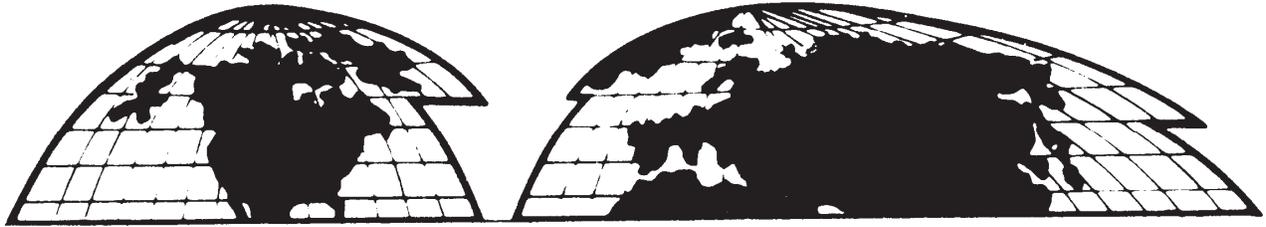
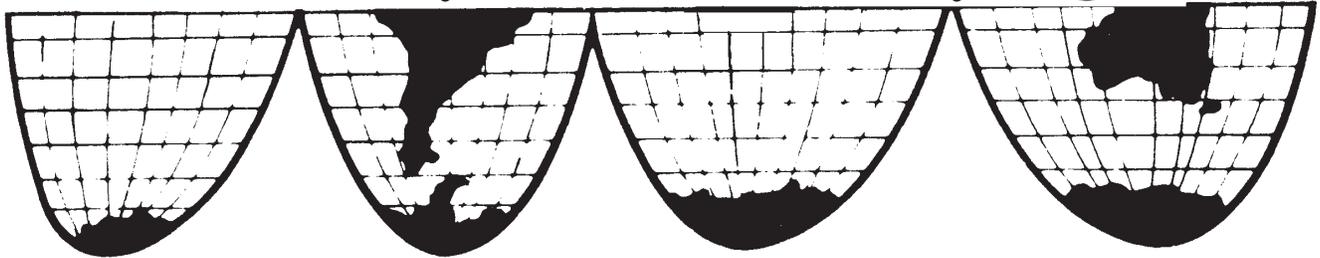


PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



World Prayer Band Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — September 2008

The WPB Ministries

- ◆ Intercession
- ◆ Prayer Conferences
- ◆ Publications
- ◆ One to One Outreach
- ◆ Overseas Crusades
- ◆ Revivals

*“Intercessors are like eagles, they don’t flock,
you find them one at a time.”*



Office: Petroleum Building • 200 W. 1st Street • Suite 531

Roswell, New Mexico 88203-4676

(505) 623-6925

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com

Website: www.worldprayerband.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 686 • Roswell, New Mexico 88202 • U.S.A.

Featured Articles In This Issue . . .

PAGE 2
FAITH
TESTED

PAGE 3
STRAIGHT
TALK

Page 3
Voices
from the
Past

PAGE 4
SPEAKING
CANDIDLY

PAGE 4
CONFERENCE
AND
REVIVALS



Faith Tested *by Joy Bollinger*

Life is a continuum of challenges and struggles that only end when our life ends. That is the life experience. However, it is not the difficulties in life that are the issue. It is how we respond when the unexpected tries our faith. The Word warns us that as Christians, our faith will be tested. And without knowledge of God's Word, we expose ourselves to the enemy's lies and distortions of scriptural truth, so that when testing comes, we believe the lie and not God's Word.

God said that His people perish for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Are we among those Christians who barely know God's Word and blindly accept false doctrines, ungodly "miraculous" manifestations, and new feel-good ideas and theories as truth? These bogus theologies promise an unrealistic, prosperous, carefree life. However, we live in a real world with real challenges and real issues that can only be solved in tandem with Jesus Christ and His uncompromised Word.

Becoming a Christian is not an automatic entitlement to success, prosperity, and freedom from adversity. The prosperity gospel has created a false feel-good utopia to those who look to God to satisfy their every carnal need and desire. However, if we want God's best, we must first seek Him with all of our heart and obey Him in all things...not just those things that are convenient and of our own choosing. He rewards those who do His will.

Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Joseph, Jesus, and the disciples, just to name a few, were obedient in the most difficult and faith-trying circumstances. But all came through victoriously. For the Word promises that blessings will come upon us and accompany us if we obey the LORD our God (Deuteronomy 28:2 NIV). For obedience is better than sacrifice (I Samuel 15:22). Obedience declares our trust, faith, and reverence to the One who created us.

Paul, who was one of the most devoted and faithful followers of Jesus, walked in complete trust and obedience to the Father. He was a man who had no place to call home, was in constant danger from bandits, countrymen, the Gentiles, and false brothers. He suffered cold, nakedness, beatings, thirst, hunger, and dangers at sea. Yet, he was a man who not only lived his faith, but he totally trusted God:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our

hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us (Romans 5:1-5 NIV).

Despite Paul's sufferings, he rejoiced in them, because his faith in God's goodness never wavered. Can today's believers trust God to deliver them from sickness, perils, dangers, and hardships?

Paul did not escape his many difficulties and hardships; he had to walk through them. But God was with him in every trial and delivered him from certain death each time, because Paul knew and trusted his Deliverer. The Christian life is not a panacea that promises freedom from hardships and difficulties. However, Christ made a way for us to overcome those trials and tribulations that invade the human experience.

Many Christians are becoming disillusioned in their faith, because they don't really know their Deliverer. Initially, a pastor or a well-intentioned Christian promised them their life would change for the better if they would accept Christ as their Savior. Unfortunately, they didn't hear the entire truth. Life can only be better when we invest our time in personal prayer and study of God's Word. For Jesus is the Word, the truth and the life. Therefore, if we are in Christ and He in us, then we must invest our lives in His Word.

God's Word encourages, sustains, gives life, hope, faith, and makes promises to those who obey Him. Unfortunately, too many believe that going to church and hearing a sermon once a week is all that is necessary to be a "good" Christian. The vast majority of Christians own a Bible that is never read nor studied. It is just something to carry to church on Sunday or to gather dust on a shelf. And because they have not studied God's Word, they see God as a powerful Creator who is too busy with the affairs of the universe to be concerned with their "insignificant" problems.

God not only cares about every aspect of our lives, He desires a personal relationship with each one of us. Without that relationship, our faith can be easily shaken when there is a crisis. Sadly, some become embittered and disillusioned with God, and eventually backslide into their old lifestyle.

Faith is not mental ascent. It must be built on the foundation of God's Word — nothing more and nothing less. Jesus is the incarnation of God's Word. He is the Word made flesh. When we read and commit His Word to our hearts, it becomes alive and active us, filling us with hope and faith. Obeying Him becomes the joy and strength of our lives.

When we are faced with trials, let us remember the words of the apostle James: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4 NIV).

Faith Under Fire

Many Christians are becoming pesky as they view the moral and cultural breakdown in our society. In the midst of a depraved culture like ours, there are many durable Christians who are standing tall and unbowed before a skeptical world by making their faith known without fear or trepidation. Remember, real Christians don't fudge true faith; only the generic ones do. The Christian life is 'gloriously difficult,' but the difficulty does not make us a coward or fainthearted. When we are under fire; we do not cave in; we press on and have no taste for corruptible doctrine.

The irony is that many souls have succumbed to the oily charms of men whose hearts are filled with crass materialism and shallow faith. The hallmark of a true believer is his refusal to be stifled, or mesmerized, or soured, or made helpless by shifting and changing circumstances. Let me remind you with absolute candor that men are not invincible. No matter how brilliant they plan, no matter how well they execute, events over which they have no control can ruin what they have spend a lifetime toiling and building.

