a little package very neatly tied

up and gave it to her with the exhortation, 'Don't open It till tomorrow.' Well, what do you suppose she did? What would you have done? She opened it just as soon as he was out of sight. And what do you suppose it was? It was a set of Brother Merritt's old, cast off false teeth! Can you imagine?

"She was perplexed and vexed. She said, 'Of all things. Brother Merritt has been my ideal. I have even desired a blessing like he has. But he is rude. I don't understand it.' Soon Brother Merritt came by again and she was ready for him and asked what in the world he meant by such rude actions. She said, 'Do you think I could wear your old teeth? Do you think they would fit me?'

"Brother Merritt quietly answered, 'I think they would fit you about like my experience. Good-bye.'

"He passed on. Then she said, 'I see. I will take it the way the Lord wants to give it to me and just the kind of blessing he desires to give.' And she was soon rejoicing in her new-found experience. We must be willing to make a complete and eternal consecration and trust the Lord to come in His own way."

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17 -- FROM HDM0524 BY G. B. KULP

When the Call to Salvation reaches the ears of one that God purposes to save thereby, the recipient of the call intuitively knows that IT FITS. George Brubaker Kulp related the following in his book, "Nuggets of Gold":

"No white dress had she ever seen, and a common white muslin, even, she had never worn, she was barefooted, and though the morning was warm, she had wrapped an old shawl around her to hide the holes in her dress. A neat little girl was Mandy, or at least she would have been, if she had known how; she always washed her feet in the fast-running gutter puddles, after a hard rain, just because she liked to see them look clean; but she had no needle and thread at home, nor patches; and her work among the barrels, picking for rags, was not the cleanest in the world. Yet on this very afternoon in which Miss Cecilia was getting ready for the concert, and frowning over her white silk, because the trail did not hang quite as she liked, did this little girl, Mandy, give a concert. Her audience was an organ-grinder who stopped to rest a bit, an old woman who was going by with a baby, and a little boy with a load of chips. The words she sang were:

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins.

"And the chorus, repeated as many times as did Miss Cecilia's:

I've been redeemed,
I've been redeemed,
I've been redeemed.

"Where did you get that?' asked the organ-grinder.

"What?' said Mandy, startled, and turning quickly...

"That; that you're singing.

"Oh, I got it at Sunday School.' And she rolled out the wonderful news, 'I've been redeemed, I've been redeemed -- been washed in the blood of the Lamb.'

"I don't s'pose you understand what you're singing about?' said the organ-grinder.

"Don't I, though,' said Mandy, with an emphatic little nod of her head. 'I know all about it, and its all true. I belong to Him; He is going to make me clean inside, and dress me in white some day, to stay with Him for ever and ever. 'I've been redeemed, I've been redeemed -- been washed in the blood of the Lamb.'"

"Away down the street, as far as the organ-grinder could hear, as he trudged on, there came back to him the faint sound of that chorus, 'I've been redeemed.' Nobody threw bouquets to Mandy; nobody said she had a sweet voice. But the organ-grinder kept saying the words over and over to himself; they were not new to him. Years ago, his old mother used to sing those first ones, 'There is a fountain.' He had never heard the chorus before, but he knew it fitted, he knew all about it, his mother had taught him, and away back, when he was a little boy, a minister had said to him once, 'My boy, you must be sure to find the fountain and get washed.' He never had. He was almost an old man; and it was years since he had thought about it, but Mandy's song brought it all back. Was that the end of it? Oh, no. The organ-grinder kept thinking, and thinking, until by and by he resolved to do. He sought the fountain, and found it, and now, if he knew the tune, could sing, 'I've been redeemed.'"

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18 -- FROM HDM0788 BY EMMA M. WHITEMORE

Sometimes, God wraps us His Call to Salvation into the same package with something that is a perfect fit materially. This story comes from "Records of Modern Miracles," by Emma M. Whittemore:

"As the winter advanced, a real necessity arose to prove to the poor tramps of the street that there was something more in religion than an address or a handshake, or a 'God bless you'. Accordingly, much prayer was offered that means might be granted

whereby beds, clothing and food, could be provided, and that these things might speak of God's provisional love to these homeless, and often degraded, ones. From various sources bedding, clothing and food supplies reached us.

