

Overcomers for Christ

July 2025



*We Celebrate the Life of Frank Fiorucci ...
a Friend, Brother and Servant of Christ*



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In Loving Memory of Frank Fiorucci Sr. (Butch), a Dear Friend and Brother in Christ!

By Brother 'Duck' Anderson

I first met Frank, briefly, many years ago while we were both still deep in the ways of the world. Then, close to nine years ago he resurfaced on the ~~D&C~~ mailing list, thanks to brother Foot. We wrote to each other for a little over seven years before he was released to the New Freedom Project. Once Frank entered New Freedom, we stayed connected and communicated almost every day. While he was there, he was very advantageous of **ALL** they had to offer, and he not only graduated from the New Freedom program but went on to be the house manager of a half-way house. Frank's heart was to serve the lost and hurting however and wherever he could. He 100% dedicated himself to the ones in his care there, as the house manager. He served alongside us at the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ, and he was an usher/greeter at Living Word as well. He accomplished everything that we had spoken about while he was incarcerated, and much more.

While I was on a motorcycle ride one afternoon, I'd stopped for a drink of water when I received a phone call of his passing (April 8th) just two weeks after his 71st birthday. At first it hit me like a ton of bricks, when I got back on my bike I began to talk to Jesus about it. Instantly, I felt in my heart, "He died **IN CHRIST**, and he passed in peace." Frank had already owned 2 different motorcycles in the 1 ½ years he was released. **I KNOW** that Frank loved the Lord, and we both loved to ride, so I was **VERY** grateful that his passing didn't come as a result of a motorcycle accident! **PRAISE JESUS!**

This was the message I gave at his celebration of life.

Let me start by saying, "I am **NOT** discounting that the pain and heartbreak of a loved one or a friend passing won't affect us. It is a real thing we all **WILL** go through, but it is **NOT** God's final answer." These past few weeks after receiving word of a Frank's passing, and through these Scriptures, I've gathered **GREAT** peace.

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words." (1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 NIV)

It's pretty clear, in these Scriptures, that the return of the Lord to the earth, the bodily resurrection of the saints who have already died, and the catching up of the saints who are alive at that time is **VERY** real! While all of these events are universally believed throughout the body of Christ, the time that these events will take place is one of the most divisive arguments among Christians today. **WHY?**

Doing this jail and prison ministry for 18 years now, there have been several people that I sit one on one with that have been looking for the same comfort I've found, in regard to either a loved one or a victim. These Scriptures are the closest I've found that are able to help all of us in our discomfort.

Looking, searching and confiding in the Lord, I've never yet found where God has given a direct timeline on these events. So, what I draw from that is, 'The time or the hour' is not for us to be so concerned with. These Scriptures should be, for **ALL** born-again children of God, received as another precious **PROMISE** of our God!

Your question right here could be, "Then what comfort does the resurrection bring to those of us who mourn?"

Well, first, it takes away the finality of death. For those of us who believe in the resurrection, death is nothing more than a long separation. No one is truly gone; we are just separated, and there will be a reunion.

Second, the Scriptures reveal that our resurrected bodies will not be subject to the problems we experience here on earth, such as sickness, hardship or pain. So, couldn't death actually be looked at as the doorway to a much better existence? **ABSOLUTELY!** As much as 'we' may be sorrowful from the absence of the physical presence of our loved ones, Scripture does promise that God **WILL** usher them into a much better place. That's comforting!

And third, to believe in the resurrection, we **HAVE** to first believe, with confidence, in God. God's Word reveals that those who have already died are now in a place of extreme blessing in the presence of God, even though they haven't received their resurrected bodies yet. It's comforting to me to know that those true believers who have left us here on earth, in death, are now basking in the actual presence of the Lord. If we are truly **'IN CHRIST'** we don't need to be sorrowful for them, the way that the world would, for what they may be missing. Wouldn't you agree that 'we' are the ones who are missing out?

If I were to spend all of my time here on earth trying to unlock something that only the Lord has the key to, I'd either miss or not fulfill the assignment He's given 'me'. Since He's promised to take the Christians that have already gone to the

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grave ahead of the ones still alive on earth when He **DOES** return, shouldn't 'my' focus be on leading and discipling more people in preparation for this **GREAT EVENT?! ABSOLUTELY, IT IS!!**

I hope these words bring comfort to someone, and help you **HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY!**

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the celebration of life of his dear friend,
He referred to the dates on his tombstone, from the beginning to the end,
He noted that first came the date of his birth and spoke on the second date with tears.

