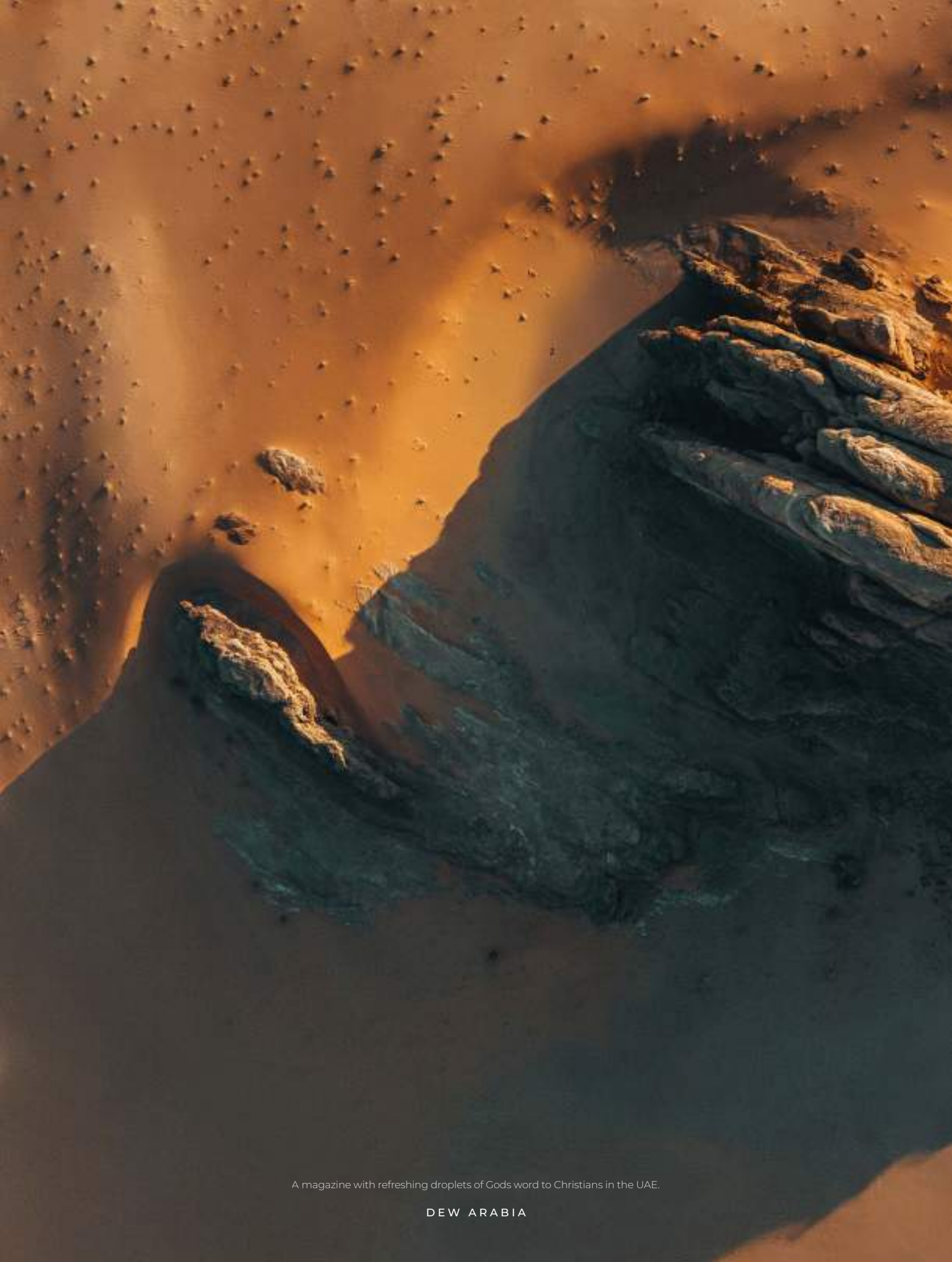
DEW

ARABIA

CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE

EDITION ONE



A magazine with refreshing droplets of Gods word to Christians in the UAE.

DEW ARABIA



A PURITAN PRAYER

RESTING IN GOD

O God, most high, most glorious, the thought of Your infinite serenity cheers me, for I am toiling and moiling, troubled and distressed, but You are for ever at perfect peace. Your designs cause You no fear or care of unfulfilment, they stand fast as the eternal hills. Your power knows no bond, Your goodness no stint. You bring order out of confusion, and my defeats are Your victories: The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

I come to You as a sinner with cares and sorrows, to leave every concern entirely to You, every sin calling for Christ's precious blood; revive deep spirituality in my heart; let me live near to the great Shepherd, hear His voice, know its tones, follow its calls. Keep me from deception by causing me to abide in the truth, from harm by helping me to walk in the power of the Spirit. Give me intenser faith in the eternal verities, burning into me by experience the things I know; Let me never be ashamed of the truth of the gospel, that I may bear its reproach, vindicate it, see Jesus as its essence, know in it the power of the Spirit.

Lord, help me, for I am often lukewarm and chill; unbelief mars my confidence, sin makes me forget You. Let the weeds that grow in my soul be cut at their roots; grant me to know that I truly live only when I live to You, that all else is trifling. Your presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong and happy. Abide in me, gracious God.

The Valley of Vision

by Arthur Bennett

©1975 by Arthur Bennett, *Used by permission from* The Banner or Truth Trust

Photo by Negm - Saudi Arabia

BELOVED READER

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our new Christian magazine, thoughtfully created for our cherished Christian community in the UAE. With great joy and anticipation we proudly present this first edition to you.

We are committed to bringing you carefully curated content that enriches and edifies your Christian journey in the unique context of the Middle East. Every article, interview and Biblical insight is firmly rooted in the Scriptures, aiming to support you as you navigate the joys and challenges of a life centred on Christ.
It is our mission to foster spiritual growth and bring you a reminder that true life is found in God and His Word alone.

Our prayer is that this magazine will serve as refreshing dew, strengthening and encouraging you for the glory of His name.

In His service,
The Dew Arabia Editorial Team



Photo by Derick McKinney

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"I just come back to the basic, irrefutable, indispensible, necessary aspects of pastoral calling, which is: the public reading of scripture, the exhortation and teaching as a consequence of the things you have devoted yourself to - 1 Tim. 4. There is no personal devotion to the Scriptures, to the learning, to the creating, to the forming, to the arguing, to the writing if you just have it spit out for you. So while it could be a very effective tool, I actually think it would in praxis undermine my very calling. ... Because I'm called to progress, I'm called to growth, I'm called to devote myself to the scriptures, I'm called to my teaching, I'm called to create, write, preach, proclaim. ... If you can't formulate the argument; if you can't make it; if you can't see the sequence and the beauty and the unfolding of it, in the language in which you are preaching, it seems to me you're just further and further divorced from the things you're supposed to be doing." - David Helm

Podcast

BIBLE TALK

Understand what is happening in the Bible! You will learn a lot and laugh a lot!

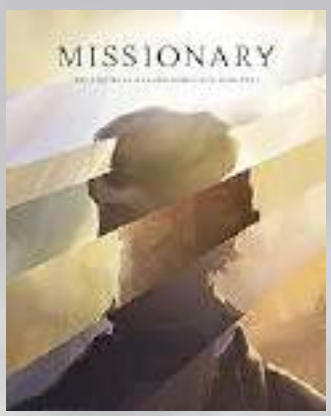




Being single is by providence, not calling. If you are on the field and content with following God's will, praise God! However, if you desire a husband, know that this is a good thing.



"Prayer is the most objective measurement of our dependency on God. Because the things we pray about are the things we trust God to handle. And the things we don't pray about are the things we trust we can handle on our own"



This documentary tells the story of six missionaries who served in the Pacific Islands, India, and Africa. A meaningful watch to learn more about the Great Commission of Jesus. Available to rent or purchase on Prime Video, YouTube TV and Apple TV.



Have you lost the ability to concentrate on reading the Bible for more than a few lines without checking your phone? While entertainment isn't sinful, we need to ask ourselves if it is affecing our spirituual growth. Our ability to discern truth and focus on eternal value is eroded.



"Does this really matter?" The teen-ager at a fast-food restaurant wonders this while delivering another hamburger. The parent of a toddler ponders this while wiping down the kitchen counter for the fourth time that day. The receptionist asks this while forwarding calls to more important people in the company.

Photo by Augustine Wong - Muscat

Colophon

Dew Arabia is a free, independent publication serving the Christian community in the UAE. Run entirely by volunteers, it aims to deepen engagement with Scripture through thoughtfully curated content and to provide a platform for local Christian writers to share their insights and reflections.

Dew Arabia is named to represent the life-giving droplets of Gods word to Christians just as dew brings life to the desert's dry expanse.

Distribution Statement
This is a free publication intended for private and church circulation only. Not for public distribution or commercial sale.

Publication Frequency
A limited number of editions are released each year. Every edition is created to be a collector's item—something to be kept, re-read, or shared for encouragement.

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Every future date mentioned in this publication presumes Deo volente - God willing.

Locals Recommend



Collection of Games **New!**

Two unique board games (and one upcoming digital pogressive gameplay) created by a passionate group of Christians in Dubai who are dedicated to their faith, love for gaming and storytelling. These games are designed for fun, learning and spiritual growth.

Available at the Bible Society Bookstore in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the Evangelical Church Book Store in Ras Al Khaimah.

Have fun and visit **Gloryquest.fun** for more details!

meaning "Delicious" in Tigrinya

New! Ta'emi Coffee

Ta'emi is more than just coffee—it's a tribute to Eritrea's rich coffee traditions. Founder Adiam Teklit learned the art of roasting and brewing from generations before her, and now, she's bringing it to you.

Order your first brew at **store.Taemi.coffee** !





Personalized Gifts

Looking for thoughtful, customized gifts? Our sister Maria Lourdes offers a wide range of personalized corporate, personal and Christian gifts, including lunch boxes, key chains, daily and weekly planners, calendars, cards, children bags and much more!

Create your own faith-inspired gift at **imperialgraphicsllc.com**

Bible Colouring Books

Now available at Bible Society Bookstores is a new collection of Bible colouring books. These beautifully designed books provide a visual engaging way to memorize and meditate on Scripture, with many editions featuring full chapters of the Bible. They're a great way to spend quality time with friends and family while engaging with Scripture.



Are you a Spirit?

In Response to the "We Are Gods" Theology Part 1

Ebenezer Foster-Nyarko
Research Fellow, Genomics & Bioinformatics, UK

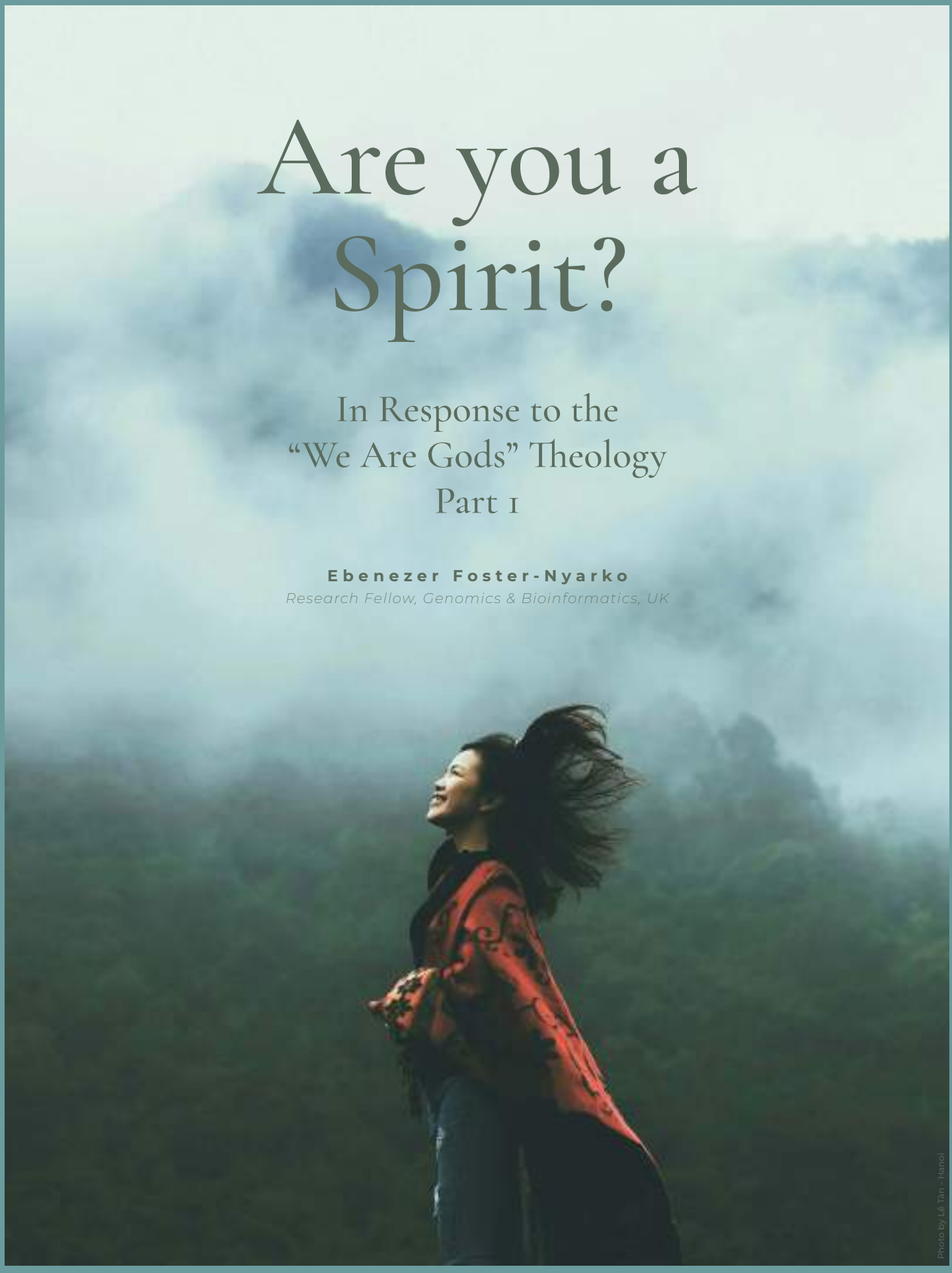


Photo by Lê Tân - Hanoi

World View & Culture

There is a “New Creation” teaching that is gaining popularity in mainstream Christianity in Africa today which claims that we are “Gods” (yes, capital G). Among many claims to this absurd assertion, there are two that seem to me to stand out as the root.