"On separating the things the bundle contained, we discovered an odd glove. Vainly we searched for the mate. Just for a moment we were inclined to throw it aside, when Capt. Potter reminded us that one odd glove might just as well have come in answer to prayer as if its mate were there. We therefore showed it respect equal to the other gifts and placed it upon the shelf ready for service.

"It was nearing the end of the year and we wanted to add all possible joy to the lives of those to whom the Mission ministered. On Christmas night a wretched looking specimen of humanity entered just as the meeting started. He was in a half-drunken condition and took a seat upon almost the last bench in the hall. There was a hole in the crown of his hat, through which his bushy hair protruded in a rather comical way. When he removed his hat, his hair stuck untidily in every direction, and might have been mistaken for a mop. It had not seen comb or brush for many a day.

"As the meeting proceeded, prayer was silently offered for him by one or two whose hearts had been stirred at the sight of the poor sin-marred creature. Suddenly he interrupted the service by raising a very dirty hand, and waving it to attract attention said most earnestly, with tears in his bleared eyes, 'For God's sake, if there is any hope for me, won't you all put up a prayer?'

"In a moment Capt. Potter Was by his Side, and placing his hand on his shoulder, said in his winning way: 'My dear fellow, of course we will pray, and if you mean what you say, prove it by stepping to the front.' I have always felt that God is able to clear even a drunkard's brain sufficiently for him to grasp the truth. After a bit of a struggle the man staggered forward as though meaning business. It was not easy for him, and we could see that he was ashamed of himself, but he gained courage under the Captain's kindly sympathy.

"At last he reached the front bench, then as he got down upon his knees, he seemed to realize what it might mean should he be truly saved. If ever a sinner called upon God, poor drunken Joe called that night. None of those present can ever forget it. It seemed as though the cry came from the very depths of despair, and that all earthly power was unavailing. It was only the prayer of the publican, uttered in a most heart-stirring and appealing way: 'Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.' Covering the request with the precious name of Jesus, he had not to wait very long before he realized the efficacy and power of that Name, and his joy knew no bounds...

"After rising from his knees, we noticed that the poor fellow had but one arm. It was one of the most bitterly cold nights we had had that winter and our stock of clothing had run low, but just before the meeting broke up, like a flash, the one odd glove came to the mind of Capt. Potter. Asking the man to wait, he hurried to the closet and taking

down the glove could not suppress a 'Hallelujah'. He hurried back to Joe and as God cannot make a mistake, it proved to be the right-hand glove for that one-armed man. **It** fitted him perfectly, and being fleece-lined, was delightfully warm and comfortable.

"People may smile skeptically and perhaps I am old-fashioned now, but I have always felt that this was but another instance of our Jehovah's wonderful forethought in allowing the original owner (who could readily afford it), to lose one of his gloves in order that that poor, one-handed man might have a suitable covering for many a cold winter day. How he treasured that gift of God's love! When we told him the whole story, he was more profoundly stirred than he could possibly have been had there been a pair. It was to him a wonderful reminder of how strangely but wonderfully God may supply all our needs."

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19 -- FROM HDM1843 BY J. M. HAMES

The following story from "Golden Graces" by John Marvin Hames is nothing short of a perfectly-fit, Divine miracle!

"Another incident of recent years, just as wonderful, which was nothing less than a miracle, was in one of the Bosworth meetings, in Lima, Ohio. A woman came to the meeting for healing. An awful cancer had eaten her upper lip away. She was anointed in the night service, and then went to her room full of faith and quietly retired. Sometime in the night God performed a miracle. The next morning when she awakened, a new lip had been formed with flesh as tender as a newly born baby, and the upper lip fit perfectly with her lower one. The God of the Bible still lives and will honor the faith of the trusting child of God if he will only hold on long enough."