He mentioned then, what mattered most of all was that little dash between the years,
For that dash represents all of the time that he spent alive on earth,
And now, only those who knew him know what that little dash is worth.

It doesn't matter how much we own, the motorcycles, the cars, the houses or the cash,
What matters most of all is how we lived and loved, and how 'we' spent 'our dash.'
So, think about this long and hard, are there things in your life that you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left, that can still be rearranged.

If we would just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
And sometimes try to understand the way that other people feel,
And if we were less quick to anger, and show appreciation more,
And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

It's wise to treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this little dash may only last awhile.

So, when your eulogy is being read, and your life's actions are being rehashed,
Would 'you' be proud of the things 'they' say about how 'you' spent your dash?

The Calling of the Soul

Sermon by John G Lake - March 6, 1916

By Vern Deadmond

If I were to choose a subject for the thought in my soul tonight, I would choose "The Calling of the Soul."

Someone has given us this little saying that has become prevalent among many people: "My own shall come to me."
Jesus framed that thought in different words. He said, *"He that hungers and thirst after righteousness shall be filled."*
(**Matthew 5:6**)

Righteousness is simply God's rightness – God's rightness in a man's soul, God's rightness in a man's spirit, God's rightness in a man's body. In order that man may be right, or righteous, God imparts to man the power of His Spirit. That Spirit contains such marvelous and transforming grace that when received into the nature of man, the marvelous process of regeneration is set in motion and man becomes thereby a new creature in Christ Jesus. Paul says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

The deepest call of our nature is the one that will find the speediest answer. People pray; something happens. If they pray again, something still deeper occurs within their nature, and they find a new prayer. The desire is obtained.

In my ministry in South Africa, I had a preacher by the name of Van Vuuren. That name means "fire." Van Vuuren had been a butcher in the city of Johannesburg and was given up to die of consumption. (*Tuberculosis*) His physician said to him, "You have only one year to live." So, he gave up his business and went down into the country to develop a farm, so that his family might be able to support themselves.

After he left the city, many were baptized in the Holy Spirit and healed, etc., and his friends wrote him a letter and said, "So-and-so has been blessed of God".

Van Vuuren took the letter and went out into the fields and got down under a thorn tree and spread the letter out before God. Then he began to pray, "God, if You can do these things for the people at Johannesburg, You can do something for me. I have been a Christian for eighteen years, and I have prayed and prayed for certain things which have not yet come to pass. God, if others can be baptized in the Holy Ghost, surely, I can. If others' hearts are made pure by the power of God, the power that made theirs pure can make mine pure also. If others have been healed, then You can heal me."

As he then gave himself to God and opened his soul to heaven, suddenly the Spirit came upon him, and he became the

most transformed creature I ever knew. God moved into the man. For eighteen days, he walked as though overshadowed by the Spirit of God: God talking continuously to his soul, directing him to this one and that one, judges and lawyers, statesmen and physicians, rich and poor. When he would reach them, the Spirit of God would pour forth through his soul such messages of God that, in many cases, they fell down and wept.

This is the point of the story that I wanted you to get. He said for eighteen years he had prayed for the real conversion and transformation of his wife, and it had not come to pass. But that morning, after the Lord had baptized him in the Holy Ghost, a new prayer came into his heart. A new depth had been touched in the man's nature, and from that great inner depth flowed out to God a cry that had been going out from his soul for years. But that morning the cry of God touched the soul of his wife, and before he reached the house, she had given her heart to God. In three months, all his family – his wife, eleven children, and himself – had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The desire of which Jesus spoke (for when He spoke of desire, He spoke of this same call of the soul) was not the simple attitude of the outer man. Certainly, it included it. Perhaps the desire in the beginning was simply that of the mind, but as the days and years passed and the desirability of obtaining grew in the soul, it became a call of the deepest depth of man's nature. And that is the character of desire that Jesus spoke of when He said, *"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."* (Matthew 5:6)

The spiritual action that takes place within the nature of man, that strong desire for God – His ways, His love, His knowledge, His power – causes everything else, perhaps unconsciously to himself, to become secondary.

Politicians talk about a paramount issue. That is the issue that stands out by itself above all others and is the greatest and largest and of most interest to the nation. It is the paramount issue.

The soul has its paramount issue, and when the desire of your heart is intensified so that it absorbs all your energies, then the time of its fulfillment is not far away. That is the desire that brings the answer. It is creative desire.