Oh, man, take it to heart! Don't get so tacky! Don't be so high and mighty! Don't pass judgment on God! Always, remember, nothing ever stays permanent in this life. Life is fleeting. The bank of heaven is not broke. Please don't use the blessings God has entrusted to your care to intimidate God's precious people who cry out to Him day

and night. Where are the tyrants of yester years who persecuted Christians? I will tell you where they are. Today, their bodies lie in some forgotten tomb of antiquity. For example, Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king, who once ruled the world, and Jeremiah was a dejected prophet who did not possess any social or political power. Let me ask you: "Where is Nebuchadnezzar now and what happened to Babylon? The Babylonian empire fell, nothing left of Nebuchadnezzar except a cruel name, a few clay tablets and ruins where jackals dwell. However, Jeremiah the lonely prophet of God who possessed a power that Nebuchadnezzar was unable to grasp, and it is same today with many tyrants and despots who miscalculate the power of the Almighty God. By the way, in the religious history, Jeremiah is a revered prophet the world over. May I say with absolute candor that man is held in the hand of God over the precipice of life, and he is under a sentence of judgment and such judgment can be averted only by calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world? The glory of God is upon those who put their trust in Him, like Martin Luther, the father of Reformation. When the Emperor summoned a little monk from Wittenberg to Worms to answer for his heresy, what difference did it make that Luther wrote: "A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing." Remember, God promised to deliver us in the fire, not from the fire.

Man searches for God, but God doesn't have to search for man; He knows man from the cradle to his grave and beyond. Michelangelo said a wonderful thing, "the more the marble wears, the better the image grows." Likewise, the more a Christian undergoes persecution and suffering, the better he radiates with the brilliance of God.

Is Holiness Dull?

Voices from the Past

"How little people know who think that holiness is dull. When one meets the real thing...it is irresistible. If even 10 percent of the world's population had it, would not the whole World be converted and happy before a year's end?"

— C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

"A holy life is a voice; it speaks when the tongue is silent and is either a constant attraction or a perpetual reproof."

— Archbishop Robert Leighton (1611-1684)



Matthew Skariah

God is God and man is man

In my years of service to God, I've come to the conclusion of two (2) incontrovertible facts that there is a living God who is supreme over all things, and man is only a speck on the radar of God's universe. Furthermore, God has placed man in a playpen

and does not realize that the freedom he enjoys is limited by the sides of the playpen. God allows us to make moves in His universe, but ultimately He controls every move we make — believe it or not. So it is obvious that God is God and man is man. There is no need to redefine the existence of God and man. It would be very wise to leave things alone and let God be God. If we believe in the sovereignty of God, we must realize that this world is under His supreme command and nothing escapes Him. As the prophet Isaiah wrote, All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field.

Believing God requires humility and humility is such a great price in the eyes of God. There are many who promise that they can navigate the universe safely through the storms of life. For example the scientist proclaims he can control the weather, the quack who claims he can heal the sick, and the psychic claims that he has occult powers that can take the untamable universe and tame it. God has

created a beautiful world but man has turned it into a valley of tears. Everything that man touches pollutes because he has rejected the Creator and claims to be his own god by subscribing to the idiotic theory that he lives larger than life. What a come on? Life is a gift from God and we need to be grateful to Him as we take each breath. Which is greater? The universe or the God Who created the universe? The Creator that encompasses the creation is more marvelous and revelatory than the creation that encompasses the Creator. The clouds are the dust of His feet.

If we're not under the authority of God, then under whose authority are we? God was, is and forever shall be the supreme ruler of the universe. And one thing more: Know well that it does not diminish or destroy God's throne if you or I or atheists or agnostics do not believe it. God does not resign His throne because man has a quarrel with his maker. God is the great undefended and unconquerable One. All is safe in God's hands. Beware of all those who glory in their accomplishments that deny God's sovereign power. There is a great fraud that is being perpetrated on the citizens of the world by those who don't believe in His sovereign majesty, but God is forever the same. Robert Browning understood when he wrote the following: God's in heaven, all's right with the world. The best thing we can do in shaky times such as ours is to discover the unshakable. Are we doing that, if so, we can experience God's peace in the midst of turmoil and chaos?

O Thou who changes not, abide with me.

BIBLE CONFERENCE AND REVIVAL

BIBLE CONFERENCE

September 7-11

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
206 E. Main
Durant, Oklahoma

ANTHONY WILLIAMS, PASTOR

REVIVAL

September 12-14

BELVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH
1040 N. Yale
Tulsa, Oklahoma

TOM BRANCH, PASTOR

REVIVAL

October 6-12

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
WILD PEACH
4895 CR 353, Brazoria, Texas

JOHN BREWER, PASTOR