

Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

Founded 1957.

P.O. Box 16099, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Gratis.

PRAYER INTIMACY and POWER

The Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield, Sharing, May 2013

"However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them." (Luke 5.15-17)

Jesus often withdrew for prayer, and so must we if we are to be effective in the healing ministry. He and the Father were ONE, and we can be too. When we are intimate with God we get a spirit of knowing. Call it a combination of discernment, recognition, familiarity,



sentience and attentiveness - intimacy is all these things. When you spend time with the Lord, the Spirit just sort of rolls in over you, and suddenly, you are there. He becomes the God who is there, Jehovah Shammah. Words fail here, but in effect, we get it! We begin to sense and truly know God; it becomes a love affair, a giddy tryst. From this platform of deep friendship He can orchestrate any shift in ministry atmosphere and bring about intense spiritual advancement. The same power that was in Jesus the man becomes present for us too; it is the power to heal. We are lost without Him being present. Oh, it is the greatest treasure we have!

Several years ago God used Bill Johnson to impart to our healing center team a wondrous new dimension to our ministry, the "lightnings of God." Habakkuk 3.4 says of God, "His cloud-brightness like dawn, exploding, spreading - forked-lightning shooting from his hand - what power hidden in that fist!" This means His right hand is lightning! When Bill laid his hands into our extended palms, the power of God came through just as the word describes it. Then Bill looked me right in the eye and said, "This will do you no good, it will remain dormant unless you develop intimacy with Jesus." Wow! What an impact those words had.

Fortunately, I had already been spending a lot of time with Jesus each morning. When I got home a pastor called and asked me to pray for a young man being drawn into Satanism and gang warfare. I met with him briefly, looked at him, and asked how it felt to be drawn to Satan and God at the same time. He said, "It is splitting my head." He was hit with agonizing pain. I said, "Jesus, come!" Instantly, fifty thousand Volts of lightning shot through his body, leaving him trembling under the power. I simply asked him this, "Which one do you want, the One with the lightning bolt, or the one with the headache?" He said, "The lightning bolt!" The headache completely disappeared, and I led him to the Lord right there on the spot. Glory, he is now a mighty warrior for Jesus, and he is

leading others out of Satanism and gang warfare. Oh, the power of prayer intimacy! Oh how we - the OSL, all Christians - need prayer intimacy so that we might "know him, and the power of his resurrection." (Philippians 3.10) and that we might, "set free those who are

held by chains without any reason. Untie the ropes that hold people as slaves. Set free those who are crushed. Break every evil chain." (Isaiah 58.6 NIRV) Let it be so!

Jehovah Shammah,

Give us, your people, the Spirit of prayer.

We know nothing happens of real significance without it.

Make us true to our Rule of Life that involves deep prayer and worship in your Presence.

Teach us, like Jesus, to at times withdraw from all of our business, and to learn the secret of how to get the power of the Presence to heal on the scene.

We hear the cries of a broken, demonized, hurting and very lost world, but we are not helpless.

First and foremost, Lord, teach us the power of intimate prayer. Amen

Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield will be one of the keynote speakers at the OSL conference in New Zealand in October. Further details are on page 3.

in which His children find themselves. Indeed, God Himself tells us that He is so much more than just aware, "I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome." (Jeremiah 29.11 AMP) Of course He cares! There can absolutely be no doubt, for we know that Jesus "is at the right-hand side of God, pleading with him for us!" (Romans 8.34)

As long as we are walking faithfully in the light that we have been given we have no reason to call anything that happens to us "bad". No doubt those who witnessed Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and death thought things were as bad as they could get - it was indeed the singular darkest day in human history - but we know now what God's perspective was concerning that terrible event. He had a plan, a glorious plan, and Jesus had lovingly counselled his disciples to trust in its author. And, no matter whatever befalls us, God also calls us to trust Him. That is the end of the matter. Amen.



*From the
Editor*

"Why, God, why?"

In moments of stress almost all of us have asked of God some variant of the above question: "Why couldn't you have ...?" "Why didn't you ...?" "Why won't you ...?" Even the closest of disciples can be mystified at our Lord's decisions. Following the death of Lazarus, Martha and Mary each said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died!" (John 11.21, 32) A possible translation: "Why, oh, why did you wait for some days before coming? It would have all been so different if you had done things the way we had hoped you would!" In short: "Lord, don't you care?"