First, the belief that God is Spirit, and therefore His children (those born again) must be spirits, as He is. On this, Pastor Chris, one of the high priests of this teaching, is on record as saying, “God gives birth to gods!”. The analogy is then given thus: “dog begets dog, bird begets bird, therefore God must beget gods”. The second hinges on a misunderstanding of the biblical doctrine of adoption. By which they would have us believe that when one is adopted into God’s family, he is somehow entirely transformed into a new species altogether, and ceases to be human. It is the purpose of this article to begin to interrogate the first of the two claims. In subsequent articles, we shall examine the second claim in more detail.

When we manifest God’s communicable attributes, e.g. love, intelligence, relationship, the moral aspects of our being etc., we show what it means to be in His image and likeness.

Essentially Spirit?

So, to the first question. Are you a spirit, and not a human?

Proponents of the “we are gods” theology will start their argument from Genesis, the book of beginnings. They assert and claim that 1) God created us after His likeness and in His image, therefore we are of the same “essence” as God (or in the “God class”); 2) when God created man, he was essentially spirit, which was given a container, namely the body, to dwell in. Thus, they insist that the “real you” is a spirit, and the connection between an immaterial spirit and a physical body is the soul. Let us turn to the Scriptures and examine that passage for ourselves.

> *"Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"*
> (Genesis 1:26-27)

> *"Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."*
> (Genesis 2:7)

I believe that those who base on this passage to teach that we are necessarily spirit; the flesh and body being mere appendages, so to speak, proves too much. A close look at the passage will reveal that right from the beginning, the emphasis has been on a unified view of man. Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. No mention is made here of a spirit nor of any divisions to man for that matter.

Grudem points out from Genesis 1:26-27 the fact that,

> *"Both the Hebrew word for “image” (tselem) and that for “likeness” (demūt) refer to something that is similar but not identical to the thing it represents or is an “image” of. The word image can also be used of something that represents something else."*

The fact that man was created in the image of God, therefore, means that man was God’s representative but not necessarily God. The orthodox view of Genesis 1:26 has always been that man is simply God’s image-bearer. As God’s representatives on earth, we were created to reflect His glory. To point to Him. To reflect His nature. When we manifest God’s communicable attributes, e.g. love, intelligence, relationship, the moral aspects of our being etc., we show what it means to be in His image and likeness. It is difficult to imagine that the original recipients of Genesis would have taken this verse to say that being

created in God's image makes us gods.

To use an analogy, the moon shines at night because its surface reflects light that is coming from the sun. Surprisingly, at its brightness, the moon reflects only a maximum of 12 per cent of the sun's rays. Reflecting the sun doesn't make the moon equal to the sun in constitution and nature.

Image-bearers at Creation and Regeneration

I believe that further support for the preceding can be found in the fact that when we are born again, God purposes to conform us to the image of His Son. Paul says,

> *"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."*
> (Romans 8:29)

In other words, God's cardinal goal for the redemption of sinners is to make them Christ-like; to look like Jesus, The Son. When we show the fruit of redemption, i.e. acting like Jesus and doing the good works which God (re)created us to in Jesus (Ephesians 2:10), we show conformity to His image. And this process of conforming to His image, the Bible says, will continue till Christ comes again when we shall be like Him, when we see Him face to face (1 John 3:2).

Strikingly, we see this unified view of man emphasised throughout the New Testament. In 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, Paul alludes to the fact that when Christ returns, our bodies shall be redeemed so that both body and soul shall be with the Lord for eternity. If the "real us" were the spirit as is claimed by proponents of the "we are gods" theology, then there would have been no need for God to raise the body up again in the last day to unite with our spirits or souls.

When it comes to sanctification, Paul admonishes that we cleanse both body and spirit, so that holiness might be complete in us (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Speaking on the subject of remaining devoted to the Lord, whether as married or unmarried, Paul further had this to say:

> *"And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit."*
> (1 Corinthians 7:34)

It is evident from the above data that Scripture enjoins holiness in the whole man.

Error always begets error.

In typical fashion, those who hold that the spirit is all that matter, go on to assert that the spirit is sinless. Consequently, some have, because of this false assertion, insisted that believers no longer need to confess their sins, as the "real us" attains sinless perfection when we become born again. Clearly, Scripture disagrees with such an assertion. Otherwise, there would be no need for the call to pursue holiness in both body and spirit.

The question that begs to answer is, why do the prophets of the "we are gods" theology insist that we are spirits? To me, the answer lies in the fact that they need you to believe that you are a spirit, not a human because then it will be easy to believe the other lies that go hand-in-hand with this teaching. Namely, that you cannot be sick (they will tell you spirits don't get sick); you cannot be poor (they will tell you your "spirit man" is never poor, even if physically you are broke. Therefore still insist that you are rich regardless of your account balance). Some are so bold as yet to say you cannot die (because spirits don't die). To believe this teaching is, simply, to embrace a lie.

In this first part of this article series, we have shown from the Scriptural data that the claim that being created in the image of God makes us gods is false. Further, we have no support from the creation account nor the New Testament that the "real us" as created by God is a spirit or that man is essentially a spirit, the body being a subservient constituent of the human nature.

Published on
The Gospel Network - *tgnghana.org*
Part 2 and 3 will be published in the following editions.

Scripture Reading

James 1: 2-18

ENGLISH

Continue to trust God when you have trouble

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet
trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the
testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4
And let steadfastness have its full effect, that
you may be perfect and complete, lacking in
nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask
in faith, with no doubting, for the one who
doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven
and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must
not suppose that he will receive anything
from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man,
unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,
10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like
a flower of the grass[b] he will pass away. 11
For the sun rises with its scorching heat and
withers the grass; its flower falls, and its
beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade
away in the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast
under trial, for when he has stood the test
he will receive the crown of life, which God
has promised to those who love him. 13 Let
no one say when he is tempted, "I am being
tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted
with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But
each person is tempted when he is lured and
enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when
it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin
when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17
Every good gift and every perfect gift is from
above, coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow
due to change.[c] 18 Of his own will he brought
us forth by the word of truth, that we should
be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (ESV)

ARABIC

٢ اِحْسِبُوهُ كُلَّ فَرَحٍ يَا إِخْوَتِي حِينَمَا تَقَعُونَ فِي
تَجَارِبَ مُتَنَوِّعَةٍ، ٣ عَالِمِينَ أَنَّ امْتِحَانَ إِيمَانِكُمْ
يُنْشِئُ صَبْراً. ٤ وَأَمَّا الصَّبْرُ فَلْيَكُنْ لَهُ عَمَلٌ تَامٌّ،
لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا تَامِّينَ وَكَامِلِينَ غَيْرَ نَاقِصِينَ فِي شَيْءٍ.
٥ وَإِنَّمَا إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ تُعْوِزُهُ حِكْمَةٌ فَلْيَطْلُبْ
مِنَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يُعْطِي الْجَمِيعَ بِسَخَاءٍ وَلاَ يُعَيِّرُ،
فَسَيُعْطَى لَهُ. ٦ وَلَكِنْ لِيَطْلُبْ بِإِيمَانٍ غَيْرَ مُرْتَابٍ
الْبَتَّةَ، لأَنَّ الْمُرْتَابَ يُشْبِهُ مَوْجاً مِنَ الْبَحْرِ
تَخْبِطُهُ الرِّيحُ وَتَدْفَعُهُ. ٧ فَلاَ يَظُنَّ ذَلِكَ الإِنْسَانُ
أَنَّهُ يَنَالُ شَيْئاً مِنْ عِنْدِ الرَّبِّ. ٨ رَجُلٌ ذُو رَأْيَيْنِ
هُوَ مُتَقَلْقِلٌ فِي جَمِيعِ طُرُقِهِ. ٩ وَلْيَفْتَخِرِ الأَخُ
الْمُتَّضِعُ بِارْتِفَاعِهِ، ١٠ وَأَمَّا الْغَنِيُّ فَبِاتِّضَاعِهِ، لأَنَّهُ
كَزَهْرِ الْعُشْبِ يَزُولُ. ١١ لأَنَّ الشَّمْسَ أَشْرَقَتْ
بِالْحَرِّ، فَيَبِسَتِ الْعُشْبَ، فَسَقَطَ زَهْرُهُ وَفَنِيَ
جَمَالُ مَنْظَرِهِ. هَكَذَا يَذْبُلُ الْغَنِيُّ أَيْضاً فِي طُرُقِهِ.
١٢ طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَحْتَمِلُ التَّجْرِبَةَ، لأَنَّهُ
إِذَا تَزَكَّى يَنَالُ «إِكْلِيلَ الْحَيَاةِ» الَّذِي وَعَدَ بِهِ
الرَّبُّ لِلَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُ. ١٣ لاَ يَقُلْ أَحَدٌ إِذَا جُرِّبَ
إِنِّي أُجَرَّبُ مِنْ قِبَلِ اللَّهِ، لأَنَّ اللَّهَ غَيْرُ مُجَرَّبٍ
بِالشُّرُورِ وَهُوَ لاَ يُجَرِّبُ أَحَداً. ١٤ وَلَكِنَّ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ
يُجَرَّبُ إِذَا انْجَذَبَ وَانْخَدَعَ مِنْ شَهْوَتِهِ. ١٥ ثُمَّ
الشَّهْوَةُ إِذَا حَبِلَتْ تَلِدُ خَطِيَّةً، وَالْخَطِيَّةُ إِذَا
كَمُلَتْ تُنْتِجُ مَوْتاً. ١٦ لاَ تَضِلُّوا يَا إِخْوَتِي الأَحِبَّاءَ.
١٧ كُلُّ عَطِيَّةٍ صَالِحَةٍ وَكُلُّ مَوْهِبَةٍ تَامَّةٍ هِيَ مِنْ
فَوْقُ، نَازِلَةٌ مِنْ عِنْدِ أَبِي الأَنْوَارِ، الَّذِي لَيْسَ
عِنْدَهُ تَغْيِيرٌ وَلاَ ظِلُّ دَوَرَانٍ. (سميث فان دايك)

HINDI

वश्विास और ववेक

2 हे मेरे भाईयो, जब कभी तुम तरह तरह की परीक्षाओं में पड़ो
तो इसे बड़े आनन्द की बात समझो। 3 क्योंकि तुम यह जानते
हो कि तुम्हारा वश्विास जब परीक्षा में सफल होता है तो उससे
धैर्यपूर्ण सहन शक्ति उत्पन्न होती है। 4 और वह धैर्यपूर्ण
सहन शक्ति एक ऐसी पूर्णता को जन्म देती है जिससे तुम ऐसे
सद्धि बन सकते हो जिनमें कोई कमी नहीं रह जाती है।

5 सो यदि तुममें से किसी में ववेक की कमी है तो वह उसे परमेश्वर
से माँग सकता है। वह सभी को प्रसन्नता पूर्वक उदारता के साथ
देता है। 6 बस वश्विास के साथ माँगा जाए। थोड़ा सा भी संदेह
नहीं होना चाहिए। क्योंकि जिसको संदेह होता है, वह सागर की
उस लहर के समान है जो हवा से उठती है और थरथराती है। 7 ऐसे
मनुष्य को यह नहीं सोचना चाहिए कि उसे प्रभु से कुछ भी मिल
पायेगा। 8 ऐसे मनुष्य का मन तो दुवधिा से ग्रस्त है। वह अपने
सभी कर्मो में अस्थिर रहता है।

सच्चा धन

9 साधारण परिस्थितियों वाले भाई को गर्व करना चाहिए कि
परमेश्वर ने उसे आत्मा का धन दिया है। 10 और धनी भाई को
गर्व करना चाहिए कि परमेश्वर ने उसे नम्रता दी है। क्योंकि
उसे तो घास पर खिलने वाले फूल के समान झड़ जाना है। 11 सूरज
कड़कड़ाती धूप लिए उगता है और पौधों को सुखा डालता है। उनकी
फूल पत्तियाँ झड़ जाती हैं और सुन्दरता समाप्त हो जाती है।
इसी प्रकार धनी व्यक्ति भी अपनी भाग दौड़ के साथ समाप्त
हो जाता है।

परमेश्वर परीक्षा नहीं लेता

12 वह व्यक्ति धन्य है जो परीक्षा में अटल रहता है क्योंकि
परीक्षा में खरा उतरने के बाद वह जीवन के उस विजय मुकुट को
धारण करेगा, जिसे परमेश्वर ने अपने प्रेम करने वालों को देने
का वचन दिया है। 13 परीक्षा की घड़ी में किसी को यह नहीं कहना
चाहिए कि "परमेश्वर मेरी परीक्षा ले रहा है," क्योंकि बुरी बातों
से परमेश्वर को कोई लेना देना नहीं है। वह किसी की परीक्षा
नहीं लेता। 14 हर कोई अपनी ही बुरी इच्छाओं के भ्रम में फँसकर
परीक्षा में पड़ता है। 15 फिर जब वह इच्छा गर्भवती होती है तो
पाप पूरा बढ़ जाता है और वह मृत्यु को जन्म देता है।

16 सो मेरे प्रिय भाइयों, धोखा मत खाओ। 17 प्रत्येक उत्तम दान
और परिपूर्ण उपहार ऊपर से ही मिलते हैं। और वे उस परम पिता
के द्वारा जिसने स्वर्गीय प्रकाश को जन्म दिया है, नीचे लाए
जाते हैं। वह नक्षत्रों की गतिविधि से उत्पन्न छाया से कभी
बदलता नहीं है। (ERV)

TAGALOG

Pananampalataya at Karunungan

2 Mga kapatid, magalak kayo kapag kayo'y
dumaranas ng iba't ibang uri ng pagsubok. 3
Dapat ninyong malaman na nagiging matatag
ang inyong pananampalataya sa pamamagitan
ng mga pagsubok. 4 At dapat kayong
magpakatatag hanggang wakas upang kayo'y
maging ganap at walang pagkukulang.