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20 -- FROM HDM0788 BY EMMA M. WHITEMORE

God has no difficulty fitting a person's feet with the proper size shoes. This is seen in the following from "Records of Modern Miracles" by Emma M. Whittemore:

"Not far from the Mission door in a rather disreputable street, there resided a sinful woman who was occasionally addicted to alcohol. More than once she was urged to come to the nightly service. One day, becoming a little indignant at the persistency on the part of the worker who called, she thrust a very untidy-looking foot from under her shabby dress and said with a cynical expression on her face: 'Look at that now; a nice kind of apology for shoes, ain't they? And do you think I would be going through the rain and slush to that Mission of yours with no better covering on my feet? Not if I know myself. I would be getting rheumatism. You don't need keep a-bothering me asking me

either.' Again she thrust out a foot. There seemed to be scarcely any leather left; what little there was was tied on by dirty rags. Of course we knew that when she wanted a glass of liquor she could easily get to the corner grog shop in those same terrible old shoes.

"There were many burdens resting upon dear Superintendent Potter's heart on that particular morning when this poor woman had been visited once more. But when we reported the matter to him, he somehow felt that something definite must transpire to awaken her to her danger and to convince her of a Father's love. Upon his knees he definitely asked the Lord that if it needed a pair of shoes to acquaint her of all this, that money might be sent in to purchase them before the day closed.

"Late that afternoon one dollar was received. The accompanying note stated that it might be used in any way toward furthering the work. With a heart overflowing with gratitude to God, he hastened at once to the nearest shoe store and inquired if they had any shop-worn shoes on hand, as he was anxious to purchase as good a pair as possible for a small amount of money, as they were needed for a very poor woman.

"The kind-hearted but nonChristian owner of the place said: 'Come with me. I have a lot of shop-worn stock in the rear of the store, some of which might suit your purpose.' Overturning a large box, he picked up a pair, and looking at them admiringly, said: 'Here's a pair, custom made, cost \$4.50, but through some bungling they were sent to us mismated, one being larger than the other, and so I have never been able to sell them. Seeing it is a poor woman, perhaps she won't be over-fastidious. I'll let her have them for a dollar, just to get rid of them.'

"The dollar was paid gladly, and who could doubt the sending of that money when it amounted to the very cent required. Captain Potter might have procured a pair of a much cheaper grade, but he could not have begun to obtain such quality for anything like that amount. It was just like our Lord to arrange matters that way.

"Going down to that wretched and untidy room, he told the woman he had a little gift for her, a pair of shoes. She grasped the parcel and holding it in her arms for a moment, rocking her body backward and forward, said with considerable demonstration of gratitude, 'Oh, and it was the good deed you've done! The Lord bless you and good luck to you!' Pausing for a moment in her exclamations, she asked about their size. A suspicion of tears came to her eyes; as she said almost pitifully: 'Oh, and it is bad luck, it is bad luck to me, it is! And why ever didn't I tell you before?'

"She was asked what was the trouble. 'Oh,' she replied, with a disappointed look on her face, 'I always did wear number fives until a piece back; but when I fell down and hurt one of my feet it swelled up so now it's bigger than the other one.' Without further comment the string was untied, the shoes taken out, and she was requested to try them on, and, as our great God has never yet been known to make a mistake, the large shoe

was found to be a perfect fit for the right foot and the smaller shoe, if she had the measurements taken, could not have been any more comfortable.

"It was not long before she came to the Mission and shortly afterwards called fervently upon God to pardon her sins, and began to walk in the paths of righteousness.

"The above story of the mismated shoes was told in Hartford not long afterwards, and just to show how He protects His own honor, the sequel is given. A few weeks after that meeting a gentleman called at the office of a friend, and during their conversation the subject of religion was discussed. The proprietor of the building stated that his conception of God was One far in the heavens to be worshipped, revered and feared, but not to be dragged down into the material things of every-day life. 'Why,' he said excitedly, 'He is too great a God for that! Surely it would belittle Him! My God is not One who is handing out little presents to His creatures.'