Of course Jesus could have come earlier and healed Lazarus, but God had a far greater outcome envisioned. We all know what happened: Jesus raised Lazarus back to life, leading to immeasurable joy for Martha and Mary, and to incredible fame for Lazarus and Jesus (unwanted though it may have been). Rarely however do we see God's glory manifested as wondrously as it was in this instance. On many occasions it is only the eye of faith that perceives God working out His master plan. And in the times when we have little or no insight into why God has or hasn't done something, something that we are profoundly concerned about, what are we to think? Is God no longer with us? Is He no longer for us? The difficult truth to accept is that it is actually we who don't understand our situation.

While there is nothing God cannot do, there are many things He won't do. And again, there are many things that He will do that are contrary to our sensibilities, simply because He knows the end from the beginning. He was there before He created this world, and He will be there after it ceases to exist. We will also be there by His grace, but in the meantime we are called to trust that He knows best, and that He is acting in our real interests, whether we are enjoying our circumstances or not. Such trust doesn't remove our confusion, hurt or grief, but it does provide an anchor for our soul, steadying us when otherwise we might be overcome by events we wouldn't choose, but which God sees in a very different light than we do.

With our sub-atomic sized grasp of the issues of divinity and eternity we can have the misconception that God's understanding, and His motives, are images of ours. But that isn't so: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55.8,9) The little that we think we know is only seen "through a glass, darkly" (1 Cor. 13.12), being coloured by our human limitations and by our world's state of corruption. Therefore we must trust God. But how do we cultivate a heart-attitude of abiding faith? We need to spend time sitting under edifying ministry, we need to read testimonies of God's faithfulness, and above all we need to be reading the Scriptures, an activity for which there is no substitute. "For faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10.17) From start to finish the accounts in the bible absolutely confirm God's full awareness of the situations

MIRACULOUSLY HEALED OF ARTHRITIS

Janet Cornelius

In 1984 while living in England I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. When I asked my doctor about recommended diets he replied, "Whatever you do, you will end up in a wheelchair, and it would be inadvisable to continue to ride your motorcycle." I remember walking out of the surgery very angry. Our children were just at the age to leave home, and my husband and I greatly enjoyed motorcycling together! Outside, I met a friend who was a Christian and who believed in the Christian healing ministry. Even though I attended church regularly I had never heard of Jesus healing today. My friend suggested that I go and speak to the Deaconess at my church. I was not very sure about doing this, but eventually I gained enough courage to knock on her door. She suggested that I pray about it, and so I went back home and I prayed. Eventually things began happening, even though I did not realise it at the time.

One day the church I attended held a Healing Service, something that I had not heard about before. I attended and went up for prayer. This led to my joining my friend's Bible Study group and I began to read and study the Bible. Over the next 18 months I continued attending the group, and then one day my friend told me that the Reverend Barry Kissell was giving a Day Seminar, and asked me if I would like to come. I was not too sure about it, but said that I might. I eventually decided to go, and rode there on my motorcycle. As I entered the building a thought went through my head: "Am I going to be healed today?" It was more a question than a positive belief, as I was still not too sure about things. The morning teaching session was interesting, but I was worried to learn that the afternoon session would be "Ministry." Ministry? What was that? I had not heard of the word before.

Barry asked us to stand and hold out our hands. This I did. Next he asked those who had tingling in their hands and who wanted healing to come out to the front. Mine were tingling, so I went to the front where I was told to go up to one of the couples on the stage for prayer. Feeling rather nervous, as I did not understand what was happening, I went to my friend and



her prayer partner. They prayed for me for healing of rheumatoid arthritis. Prayer continued for quite a while, then suddenly there was a massive power flowing through me over and over again. It was like an endless electrical shock travelling through me from the top of my head to my feet. Then I began to shake. At once I knew that I had been healed. I continued to shake for the rest of the afternoon, and I began to wonder if I would be able to ride my motorcycle home. Then the words came to me, "Jesus brought me here, He will guide me back home." This was a very different way of thinking for me.

The day was October 9th 1986. I discontinued my medication and have not had any in the 27 years since. When I had a blood test taken two years ago in 2011 I told the nurse that I had been healed of rheumatoid arthritis. Being a Christian, she prayed over the blood. The result was negative; I was totally clear. Praise the Lord!!!

