

Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

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From the
Editor

“Jesus Christ Makes You Well”

(Acts 9.34)

Jesus is STILL Astounding!

Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield, Interim Director North American OSL, Sharing March 2012

It says in the Gospel of Mark that when Jesus taught He astounded the people. They would say things like, “What is this? Is it some kind of new teaching? This man has authority to give orders to the evil spirits, and they obey him!” (Mark 1.27) As he literally dismantled the devil right in front of thousands of people, great fear would come upon all of them. When is the last time Jesus astounded you with His Words and deeds?



Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield

The truth is that His cross and His blood are indeed **truly astonishing**. It is not just, “Well, that’s nice. I’ll go to church once a week for that.” Martyn Lloyd Jones, a powerful evangelist of the last century, said these words, “Possibly one of the most devastating things in the church today is that we cease to expect anything to happen.” I too believe the chief sin of the Church is boredom. In essence, the dullness of religious routine can suffocate God’s people. We reach a place of becoming too familiar with our perception of Jesus; and it becomes possible that we don’t allow Him to move us any more.

We need a powerful Jesus again, and this begins with an appreciation of the cross, an event that transcends time. The Son of Man is a saviour who transcends time; He is “... the same yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13.8) The cross is everlasting because His blood sacrifice is eternal. Eternity is not a long time – it is NO time! That means

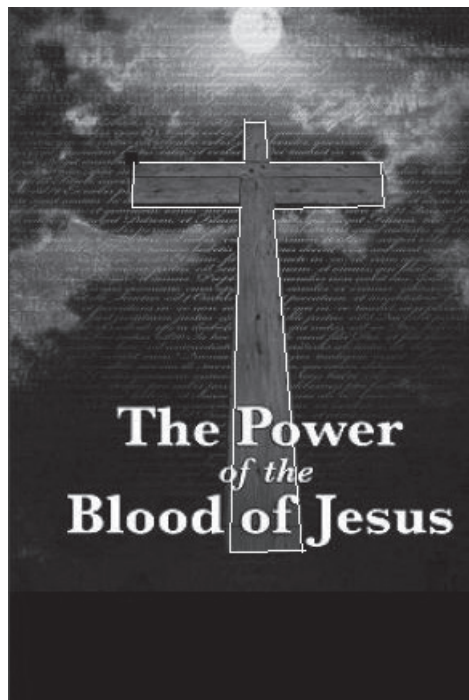
Wow! Jesus is so stunning, because there is nothing He cannot touch.

the cross and the blood of Jesus have the power to destroy any work of the devil in our present, our past and even in our future. Is that not astounding!? We have seen Him annihilate the bondage of the past even as it ravages a person’s circumstances in the present. He does this by “showing up” in painful, traumatic memories and releasing the captive. Even for us, God is destroying things that would come on us at this very minute. He is crushing them before they ever get to us. Wow! Jesus is so stunning, because there is nothing He cannot touch, nothing He cannot do!

One night we were celebrating Communion, and when the cup of salvation, the Blood of Jesus, was offered to a young man who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, Satan picked him up and slammed him to the ground. The smell of sulfur filled the room. And believe you me, it was electric! We immediately went into a deliverance session, and in a relatively short time, he was completely free of years of horrible bondage spent in mental institutions. Love and grace consumed this man. His doctors took him completely off his medications, and he has never had another psychotic event again. All it took was offering him the Blood of Jesus. **Oh, how there is power in the Blood!** This was just as in the

Bible, where Jesus took authority over demons. Believe me when I say that a real sense of expectancy came into that church, with many healings occurring from that time on. A divine culture of the miraculous covered us for months on end.

Jesus said, “I am the Way...” not “I am one of the many ways.” The cross is the most unique event in all history. The blood of Christ accomplishes what nothing else can. Rev. 12.11 tells us that we overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony. A Spirit of Triumph comes upon us as Saint Paul said in 2 Cor. 2.14, “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us



to triumph in Christ.” The blood brings us into holiness, without which no person can see God. It cleanses us from ALL sin! The blood causes us to have fellowship with one another, and to walk in the light of God. **How big is that!?** In a time of such fragmentation and division, it unifies the Body of Christ and causes us to love each other with an unfeigned affection. That alone is extraordinary enough. Yes, my friends, because of the eternal cross, Jesus is still truly astounding us! Be astounded!