"'Well, well,' replied this visitor, who was an infidel, 'though I don't believe in a God, I must admit if I ever had one and couldn't take Him into the real things in life, I would have no use for Him.'

"'All right,' was the reply, 'but wait a moment. By the way, I think I have a clipping on my desk bearing on the subject.' Pulling a number of bits of paper from a file he at last, with a smile, picked up the one desired and said, handing it to his friend: 'Just read that, will you, and if it doesn't prove to you I am right, I don't know anything that will. That woman came to our town a short time ago and from a public platform told this atrocious story. It's simply outrageous that such people are allowed to go abroad deceiving the public in this fashion. Such loud-mouthed nonsense ought to be stopped. Just read it for yourself.'

"As he watched his visitor perusing the lines, he saw an amused expression and felt satisfied that he had gained his point. When at last the clipping was laid down and a hearty laugh followed, he felt still more convinced that he had made his point. The visitor exclaimed, 'Well, well, I declare!' Before he had further opportunity to declare anything, his friend interrupted him by saying: 'I hope you are convinced now; did you ever in all your life hear or read of anything more absurd?' The clipping, as the reader will have guessed, contained an article relating the story of the mismated shoes.

"Throwing his head back and laughing heartily, the visitor answered: 'My dear fellow, this truly is the most remarkable coincidence in my life. I am not at all hilarious over what you suppose, for I am the owner of that shoe store, and I happened to sell that identical pair of shoes myself.'

"For a moment the proprietor gazed in silent amazement into his visitor's face and without further conversation, the latter passed quietly out to the street. A few weeks later the scales began to drop off his inner vision and it was not long before he recognized the fact that a far-away God was not the God he desired or required. As for the infidel, the

whole matter was so fastened upon his heart that gradually he was led to perceive the reality of God and through the Holy Spirit turned his face heavenward and opening his heart, let the Savior enter. He has kept following on to know the Lord ever since, and has been greatly used in various ways, publicly and privately, through proclaiming the truth as it is in Jesus. Thus, in endeavoring to reach one soul through the procuring of those shoes, three souls at least were captured for the Kingdom."

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21 -- FROM HDM0015 BY G. C. BEVINGTON

The fact that God is perfectly able to solve the problem of getting mis-matched shoes for one whose feet are each a different size is also seen in the following story from "Remarkable Incidents and Modern Miracles" by Guy C. Bevington:

"I will give another incident in the work in Cincinnati. There I received clothing for the poor, and distributed it. I was out at Mt. Lookout, a suburb of Cincinnati, and a sister there gave me some clothing. In a few weeks I noticed that one of our strong members was not out for a week or so, so I went out to see what was the matter. I found her washing, and reminded her that several services had passed without her presence, which was rather an unusual occurrence. She was a poor woman, with three children, and had to pay her rent, but never allowed us to help her, as we were accustomed to help many others in similar circumstances. As she seemed loathe to give a reason for being absent, I noticed that she had on quite poor shoes, and finally I said, 'Sister, are those the best shoes you have?' Blushing, she turned her back on me, making me feel that those were her best; but she finally said, 'Now, Brother Bevington, I will have to admit that they are. I am expecting to get a pair next week, as I am to keep the children clothed and fed regardless of my need.'

"So I returned to my room; and that being Thursday evening, I began to plead a new pair of shoes for her, as I had none that I felt were good enough for her, and therefore I prayed the more. I just held on. Finally, I looked at my watch, and it was two minutes of 4:00 a. m. I had been there ten or eleven hours. Then I dropped on my face again, and inside of thirty minutes I saw a pair of ladies' shoes, and new ones, too. That was Friday, nearly 7:00 a. m. I went to my breakfast satisfied that all would be all right for a pair of shoes for the Friday night meeting; that was our regular evangelistic night service. When I came back, I was detained some, and did not get to the mission until about 10:00 a. m, and went into the prayer room. One of the kindergarten teachers came out, and said, 'There is a lady wanting to see you.' She came out into the main hall, and said, 'Brother Bevington, I bought a pair of shoes this morning, but one is at least two sizes larger than the other. They look like mates, but they cannot be. The ones I tried on at the store fit me nicely. Then, as I was near here, I thought that I would run in and see the kindergarten children work; and while waiting to see you, I thought I would put on my new shoes and wear them home, but found one to be entirely too large.' I said, 'Praise the Lord. I prayed all night last night for a pair of shoes, and I guess these