5 Ngunit kung ang sinuman sa inyo ay kulang
sa karunungan, humingi siya sa Diyos at siya'y
bibigyan, sapagkat ang Diyos ay nagbibigay
nang sagana at hindi nanunumbat. 6 Subalit
ang humihingi ay dapat magtiwala sa Diyos
at huwag mag-alinlangan, sapagkat ang
nag-aalinlangan ay parang alon sa dagat na
itinataboy ng hangin kahit saan. 7 Huwag
umasang tatanggap ng anuman mula sa
Panginoon ang taong 8 pabagu-bago ang isip at
di alam kung ano talaga ang nais niya.

Ang Mahirap at ang Mayaman

9 Dapat magalak ang mahirap na kapatid
kapag siya'y itinataas ng Diyos, 10 at gayundin
naman ang mayamang kapatid kapag siya'y
ibinababâ, sapagkat ang mayaman ay lilipas
na gaya ng bulaklak ng damo. 11 Ang damo ay
nalalanta sa matinding sikat ng araw, nalalagas
ang kanyang mga bulaklak at kumukupas ang
kanyang kagandahan. Gayundin naman, ang
mayaman ay mamamatay sa gitna ng kanyang
mga kaabalahan.

Ang Pagsubok at ang Pagtukso

12 Pinagpala ang taong nananatiling tapat sa
kabila ng mga pagsubok; sapagkat matapos
niyang malampasan ang pagsubok, tatanggap
siya ng gantimpala ng buhay, na ipinangako ng
Panginoon[c] sa mga umiibig sa kanya. 13 Huwag
sabihin ninuman na tinutukso siya ng Diyos
kapag siya'y dumaranas ng pagsubok, sapagkat
ang Diyos ay hindi maaaring matukso at hindi
rin naman niya tinutukso ang kahit sino. 14
Natutukso ang tao kapag siya'y naaakit at
nagpapatangay sa kanyang sariling pagnanasa.
15 At ang pagnanasa kapag naitanim sa puso ay
nagbubunga ng kasalanan; at ang kasalanan, sa
hustong gulang ay nagbubunga ng kamatayan.

16 Huwag kayong padaya, mga kapatid kong
minamahal. 17 Ang lahat ng mabuti at ganap
na kaloob ay buhat sa Diyos, mula sa Ama na
lumikha ng mga tanglaw sa kalangitan. Hindi
siya nagbabago, o nagdudulot ng bahagya
mang dilim dahil sa pagbabago. (MBBTAG)

The TRUTH about LIES
Series

LIE 1

I don't matter to God

J. Mack Stiles

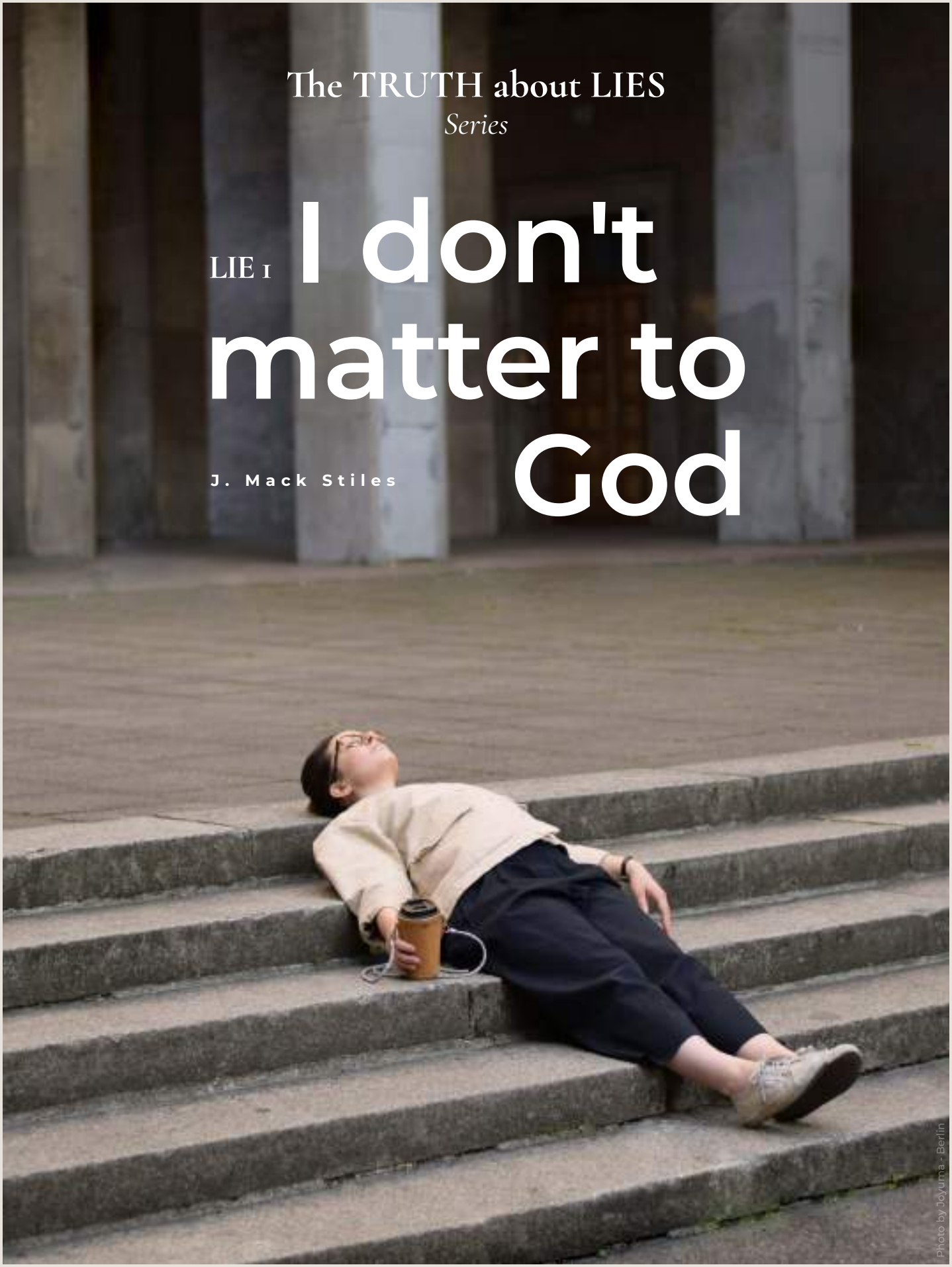


Photo by Joyuma - Berlin

DEW ARABIA

Scriptural Reflections

A little over two thousand years ago, a Man stepped off a small fishing boat and onto a stony beach. There was nothing impressive about the way He looked. A carpenter by trade, He likely had strong, calloused hands and forearms tanned by the middle-eastern sun. He worked with His father. He lived near His siblings. He came from a parochial part of the country, a small settlement tucked away in the north, far away from the celebrity and politics of the capital.

And yet, when *this* Man stepped out of the boat and onto the beach hundreds of people crowded round Him. They jostled and shouted. They asked questions and wanted to get His attention. Neighbours and friends swapped rumours about Him and the impossible things he did—stories of healing sickness with a few words and giving sight to the blind. Someone said He could change the weather. Others recounted His clashes with the religious leaders and His ability to hold an audience for hours. And everyone, it seemed, wanted a piece of the action.

In all the chaos, a father stumbled through. Jairus was desperate. His twelve-year-old daughter—his only daughter—was sick. She was about to die. Jairus was a leader of the local synagogue. Religious. Upright. Respected in the community. He'd tried everything to help his daughter and nothing had worked.

But there was something about this Carpenter. Deep down Jairus knew, he *knew*, this Man was the only One who could help. As he pushed his way through the crowd, forcing others back, he raised his hand and shouted. Making it to the front he fell down at the Man's feet, wet sand soaking through his clothes. Jesus stopped.

ABOUT

The Truth about Lies

Series

Each series covers a chapter of the book 'The Truth about Lies' by J. Mack Stiles which focuses on an individual encountering Jesus from the New Testament. During each interaction Jesus exposes a lie that many of us have been brought up to believe as self-evident truth. Every exposé contains a common thread: The truth is more relevant to you than feels comfortable.

The encounters all come from one of four Bible books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. These accounts are biographies recording Jesus' time on earth—the same story captured from four unique perspectives. And what they show runs to the heart of what it means to be human. For you. For me. Jesus meets our greatest need.

You may know stories about Jesus. You may not. You might think they are something for religious people. People who are into "that kind of thing." For those people, the stories are interesting—maybe. But for you, right now, in the twenty-first century, well, it's just not immediately obvious what these events, what this Man, has to do with you.

A lot has happened since Jesus walked the earth, but people are still people. Seeking meaning and hope. Struggling with money, and worry, and grief. Smiling over successes and kicking themselves over failures. Feeling shame. Feeling elation. Searching for answers. Believing lies. Jesus hasn't changed either, nor has His availability to meet with every person, including you.

Jairus begged Jesus to come and heal his dying daughter. So, Jesus followed the distressed man through the winding Palestinian streets to his home; the crowds pressed in, eager to see Jesus and watch what He might do for the sick girl.

There were always crowds around Jesus, too many people for Him to care about personally, right? One woman thought so as Jesus and Jairus hurried past: ▷

> " Jesus went with him [Jairus]. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed. " (Mark 5:24-28)

This desperate woman had suffered under the "care" of her first-century doctors for over a decade. We can only imagine what they were prescribing for her constant haemorrhaging. But, whatever it was, it wasn't working. It was making her a whole lot sicker and a whole lot poorer. And all the while she was isolated from her community. With her condition, she wouldn't have been considered "clean."

No wonder she didn't want to be noticed. She didn't think she mattered enough to Jesus to try and attract his attention. He was busy with other more important things, not least going to help Jairus's sick daughter. She only wanted anonymous healing and to slip away in secret. But that's not how Jesus does things:

Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched My clothes?"

> " You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. " (Mark 5:29–33)

Jesus wouldn't let her dissolve back into the crowd. He wanted a face to face with her. Those watching could see her shaking as she fell to the ground in front of Jesus, terrified to see His reaction to her.

Just Another Face in the Crowd?

If you came face to face with Jesus, what do you imagine His reaction to you would be? Would He shake his head disapprovingly? Would He welcome you with open arms? Perhaps He would start encouraging you to try harder? Would He want to be your buddy? Maybe He's so horrified by your life, He would walk away in disgust? Perhaps He would barely notice you, having more important things to do?

Despite the rush to get to Jairus's daughter, Jesus cared enough to stop and seek out the woman who thought He wouldn't have time for her. As she bowed, trembling at His feet, His words cut through the lie:

> " He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering. " (Mark 5:34)

Others had shunned her, exploited her, and failed her. Yet, Jesus shows God's heart toward this broken woman. He calls her "Daughter," grants her peace, and restores her.

Read through Mark's Gospel and you'll see this isn't an isolated case. Every single person mattered this much to Jesus. He had time for everyone, the rich, the poor, those shunned by society, and those popular and respected. He had time for the important Jairus and for the unnamed woman.

Jesus sees each individual as they are meant to be. He does the same for you. Jesus doesn't rate your value based on your looks, how much is in your bank account, your lineage, or your lifestyle. It doesn't matter if your self-esteem is sky-high or so low it doesn't register on the chart. However you feel about yourself, Jesus shows us that "I don't matter to God" is a lie.

The Truth: You Matter to God Because...

... He Made You

Our first ancestors were made perfectly by God. In the very first book of the Bible, we read how God created Adam and Eve in His image (Genesis 1:27). In each person you meet, and in yourself, you can see echoes or reflections of God's character. Those characteristics appear in people in multiple ways, but two come to mind.

First, we have the capacity to be self-aware; that is, we have a conscience. Science twists itself into

knots, trying to understand how protoplasm and calcium come together to be able to think and know that we're thinking.

Secondly, we reflect God's heart of love; the Bible says God is love (1 John 4:16). To truly love is one of the most amazing things about being human.

Bearing the image of God means that all descendants of Adam and Eve have these marks of the Divine in them.

… He Made You to Know Him

I have a famous friend named Wesley Korir. He's a marathon runner who has won the Boston marathon and the LA marathon twice. He even ran in the Olympics for Kenya.

I suspect he has fans who know more about him than I do. But if those fans saw him in the street, Wesley would walk straight past them unless they asked him for his autograph. On the other hand, if Wesley happened to run into me on the street, he would shout out to me and hug me. Many people know of Wesley. They know about him. I know him.

God made everything in creation but only humans were made to know God in a living, dynamic, two-way relationship. We were made to "walk with God" (Genesis 3:8), not just to get things from Him and slip away like the woman in the crowd. Jesus wants that personal meeting with all who come to Him in faith.

… He Made You To Know Him As Father

When the disciples ask Jesus, "teach us to pray," Jesus goes right ahead and invites them to call God 'Father' (Luke 11:1–2).

Many in the world have bad fathers; sometimes they are the ones who best know what a good father should look like. God knows how to be a good father.

The Gospel author John writes that those who believe in Jesus are given the right to become a part of the family:

> "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God " (John 1:12).

Remember what Jesus called the woman the moment she knelt before Him and told her story? He shows her God's fatherly heart by calling her "Daughter."

… He Made You To Know Him As Father Forever

We can only imagine what was running through Jairus's mind as He anxiously waited while Jesus talked to the woman. If only they could get moving again! But as Jesus was still speaking to the woman, Jairus received the blow:

> " … some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher anymore? "
> (Mark 5:35)

Despite the news, Jesus continued to the house, now filled with the loud wailings of this important man's many friends and family.

> " [Jesus] took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. " (Mark 5:40–42)

With tender compassion, Jesus restored another life and another family. But as Jesus raised this twelve-year-old, He didn't just transform her parents' sorrow to joy; He showed us on a small scale, what He will do on an ultimate scale.

Jesus can give us eternal life—knowing and enjoying our Father God eternally in an ever-maturing relationship. We are deeply valuable to God because we are eternal beings. He created us as infinite beings. Our bodies die, but our spirit will live forever. We matter to God. He made us to spend that forever with him.

Extract from 'The Truth About Lies' by
J. Mack Stiles *- former pastor in Iraq, author and international speaker*
10 Publishing*, 2023 - a division of 10ofThose.com*

COLUMN

CHRIST GIVES LIFE

I never thought that this book would change the course of my life forever. I had a look of caution and reserve on it. “Have you ever read the Bible before?” she said to me, smiling. “No, I have never done that before,” I answered her, feeling a strange, overwhelming desire within myself to know the puzzling mystery surrounding this book, which I was raised to be wary of because Christians distorted it according to what was common in the culture of my society at that time. « I want to give you the Bible as a gift. Do you accept it from me? “Yes” I said to her, extending my hand to receive it, while looking at my wife, who showed signs of approval on her face.