Peter’s words to the paralysed Aeneas are very simple, yet they are also very profound. They tell us unequivocally how healing takes place. It doesn’t occur because of the presence of an apostle, it doesn’t occur because of me, or you, or our faith, or someone else’s faith. Healing occurs for the one and only reason that “Jesus Christ makes you well.” A short time later in the book of Acts, Peter’s testimony to Cornelius and his household is again totally clear, “He [Jesus] went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10.38) Of course we need no reminder that Jesus healed when he was with the disciples. Neither were the people who witnessed Aeneas walking around the city left in any doubt as to who had performed the miracle, “All the people living in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.” (Acts 9.35)

On to the present. The needs of the people around us today are the same as those of the people who lived two thousand years ago, and miracles of healing are still a testimony to who Jesus is. Remember our Lord’s own words, “... even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father”. (John 10.38) Since speaking these words, Jesus hasn’t changed in the slightest, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13.8) And God is still glorified in the same way as described in John 15.8, “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit.” So, bearing much fruit glorifies God, and miracles lead to much fruit. Therefore, the question has to be asked, why do we not see the amazing events as recorded in the book of Acts occurring around us on a daily basis? One reason is given in the lead article by Jack Sheffield; we don’t expect to see them. Truly we can each do more to stir up our faith. Let us make a decision, and one step further, let us make a commitment, to do so.

Another subtle stumbling block to our presenting the gospel as dynamically as we should and could is that we can be found focusing on our faith, or on our prayers, or on the ministry of others, when we need to be focused on Jesus. The words are very simple, “Jesus Christ makes you well.” Let us believe the words; let us believe this key to the kingdom, “Jesus Christ makes you well!” Amen

A Victory Prayer

Jesus, we are not ashamed of the cross,
for it is the power of your Father to heal,
deliver, and to set the captives utterly free!

Crucify anything of apathy and passivity in us that dares
to diminish the beauty and efficacy of your sacrifice.

Your stripes, your wounds, forever destroy
the notion of your indifference, O God.

Praise the precious Blood!

Our life resides there!

In Jesus, your Son’s mighty Name, AMEN

GOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

Linda Tagg, *The Encourager*, Nov. 2010

When our daughter Melanie was young she had episodes of illness during which she could not eat, leading to hospital stays where she was fed via a drip. During one summer, which happened to be very hot, Melanie had reached the point where she could not even drink water, and because children dehydrate quickly we knew that she would very soon have to return to hospital.



animals and could not bear to see it so thirsty. I agreed that it needed some water, and I pointed out that she needed a drink too. I told her that I would give the dog a drink if she would have a teaspoon of water. Even though her tummy was still very sore, Melanie agreed so that the dog could be looked after. Melanie had her teaspoon of water, the Samoyed had a drink, and then it jumped over the wall and out of sight.

It was our custom to pray with the children when we put them to bed; as we tucked Melanie up that night we prayed for a miracle so that we would not have to admit her to hospital the next day. We woke the next morning full of faith, expecting that Melanie had been healed and would be able to begin drinking again. However, her tummy was still very sore, and putting anything in it would make it worse. She did not want to go to hospital - she knew that the process was painful and unpleasant - but she could not bear to have a drink. We kept praying, but it did not seem as though God had a miracle for us at this time.

Melanie was lying on the sofa in the lounge, when she called out to me, "Mum, there's a dog at the door!" Sure enough, there was a beautiful, fluffy, white Samoyed standing on our back deck, looking in at Melanie through the open door. We were amazed because we had never seen a Samoyed in our area, and our garden had a fence right around, so we wondered where it could have come from. It stood there panting, and Melanie realized that it must be very hot with its long fur coat, so she asked me to give it a drink. She loves

A couple of hours later the dog was back at our door. We gave it a drink, and Melanie had another teaspoon of water. In the afternoon the Samoyed returned yet again. A teaspoon of water every couple of hours was not enough to keep Melanie out of hospital, so this time I asked her to have two teaspoons. She agreed, for the sake of the hot and thirsty dog. For the next few days that Samoyed kept coming to our back door, several times a day. Each time we gave it a drink while gradually increasing Melanie's fluid intake to rehydrate her. When she eventually tolerated some dilute soya milk we knew she was out of danger. We never saw the dog again.