A woman testified in my hearing one day to this fact. She had been pronounced hopeless and was going blind. No human remedy could do her any good. Someone opened to her, in a dim way, the possibility of seeing through the power of God. She was not very well-taught, but she said this, "Every day for four years I gave up two and one-half hours absolutely to expressing the desire of my soul for real sight." Not only expressing it in words but calling the power of God to her that would recreate in her the function of sight in her eyes and make her see. At the end of four and a half years, she said, "My eyes are as well as they ever were."

That is the reward of persistence, of a desire toward God. Your nature may have sent out just as deep a cry to God as my nature has and still is doing. Is the cry to God continuous? Gradually, as the forces of life concentrate themselves in line with that strong desire, the Spirit of God is operating through your heart, is being directed by that desire and concentrated on a particular line, intensifying every day because of the continuous desire of the soul to possess it. The effect of that concentration of the Spirit of God on that soul is that by the grace of God there is brought to your soul all the elements necessary to formulate and create and fulfill the desire of your heart. And one morning the soul awakens to discover that it has become the possessor of the desired object.

Jesus started men on the true foundation. Many simply desire health, others temporal blessings. Both are good and proper, but bless God, Jesus started the soul at the proper point, to first desire righteousness, the righteousness of God, to become a possessor of the kingdom. *"Seek ye first,"* said Jesus, *"the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Matthew 6:33)

Jesus was bringing forth and establishing in the world a new character, a character that would endure forever, a soul quality that would never fail, a faith that knew no possibility of defeat. In establishing such a character, Jesus saw that the character could only be established in the depth of a man's being, in the very spirit of his being. Then, once the soul was grounded in the paths of righteousness, all the activities of the nature would be along righteous lines and in harmony with the laws of God.

God has a call in His own Spirit. If we study our own spirit, we will understand the nature of God. The call of the Spirit of God is the call of righteousness, the call of truth, the call of love, the call of power, the call of faith.

I met a young man on one occasion who seemed to me to be the most blessed man, in some ways, of all the men I had ever met. I observed he was surrounded by a circle of friends of men and women, the deepest and truest it had ever been my privilege to know. One day I said to him, "What is the secret of this circle of friends that you possess and the manner in which you seem to bind them to you?" He replied, "Lake, my friendships are the result of the call of the soul. My soul has called for truth and righteousness, for holiness, for grace, for strength, for soundness of mind, for the power of God, and the call has reached this one, and this one, and this one, and brought them to me."

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

He's the Potter, We are the Clay

By J.T.

Good morning, I would like to share this with the Overcomers for Christ newsletter family.

Someone recently asked me why God allows bad things to happen. My simple response is, God does not keep His children immune from trouble. He promises, **"I will be with you in trouble."** (Psalms 91:15) It doesn't matter how real or intense the adversities may be, nothing can ever separate us from our relationship with God. **Romans 8:37** states, **"In all things we are more than conquerors."** Paul was not referring to imaginary things, but things that are dangerously real and harmful. And he said we are super victors in the midst of them, not because of our own immunity but because none of these awful things we experience, even the worst things you can imagine, affect our relationship with God in Christ Jesus.

Who could ever separate us from the endless love of God's anointed One? Absolutely nothing and no one! For nothing in the universe has the power to diminish His love towards us. Troubles, pressures, persecution, and problems are unable to come between us and heaven's love. (Romans 8:35)

Let's look at Pharaoh. He did some awful things, right? In the time of Moses' birth, he had every infant thrown into the river. But God is the author and finisher of all things. God said to Pharaoh, **"I raised you up as a ruler of Egypt for this reason, that I might make you an example of how I demonstrate My miracle power. For by the example of how I deal with you, My powerful name will be a message proclaimed throughout earth."** (Exodus 9:16) So, we see again that it is entirely up to God to show mercy or to harden hearts of whomever He chooses.

You say, "This doesn't seem fair, right?" But who do we think we are to second guess God? Even I find myself questioning the sovereignty of God's choices. How could a human being, molded out of clay, say to the One who molded him, "Why did you make me/the world this way?" Or are we denying the right of the Potter to make out of clay whatever He wants? Aren't His ways higher than our ways? Aren't His thoughts higher than our thoughts? Are we **NOT** to lean on our own understanding? Can our finite minds really comprehend the complexities and mechanisms of God's ultimate wisdom? I think not! We're free to try. But I urge you not to put God in a box.