> *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light, and God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.*
>
> (Genesis 1:1-4)

These were the first verses that I read with my wife and we could not stop reading because we were facing a divine revelation, the Word of God, the Father of all creation, Who made us, reveals to us from where we did come to this world? And why? What is our fate after we reach the end of this earthly life? It was the first time in my life I heard “The Spirit of God moving over the face of the waters.” They were not just words, but words in the Spirit of God, the Giver of Life. Eternal Life.

from Morocco

FOUAD T.

Poem



Weak

Today I am very week-
weak body,
weak heart,
lacking ability,
devoid of resolve,
little anticipation,
waves of discouragement,
whispers of fear,
dreading a sleepless night,
expecting the pain of the
morning,
wishing to run,
nowhere to hide,
feeling sentenced to what I
cannot survive.
Wondering, “How long?”

Questions-
no answers
But I have come to understand
that my weakness is a grace,
that hopelessness is not a
prison.
Hopelessness is a doorway.
There is no shame in weakness.
I was created weak
designed to be dependent.
To confess weakness
is to own my humanity.
To own my humanity
is to embrace my need of help.
To embrace my need of help
means to open the door to

God’s warehouse of
protecting,
providing,
comforting,
confronting,
strengthening,
hope-giving, and
motivating grace.
Today I am weak,
but I will boast in my
weakness
for when I am weak,
for me You are strong.

- Paul David Tripp

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Reflective Questions

1. Study 2 Corinthians 12:9-11. Why should we, like the Apostle Paul, boast and delight in weakness?
2. Are you at risk of falling for the delusion of your own strength? Think specifically - where are some of the areas in which you excel? Are you taking credit for what only God could produce?
3. Meditate on verses like Isaiah 29:16, Jeremiah 18:6, Isaiah 45:9, or Isaiah 64:8. Remind yourself, "We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.



Photo by Ales Ustinov - Kyiv

Scriptural Reflections

IF THERE IS A GOD WHY IS THERE EVIL?

I have heard the question so often that it no longer startles me. But I must admit it wasn't always the case. It is the favourite rebuttal against the claims of Christianity, or, call it, the supposed "knockout punch" against belief in the existence of God. "If there is God, why is there so much evil and injustice in the world?" It is an old-age question, and there is nothing novel about it. However, like all the fundamental issues of life, Scripture is not silent on this question. One can go to many places in the Bible to address this question, but one that I have recently found helpful and thought-provoking is Proverbs 19:3.

I am sure some new believers grapple with the brokenness of this world and perhaps, in their quiet moments, wonder why there is so much pain and suffering in the world when the Bible speaks so much of a powerful and omnipotent God. Can't He stop all the carnage and make everything right? I'm sure there are well-meaning people with such a genuine question. However, in my experience, this question doesn't often come from a place of faith, seeking understanding. Instead, it often comes from those who have scores to settle with the idea of God and are looking for evidence to reinforce their viewpoint. It is because of this that I find Proverbs 19:3 so apt.

> *"When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD."*

At the core of our depravity as human beings is the tendency to blame someone else for all our problems. I don't need to prove the validity of this statement because each of us is a walking proof. We blame our friends, parents, teachers, siblings, or neighbours for all the mishaps in our lives. When something goes wrong in our lives, the first thought that runs through our mind is, "whose fault was it?" It is the same logic behind the question, "if there is God, why is there so much evil and injustice in the world?"

The Legitimacy of the Question

From the face of it, it sounds like a legitimate question. At least there is an acknowledgement that there is evil in the world, and someone should be doing something or should have done something about it. In this case, that someone is presumed to be the God of Christianity; otherwise, He is not God or powerful enough. As legitimate as that question may sound to some people, I do not believe it is. The right question should be, why is there so much evil and injustice in a ▶

world that looks so beautiful? That is the real question that needs to be answered because the existence of evil in the world is not proof against the existence of God; instead, it only proves His existence.

This is because even for those who seek to deny the existence of God, there is a deep acknowledgement that this is not how the world is supposed to be. But even so, a more fundamental question is, why would a non-believer feel so strongly about good and evil anyway? After all, if everything is random and there is no divine Creator, why do they care? It's all a matter of the survival of the fittest; "eat or be eaten" is the name of the game. But that is not how even the average atheist views life. Despite their godless world view, they somehow acknowledge that there is good and evil; the standard by which they arrive at those categories is still a mystery to me.

"... the existence of evil in the world is not proof against the existence of God; instead, it only proves His existence."

Why is There Evil in the World?

But for the Christian, the present state of the world is not at all a mystery. Scripture is very clear on where we came from as humans, why we are where we are, and the solution available to those genuinely looking for answers. When one considers the current state of the world, it is tough to conceive that there was a time in history when God saw everything that He had made and exclaimed, "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). But, yes, there was such a time when man flourished because he lived under God's rightful rule and authority. That is why the right question is not, "if there is God, why is there so much evil and injustice in the world?" But instead, "how did such a once very good world become so evil?"

Genesis 3:1-15 explains in detail how we got to where we are today. Yes, God did create a very good world; however, when man used his freewill to reject God's rightful rule and authority, the world was plunged into its present chaos and predicament. From Ukraine to Gaza, Somalia to Myanmar, Libya to Haiti, and Nigeria to Venezuela, what we see in our world today is because God has withdrawn His presence. In simple terms, evil could be described as the absence of good. That is precisely where the world is today. When God withdraws His presence or hides His face, the result is evil. We see this teaching in countless places in the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 31:17; Ps. 30:7; Isaiah 59:1-2; 64:7)

This is why Proverbs 19:3 is instructive: "When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD." In our folly, we have abandoned God's design for marriage and wonder why divorce and domestic abuse are increasing. We have thrown God's blueprint for parenting out of the window and replaced it with our own clever ways of rearing children, and yet wonder why depression among teenagers is on the rise. We have replaced God's idea of community with a self-centred individualistic approach to life and yet wonder why loneliness and suicide are so rampant. We fill our minds with violence and sexual images through our inordinate consumption of mindless entertainment and wonder why war and sexual abuse are ravaging our world.

But we should make no mistake: the fact that God has hidden His face does not in any way suggest He is no longer in control over what happens in the world. He will forever remain the sovereign Creator and Ruler of the world. Instead, hiding His face is a sign of judgment, the full outpouring of which would be at the end of the age against the world and its system that continues to reject His authority. The chaos and upheavals we see in our present world are only a faint echo of the full judgment that is yet to come (2 Peter 3:9-13).

God Indeed Has a Solution

Behind the question, "if there is God, why is there so much evil?" is the posture that sees God as a divine maid with a mop in hand who goes about cleaning up the mess we create as humans. On the one hand, we have rejected His design and blueprint for life, yet, on the other hand, we have the guts to ask why He is not cleaning up after us. And we get mad and vindictive if He doesn't clean up after us. We have removed all the guardrails but still looking to be kept safe. This is precisely what the wise man was talking about: "When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD."

But the good news is that God is a good God. In His mercy and kindness, He has not left us to our own evil devices. He is making a new world, one that is far better than this one. In Revelations 21:1-4 we read,

> *" then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. "*

This present broken world is not all that there is. A new one is coming where the question will no longer be asked, "if there is God, why is there so much evil?" Because God will not withdraw His presence; in fact, He will be in the midst of the city, and anyone who makes it into that world will gladly and joyfully submit to His rightful rule and authority. "God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ■

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by Kwesi Sena - MATS, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, serves as one of the elders of ECCD, Dubai

Published on The Gospel Network - tgnghana.org

Reflective Questions

1. Have you ever blamed God for your circumstances?

   - ☐ Yes, I'm easily angry with God when something goes wrong in my life.
   - ☐ Yes, but I know I am wrong when I think that way and I ask God to forgive me.
   - ☐ I do wonder the purpose of bad things in my life, I would like to read more about it.
   - ☐ I know my old heart wants to blame God sometimes but I believe God's Word where I read that God is 100% good and 100% in control.

2. The writer mentions that God's hidden face is a sign of judgment rather than an absence of care or control, how do you respond to this?

3. You read that when we don't follow God's design (for marriage, parenting, community, etc.) we suffer because of this (divorce, loneliness, despair, etc.). Are you actively learning about God's good design and applying this to your life?

   - ☐ No, I don't like to read the Bible or listen to others. I want to do it my own way.
   - ☐ I want to read and study the Bible more, maybe I can team up with a friend!
   - ☐ I am, and by the grace of God I can see His ways are better than mine.

4. The writer points us to God's Solution that offers us hope! How does this hope changes how you trust God, obey Him, find joy in Him and forgiving others?

Conversation Starter

At the dinner table with your family or when you're with your Christian friends, ask them if they blame others for their own mistakes instead of looking to their own actions? Can they give an example of how to respond Biblically to the evil in our lives?

Recommended Books



Health, Wealth, and the (Real) Gospel
Sean DeMars & Mike McKinley
Exposing the dangers of the prosperity gospel.

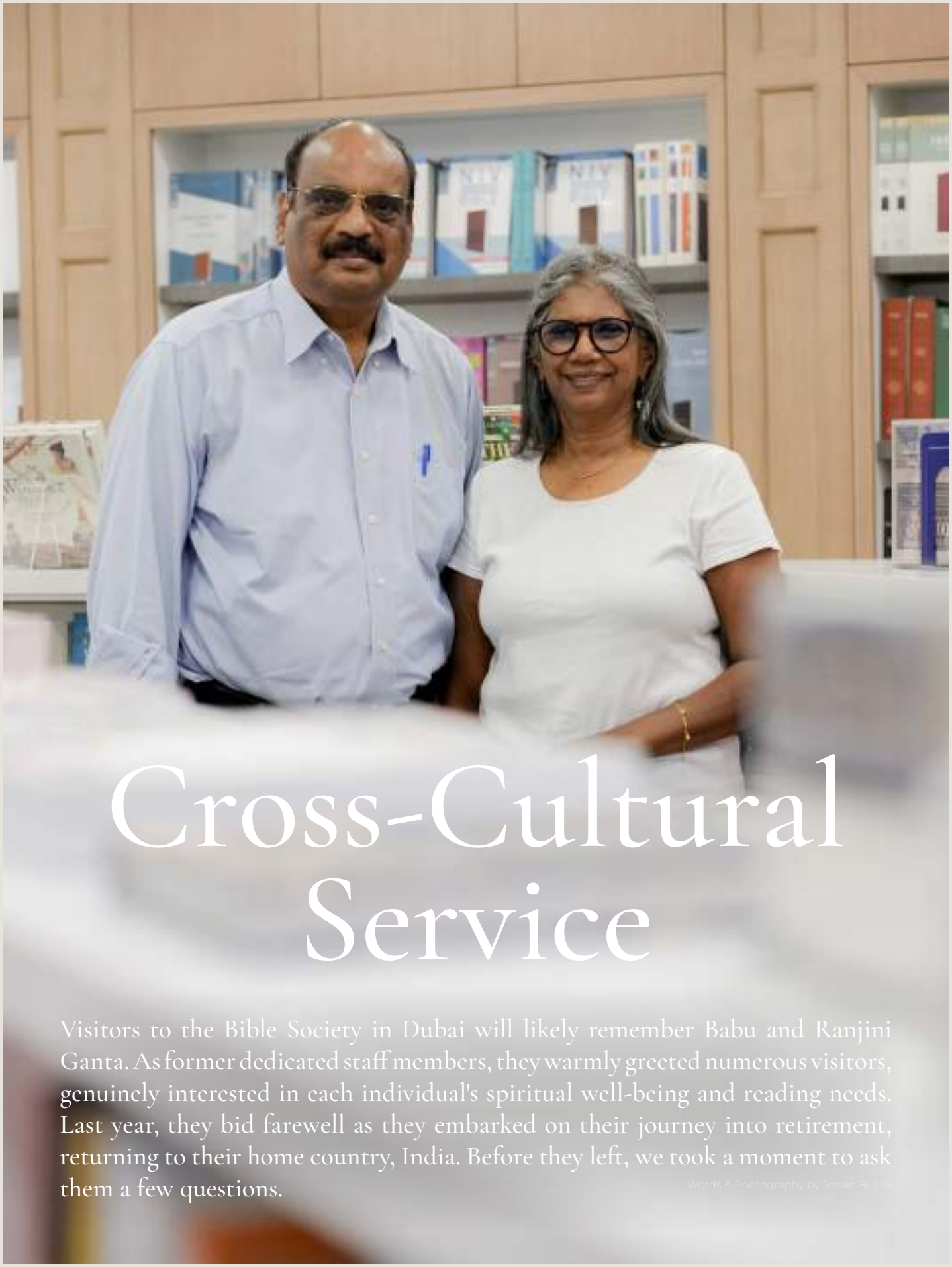
Inerrancy and Worldview
Vern S. Poythress
Answering challenges to the Bible, including evil and the nature of humanity.

The problem of pain
C. S. Lewis
Offers answers and hope for a deeper understanding of humanity.

How Long O Lord?
D.A. Carson
Accessible Guide to understanding suffering biblically, with pastoral insights.

Spectacular Sins
John Piper
How to be happy, free and unshakable when evil and sins of the world come to us.

Think Biblically!
John MacArthur
Guides readers in cultivating a biblical world view on a wide range of issues.



Cross-Cultural Service

Visitors to the Bible Society in Dubai will likely remember Babu and Ranjini Ganta. As former dedicated staff members, they warmly greeted numerous visitors, genuinely interested in each individual's spiritual well-being and reading needs. Last year, they bid farewell as they embarked on their journey into retirement, returning to their home country, India. Before they left, we took a moment to ask them a few questions.

Words & Photography by Josien Buijze

Interview

I can hear Bubu's voice echoing from the back office of the Bible Society. As I glance into the room, it's a sea of books—lining the walls, crowding the desk and even piled on the floor. Clearly, this is the heart of the well-organized bookstore. Amidst this literary landscape, curiosity naturally piques, and I find myself asking Babu:

BABU & RANJINI GANTA

Babu Ganta is the husband of Ranjini and together they have four children. His upbringing in a Christian home with Bible teachings laid the foundation of his knowledge of God. His parents were the second generation converts from Hinduism. At the age of 12, he acknowledged his sins and embraced Jesus' sacrifice. Babu worked at the Bible Society in Dubai for many years, writes books and teaches the Gospel. In 2024 he entered his retirement and moved back to his home country India.