are the ones.' 'Yes, but, Brother Bevington it seems too bad to give such a pair of shoes as that to anyone, and I don't want to take them back.' (She was most too proud to do that so she concluded to see if I could work them off to a good advantage.) I said, 'She is a poor woman, and needs the shoes, and she can easily put cotton batting in the larger one, and the smaller one, I think, will fit her all right. Here they are; you take them up.'

"But I wanted her to see this woman, as I felt that she might be able to help her in various ways. So I insisted on her taking them, as she would have to walk near that home to get her street car. Finally she took up the shoes and started for the woman's home, and found her busy with her ironing. She introduced herself, and said, 'Brother Bevington sent me here, on a rather embarrassing errand.' She set the shoes out, not telling the woman that one was larger than the other. All the time she was talking about the shoes and other things, the sister kept thinking, 'What will I do, as I can't wear those shoes, as my right foot is nearly two sizes smaller than my left, and I hate to tell her.' But she concluded to take the shoes, and probably could exchange them. The woman started home, but she was impressed that she must tell the sister, so she returned and she told about the shoes. The sister just laughed heartily, and said, 'Which is the larger?' 'The left one.' Then she laughed more than ever, and said, 'Well, well, well! God surely understands all things, as my left foot is nearly two sizes larger than my right. Here it is just as I want it. Oh, praise the Lord.' Now, I knew nothing about the difference in the size of her feet, but God did, and see how He worked in order to answer my all-night prayer. Isn't that enough to convince us that God fully understands His business? I say, 'Yes.' What do you say? Well, Hallelujah!"

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22 -- FROM HDM0143 BY F. A. POWELL

When a whole family needs clothing of various sizes, God has no problem fitting the bill there either! This can be seen in the following story taken from "The Singing Pioneer" by Fred A. Powell:

"Another little incident that I remember. I went to Trinidad, Colorado, for a revival campaign, which was a gracious meeting. God came on the scene and gave us many souls. One in the early part of the meeting happened to be the wife of the city fire chief. They were well-to-do, had only one girl. One night in preaching I mentioned the fact of the largeness of our family -- nine children -- and I pictured all of us about the living room in the evening with twenty-two shoes strung out around the stove. What a picture! This lady got to thinking about it, said how in the world does he ever buy clothes for nine children and she mentioned to the pastor's wife that their one girl grew so fast that she had hardly soiled her clothes till she out grew them. She said she would love to give them to me for my children if she did not fear of offending me. The Pastor's wife mentioned the incident, telling her she was sure it would be of no offense. I got up that night to preach and mentioned in the opening of the service that one lady had mighty nice clothes she

would love to give us if she wasn't afraid it would offend us to use used clothes. So, I said, 'Offend? How glad I would be to get them and I know they will fit, for you see, we have every size.'

"So, the congregation gave a great laugh and some said what a blessing it was to have every size. Well, that started things buzzing at Trinidad. What a load of clothes we had when the meeting was over. It saved my wife many an hour of work and, of course, our pocketbook too."

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23 -- FROM HDM 1586 BY JOHN MIDDLETON HARE

Adam Clarke was once impressed with how he was supplied with that which apparently was one of the finest. This story comes from "The Life and Labors of Adam Clarke" by John Middleton Hare:

"In the same letter we have a singular specimen of the esteem in which Dr. Clarke was everywhere held:-- 'On Saturday, a respectable-looking man was introduced to me, to prefer a singular request; viz., that I would permit him to make, and present me with, a new suit of clothes! I excused myself, and said I had a completely new suit in London, which I had never worn, and therefore had no need. He was sadly disappointed; and I believe would have been glad, had I been half naked, that I might have been obliged to receive his gift. However, he has sent a most beautiful great-coat after me to Stockport, which I have this morning tried on, and it fits nobly: such a coat I never had before, either for material or making.'"