Finally, as we have discussed previously, God does not want harm to befall His children. However, in instances of free will, God allows things to happen because that's the only real element of love, **CHOICE**. God is love. For love to be true love, it has to be a choice we make on our own. When God's children **CHOOSE NOT TO LOVE**, we open the door for the elements of darkness. If love is to exist, evil must also exist. The word here is Manichaeism; it means Light vs Darkness. The duality of man. Light cannot exist without darkness. Love cannot exist without evil. Otherwise, we would just be robots.

To bring this all back to the question about God creating these elements of darkness that harm humans, there is no easy answer! On this side of heaven, we will all experience light and darkness, love and evil, and some more abundant or worse than others. But His plan is for us to someday move to the other side of heaven where His Word says there is only **LIGHT**! There will be no darkness, evil, death, or sadness. All the pains that God's children are experiencing here on earth are only temporary. This life on earth is but a fleeting glimpse, a vapor in the wind. But so is the most awful pain that comes with this life on earth. Someday soon we will spend an eternity with Him in Heaven.

We all make our own choices, so not all of us will be in heaven. But that doesn't mean He doesn't still love all of us! Because He does! He loves us! All of us. Even the ones that we humans think are the worst. He loves every soul that He's ever created since the beginning of time. It's hard for us to wrap our minds around this concept but He loves us all the same!!!

When Jesus looks down upon us from the throne, at the right hand of the Father, and sees us hurting one another, He sees His children hurting one another. I'm sure it breaks His heart. But He doesn't interfere because there's a bigger plan. His plan! He is the Potter, and we are the clay!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Full of Encouragement

By C.M.

Overcomers for Christ, I really enjoy your beautiful and blessed teachings and articles. This one on *Vision/Imagination* is tremendous! I read and take notes and then share them with the men in our Bible studies, and also those on the fence. And getting your newsletters, your teachings and articles has been a beautiful blessing. There is no doubt you have a vast insight and understanding of God's Word.

We are excited here, because we already see the hand of God working in here. The evidence is all around! But there is still plenty to be done. This yard I'm on has around 1,260 men, and only around 100 show real and consistent desire for Jesus. So, the field is white!

And I'm always encouraging the men to share what they have - Jesus! Not long ago I was stirring them up - to fully embrace Jesus Christ. For He has come to us laden with gifts and abilities. I asked them a set of questions:

- 1.What if God ordained/used our present circumstances?
- 2.What if He sees it as a mission field, He couldn't get missionary into?
- 3.How would that change us if we believed we are that missionary?
- 4.What if there are men you know who will only be saved because of your witness for Jesus Christ?

I also talked about how we are the light of the world, a city set on a hill. So let us then shine! We are saved to tell others! I challenge us all to always share the Gospel and leave the results with the Lord. We don't control the soil the seed is sown into. In some instances, our witness will be vehemently rejected. But so was Jesus. He was rejected by many!

Completely Positive, In Christ

By J.S.

God bless all of the Overcomers for Christ family, during all of your days! Praise God!

I couldn't be, and in fact, I never was, a positive person if I didn't have our Father's Holy Spirit to hold me up, and together. Today, I hear Him, and I feel Him as I talk with Him in prayer and through reading His love letter to 'me/us'. And He, for sure is my Comforter nowadays.

Everything has slowed to a crawl around here, and it has been this way since October of 2024. That was when all of us inmates that worked for the Hickman's Family Farms (eggs & chickens) were all laid off due to the bird flu. I really miss working every day as it made the 'time' seem to go by faster.

Even though being stuck here on the yard has given me 'cabin fever' so to say, I've come to realize that in my poverty I've become wealthier in the love and knowledge of our Father, through more time in His Word. He has recently brought to my attention a refresher course concerning His Spiritual laws. The laws of His kingdom, just like the laws of the physical realm ... we end up taking for granted. In this 'refresher course' I found that I'd become complacent concerning Father's laws of the Spirit. I can see that I'm still learning to swim, so to speak.

No Band-Aid Cures

By M.G.

The good side of all of this down time is that I have been studying a lot more and seeing what GOD has for me! He has given me all the tools I need to stay sober; it's up to me to use them. He has shown me what is possible and given me lots of love, more than I deserve. Here is something I read in my Bible about God and staying sober.