Ranjini Ganta's life was deeply impacted by her parents' conversion and baptism, when she was about eight years old. Their home evolved into a centre for studying God's word, often hosting regular guests for teachings. It was during a Scripture Union session at her school that she recognized her need for salvation. Surrounded by such impactful examples, her zeal for outreach grew. Since then, Ranjini has dedicated herself to serving through teaching, training, and various administrative responsibilities.

How did you end up here?
Babu
Recalling the past, Babu reminisced: My journey in this region started when I moved from India to Oman, in 1982, where I taught English to Omani students. In 1996, I was asked to help the Bible Society of Gulf (BSG). Their mission is to provide God's word to the people in a language that they can understand. So I started with managing one of their book cabins.

Book cabins?
Babu
In those days, all we had was one portable cabin in Muscat. Over the years that grew to fifteen outlets in the region, and it wasn't until much later, when the church buildings were constructed, that we could relocate there. My role back then is still the same to what I'm doing today: communication, writing and teaching the Bible. From the start, this work allowed me to engage with diverse Christian communities throughout the region.

When did you move to Dubai?
Ranjini
In 2005, the call to serve in the UAE became evident and Babu moved for the Bible Society to Dubai. It took me an additional three years to follow as I juggled two jobs in Oman. Those years were taxing. I believe God used this one flood, that damaged our home and car in Oman, to propel me to follow. It taught me - and God continues to teach me - not to hold too tightly to earthly possessions.
In addition, at that time, the Bible Society urgently needed more staff, which is when I joined the team. We recognized the potential of the UAE with its larger population compared to Oman, greater diversity and more churches. We knew that God bringing us here would mean a lot more work and a lot more opportunities.

Sounds exciting! How did it go?
Ranjini
It was a humble start. There were numerous challenges and the Bible Society faced difficult circumstances. At that time, there was hardly anyone here. I took charge of administration, importing books and Bibles and submitting them for governmental review. That was challenging, yes, but also very exciting!
The turning point for us was joining a local church. The teaching of our local church has been very important for both of us. We realized we had missed out on that in Oman.

Loneliness and isolation spurred me to look for meaningful connections. This eventually expanded the outreach of the Bible Society. It wasn't just about selling books, it was about transforming lives through God's word. Engaging with different cultures and navigating governmental regulations became integral to our mission.

Babu
We faced many professional challenges, like importing books legally, engaging with church leaders of various denominations and finding the right staff to man the Bible centres, to name a few. As staff, we held regular

prayer meetings to bring these challenges before the Lord, and we witnessed God's miraculous interventions.

How did your faith sustain you during challenging times?

Babu

Our challenges were met with prayer and unwavering support from the church. These trials, though daunting, deepened my faith through complete reliance on God and his Word.

As a family, we had challenges in bringing up our children. Sometimes the work demanded more of our time and the children missed us. God's Word, good teaching from our church, the church family and good books from the Bible Centre were pillars of strength for us to cope with all these kinds of challenges.

The bookstore has evolved into a spiritual hub. It's been immensely rewarding to witness countless lives finding solace in God's Word. From families restored to individuals rediscovering their faith, the bookstore became a conduit for spiritual rejuvenation and restoration.

"As staff, we held regular prayer meetings to bring these challenges before the Lord, and we witnessed God's miraculous interventions."

Sounds like a great success!

Ranjini

Accomplishments in ministry can pose a greater risk than any other challenge. I have seen them fuelling my pride and diminishing my reliance on God.

For example?

At the end of 2022 I was laid off quite abruptly, that exposed my heart to pride and insecurity. Thoughts of '*Am I useless?*' and '*What am I doing?* were playing in my head. There was a lot of bitterness and anger too. It forced me to go back to God's Word, listen to Him and trust in who God is. I realized that I do not have to be *doing* something to love the Lord.

Returning back to India, I realized it is not about achievements but about obeying and trusting God. Anything we do, whether big or small, comes from the Lord. We are called to give Him the glory. He uses us, and indeed, He can







choose not to use us as well.

What books do you enjoy reading?

Babu

I enjoy most of the Nine-Marks books as they help me understand better who God is. Also the NIV, ESV and Grace Ministries Study Bibles are really useful for my personal Bible study.

Ranjini

I'm drawn to biographies like 'Through Gates of Splendour' by Elisabeth Elliot, 'Knowing God' by J.I. Packer and 'Delighting in the Trinity' by Michael Reeves, which were transformative. Those books were key in deepening my love and knowledge of God. It was no longer a distant understanding; it became a personal relationship.

Additionally, works by men devoted to God like Hudson Taylor and Jonathan Edwards resonate with me. A book of prayers by Puritans enriches my daily devotionals.

How would you encourage Christians in the UAE and the region?

Ranjini

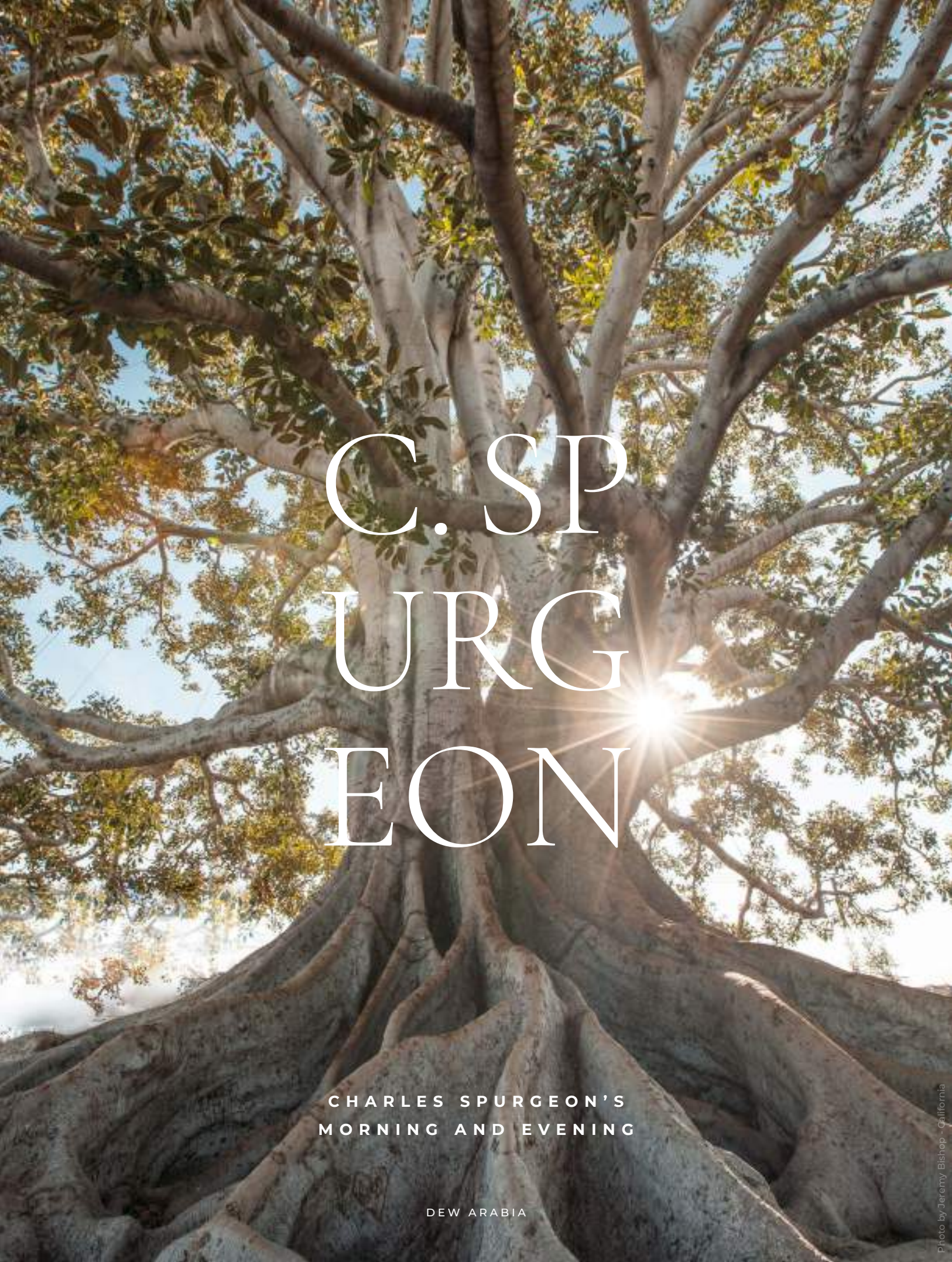
Prioritise a deep, personal relationship with God, living out His teachings to your daily life. Love God passionately and extend that love to others. Approach Him with humility recognizing that everything is His work. Submit fully to His will in all aspects of your life. Complete obedience to God means saying, "Yes, Lord, You are God, and I am not." As human beings, we constantly struggle with the desire to elevate ourselves. This is why we must continually examine our hearts, especially when serving in ministry.

Babu

Cherish the religious freedom and be careful to not disuse or abuse it. Choose a healthy church and enjoy the times of good teaching and fellowship. Focus on God in quiet time and equip yourself with God's Word. Share your faith with gentleness and respect, recognizing the privilege and responsibility faith bestows upon believers.

We are thankful to God for the BSG for giving us an opportunity to serve the Christian community here for 27 years. We thank God for the wonderful people we have met and for witnessing the many changes in the UAE, setting a great example of religious tolerance.

Though I am retiring, I will continue to develop basic Gospel, discipleship and church teachings for oral learners and focus on creating audio versions in various languages for those who cannot read. ■



C.SP URG EON

CHARLES SPURGEON'S
MORNING AND EVENING

DEW ARABIA

Photo by Jeremy Bishop · California

Readings by C.H. Spurgeon

'These have no root'

Luke 8:13

My soul, check yourself in light of the above text. You might have heard and felt the word of God with joy and it may have made a big impression on you, but remember, it's one thing to hear it and another to truly accept Jesus in to your heart. ***Sometimes, people seem enthusiastic on the surface, but deep down, their hearts remain hard and unresponsive.*** *A strong feeling or impression of the word of God does not always stick around for a long time.*

It's like Jesus' story of the seeds in rocky soil with just a thin layer of earth on top; the roots were stopped from growing down into the soil because they were blocked by the hard rocks, so the seed focussed on growing its young sprout upward to the sky as much as it could! But without the proper support and nourishment from the roots it ended up dying. ***Could this be me? Am I just putting on a good show on the outside without having a real, inner connection to Jesus?*** *Good growth happens both upwards (visible actions) and downwards (inside the heart). Am I deeply rooted in my faith and love for Jesus? If my heart remains hard, unbroken and untouched by grace, any initial growth I experience will eventually fade, just like that poorly rooted seed.*

I should not grow spirituality like Jonah's plant, which grew quickly but could not endure (Jonah 4:6-11). ***I need to count the cost of being a true follower of Jesus, and above all, I must seek the power of the Holy Spirit to have a lasting and enduring faith within me.*** *If my heart remains as stubborn as it is by nature, trials and difficulties will scorch my faith, my hard heart will make it even more challenging for the truth to take root and my faith will die.* ***God, I pray, prepare my heart, then sow the truth so that I may bear a rich and lasting harvest.***

| Modern translation |

Church & Life Practices

IS CHURCH ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

Earl Blackburn

May each of us say from his heart, as David said of old, "*I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD*"
Psalm 122:1

Being faithful and consistent in attending a true church of Jesus Christ and worshipping God is extremely important — more important than you may realize. Irregularity and unfaithfulness in attending church conveys a certain message and produces definite short-term and far-reaching effects. Failure to assemble yourself with the Lord's people at all stated meetings for worship, unless you are sick or legitimately hindered:

1. Reveals a cold heart and lack of fervent love to Christ who instituted local churches (Rev. 2:4; 3:20).
2. It shows disregard for the apostolic example and command of God's holy Word (Acts 2:41.; Heb. 10:25).
3. It robs you of blessing and help for the days ahead.
4. It cheats the brethren of blessings and help they would receive from your mutual ministry to them (see 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 10:24, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works").
5. It grieves the Holy Spirit Who dwells in each believer individually and in the church as a whole.
6. It grieves the elders who oversee you and minister the Word of God to you (Heb. 13:7, 17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13).
7. It can influence others, by your poor example, to become unfaithful, lazy, indifferent, and selfish. (Many young Christians have said, "Brother or Sister So-and-So do not come regularly, why should I?") You are a letter known and read by all men (2 Cor. 3:2-3a).
8. It discourages brethren in the body with whom you are joined.
9. It is a poor testimony to unbelievers who see your inconsistency (see John 13:35; cf. 1 John 3:13-14).
10. It demonstrates your lack of vision for the future of that particular church of Jesus Christ in which you are a member (see Jer. 29:10-11).
11. It makes you a covenant-breaker in your commitment to God and to the church where you are a member.
12. It is a dreadful and empty step toward backsliding and apostasy (study Hebrews 10:25 in its context of verses 19-39).
13. It shows disrespect for the best and the brightest day of the week, Sunday — the Lord's Day, the day on which the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.

A Christian is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and this saving grace causes one to love Christ's churches (see Ps. 27:4; 84:1, 2, 10; 87:1-3). If there is no love for Christ's churches or no concern to be identified with a local church, then one's faith is suspect. True and saving faith creates a love for the things Christ loves. He "loved the church, and gave Himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). John Owen puts it well when he says: ▷

Biography

WHO IS JOHN OWEN?



.. his quote!

" It is the duty of everyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ, and takes due care of his own eternal salvation, voluntarily and by his own choice to join himself to some particular congregation of Christ's institution . . . no particular person is to be esteemed a legal, true subject who does not appear in His courts with a solemn homage to Him. "

(Works, Vol. 15, 'Duty of Believers to Join Themselves In Church Order,' pp. 319-327).