While Adam Clarke does not specifically attribute the high-quality coat he received to God's benevolence, such a gift IS just like the Lord, of Whom it is written in Psalm 147:14: "He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat." He fits and fills the needs of His children, and no doubt many can testify that sometimes He does so "with the finest"!

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24 -- FROM HDM0443 BY GEORGE PECK

Often, in fitting one of His servants with a necessity, God uses a Christian brother or sister to do so. Many such kindnesses will be rewarded on the Day of the Lord when "the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). This story comes from the autobiography of early-American Methodist George Peck, titled: "The Life and Times of George Peck."

"It is hardly necessary to add that my ministry was not making me rich in the goods of this world. My receipts the preceding year had been only fifty-eight dollars. My clothes were wearing out. My mother-in-law, Mrs. Myers, had spun and woven a piece of cloth, and sent it to the fulling-mill to receive the finishing touch; and when it was done I was to have a suit of the goodly fabric. But the fuller delayed, and winter came, and I was really suffering. A brother who lived near Bethany saw the state of things, and one day said to me, 'Brother Peck, I think we are about of a size.' I replied, 'I suppose we are.' He then brought out a new coat, and asked me to try it on. I did so, not suspecting his design. 'It fits you exactly,' said he; 'now wear it till you get another.' I objected, but he would take no denial. 'You shall do it,' said he, resolutely. Thus I wore Myron Whitmore's coat for six weeks. He was a brother indeed."

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25 -- FROM HDM0524 BY G. G. KULP

To a fault, overly-judgmental Christians have "sized-up" others as needing the same convictions, and hewing-to-the-line as themselves, supposing that "one size fits all" when it comes to God's requirements. Whereas, to the contrary, God fits His requirements to the measure of each person's light and ability to fulfill them. This truth is seen in the following account taken from "Nuggets of Gold" by George Brubaker Kulp:

"There lived in Berlin a shoemaker who had a habit of speaking harshly of all of his neighbors who did not think as he did about religion. The old pastor thought it was time to teach him a lesson. Calling one morning he said, 'John, take my measure for a pair of boots.' 'With pleasure. Take off your boot.' The clergyman did so, when the shoemaker measured his foot from heel to toe, and over the instep, noting all down in his book.

"As he was putting up his book, the pastor said, 'John, my son also requires a pair of boots.' 'I will make them with pleasure, your reverence. Can I take his measure this morning?' 'Oh, that is unnecessary,' said the pastor, 'the lad is fourteen, but you can make his boots from my last.' 'Your reverence, that will never do,' said the surprised shoemaker. 'I tell you, John, to make my boots and those for my son from the same last.' 'No, your reverence, I cannot do it.' 'It must be done; on the same last remember.' 'But, your reverence, it is not possible, if the boots are to fit!' 'Ah, then, master shoemaker, every pair of boots must be made on their own last, if they are to fit, and yet you think that God is to form all Christians exactly according to your last of the same measure and growth in religion as yourself. That will not do, either.'

"The shoemaker, much abashed, took the lesson, and said, 'I thank you, pastor. Hereafter I will try to remember it, and judge my neighbors less harshly in the future.' Amen."

* * *

If your place in life really fits you, it came from God. If it doesn't, then it came either from human erring or devilish design. Satan delights in making misfits in life, for it creates an atmosphere of discord that tends toward the downward plunge morally and eternally. That which follows is derived from "What Is Your Life" by Forman Lincicome:

"Every one of us has been designed to fill a certain place in life. If we find that place we will be happy and labor at a great advantage. But finding that place is where the rub comes.

"Choosing a career is an important step in your life, for it deals with the initial crisis in your life. If we make a mistake here we have made one that will cost us the price of the best and biggest success. Many people do not choose their job. Some drift into it, some have theirs thrown at them; others inherit their job: while others fall into theirs and stay there because they do not have strength enough to swim out.