There is no Band-Aid cure for our sins and defects of character. These defects are fatal wounds and must be put to death by the Cross. This process is never easy. Who goes to a crucifixion without some measure of anxiety? But when we except this and allow God to remove our defects, we will be pleasantly surprised by the new life that awaits us!!!

This means a lot to me; I don't know why but it hit me in my heart!!

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Foot's Bible Study

Micah 5:1-7:20

Though God rules in His eternal kingdom, our strength and deliverance will not be found in military might but in God's almighty power. God will destroy, all the weapons that people use for security. There will be no need for armies because God will rule in the heart of every person. Instead of being overwhelmed by fear of invasion or nuclear attack, we should have confidence in God. (5:10)

People have tried all kinds of ways to please God (6:6-7), but God has made His wishes clear. He wants His people to do what is right, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. In your efforts to please God, examine these areas on a regular basis. Are you fair in your dealings with people? Do you show mercy to those who wrong you? Are you learning humility? (6:8)

Revelation 7:1-8:13

People try many methods to remove the guilt of sin – goodness, intellectual pursuits, and even casting blame on others. The crowd in heaven, however, praises God, saying that Salvation comes from Him and the Lamb. Salvation from sins penalty can come only through Jesus Christ. Have you had the guilt of sin removed in the only way possible? (7:10)

Here we read about the breaking of the seventh seal and the trumpet blasts, the trumpet blasts have three purposes. 1) To warn that judgement is certain, 2) To call the forces of good and evil to battle, and 3) To anyone the return of the King, the Messiah. These warnings urge us to make sure our faith is firmly fixed on Christ. (8:6)

Psalms 135:1-136:26

Those who worshipped idols were as blind and insensitive as the idols themselves. They could not see or hear what God had to say. In subtle, imperceptible ways we become like the idols we worship. If the true God is your God, you will become more like Him as you worship Him. What are your goals? What takes priority in your life? Choose carefully because you will take on the characteristics of whatever you worship. (135:15-18)

Repeated throughout this Psalm is the phrase, "His faithful love endures forever." This Psalm may have been a responsive reading with the congregation saying these words in unison after each sentence. The repetition made this important lesson sink in. God's love includes aspects of love, kindness, mercy and faithfulness. We never have to worry that God will run out of love because it flows from a well that will never run dry. (136:1)

Proverbs 30:5-6

God protects all of us who come to Him for protection. Time and time again as history unfolds God's Word continues to prove to be true. (30:5)



"Foot" Notes

Hey everybody! Those of us who have overcome our various issues, such as addiction, we can't just thank Jesus and go on about our lives. It's up to us believers who have survived these trials to reach back into the muck and mire, to be there for the others who are now where we once were, in the trenches struggling with our own issues. I believe Jesus expects us all to use our unique experiences to help others of similar circumstances and move the church forward.

Love to y'all short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!

Over in Topeka, Kansas, in the year 1900, one morning a man stepped off the train, walked up the street, and as he walked up a particular street, he stopped in front of a large, fine dwelling and said to himself, "This is the house." A gentleman who happened to be out of sight around the building said, "What about the house?" and this story came out.

He said, "For years, I have been praying to God for a certain work of God among Christians known as the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In my research I have visited every body of Christian people in this country that I knew of that claimed to be possessors of the baptism, but as I visited and examined their experience and compared it with the Word of God, I became convinced that none of them possess the baptism of the Holy Ghost as it is recorded and demonstrated in the New Testament."

He said one day as he prayed, the Spirit of the Lord said, "Go to Topeka, Kansas." As he prayed, he observed, in the Spirit, a certain house, and the Lord said, "I will give you that house, and in it the baptism of the Holy Ghost will fall."

So, he took the train and came to Topeka, walked down the street, and exclaimed as he passed by, "This is the house."

And the voice around the corner replied, "What about it?" When the man had heard his story, he told him he was the owner of the house, that it had been closed for years. He asked him what he wanted it for, and he replied that he was going to start a Christian school. The owner said, "Have you any money?" He replied, "No." He said, "All right, you can have house without money."

About an hour later, a little Quaker lady came down the street, hesitated, and looked around and said, "This is the house, but there is no one living there." After a struggle with her soul, she went up and rang the doorbell, and the first gentleman answered the bell and asked what she wanted. She said, "I live over in the country, as I prayed, the Spirit told me to come here to this house." He said, "Who are you?" She replied, "Just an unknown Christian woman." He said, "What have you been praying about?" She said, "About the baptism of the Holy Ghost."