One other blessing that came from that healing was a great urge to study the Bible. I was never a studious person or even very confident at school. I plodded along, mainly passing exams but never with excellent results, but now I found that I wanted to learn. In England I attended many seminars, mainly on Healing. Then in 1993 my husband and I moved to New Zealand, where I completed the long-distance course I had been studying. Then at the beginning of 2000 I commenced an online Christian Bible Study course led by Rev. Dr. Brian Hooper. In 2003, at the age of 73, I gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies. I was amazed! I have become a Licensed Lay Minister and am a Chaplain for a Rest Home, Hospital and Dementia unit. Prior to my healing I would never have dreamt of achieving all these things.

I became a member of the Order of St. Luke in New Zealand when we moved here, and I continue to be active in my local chapter. I so very much believe in the Christian healing ministry, having seen and personally received so much healing over the years. But I especially thank God for that first time that changed my life, both physically and spiritually. Truly, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15.26)

Continue Sowing the Good Seed

The Vine Today

"For the earth bears fruit: first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear." (Mark 4.28)

Many great histories of blessing may be traced back to a very small seed. A woman whose name is forgotten once left a Christian tract that was found by a man named Richard Baxter. He picked it up and read it, and it led him to Christ. He became a fervent



Christian, and wrote a book entitled, "A Call to the Unconverted", which brought many people to know Christ, including Philip Doddridge. Philip Doddridge in turn wrote "The Rise and Progress of Religion", which led many into the kingdom of God, among them the great William

Wilberforce. Wilberforce wrote, "A Practical View of Christianity", which was the means of saving a multitude, among them Legh Richmond. In his turn Legh Richmond wrote the book called "The Dairyman's Daughter", which has been instrumental in the conversion of thousands.

The dropping of that one little tract seemed a very small thing to do; but see what a wonderful, many-branched tree sprang from it! This is just one illustration of how God's grace springs up from the smallest seed. One seed planted in a heart, dropped by some very humble worker, perhaps unconsciously, may not only save a soul for an eternity, but may

Sow the Good Seed

The Vine Today

"The sower sows the word." (Mark 4.14)

In the Parable of the Sower the soil represents the human heart. Thorns and briars grow naturally in either place without sowing or cultivation. We do not need to be taught in order to be wicked. But if good things are to grow in our hearts they must be sown and cultivated, and the seeds must be brought from heaven. The words of the Bible are divine seeds, having wondrous power in themselves. Like natural seeds they grow when planted, but these heavenly ones produce plants of righteousness. Until the Sower comes,



our hearts are like a barren desert, or to put it another way, like neglected gardens, overgrown with weeds and briars. Then, when we receive the good seed with faith and love, our lives are changed forever, and our hearts are made to blossom like a beautiful flower.

We then have a wonderful privilege, to become sowers of this good seed ourselves. To fulfil this call we must take heed that we really sow the "word." There is no other seed that will yield the harvest of spiritual life, for only the words of God have life in them. "The words that I speak unto you," said Jesus, "they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6.63) With these heavenly seeds implanted into people's hearts, we shall not have to look hard for the promised fruit.

It is indeed a holy privilege to be permitted to help the Great Gardener in the sowing of His precious seed. We can carry it with us and drop it wherever we go. This we can do by being full of the Word, thus having something of eternal value to give out in every encounter. In a practical sense we can sow the seed by distributing tracts and giving invitations, and we can sow the seed by writing letters or emails to communicate a truth suited to each recipient's particular need. And of course we can live in such a way that our daily influence results in the continual scattering of heavenly seeds all about us. Then one day we shall stand before the Great Gardener to show the fruit of all our planting, and He will say the words that will be our crown forever, "Well done my good and faithful sower."

start a series of divine influences that will touch thousands of other lives. A simple invitation from his brother brought Simon to Jesus, and what a tree sprang from that seed!

Let us go on, day by day, dropping seeds into as many hearts as we can. We may not always know what comes of them, but from a single one may spring a divine chain of blessing that will reach thousands of souls. What is the Kingdom of God? "It is like to a grain of mustard, which a man having taken, did cast into his garden, and it increased, and came to a great tree ..." (Luke 13.19 YLT)

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

For all OSL enquiries: Rev. Brian Flower, National Chaplain Order of St Luke the Physician in New Zealand, phone 07 575 8802, email: natchap@oslnz.org www.oslnz.org.

For prayer requests, testimonies etc., contact "Wholeness" using the addresses on page 4.