I thank God that He gave us our miracle, but the lesson that I really learned was from Psalm 139, verses 1-3, where it talks about how well God knows us - how He understands our thoughts and all our ways. God had given Melanie a love of animals, and He used it to bring about her healing. He didn't just heal her; He showed us in the process how well He knows us, and how much He loves us. Is there any God like our God?

His Stripes, My Healing

By Joy Scott, *Sharing*, March 2012

"But He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53.5)



For two years I was unable to work at my job at a long-term care facility due to an injury I had sustained to my right arm. Most of the damage was a torn tendon in the elbow. After numerous visits to doctors, specialists and physiotherapists, as well as cortisone shots in both my elbow and shoulder, the final diagnosis was that the damage was permanent. I would just have to learn to live with the constant pain. Surgery was not possible as it could make my situation worse. I anxiously returned to work, wondering how I would be able to function in such a physically demanding job with so much discomfort.

One night in February 2011 I was alone at work and knew I would not have help for a few hours. Before long a patient needed care, and feeling uncomfortable about leaving them in that condition for so long, I gathered up all the things I would need and entered the room. I stood over the patient and thought, "How am I going to move you? How am I going to turn you by myself?" I grabbed hold of the sheets, bowed my head, and asked God to give me strength. I pulled and turned the patient in one move. With my arms outstretched holding the patient I waited for my arm to freeze up and the stabbing pain to begin. Nothing happened! I quickly took care of the patient and left the room. I leaned on the door as I braced myself for the pains to start shooting up my arm. Nothing happened! I removed my gloves, washed my hands, and then started turning my arm in all directions. No pain! I started screaming and jumping up and down, "Thank you God for healing me!" After twenty-six months of constant pain, I was now free!

Two weeks ago I visited my doctor and was given a clean bill of health! Thanks be to God for his healing touch. Thanks be to God for his faithfulness. "... I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15.26)

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which God has opened for us." Helen Keller, blind and deaf from 19 months

"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. Finally I ended up asking Him to do His work through me."

Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission

Healed of Leukemia

Rev'd Derek Pryde, *The Exciting Spiritual Tool Kit - Healing For You*

A very active sixty-two year-old man, a returned serviceman, had been treated for cancer in the blood cells by the best that medicine had to offer. Specialists in the field had treated him with radiation and cobalt rays, but the doctors told him that there was nothing more they could do; the condition was out of control. He had a fortnight to live, at the most, so they sent him home with pain killers.

The man came to a Breaking of Bread Service (Holy Communion). Afterwards the laying-on-of-hands was given for healing. He told me, sobbing, what the doctors had said, and then he placed his need, through me, with the Lord Jesus. The Lord heard his

cries of anguish, and healed him then and there. His pain and weakness gave way to health and fitness. After a month he went back to the Repatriation doctors. They were amazed and took tests, to find no sign of the disease.

This man lived another ten years of active life until he died of a heart attack.

Doctors and medical science are part of God's healing team. The sick person must trust them, while also praying to

the Lord at all times, and asking others to pray. Then there are times when we must trust completely in the Lord, for only He is perfect, and only He knows and meets our needs in a perfect way.



"Christmas does not promise an immediate end to struggles, trials and fears. Rather, it declares a way of travelling in God's peace into God's future - a future which is ultimately good and not evil, just and not cruel, light and not shadow - even in the midst of anxieties."

Archbishop Winston Halapua

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

For all OSL enquiries: Rev Bruce Hellyer, National Secretary,
159A Tramway Road, Enderley, Hamilton 3214, or phone 07 855 9447.

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



“Jesus said, ‘Go, preach the Kingdom of God, heal the sick.’”
(Luke 9.2)

As I write this, I am part of a group planning for a conference in New Zealand in October 2013 for the international partners of the Order of St Luke the Physician. The Order was established in the USA in 1947 by Rev Dr John Gayner Banks to encourage the churches to practise the healing ministry of Jesus in their regular worship. At that time very few churches were involved, but as time has gone on this God-ordained ministry has become widely practised in churches, and sister-branches of the Order have been established in Canada, the UK, the Netherlands, Australia, here in New Zealand and, just recently, in India. Members, including keynote speakers and workshop leaders, will come to the Conference from overseas as well as from here, including our own New Zealand Anglican Archbishop, who is also a member of the Order.