Beloved, in three weeks, eighteen people were brought to the house. They formed a little company and began to pray. The company grew to thirty-six. On New Year's night, 1900, the Spirit fell on that company, and the first one was baptized in the Holy Ghost and in a few weeks, practically the whole company had been baptized in the Holy Ghost. And from there it spread over the world.

Yesterday morning a woman came to my healing rooms, a stranger in the city. She said, "I have been praying for healing and asking God to show me where I could be healed. I heard of friends in Chicago who pray for the sick, and I visited them, but when I arrived the Spirit said, 'Not here.'" She said, "I bought a ticket and was about to take a train back home, but as I sat in the station I was approached by a little lady on crutches and pitying her, I turned to speak a kind word to her. While conversing with her, I saw she was a Christian of a deep nature, rarely found. I told her my story. She said, 'Oh, I know where the Lord wants you to go. The Lord wants you to go to Spokane, Washington.'" (Three thousand miles from Chicago.) She asked her if she knew anybody in Spokane and the lady replied, "Why yes, I know Mr. Lake. I used to nurse in his home years ago."

I prayed with her and told her the thing to do was to come in for ministry every day until she was well. She said she would. This morning, I received a call on the telephone, and she said, "I am not coming up to the healing rooms." I said, "Oh, is that the kind of individual you are? The one that comes once and gets nothing." "No," she said, "I came once and got something, and I do not need to come back. I am healed and I am going home."

There is a call of faith in this church that is reaching way out, far out, and in unaccountable ways. Way at the other end the Spirit of God is revealing truth to this soul and that soul, and they are moving into this life and coming into unity with this church.

Is there a note of despair in your heart? Have you not attained the thing your soul covets? Have you desired to be like that sinless, unselfish, sick-less one? God will answer the call of your soul. You shall have your heart's desire. But before that call becomes answerable it must be the paramount call of your being. It is when it becomes the paramount issue of the soul that the answer comes. Jesus knew this. That is the reason He said, *"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."*

There is no doubt about it. All the barriers of your nature will go down before the desire of the soul. All the obstacles that ever were, will disappear before the desire of your soul. All the diseases that ever existed in your life will disappear before the desire of your soul when that desire becomes the one great purpose and prayer of your heart.

I love to think of one great soul. He was not a great Christian, but he was a great soul. He was the son of a Church of England clergyman and came to South Africa thinking he might get his system back to a normal state of health. He came to the diamond mines at Kimberly where he took a pick and shovel and worked with them long enough to understand diamonds. Indeed, he studied diamonds until he knew more about them than any other man in the world. Then he went to

study in Africa until one paramount desire grew up in his soul. He said, "I will plant the British flag across the continent." Eventually, this is what he did. He told me that in the beginning his vision extended to the Vaal River, then to the Zambezi, and then across the trackless desert. He also planned a railroad six thousand miles long. John Cecil Rhodes died before he could fully bring to pass the paramount issue of his soul.

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness."

Oh, if I had one gift or one desire that I would bestow on you more than all others, I would bestow upon you the hunger for God.

"Blessed are they that hunger." Hunger is the best thing that ever came into a man's life. Hunger is hard to endure. It is the call of the nature for something that you do not possess. The thing that will satisfy the demands of the nature and the hunger of a man's soul is the call of his nature for the Spirit of Life that will generate in him the abundant love of God.

Years ago, I was one of a family of which some members were invalid in the house for thirty-two consecutive years. During that time, we buried four brothers and four sisters. A call arose in my nature, to God, for something to stay that tide of sickness and death. Materia Medica (Latin for drug treatments) had utterly failed. One after another the tombstones were raised. The call arose in my soul for something from God that would stem the tide and turn it backward.

Nothing else but healing could have come to my life, no other thing but the knowledge of it. God had to bring, from the furthest ends of Australia, the man who brought to my soul the message of God and the manifestation of His power that satisfied my heart. And healing by the power of God became a fact to me.

We live so that our souls may grow. The development of the soul is the purpose of existence. God Almighty is trying to obtain some decent association for Himself. By His grace He is endeavoring to have us grow up in His knowledge and likeness to that stature where, as sons and daughters of God, we will comprehend something of His love, of His nature, of His power, of His purpose, and be big enough to give back to God what a son or daughter should give to a great Father – the reverence, the love, the affection that comes from the understanding of the nobleness and greatness of His purpose.