May each of us say from his heart, as David said of old,

" I was Glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD "

(Psalm 122:1). ■

Published by The Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America - *arbca.com*

John Owen was a famous **Christian Theologian** (thinker) and leader born in **1616** in England. He is known for his deep religious writings and as a leading figure in the **Puritan** movement, which aimed to purify the Church of England. Owen studied at Oxford University and became a chaplain and advisor to important leaders, including Oliver Cromwell.

Owen **wrote many books**, focusing on how people can grow closer to God, live a life that pleases Him and **the Glory of Christ**. He believed in the importance of personal faith and discipline in a Christian's life and that the goal of the Christian life was knowing God. Despite facing challenges, including disagreements with the government and other religious groups, Owen continued to preach and write.

Owen married Mary Rooke in 1644 and they had eleven children. Sadly, almost all of his children died when they were very young, except one. These and other **sad events in his life** often showed up in his writings and talks, where he spoke about dealing with loss, finding comfort in God and keeping faith during tough times, making them meaningful to others who are also going through hard times.

He died in 1683, leaving a lasting impact on Christian theology and the Puritan movement. His teachings continue to influence many people around the world today.

Tip! Owen's books are easier to read than you might think, offering encouraging insights for your Christian life. Try *Spiritual-Mindedness* by Owen and read about the alarming subtle influence the world has on your mind and learn how to focus your thoughts on 'things above, where Christ is.'

Photo by: Pawel Czerwinski

THE LAW

Matthew 5:17-18 — "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." **Romans 3:20** — "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin." **Romans 6:14** — "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." **Romans 13:8-10** — "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." **Galatians 3:19** — "Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary." **Galatians 3:21-26** — "Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." **Hebrews 10:1-4** — "For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." **Acts 13:38-39** — "Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." **Romans 9:31-32** — "Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works."

Theology

THE COMMANDS OF GOD

Several key themes emerge in the biblical teaching on law.

FIRST, sinners are unable to keep God's law and hence no one can stand in the right before God by means of the law. Justification is by faith, in both Testaments (Gen. 15:6; Ps. 32:1–2; Rom. 4:1–25). Justification now belongs to believers by virtue of the atoning work of Jesus Christ (Rom. 31:18 - 3:26; Gal. 3:10–14).

SECOND, in the scriptural storyline God did not give the law to establish a relationship with Himself. The covenant stipulations were given to those who were already reciptients of God's gracious and redeeming work. Obedience to the law was a response to God's grace, not a means of meriting His favour. This pattern is true in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The parenetic texts in the the New Testament are in this sense the same as the injunctions to obey found in the Sinai covenant.

THIRD, the new covenant is superior to the old, for most members of the Sinai covenant were uncircumcised in heart. On the contrary, *all* the members of the new covenant community have received forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, and are transformed by the Holy Spirit

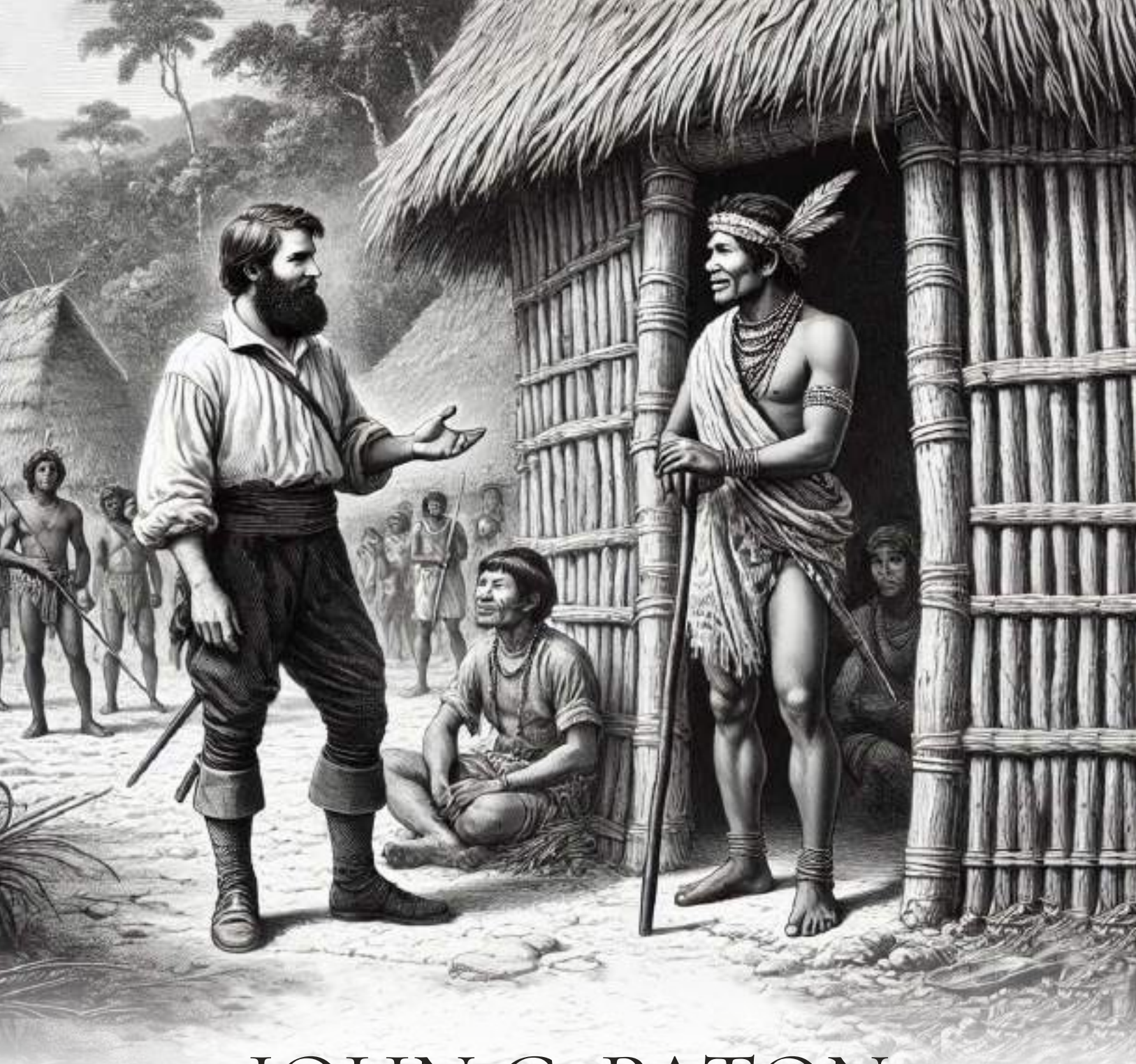
FOURTH, true obedience is always the obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26). Faith and obedience may be distinguished but should not be segregated from one another, as if God summons His people to obey Him without trusting in Him, or as if faith in Him could ever be separated from obeying Him. Abraham's obedience, then, flowed from his faith, so we can say of Abraham that he was justified by faith alone, as long as we recognize that such faith always issues in obedience (Jas 2:14–26).

FIFTH, those who keep God's law are enabled to do so by the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit empowers and strengthens God's people to do His will, although this obedience in the interval between the inauguration and consummation of the Kingdom is imperfect. When the Scripture refers to the law killing or putting to death, the writers refer to the unregenerate, for when the law comes to those who do not know God it slays them instead of enlivening them. The law is not a source of life, for it provides no ability to keep its prescriptions. The Mosaic covenant, then, produced death because the nation of Israel as a whole was unregenerate. The problem was not with the content of the law, nor was the Sinai covenant legalistic. Except for the remnant, the law was given to people who were stubborn and stiffnecked, who had no inclination to do God's will.

SIXTH, the New Testament teaches that the Sinai covenant was a temporary covenant, not intended to be in force for ever. The Sinai covenant separated Israel from the nations as God's special people. With the coming of Christ, the Mosaic covenant is terminated and the distinctions between Jews and Gentiles are erased, and they are now one body if they belong to Christ. Believers are no longer under the prescriptions of the Mosaic law. The Mosaic covenant pointed towards and is fulfilled in the work of Jesus Christ. The new covenant is established by Him, so that the law is written on the heart.

SEVENTH, the content of the law for believers is the 'law of Christ'. The law of Christ centres on Jesus Christ Himself and His interpretation of the law. Believers fulfil the law of Christ supremely in their love for one another. It does seem to be the case that the moral norms of the Old Testament law are included in the law of Christ, but the focus in the law of Christ is not the Old Testament law but its fulfilment in Christ – in Christ's command to love one another. Still, this love also manifests itself in the keeping of God's commands. Thus Christ's death and the power of the Holy Spirit help *all* members of the new covenant community to do what only the *remnant* of the old covenant did: to love the Lord with all their heart, mind and strength and their neighbours as themselves (Deut. 6:4–9; Lev. 19:17–18; Mark 12:28–32).

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JOHN G. PATON

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR THE ISLAND PEOPLE?

Can you find this country on the map?

John G. Paton was a missionary born in 1824 who travelled far to Vanuatu (a country of islands in the South Pacific Ocean) to share his faith. Even though he faced many dangers and the sad loss of his family, he didn't give up. John spent over 40 years loving the island people, teaching them about Jesus and building churches. His brave and compassionate adventures, show how God can work in difficult circumstances! Hear it directly from John Paton himself ...

Recommended Books

Under the Axe

But my enemies seldom slackened their hateful designs against my life, however calmed or baffled for the moment. Within a few days of the above events, when Natives in large numbers were assembled at my house, a man furiously rushed on me with his axe; but a Kaserumini Chief snatched a spade with which I had been working, and dexterously defended me from instant death. Life in such circumstances led me to cling very near to the Lord Jesus; I knew not, for one brief hour, when or how attack might be made; and yet, with my trembling hand clasped in the hand once nailed on Calvary, and now swaying the sceptre of the universe, calmness and peace and resignation abode in my soul.

Next day, a wild Chief followed me about for four hours with his loaded musket, and, though often directed towards me, God restrained his hand. I spoke kindly to him, and attended to my work as if he had not been there, fully persuaded that my God had placed me there, and would protect me till my allotted task was finished. Looking up in unceasing prayer to our dear Lord Jesus, I left all in His hands, and felt immortal till my work was done. Trials and hairbreadth escapes strengthened my faith, and seemed only to nerve me for more to follow; and they did tread swiftly upon each other's heels. Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my dear Lord and Saviour, nothing else in all the world could have preserved me from losing my reason and perishing miserably. His words, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," became to me so real that it would not have startled me to behold Him, as Stephen did, gazing down upon the scene. I felt His supporting power, as did Paul, when he cried, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." It is the sober truth, and it comes back to me sweetly after twenty years, that I had my nearest and dearest glimpses of the face and smile of my blessed Lord in those dread moments when musket, club, or spear was being levelled at my life. Oh the bliss of living and enduring, as seeing "Him who is invisible!"

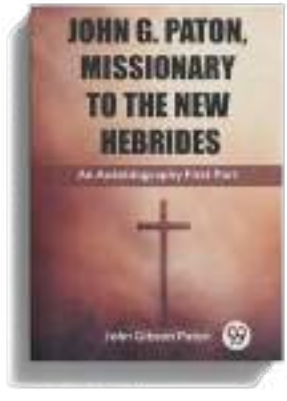
One evening, I awoke three times to hear a Chief and his men trying to force the door of my house. Though armed with muskets, they had some sense of doing wrong, and were wholesomely afraid of a little retriever dog which had often stood betwixt me and death. God restrained them again; and next morning the report went all round the Harbour, that those who tried to shoot me were "smitten weak with fear," and that shooting would not do. A plan was therefore deliberately set on foot to fire the premises, and club us if we attempted to escape. But our Aneityumese Teacher heard of it, and God helped us to frustrate their designs. When they knew that their plots were revealed to us, they seemed to lose faith in themselves, and cast about to circumvent us in some more secret way. Their evil was overruled for good."

—

Paton, J.G. and Paton, J. *(1889) 'Under the Axe', in John G. Paton: An Autobiography. First Part. New York: Flemming H. Revell Company, pp. 191–193. Available at: www.gutenberg.org (Accessed: 24 February 2025).*

Continue reading in this captivating autobiography.

It's also free online—scan the QR code or go to www.gutenberg.org to read it.



Catechism

What is a catechism?

The word 'catechism' comes from the Greek word 'katecheo' meaning 'instruct' or 'teach'. In a Christian context, it means to teach Biblical truth and often this is done in an orderly way with questions, answers and biblical support.

Is there only one catechism?

Not at all! There are different catechisms that each have a different emphasis or order in questions. Compare for example these catechism

- Heidelberg Catechism - 1563, 129 Q&A
- Westminister Shorter Catechism - 1647, 107 Q&A
- My First Book of Questions & Answers - 2011. 114 Q&A
- New City Catechism - 2017, 52 Q&A

Why?

A catechism is very important because it helps believers—and children—understand the Bible more deeply and clearly through interpretation, selection, organization and completeness:

Interpretation: It provides a big-picture understanding of how individual Bible verses fit together within the larger message of Scripture.

Selection: It highlights the most essential parts of Scripture for knowing God and living faithfully, helping believers prioritize what to focus on.

Organization: It arranges biblical truths in a logical, progressive way, preventing confusion that can come from learning disconnected verses.

Completeness: It ensures a more comprehensive grasp of the "whole counsel of God," offering a structured body of truth that can be faithfully passed down.

As we are required to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast (Col. 1:23) we are urged to "attain to the unity of the ... knowledge of the Son of God ... so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4: 13-14) as there will be many deceivers (1 John 2:26).

How to begin?

So let's have a closer look at a catechism! Let's study it and memorize it with our family, children and freinds! In this edition we will cover the first nine questions of the 'New City Catechism' from the Gospel Coalition (available online, in app and book version, in different languages).

As with memorizing the Bible itself, God's truth will equip you as a Christian for daily life.

NEW CITY CATECHISM

© Crossway, 2025

ENGLISH

Question 1
What is our only hope in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ. ROMANS 14:7–8

Question 2
What is God?

God is the Creator and Sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in His power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through Him and by His will. PSALM 86:8–10, 15

TAGALOG

Tanong 1
Ano ang tangi nating pag-asa sa buhay at sa kamatayan?

Na hindi na natin pagmamay-ari ang ating buhay, katawan at kaluluwa, sa buhay man o kamatayan, kundi ito ay sa Diyos na at sa ating Tagapagligtas na si Jesu-Cristo. ROMA 14:7–8

Tanong 2
Ano ang Diyos?