Jesus said, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. This gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations." (Matthew 24.9-11,14)

We in the Western world seem secure against severe persecution caused by our faith, but elsewhere there are many Christians who are faced with acute hardship and the very real possibility of death itself at the hands of extremists. For those of us in the Order of St Luke in the Western world, secure in the profession of our faith, the worst we can be faced with is unbelief, and perhaps scorn, that we should believe such superstitious claims as divine healing. To the unbeliever, claims of answers to prayer, where recovery from surgery or illness is much more rapid than is normal, are brushed off as coincidences. A diagnosis of cancer, followed by further tests showing that the tumour has disappeared after prayer, is passed off as a misdiagnosis in the first place. To put these attitudes in perspective, there are parts of the world where to be a Christian disqualifies one from employment, medical care, accommodation, education and possibly life itself.

To illustrate, at the time of writing this article, less than two weeks have passed since news was received of the deaths of the immediate past secretary of the Order of St Luke in Nigeria and his wife. The killings, which took place in their own church, were carried out by Muslim extremists. Only two years previously a Christian leader there found his house had been burned with his wife and children inside. Then there are places such as the Sudan where whole tribes of Christians

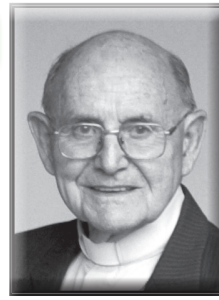
Healing From A Stroke

Rev. D. Pryde, *The Exciting Spiritual Tool Kit*



A man of seventy two was paralysed in half his body. He was a man who practised his belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and who read his Bible. He knew Mark 16.18, where Jesus promises that believers in Him will have the power to heal in His Name; they will place their hands on the sick, who will get well. He knew that the laying-on of hands, like prayer and the anointing with oil, are the outward signs of the inward healing power of Jesus Christ. He also knew that the Bible tells us that we should repent of our sins before the healing prayer, and then we can be assured of our forgiveness through Jesus' Name.

The man called the elders of the Church, and we laid hands on him and anointed him in Jesus' Name. Immediately he felt better, and over the next few days his body became normal again. He lived another eleven years, praise God! Just like the man in Acts 3.16, "He was made completely well because of faith in Jesus."



Rev. Brian Flower

are dispossessed of their lands and banished to barren countryside to starve. What are we to do?

There is an answer. In Matthew's Gospel 5.43-45 Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." I am always impressed by those who have had a loved one killed through the negligence or deliberate actions of another and declare forgiveness of the guilty person. I know that I myself struggle to forgive those who in any way hurt or harm my loved ones. And yet it is what I am called to do. Again, Jesus taught us to pray, "Father, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." One could ask whether it is acceptable to not forgive the extremists spoken of above, as they have not sinned against us personally. The answer would be that they have indeed sinned against us, as they have sinned against our brother and sister in Christ. We must pray that the persons concerned will come to know Christ and repent. St Luke in his Gospel records Jesus saying of his executioners, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Our heartfelt prayers are offered for all those who are under oppression for their faith, that they may have the comfort and support of the Holy Spirit.

Rev Brian Flower, National Chaplain OSL NZ
Email natchap@oslnz.org

Access to the Father

(Nicky Gumble, www.alphausa.org)

"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5.2)



During the American Civil War a soldier had been given permission to have a hearing with the President. As a result of a family tragedy he wanted to request exemption from military service. But when he arrived at the White House he was refused entry and was sent away. As he was sitting in a nearby park a young boy came across to him and remarked about how unhappy he looked. The soldier found himself pouring out his heart, until eventually the boy said, 'Look, come with me.'

They went around to the back of the White House. None of the guards stopped them; even the generals and the high-ranking government officials let them pass through. With the soldier's amazement growing as they approached the West Wing they finally came to the presidential office. Without knocking, the young boy opened the door of the Oval Office, walked straight in, and there was Abraham Lincoln, standing in conversation with the Secretary of State. As they entered the room President Lincoln turned to the boy and said, 'Todd, what can I do for you?' And Todd said, 'Dad, this soldier needs to talk to you.' He had access, through the son.

And that's just what Paul says of us: we also have access to God, through the Son! Through what Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross we can enter the most Holy Place of all, the Father's presence. Without any merit of our own, we have total, extravagant access to the Father. What a reason indeed to rejoice in hope!