"Some don't seem to know whether God wants them to sweep a crossing or run a hack -- whether He wants them to be a college professor or an auctioneer.

"Roger Babson, America's greatest statistician, thinks that not ten in a hundred have found their right place in life. If this is true, the world is full of misfits. A misfit always labors at a disadvantage, always has a sense of dislocation and failure, and is never at ease. Eighty per cent of the inefficiency in all walks of life can be attributed to being a misfit. It is as impossible for some people to succeed in the thing they are doing as it would be for a tomcat to preach or play a piano.

"There is many a lawyer starving for want of clients, many a doctor with patients under tombstones, and many a preacher preaching to a woodpile, who would have been a great success in some other capacity.

"Daniel Webster's father was a farmer. He evidently wanted to make a farmer out of Daniel, but Daniel would have been a poor fit on the farm. One day the father took Daniel out to teach him how to cut grass with an old-fashioned scythe. Each of them took a scythe and started cutting. In a few minutes Daniel turned to his father and said, 'Father, this scythe doesn't hang to suit me.' His father said, 'Give it to me and I will fix it.' He adjusted the blade a little and then handed it back to Daniel, and then they started cutting again. In a few minutes Daniel said, 'Father, this scythe doesn't hang to suit me yet.' Then his father said, 'Well, Daniel, hang it to suit yourself,' and Daniel went and hung it on the limb of a peach tree. 'Now,' he said, 'it hangs to suit me.'"

I would observe here that the fitting place for one in life should not be determined by how much ambition one does, or does not, have to work! -- and for that matter, it should not even be determined by the likes or dislikes of the individual. Rather, the

determination as to where one fits in life and at which employment should come from God. Thus, and only thus, can one become truly a "fit" instead of a "misfit" in this world.

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27 -- FROM HDM0123 BY DVM

Satan made himself a misfit in Heaven after God had perfectly fit him where he belonged. The following is taken from my own publication entitled "Articles of Faith":

"Lucifer fit where God had set him: Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so' (Ezek. 28:14). However, 'exalted above measure' by pride, he aspired to fit himself into a position far above and beyond his capacity to fill. God could not, would not, abdicate His Throne to accommodate Satan's vain and vile ambition. God 'resisteth the proud' (Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5). They do not reflect His likeness and shall not reign. Therefore, since fallen Lucifer would not fit into his proper place in heaven, he did not fit into any place in heaven, and God cast him out to descend into the pit where he now fit forever."

According to Strong's Concordance, "**Lucifer**" means "**(in the sense of brightness, Morning Star.**" This is interesting, for in Rev. 22:16, the resurrected Jesus proclaimed, "**I AM** the root and the offspring of David, and **THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.**"

Perhaps Lucifer was the first, and most powerful of God's created beings, and he was extremely bright, but when he aspired to exalt Himself above Him Who truly IS "The Bright and Morning Star" he fell, making himself unfit for Heaven and eternally fit for no place but hell.

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28 -- FROM HDM0098 BY A. M. HILLS

I shall conclude this document on a more uplifting note with the following story that demonstrates how God fittingly encourages His saints when their time to "cross Jordan" has arrived. It comes from "M. W. Knapp, A Hero Of Faith And Prayer" by Aaron Merritt Hills:

"Not Shut In. -- Written by a lady on a bed of extreme suffering, which lasted many years, and sent to Mrs. Knapp towards the close of her illness by Sister Minnie C. Ferle. Mrs. Knapp made mention of it in the last letter she ever wrote, saying: 'Thank Minnie for her poem. It fits me exactly, only I don't know whether I am waiting for heaven, or for health and strength. God blesses me and keeps me in perfect peace.'

" 'Shut in!' did you say, my sisters?
O no! only led away
Out of the dust and turmoil,
The burden and heat of the day,
Into the cool, green pastures,
By the waters calm and still,
Where I may lie down in quiet,
And yield to my Father's will."

Whatever it may be, for one and for all, for all time and for all eternity, **if it comes from God -- IT FITS!**

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END OF THIS ARTICLE