Ang Diyos ang Siyang Lumikha at Nagpapanatili ng bawat-isa at sa lahat ng mga bagay. Siya ay walang hanggan, hindi natatapos, at hindi nagbabago sa Kanyang kapangyarihan at pagiging perpekto, kabutihan at kaluwalhatian, sa karunungan, katuwiran, at katotohanan. Walang anumang bagay ang napangyayari kundi sa pamamagitan Niya at sa Kanyang kalooban

ARABIC

س١
ما هو رجاؤنا الوحيد في الحياة والموت؟

ج١: إننا لسنا لأنفسنا ولكننا ننتَمي، جسدًا وروحًا، في الحياة والموت، لله ولمُخلِّصنا يسوع المسيح. رومية ١٤:٧–٨

س٢
ما هو الله؟

ج٢: إن الله هو الخالِق والمُعتني بجميع الناس وبكل الأشياء، هو أبديٌّ، لا نهائي، ولا يَتَغيَّر أبدًا في قُدرتِهِ وكمالِه، في صلاحِهِ ومجدِه، وحكمتِه، وعدلِه، وحقِّه. ولا يحدُث شيء أبدًا إلَّا من خلالِهِ ووفق إرادته. مزمور ٨٦:٨–١٠، ١٥

Question 3
How many persons are there in God?

There are three Persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory. 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

Question 4
How and why did God create us?

God created us male and female in his own image to know Him, love Him, live with Him, and glorify Him. And it is right that we, who were created by God, should live to His glory. GENESIS 1:27

Question 5
What else did God create?

God created all things by His powerful Word, and all His creation was very good; everything flourished under His loving rule. GENESIS 1:31

Question 6
How can we glorify God?

We glorify God by enjoying Him, loving Him, trusting Him, and by obeying His will, commands, and law. DEUTERONOMY 11:1

Question 7
What does the law of God require?

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done. MATTHEW 22:37–40

Question 8
What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below— you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet. EXODUS 20:3

Question 9
What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works. DEUTERONOMY 6:13–14

lamang. AWIT 86:8–10, 15

Tanong 3
Ilang Persona mayroon ang Diyos?

Mayroong tatlong Persona sa isang tunay at buhay na Diyos: Ang Ama, ang Anak, at ang Espiritu Santo. Sila ay magkakatulad ng kalikasan at pantay sa kapangyarihan at kaluwalhatian. 2 CORINTO 13:14

Tanong 4
Paano at bakit tayo nilikha ng Diyos?

Nilikha tayo ng Diyos na lalaki at babae ayon sa Kanyang wangis at larawan upang atin Siyang makilala, mahalin, mabuhay para sa Kanya, at luwalhatiin Siya. Kaya nararapat lamang na tayong nilikha Niya ay mabuhay para sa kaluwalhatian Niya. GENESIS 1:27

Tanong 5
Ano pa ang mga nilikha ng Diyos?

Nilikha ng Diyos ang lahat ng bagay sa pamamagitan ng makapangyarihan Niyang Salita, at ang lahat ng nilikha Niya ay napakabuti; at ito ay nagbunga sa ilalim ng Kanyang mapagmahal na pamamahala. GENESIS 1:31

Tanong 6
Paano natin luluwalhatiin ang Diyos?

Naluluwalhati natin ang Diyos sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakasaya natin sa Kanya, pagmamahal natin sa Kanya, pagtitiwala natin sa Kanya, at pagsunod natin sa kalooban, mga atas, at kautusan Niya. DEUTERONOMIO 11:1

Tanong 7
Ano ang ipinag-uutos sa atin ng Kautusan ng Diyos?

Ito ay sa pamamagitan ng personal, perpekto, at walang hanggang pagsunod natin sa Kanya; na nararapat nating mahalin ang Diyos ng buong puso, kaluluwa, pag-iisip, at kalakasan; at mahalin din ang ating kapwa na gaya ng pagmamahal natin sa ating sarili. At anuman ang ipinagbabawal ng Diyos ay huwag nating gawin at kung ano naman ang Kanyang ipinag-uutos ay dapat naman nating sundin. MATEO 22:37–40

Tanong 8
Ano ang Kautusan ng Diyos na nakasaad sa Sampung Utos?

"Huwag kang sasamba sa ibang diyos, maliban sa Akin." "Huwag kang gagawa ng imahen ng anumang nilalang na nasa langit, nasa lupa, o nasa tubig upang sambahin. Huwag mo silang yuyukuran ni sasambahin sapagkat Akong PANGINOON mong Diyos ay mapanibughuing Diyos." "Huwag mong gagamitin sa walang kabuluhan ang Pangalan ng PANGINOON mong Diyos." "Lagi mong tandaan at ilaan para sa Akin ang Araw ng Pamamahinga." "Igalang mo ang iyong ama at ina." "Huwag kang papatay." "Huwag kang mangangalunya." "Huwag kang magnanakaw." "Huwag kang sasaksi nang walang katotohanan laban sa iyong kapwa." "Huwag mong pagnanasaang maangkin ang pag-aari ng iyong kapwa." EXODO 20:3

Tanong 9
Ano ang ipinag-uutos sa atin sa una, ikalawa, at ikatlong utos?

Ito ang una, na ating makilala Siya at tayo ay magtiwala sa Kanya bilang nag-iisang tunay at buhay na Diyos. Ikalawa, ay ang pag-iwas natin sa pagsamba sa diyus-diyosan at hindi natin masamba ang Diyos sa paraang hindi kanais-nais sa Kanya. At ito naman ang ikatlo, na tratuhin natin ang pangalan ng Diyos nang may banal na pagkatakot at paggalang, sa gayon ay naipapakita natin ang ating paggalang sa Kanyang Salita at mga ginawa. DEUTERONOMIO 6:13–14

س٣
كم أقنومًا في شخص الله؟

ج٣: هناك ثلاثة أقانيم في الإله الواحد الحيّ الحقيقي: الآب والابن والروح القدس. هم واحد في الجوهر ومُتساوون في القدرة والمجد. كورنثوس الثانية ١٣:١٤

س٤
كيف ولماذا خلقنا الله؟

ج٤: خَلقنا الله ذكرًا وأنثى على صورتهِ لنعرفه، ونحُبُّه، ونحيا معه، ونُمجِّده. وإنه لمن الصواب أننا ينبغي، نحن الذين خَلَقَنا الله، أن نحيا لمجدهِ. تكوين ١:٢٧

س٥
ماذا خَلَق الله أيضًا؟

ج٥: خَلق الله كل الأشياء بكلمة قدرتهِ، وكانت كل خليقتهِ حسنة جدًا، فلقد ازدهر كل شيء تحت سُلطانه المُحِب. تكوين ١:٣١

س٦
كيف يُمكِننا أن نُمَجّد الله؟

ج٦: نحن نُمجِّد الله بأن نتمتَّع به، وأن نُحِبُّه، ونَثِقُ فيه، ونُطيع مشيئته ووصاياه وناموسه. تثنية ١١:١

س٧
ما الذي يطلبه ناموس الله؟

ج٧: طاعة شخصيّة، وكاملة، ودائمة، بأن نُحب الله من كل قلوبنا ونفوسنا وأفكارنا وقدرتنا، وأن نُحب قريبنا مثل أنفسنا. ما ينهي عنه الله يجب ألّا يُفعل أبدًا وما أمَرَ بهِ ينبغي أن يُفعَل دائمًا. متى ٢٢:٣٧–٤٠

س٨
ما هو ناموس الله المذكور في الوصايا العشر؟

ج٨: لَا يَكُنْ لَكَ آلِهَةٌ أُخْرَى أَمَامِي. لَا تَصْنَعْ لَكَ تِمْثَالًا مَنْحُوتًا، وَلَا صُورَةً مَا مِمَّا فِي ٱلسَّمَاءِ مِنْ فَوْقُ، وَمَا فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ مِنْ تَحْتُ، وَمَا فِي ٱلْمَاءِ مِنْ تَحْتِ ٱلْأَرْضِ. لَا تَسْجُدْ لَهُنَّ وَلَا تَعْبُدْهُنَّ. لَا تَنْطِقْ بِٱسْمِ ٱلرَّبِّ إِلَهِكَ بَاطِلًا. ٱذْكُرْ يَوْمَ ٱلسَّبْتِ لِتُقَدِّسَهُ. أَكْرِمْ أَبَاكَ وَأُمَّكَ لِكَيْ تَطُولَ أَيَّامُكَ عَلَى ٱلْأَرْضِ ٱلَّتِي يُعْطِيكَ ٱلرَّبُّ إِلَهُكَ. لَا تَقْتُلْ. لَا تَزْنِ. لَا تَسْرِقْ. لَا تَشْهَدْ عَلَى قَرِيبِكَ شَهَادَةَ زُورٍ. لَا تَشْتَهِ. خروج ٢٠:٣

س٩
ما الذي يَطلُبه الله في الوصيّة الأولى والثانيّة والثالثة؟

ج٩: الأولى، أن نعرِف الله ونثِقُ به كالإله الحيّ الحقيقي وَحده. الثانية، أن نجتنب كل وثنيّة وألّا نعبد الله بشكل غير لائق. الثالثة، أن نُعامِل اسم الله بخوفٍ وتوقيرٍ، مُحترِمين أيضًا كلمته وأعماله. تثنية ٦:١٣–١٤

Spiritual Growth & Discipline

DON'T MISS WHAT

GOD IS TEACHING YOU

IN YOUR PAIN

Dave Furman
Pastor, Dubai - ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary

A Painful Reality

When our family moved to the Middle East, we went through some desperate times. I spent most of the first six months on our couch, depressed. I moved to the Middle East to change the world, but I couldn't even change my jeans without help.

Through my neurological disorder, I lost almost all my arm strength and suffered constant burning pain in both of my arms. I was disabled. No medication could help ease the pain or lift the darkness of depression that engulfed me. At least a hundred times a day, I said to myself, "I wish I was dead, I wish I was dead." I just wanted to die. My depression had so vandalized my joy and sense of God's goodness that everything in the world looked dark. This was the start of my work planting a church in Dubai.

God Still At Work

That was almost ten years ago. Fast forward to today and I wish my story had a fairy-tale ending, but it doesn't.

I'm still disabled. I can't drive. I can't shake hands, pick up my children, or open most doors. I can't put on my seat belt, carry a heavy book, or lift more than a pound or two. I'm in physical pain 100% of the time.

Throughout the journey, I've struggled greatly with depression. There are still days when life seems hopeless. And yet, the ministry has grown. People have come to faith. Churches have been planted.

But, here's what my pain has shown me. I've seen that weakness is the way so that God gets all the glory. God has used my weakness to humble me—and exalt Himself—and to teach me and all those around me that God is the One who gets the glory. He did the work.

God loves using weak people to make it absolutely clear that it is He who is building His church. This is the story of the Bible. This is the story of our lives. © Crossway, 2025



Watch this video and hear more about how God works through our weakness.

*" **Charles Spurgeon**, the great preacher in 19th century London, was an amazing herald of God's word. Many don't know though that he **suffered greatly**. His body ached from gout and other issues. He battled depression. And all that time he cared for an ailing wife. He once said "I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the rock of ages." Rather than running from God in our trials we need to see **our trials as taking us to God.** It fuels my joy when I remember that I've been adopted by God. That He knows me. That He chose me. That He cares for me. I know that **my suffering is not without purpose.** I know that the Lord uses weakness that weakness is always the way so that God gets all the glory. " - Dave Furman*

WHAT IS THE BEST

QUESTION TO ASK A HURTING FRIEND?

Support Your Hurting Friend by Asking the Right Questions

There are lots of good questions to ask someone who is hurting, but I think one of the best questions is this: "How are you doing today?" Note the emphasis on today. You could also ask, "How are you doing right now?" Or, "How are you doing this week?" It's difficult to know how to answer when someone simply asks, "How are you doing?"

Ask . . . and Then Listen

In my case, I'm still disabled. I'm still in the same pain I had yesterday. I still can't put on my seat belt or pick up my children. But when you tack on that one simple word **"today,"** it allows me and others who hurt to assess their lives at that very moment.

You can press in further and ask questions that may help the hurting open up, **"How's your heart today?"** or **"How's your depression and discouragement this week?"** or **"Can you help me better understand how you're feeling today?"** And when they start answering, it's best to **remain quiet and pay attention to what they're saying.** Good listening and a faithful presence will go a long way toward loving your hurting friend.

—

Dave Furman - *Pastor Dubai - ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary*

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Photo by Paweł Czerwiński

TESTIMONY

From Atheism to Faith My Journey to Christ



I am a Kazakh from Russia and since childhood I doubted God's existence. I asked God for a sign but received none. Still, I prayed in Arabic before bed, as my father had taught me, to keep the 'shaytans' away. Fear, fueled by horror movies and alien documentaries, gripped me, yet I remained an atheist.

At university, I was invited to an Alpha Course. Since reading the Bible and Quran was one of my goals, I joined, full of questions. The Christian worldview was unfamiliar to me. I didn't see the value in God or the Bible and believed that having a conscience was enough. But I decided to study Christianity seriously, reading the Bible and discussing it with believers.
Even after the course, I didn't see myself as a sinner and still questioned God's existence. However, my interest in Christianity persisted, and I joined a discipleship group to learn more about creation, the fall of man, and God's plan for humanity.

"How can I love God if I don't feel it in my heart?"

During a camp, there was a call to take the next step. For me, that step was attending church. My fear for church faded as I learned more about Christianity. A month later, I went to church for the first time. The sermon was on Psalm 23—about opening one's heart to the Lord. I continued attending, reading the Bible, and asking how to follow Jesus; how others encountered Jesus and had touched their lives.

I didn't want my repentance to be only words or an intellectual understanding. I longed for sincere conviction, from my heart. Before the new semester, I prayed for God's guidance regarding my work and life. That became my first step toward repentance, asking God to forgive my sins and reign in my life.

Yet, doubts lingered. Was I truly born again? Was my faith strong enough? I sought God even more diligently, asking Him to "touch me" and open my heart. And He did—through Scripture and believers. I learned that spiritual discipline strengthens our relationship with God, so I began praying and reading the Bible first thing in the morning. I once questioned, How can I love God if I don't feel it in my heart? But I realized love grows—like my parents, who love each other more after 20 years than when they first met. By stepping toward God, I had nothing to lose and acknowledged His Lordship.