Conference - Christ's Healing in the Third Millenium

The Order of St Luke in New Zealand is hosting a unique event in October of this year. This will be the 5th International Conference of the Order and the first in this country. The gathering is open to those interested or involved in Christian healing ministry.



We are bringing together keynote speakers from the northern and southern hemispheres. The Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield is the Director of the United States OSL and Dr. Colin Campbell is on the Board of the Canadian OSL. Dr. Annette Rice is National Chaplain from Australia and the Right Rev. Dr. Kelvin Wright is Bishop of Dunedin. In addition there will be workshops led by folk from the UK, India and Australia as well as New Zealand. This Conference will be the first with a speaker from the Third World, in that we have invited Bishop Probal Dutta of the Durgapal Diocese in India to speak and lead a workshop.

Other firsts are the offering of two eco-workshops in acknowledgment of the increasing awareness of the need for the healing and the care of creation, and also cross-cultural expression of healing ministry. There will be a choice to attend two of sixteen workshops, with the details being

on the OSL New Zealand website. The Conference begins on the morning of Tuesday 15 October and concludes with lunch on Friday 18 October. For those coming from overseas, including an expectation of some from the African continent, we are arranging a shuttle

bus from the Auckland Airport on the morning of 15 October. Details of the programme, including the registration process, are on the website at <http://www.oslnz.org/NZIntConference.htm>. For further enquiries you may also email the Planning Convenor: dereklightbourne@xtra.co.nz, or the National Chaplain, Rev Brian Flower: natchap@oslnz.org, or 1 Monterey Key, Papamoa 3118, New Zealand.

We are truly excited about this unique event, and look forward to the Spirit's working among those attending, and to His ongoing revival of the healing ministry through the church in the third millennium. Do pray earnestly if you are called to be part of this special gathering. "Jesus gave them power and authority ... and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal." (Luke 9.1,2)

Rev. Derek Lightbourne, Conference Convenor

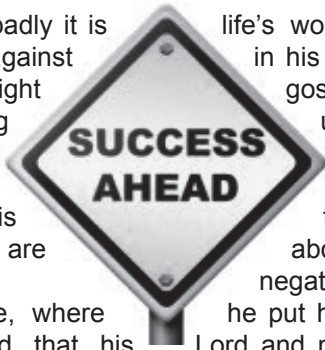
BE POSITIVE!

“I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.” (Philippians 2.24)

Based on the writings of John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

When things are turning out badly it is tempting to feel that the world is against you, and that nothing will ever go right again. You can even get to thinking that God Himself has it in for you, and that there is nothing at all you can do to improve things. This is not so, of course, but feelings are powerful things.

Paul was in prison in Rome, where he could well have considered that his



life's work was over. He was thwarted in his desire to get out and spread the gospel further, and faced a most uncertain future, which included the possibility of being put to death. Paul certainly had plenty to be pessimistic and miserable about, and he could have given in to negative thinking and despair. Instead he put his situation into the hands of the Lord and made the decision to be positive. The verse in Philippians tells us that he looked forward with confidence to being released and to revisiting the people of Philippi. As far as we know he never did. Nevertheless, in the face of uncertainty, Paul opted to be positive rather than negative, knowing that his attitude affected not only himself but also those to whom he wrote and those who supported him.

If you are in a situation where you are “up against it”, decide to be positive. If you don't then you will only make matters worse for yourself, and you will spread negativity around you. However dark your day, believe and plan for a better future, looking ahead with faith in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom to find the positive and creative things you can do now to improve your lot, and get on with those, however small or trivial they may be. “The people should not think that small beginnings are unimportant. They will be happy ...” (Zechariah 4.10) Aim to be happy!

The Other Side

The Vine Today

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let's go over to the other side.” (Mark 4.35)

Christ is continually saying the same to us, though with varying meaning in his words. He is always calling us to move on into new territory, new experiences, new privileges, new duties, new conflicts, and new joys.

He says it to the unrepentant when he graciously invites them to become his disciples. He wants them to cut loose from this world, from sin and all their old dead past, and rise up and go with him to the better life. He invites them to His Father's country, into His Father's family. It is a land of blessing, beauty, plenty and great riches. True, there is a sea that must be crossed to reach it. No one can reach the glorious country on “the other side” without passing over this sea, and no one can pass over without encountering the storms of life. There are dire struggles, fierce temptations, the ongoing battle to deny self, and many losses and sorrows before we can reach heaven; but the reward is so great that we should be ready to endure any hardship or suffering to win it.