Great Britain produced two marvelous statesmen, a father and his son. They are known in history as the old Pitt and the young Pitt. The young Pitt was as great a statesman as his father. The son grew to that largeness where, catching the vision of his great father, his soul arose to it, and he became his father's equal. As I walked through the House of Commons, I came across the statues of the old and young Pitt. I have forgotten the inscription at the bottom of the elder Pitt's statue, but at the base of the son's statue was these words, "My father, the greatest man I ever knew." Do you see the call of his soul for his father's largeness, for his father's nobility, for his father's strength and influence?

"Blessed are they that hunger." Bless God! What are we hungering for, a little bit of God? Enough to take us through this old world where we will have the dry rot and be stunted and then squeeze into heaven? *"Blessed are they that hunger,"* for the nature and power and love and understanding of God. Why? "That they shall be filled." Bless God.

Not long ago I stood before great audiences of the churchmen of the world. They said, "Through all your ministry there is one note. It is the call for power." They said, "Do you not think it would be better if the Church as calling for holiness instead of power?"

And I replied, "She will never obtain the one without the other. There is something larger than holiness. It is the nature of God."

The nature of God has many sides. From every angle that the soul approaches God, it reveals a new and different manifestation of Him: Love, beauty, tenderness, healing, power, might, wisdom, etc.

So, the Christian who hungers and hungers, bless God, and lifts his soul to God, brings God down to meet his own cry. The spirit of man and the Spirit of God unite. The nature of God is reproduced in man, as God purposed it should be. There are no sick folk in God. There is no sickness in His nature.

There is an incident in the life of Jesus that is so marvelous. Jesus Christ demanded His right to heal a woman who was so bound by Satan with a spirit of infirmity and was not satisfied until it was accomplished. Devil and church and creed and preacher went down before the call of the Son of God to assert His right to deliver that soul from sin sickness. *"Blessed are they that hunger."*

WORD OF THE MONTH

Addlepat

Pronunciation – ad-dle-pat-ed a-dl-pā-təd

Adjective – 1: being mixed up; confused; 2: eccentric

*"Nick Park's best-known creations are the **addeplated**, cheese-loving inventor Wallace, and Gromit, his patient, intelligent dog."* Charles Solomon, *Los Angeles Times*, February 15, 2018

Did You Know ... In Middle English, an *adel eye* was a putrid egg. The stench of such an egg apparently affected the minds of some witty thinkers, who hatched a comparison between the diminished, unsound quality of an *adel eye* (or *addle egg* as it came to be called in modern English) and an empty, confused head – or pate. "Your owne imagination, which was no lesse idle, then your head was addle all that day, wrote one 17th-century wit at play with the words *idle* and *addle*. Today, addle is often found in combination with words referring to one's noggin, as in *addlepated*, *addlebrained*, and *addle-headed*.

Quote Worthy

"If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead."

- Roald Dahl (1916 – 1990) a British author of popular children's literature and short stories, a poet, screenwriter and a wartime fighter ace. His books have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide. He has been called "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century".

Did You Know?

The month of July is named after Roman leader Julius Caesar. Before the name change, July was known as Quintilis. Quintilis, the Latin word for five, was the fifth month on the Gregorian calendar.

In fact, Julius Caesar modified the calendar, adding the months of January and February. The Julian calendar is still in use today! Now that's one of the more influential fun fact about July!

Christian Comedy

Moses is wandering around, and he finds the burning bush. He looks closer and sees that while the bush is clearly on fire, it is not burning up. He just can't believe his eyes, and in his amazement he says, "No way!"

Then, a voice comes from the bush and says "Yah way!"

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - Contact us for current location Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

By **check** or **money order** – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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Heaven's Missing an Angel

By C.J.

Not only your smile but your spirituality is striking,
And definitely to my liking.
The sound of your spirit, so serene
That it could only be a facet of a dream.
Truly magnificent you are, brilliant as a shooting star
Blessed and privileged with many qualities, enough to make this world envy

Angelic is your disposition, you're such a heavenly vision
Just having your acknowledgment is so assuring,
And unknowingly to you it's my loneliness you're curing
You bring happiness to my dreary situation,
And because of you, I have hope and inspiration.

You must be an angel, the Lord let the world barrow,
A sign; that there will be a tomorrow.
Heaven sent divine and translucent, a spiritual present.

Only you can lessen my misery, and make my solemnity history.
Others will admire your spiritual attractiveness,
Because you're an angel heaven will miss.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

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