We believe that the healing ministry is the carrying out of the commission given by Jesus to the disciples, which includes the laying on of hands so that sick people might become well. (Mark 16.18) Testimonies abound as to the effectiveness of prayer, often accompanied by the laying on of hands and/or anointing, and which may be offered in the presence of the sick person or from a distance. If the one in need is not present another person can act as proxy and receive the laying on of hands on their behalf. I have been involved in all of



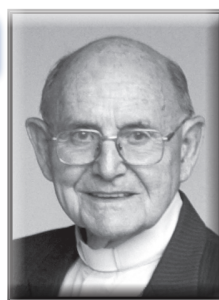
these circumstances, and have witnessed miraculous benefits to the one prayed for.

Healing is not a matter of faith or spiritual maturity. Some fervent, radiant Christians contract cancer or some similarly aggressive disease, and, in spite of prayers being offered by thousands all over the world, they die painful deaths. So there is not a magical formula. Certainly, some healing is instantaneous, but some is gradual, while some does not seem to occur at all. If the sick person is terminally ill there may be a miraculous recovery, or there may be the most perfect healing of all. Following a growing awareness of the intimate presence of God, the time comes for the blessed one to die and enter into the eternal glory of heaven.

In all cases, whether healing is apparent or not, there is always benefit from prayer; it is never wasted. The lifting of the spirit of the one prayed for, and of the one praying, is the greatest blessing of all.

If you wish to learn more, there is an abundance of written material available, and if there should be a chapter of the Order near you, or a local church that includes the healing ministry in its services, then you would be made most welcome. For direction to one, please contact me at the address below.

May you know God's richest blessings.
(Rev) Brian Flower, National Chaplain OSL NZ
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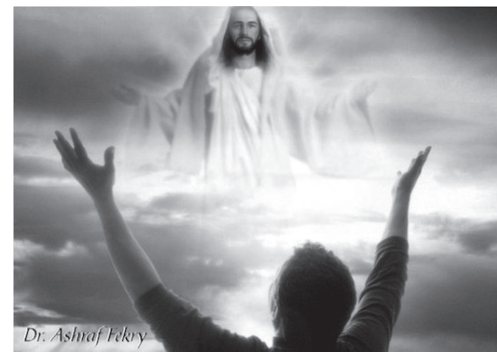


Rev. Brian Flower

PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Intercessors for New Zealand

“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and how inscrutable [mysterious] are His ways!” (Romans 11.33)



Dr. Ashraf Iekoy

Needless to say, prayer is an act of faith. Often we pray and it may seem a long time before the prayer is answered, or we may think God hasn't answered it at all. Sometimes, praise God, we hear of the answer to our prayers much later – perhaps years later. And sometimes we realise that God has a far bigger plan, a very different plan, something we had never thought of. Praise God that His ways are perfect! Praise God for His wisdom, His knowledge of all things, His desire and ability to do what is good and right and best in every situation! Praise God for His power! Praise God for His love! Praise God for His Lordship over all of creation! Praise God that He is our Lord and our God! To Him be all the glory, Amen!

“Even the Evil Spirits Obey Him!” (Mark 1.27)

Rev'd Trevor Butler, Senior Chaplain, Queensland Healing Ministries March 2012

Here we see Jesus and the group of disciples whom He has just called visit the town of Capernaum. On the Sabbath (Saturday) they visit the synagogue where Jesus gets the opportunity to preach and teach. Peter, James, John & Andrew are being taught discipleship. It is the start of a journey of learning and growing and becoming prepared to form the church in the time when Jesus would no longer be with them. The first surprise they get is that Jesus does not teach like the other Rabbis. They are amazed, as is everybody present. He teaches with authority, not like the teachers of the Law of Moses. Jesus' teaching draws both admiration and attack. A man suddenly cries out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!” (Mark 1.24)

Imagine what it was like at that moment for the many people present. What would happen?

Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit, receives a word of knowledge, or uses His gift of discernment of Spirits, to understand what is happening in and through this man. Jesus doesn't muck around; He speaks to the spirit, “Be silent and come out of him!” The spirit convulses the man, and with a loud shout obeys Jesus and leaves him. The people stand

around in amazement and ask one another, “What is this? Is it some new teaching - with authority? Even the unclean spirits obey Him.” (Mark 1.27) News about the deliverance spreads like wildfire throughout Galilee, and is the beginning of his unparalleled fame.

The combination of preaching and healing was a demonstration Jesus used many times and also taught his disciples to use. When He commissioned them for ministry he emphasised that they were to go preaching and healing and casting out demons in His name. That principle, or commission, is still carried out today by His disciples; people like you and me, especially where the Church is alive and growing. Jesus commissioned us to do it!

If we study the scriptures we will see that there are a number of sources of sickness and physical afflictions. One is injury such as broken bones; another is disease, still another birth defects. But we can also see that some sicknesses can be the result of evil spirits. Even for the Christian, oppression can be a problem. Christians cannot be possessed, but they can be oppressed as a result of involvement in occult practices, other rebellion towards God, being cursed or suffering severe trauma. The bible gives us many examples of sickness being the direct result of demons

(devils or spirits). In each case, as the spirits were dealt with, people were healed. And this has been my experience over the last twenty years. Often the spiritual problem has to be dealt with before the physical healing will come. This can be especially so for Christians.

Many believers, including Ministers, have difficulty dealing with the concept of demons and evil spirits. We will believe modern medicine more than we will believe the bible. But think on this, only 200 years ago doctors rejected the possibility of bacteria existing because they couldn't see them. So, they were happy to conduct surgery without washing their hands or their instruments. We can shake our heads at their naiveté, but can we grasp, in the present context, that just because you can't see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist? Many people scoff or laugh at the idea of evil spirits, but Jesus didn't. He knew more about healing than anybody else, and He still does today.

If we want to see what the crowds saw (he healed them all), we must listen to the Holy Spirit as Jesus did, and pray as He did, and use all the gifts of the Spirit as He did. (1 Cor. 12.4-11) We have His commission, and we have His authority. Truly, “If God is for us who can be against us!” (Romans 8.31)



Touched By The Master

The Vine

"He stretched out his hand, and touched him, saying, 'I want to. Be made clean.' Immediately the leprosy left him." (Luke 5.13)

None of the Jews would have done this. They kept the leper far off, for to touch him would defile them. But Jesus was not afraid of defilement.

He could as easily have stood afar and cured the leper by a word, for he sometimes cured from miles away. But the man needed a touch from a warm hand to assure him of love and understanding. The touch left no taint of pollution on the Master, but it left the leprosy body clean as a child's.

There are some who will only help others from a convenient distance. They work through committees or agencies or the most worthy of ministries. But it is a great deal better to come close to those to whom we would do good. There is a wondrous power in a human touch. A gift to the poor is a blessing in whatever way it comes; but if you bestow it yourself, and manifest personal interest and sympathy, its worth will be immeasurably enhanced. You are putting something of real value into your gift - yourself.



The gospel may save the fallen when coming through the cold air from a lofty pulpit, but it will be far more likely to save if the sinner feels the touch of a hand of love, and hears the message from warm, quivering lips. There is no danger of receiving defilement, even from

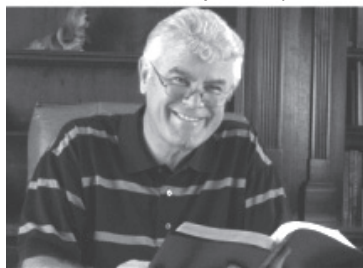
touching the worst outcasts, if you go to them with the love of God in your heart, yearning to do them good. Do not stand far off and toss the bread of life to them, as people once threw gifts into leper hospitals. Do not slip your tract under the door and hurry away as if you were ashamed of what you have done. Go to the homes of the worst people. Give them your hand; it will not soil it to clasp theirs, and it may awaken a thrill of new life in hearts long unused to tenderness, yet yearning for care. Put your heart and inspiration into all you do for others. You can never know what an eternal spark of hope you may give to the weary and disheartened. "A word fitly spoken and in due season is like apples of gold in settings of silver." (Proverbs 25.11) The gold we are privileged to share is of divine origin, and of everlasting value.