Then Christ gives the same call and invitation to His people when they reach the end of their earthly lives and He comes to take them home. No one wants to contemplate death or even think about dying, but there's no reason to be afraid of it. On the other side glory waits! There is the Father's house with many rooms (John 14.2). And however dark and terrible may seem the narrow sea that has to be crossed, there is no danger, because Jesus himself accompanies His people, and none of them will die the second death (Rev. 2.11). When God calls us to come over to the other side, we must surely rejoice to leave this corrupted world, and enter into the new and eternal life in glory.

“If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For Christ died and rose to life in order to be the Lord of the living and of the dead.” (Romans 14.8,9)

HOW TO ORDER

“Wholeness” is supported entirely by love offerings: mainly from individual readers and especially those who regularly send a “birthday present in reverse”. Some churches and groups allocate a special offering to this Ministry.

Cheques in your currency are acceptable, but not Postal Notes. For donations to our KiwiBank account number 3890050310586-00 please include your name in the details space. For N.Z. receipts (tax deductible) a stamped and addressed envelope is appreciated. God bless you all and thank you.

We love to hear from you: testimonies, news, donations, and requests for prayer. Please address all such letters to our editorial office. We also hope that you will interest others in our paper.

Editorial Office: Box 16099, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Ph. 07-843 4008, E Mail: wholeness_1@xtra.co.nz.

Web site: <http://www.wholenessinhim.net>

Director: Michael Ferri Editorial and general correspondence.

Donations & Accounts: Bob Sherson **Prayer:** Malia Ferri

“WHOLENESS”

God is a Rock

The Daily Bible Verse, Dave Whitehead, GraceNYC.org

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Psalm 18.2)



The Psalmist gives us language that should grab all of our attention. When we run into hardship, we need to go to God and not away from God. In His word we find a strength that gets us through the pain and trials that we all face. When we are overwhelmed, let us run to our Bible to claim the promises of God.

“Everything written in the scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the scriptures give us.... May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your faith will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15.4,13) He has the power, He has all strength, He is our rock!

The Key To Pleasing God

Intercessors For New Zealand

The Old Testament prophets preached it. John the Baptist preached it. Jesus preached it. Peter preached it. Seven times in the messages to the seven churches in Revelation the key word occurs. But what does “repent” mean? It means to change our way of thinking so that we think what God thinks, not what fallen Man thinks. And it means living according to that changed way of thinking. **God rules, so it's God's rules!** And what does God want? God wants what is best – for us! God is not mean; God doesn't want to make life difficult. He loves us and wants to bless us, and so His ways are the right ways, the best ways, the ways of blessing!

We truly need to pray that a spirit of repentance will fall first on the Church and then on unbelievers. There is a heresy that repentance and confession are no longer necessary because Jesus has “done it all 2000 years ago on the cross.” Another apostasy is that a gracious God loves and accepts everyone, so people who are living in sin don't need to change their lifestyles because God understands and loves them anyway. The tragic result of this belief is that people can be totally at home in a church without ever hearing a call to change their way of life, even if God's word plainly says what they are doing is wrong. They deserve to hear, and we are called to



share, the key to the abundant life about which the Bible is so clear.

Rather than accept the increasing tolerance of sinful behaviour and practices amongst church-going people, we need to be confident in endorsing the unadorned message: “Go, and sin no more.” We are far from building God's Kingdom if our emphasis is on avoiding offence, affirming rights, and following the world's definition of inclusiveness. Jesus was certainly inclusive - he was inclusive of multitudes of people whose lives he brought into glorious freedom and alignment with the will of God. Today Jesus still calls absolutely everyone to receive the very best He has for them. “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God - what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” (Romans 12.2)

WE PACK AND PROCESS

We dispatch as follows: Envelopes of 2 or 5; N.Z. packs of 10, 20, 30 etc. Overseas packs of 10 or multiples of 20. (Our most economic rate.)

N.B. For change of address or order please try to return your label.

The Editorial Director takes full responsibility for the contents of all published articles, but takes no responsibility for any other views or teachings which may be held by the various authors quoted.

We acknowledge typesetting by Image Graphics, Levin, printing by **Beacon Print, Whakatane, N.Z.;** **distributors everywhere.** Published by Michael Ferri, 6 Dallingier Street, Hamilton, in association with the Order of St. Luke, New Zealand.