You Can Rise Above Your Beginnings!

Based on the writing of Bob Gass

"The Lord was with Joseph ..." (Genesis 39.2)

Joseph didn't come from an ideal family. He was the eleventh son of Jacob, a con-man and a conniver. By this time, however, while Jacob had got his spiritual act together, his ten other sons took after their dad. They once deceived and killed all the men in a town because one of them raped their sister. (Genesis 34)



Bob Gass

Now they're about to commit another deed of treachery, selling Joseph into slavery. Yet Joseph turned out to be a man of greatness. What's the bottom line? **That you can rise above your beginnings!**

Look at Joseph. Perhaps you've been rejected, or perhaps you have discovered that the people you thought loved you really didn't. That was Joseph's story, but "The Lord was with Joseph." Those words change everything! Regardless of what happened yesterday, if

you remain faithful to God He can rearrange tomorrow in your favour. Many people who have been mistreated are still focusing on the people who hurt them, waiting for them to make things right; but in a lot of cases that isn't going to happen. If you've been wronged you need to turn to the One who won't

hurt you, and who is there to help and heal you. Face it; some relationships aren't going to get fixed; you may not be able to escape the problem you've been living with, or see it resolved to your liking. But the good news is: God's not limited by your past, He's only limited by your lack of faith! So trust Him! "... If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8.31) In the final analysis, if God is for you it doesn't matter who's against you. And God **is** for you!

"We have heard it with our ears, O God; ..." (Psalm 44.1)

When you read the rest of this Psalm you find that the Israelites are being overrun by their enemies, and they are asking for miraculous intervention. The Psalmist is basically declaring, "You delivered our forefathers when they were

in danger, we are asking you to do this for us today." There is power to be released through understanding how God has interacted with His people before; for He has revealed Himself as the same yesterday, today, and forever. This means that for those who are willing to dig into the Scriptures, they can call upon the Lord

of the universe to be consistent with His actions of the past. We have that astounding privilege. Read the bible to learn what God has done, in order to call upon Him to do the same for you today. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10.17)

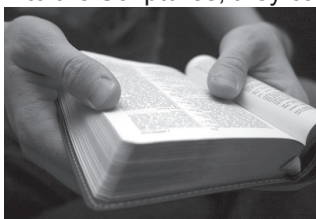
Dave Whitehead, Senior Pastor, GraceNYC.org

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"WHOLENESS"

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Don't Be Worried

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

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me.'" (John 14.1)

Despite being frequently given advice not to worry, all of us do. We worry about our financial affairs, family relationships, health, security, employment, the economy, the environment ... Unless you are living in a dream-world there is plenty to be concerned about. The list is endless.



The disciples were understandably alarmed at the warning Jesus had just given them about his own impending departure. For them it was like being told that a flood was around the corner, or a fire was next door. To allay any sense of panic, Jesus assured them there was no purpose in their worrying. A terrible ordeal was indeed coming, but they would reach a new dimension of faith and trust by enduring the trauma. They would survive it, and, more importantly, they would overcome in it. In the meantime, it would be better for them to be in a calm frame of mind, facing the challenge head on in the rock-steady assurance that God was working through the most challenging of circumstances. If only they could trust that they would come out the other side immeasurably deepened in their faith, and supremely enhanced in their effectiveness in God's service.

With hindsight we may be tempted to say, "What were they worried about?" But can we not ask ourselves the same question? Whatever you are worried about, hear again the command of Jesus, "Don't be worried!" It is more than good advice; it is a command; so obey him! Whatever ordeal you are facing, put your trust in the Lord God Almighty. Say, "Lord Jesus, I don't know how this is all going to end, **but I do know you!** Hold me fast and never let me go!" He has the whole wide world in his hands, and more than that, in Hebrews 13.5,6 he has given you an unbreakable promise, and also the words with which to respond, "'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid...'" Go on, speak the words out now, repeat them until you are bold, proclaim them until you are confident, "**The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid!**"