Since then, I have repented many times, asking God to transform my heart and confirm that I am born again. I now understand that repentance is a lifelong process—turning toward Christ daily. Now I clearly see the difference between life with Jesus and life without Him.

Accepting the truth that Jesus, the Son of God, died as a sinless Sacrifice for my sins and took my punishment upon Himself is what it truly meant for "God to touch me." My deepening love for Scripture, joy in seeing God's work, and awareness of my sinfulness all confirm that I am walking the right path—with Him.

During my short time in Dubai for work, I attended a local church and made friends. We still study and apply Christian teachings to our lives together. In Christ, we have a big family.

When I told my mother that I attended church and Bible studies, she was silent. As I continued talking about church, she insisted that I belonged to a different religion and that studying Christianity was wrong simply because I am Kazakh. When I shared my desire to be baptized, it led to conflict, threats and a ban on attending church.

But I did not stop. I sought advice from my pastor and continued in faith.
Now, my trust in God is stronger than ever. I desire to follow Him wholeheartedly and seek wisdom for life's challenges. I have witnessed His work in my heart and know that He is a faithful God who never abandons His children.

by

ELMIRA

SONG

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

This song beautifully expresses how Christ and His finished work give us reason to rejoice, even in times of darkness—challenges, failures, sin, pain, persecution. Have you noticed that this song is a personal declaration? It is sung to ourselves rather than directly to God.

Mine are days that God has numbered; I was made to walk with Him; Yet I look for worldly treasure; And forsake the King of kings

But mine is hope in my Redeemer; Though I fall, His love is sure; For Christ has paid for every failing I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow; Darkness not yet understood; Through the valley I must travel; Where I see no earthly good

But mine is peace that flows from Heaven; And the strength in times of need; I know my pain will not be wasted Christ completes his work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger; Pilgrim on a narrow way; One with Christ I will encounter; Harm and hatred for His name

But mine is armour for this battle; Strong enough to last the war; And He has said He will deliver; Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city Where beside the King I walk For there my heart has found its treasure; Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now, O my soul For His love is my reward Fear is gone and hope is sure Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now, O my soul For His love is my reward Fear is gone and hope is sure Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now, O my soul For His love is my reward Fear is gone and hope is sure Christ is mine forevermore

And mine are keys to Zion city Where beside the King I walk For there my heart has found its treasure; Christ is mine forevermore; Christ is mine forevermore;

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Church Leadership & Outreach

MISSIONS & MISSIONARIES

DO WE MEAN THE SAME THING?

J. Mack Stiles
Former Pastor in Iraq, Author and International Speaker

Modern missionaries have advanced the gospel in ways unimaginable when Christianity began in the days of the Apostle Paul. Bible translations are available to people in thousands of different languages[1]. But there's a vast overarching problem in modern missions. When Christians speak about missionary work, they assume we are all discussing the same thing, though we are not. When it comes to any biblical agreement, we are as far as the East is from the West.

The result is that we can say dumb, unbiblical things about missions. I know because I used to say them. I was in campus ministry for years and called myself a "missionary to the university world." It sounded great when I said it at a fund raising event, and nobody challenged me – ever. But I was not a missionary. I did many things missionaries do. Yet, when we look carefully at the Bible's description of the work of a missionary, we see that I wasn't a missionary in the biblical sense. With regularity, I hear good-hearted believers call themselves missionaries—a businessman who calls himself a "missionary to the business world," or a soccer coach who calls herself a "missionary to a soccer team."

To make matters worse, churches are tempted to leave these comments unchallenged because they sound noble and motivating. If we confuse what missions is or a missionary does, we'll spin missions out of biblical orbit. So, before we consider the essential aspects of missions in our other articles, we start our first article with a clear statement about missions:

> *Local churches send missionaries, who are faithful followers of Jesus, to the nations. They cross significant cultural barriers, such as language or geography, in obedience to and fulfilment of the Great Commission. Missionaries make disciples through evangelism and by teaching new believers to obey all that Jesus taught, starting with baptism. A missionary's ultimate goal is to plant and strengthen healthy local indigenous churches to God's praise and glory.*

Our statement includes and excludes critical understandings about missions. Let's take a deeper look.

What Is Missions?

Missions springs from the heart of God to reach a lost world with the good news of salvation by faith for all peoples. But it's doubtful the church would have a full-orbed understanding of missions without the Great Commission. This is why our statement declares the Great Commission as the underlying foundation for missions. It forms the missionary job description. Here's the text of the Great Commission:

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:16-20)

Before we take a deeper dive into the Great Commission, here are four primary points to keep in mind:

1. Jesus is speaking to His disciples (vs. 16).
2. He sandwiches His commission between an assurance of His authority (vs. 18) and a promise to go with them (vs. 20).
3. He sends them to the nations.
4. They are to evangelize; baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and then teach these new believers to observe all of the teachings of Jesus.

The Missionary Job Description from the Great Commission, in Six Parts:

1. Jesus is speaking to disciples.

So, first off, a missionary may have doubts at times, just like the disciples, but they must be people who have repented of their sin, put their entire faith and trust in Jesus, and follow Him as Lord.

2. Jesus reassures missionaries in the face of a daunting call.

Jesus knows the missionary calling is tough. That's why He sandwiched His commission between two assurances: the fact of His authority and the promise of His presence. Missionaries trust that the mission's outcome is secure. We go under Christ's authority and protection.

3. Missionaries are "sent ones".

The very word missionary has at its root meaning "sent ones," and we can't be sent if there is no sender. Jesus issued the command to go to eleven disciples. So, Jesus issued the command to go and the church approved and sent missionaries equipped for the task. Missionaries are sent by faithful local churches. Missionaries are approved and sent by a local church.

4. Missionaries go to the nations.

Going to the nations is what most people think about when they think of a missionary, and they should. Our statement gets at the intent of Jesus in the Great Commission when we say that missionaries cross significant barriers: different geography, different predominant languages, and different cultures. Missionaries go to the nations and work to become cross-cultural experts. But going is not enough, it's just the start.

5. Missionaries make disciples.

Disciple-making requires two parts: evangelism and teaching.

Evangelism - If you never share the gospel, you are not a missionary. So, first, missionaries must evangelize. This is the start of making disciples. Evangelism is preaching or teaching the gospel with the aim to convert or persuade (1 Corinthians 5:11).

Teaching - The second part of making disciples is teaching those the Lord adds to the church's number. Jesus is specific about both how we teach and what we teach. The how is to teach believers to obey Jesus' teachings. And what we teach is everything Jesus taught. Missionaries make disciples through evangelism and by teaching new believers to obey all that Jesus taught.

6. Church Planting: The Aim of All Missionaries

Healthy churches are an essential goal in mission work as they are both the context and the consequence of disciples obeying all that Christ has commanded us; yet planting healthy indigenous churches on the field is modern mission's weakest link. A local indigenous church is a church whose members are from the majority language and whose leadership is primarily native to that place. When we say healthy church, we mean a church shaped by biblical principles[2] of expositional preaching, gospel doctrine, conversion, evangelism, membership, church discipline, discipleship, leadership, prayer, and missions.

Church planting is implicit in the Great Commission because one of a new disciple's first acts of obedience is baptism, and when we baptize new believers, we don't baptize them into nothing; we baptize them into a church.

A Foundational Understanding of What the Church Is

A local church is a gathering of baptized, born-again Christians who covenant together in love to meet regularly under the authority of the Scriptures and ordinarily enjoy the leadership of the elders. They mutually commit to worship God, be a visible image of the gospel, and, ultimately, give God glory (John 3:1–8; 13:34–35; Acts 2:41; 14:23; Eph. 3:10; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; Heb. 10:24–25).

What the Church Does

A church must do only a few things to be a church: the people regularly gather in gospel love to hear the Word preached, sing, pray, give, and practice the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Members build each other up in faith and faithfulness (1 Cor. 12:12-26) and guard each other's Christian lives, even, if needed, through the practice of church discipline (Matt. 18:15-17).

The Mission of the Church

The church is God's strategic plan with one overarching mission: the Great Commission. Its mission is to go to all peoples, make disciples, and teach them to obey everything Christ has commanded, including forming new churches (Matt. 28:18–20).

That's it. Missionaries need to nail these three principles down, aim for them, teach them, and live them.

In Summary

Missionaries are faithful followers of Jesus who trust that the outcome of missions is secure–going on Christ's authority and under His protection. Missionaries must be approved and sent by local churches. They go to the nations and work to become cross-cultural experts. Missionaries make disciples through evangelism and by teaching new believers to obey all that Jesus taught, starting with baptism. Missionaries know what a healthy church is and how it functions, and aim to plant indigenous healthy churches.

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[1] Wycliffe.net reports that the full Bible has been translated into 736 languages, 1,658 of the New Testament, and 1,264 with smaller portions of the Bible – and counting.

[2] Mark Dever, Nine Marks of a Healthy Church, 4th edition, Crossway, 2021. c.f. The Church: The Gospel Made Visible, B&H, 2012.



From Al Ain to Air Fryer

Nannety's Butter Chicken has been a cherished recipe in my family for over 40 years. It was created by my dad, Daniel Nannety, who moved to the UAE in 1976 and started working at the Hilton Hotel in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi. While training in the kitchen, his passion for cooking was ignited. This led him to experiment with various versions of butter chicken until he perfected his own unique style. My personal twist on his recipe involves using an air fryer to cook the chicken, mimicking the traditional Indian tandoor oven. This dish is a crowd-pleaser for us and brings a taste of home, no matter where we are.
Give it a try and enjoy! - Hilda Nannety

Want to share one of your tastiest recipes? Reach out at contact@dewarabia.com



Recipe

NANNETY'S BUTTER CHICKEN

PREPARATION: 10 MIN COOKING: 30 MIN (MARINATING: 2 HRS)

by Hilda Nannety
one of Abu Dhabi's tastiest secrets

INGREDIENTS

Boneless Chicken Breast - 500g; **Ginger Paste** - 2 tsp; **Garlic Paste** - 2 tsp; **Salt** -2 tsp; **Red Chilli Powder** - 1/2 tsp; **Vegetable Oil** - 2 tbsps; **Tomatoes** - 4, medium size; **Cashew Nuts** - 100g; **Water** - 4 cups; **Butter** - 2 tbsp; **Red Onion** - 1, medium size; **Sugar** - 1 tsp; **Ketchup** - 1 tbsp; **Orange Food Colouring** - adjust as desired; **Unsweetened Fresh Cream** - 100 ml; **Fenugreek Leaves** (Kasuri Methi) - 2 tsp.

NANNETY'S MAGIC

Marinate
Begin by chopping the chicken into small cubes. Combine these with ginger paste, garlic paste, a teaspoon of salt, and chili powder. Let the chicken marinate in the refrigerator for at least an hour, though letting it sit overnight yields the best flavour.

Fry
Heat vegetable oil in a pan and fry the marinated chicken over medium heat for 20 to 25 minutes until fully cooked. Alternatively, you can cook the chicken in an air fryer for a similar duration.

Boil
Bring a pot of water to a boil and add quartered tomatoes and cashew nuts. Boil on medium-high heat for 25 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Blend
After the tomato and cashew mixture has cooled completely, blend it into a smooth, creamy paste and set aside.

Cook
In a separate saucepan, melt butter and sauté one finely chopped red onion until it becomes translucent. Add the tomato-cashew paste, a teaspoon of salt, white sugar, ketchup, and orange food colouring to the pan. Introduce the cooked chicken and simmer on low heat for 10 minutes. Finally, stir in fresh cream and fenugreek leaves, cook for an additional 3 minutes.

Serve
Enjoy your butter chicken served alongside some of the below mentioned side dishes for a delicious meal! Bon appetite!

TIP!

Complete the feast and serve your butter chicken with: **Garlic Naan, Samosas,** no-fry **Papadums, Tomato Cabbage or Cucumber Salad -** with refreshing lemon yoghurt dressing, sliced **Cucumber or Tomato!**

Life Issues

OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST AT WORK

As a Christian, have the demands of your job ever conflicted with your faith?

Ethical dilemmas in the workplace are common, and all too easy to become desensitised to over time. You might wonder, does God take note of how I handle my job? Do the Scriptures offer guidance on the everyday decisions I face in my professional life?

In his first epistle, the apostle Peter delivers a powerful message on respecting authority, emphasizing the need to "honour the emperor". This instruction is nested within a broader discussion on submitting to every human institution of authority (1 Peter 2:13-25). Peter's message extends further, urging believers to *"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."*

"... our conduct in the workplace holds immense significance as it serves as a testament to the Gospel"

Living as servants of God, our conduct in the workplace holds immense significance as it serves as a testament to the Gospel of our Shepherd. The workplace often becomes a fertile ground for such ethical dilemmas.

The Obedience of Peter

Peter received the Great Commission: *"Go and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19-20). We witness Peter's commitment to his mission: he performed a miraculous healing and boldly addressed the crowd. However, this act drew the anger of the religious authorities, who charged Peter and John: *"Do not speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus"* (Acts 4:13-22).
At this juncture, Peter's loyalty to King Jesus faced its test. Would he heed the authority or remain steadfast in his submission to Jesus Christ? In response, Peter declared:

> *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* Acts 4:19-20

Obedience to King Jesus in the Workplace

As Christians, it is necessary upon us to uphold the principle of submission to our employers and those in positions of authority over us. We must recognize that God has established these governing bodies for the greater good of society (Romans 13:1-7). The Bible teaches us that we serve a God of order.

In acknowledging the divine order, we must remember that God will hold every individual accountable for their actions (Revelation 20:11-15). This truth underscores the significance of our ethical conduct in our professional lives.

In the workplace, we may encounter tension between our obedience to King Jesus and the directives of earthly authorities. We may be called upon to engage in activities that contradict the teachings of the Bible. Your boss may ask you "make the yearly report look better'. However, we must remain alert in our commitment to honesty and integrity. Scripture reminds us of the commands it contains:

> *"You shall not steal." "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour."* Exodus 20:15-16

These words from the Ten Commandments underscore the standards of truthfulness and ethical conduct we are called to uphold. They are a reminder that our submission to God's Word should supersede any conflicting directives in our professional lives. Through faith in Jesus, we embrace a heightened standard of moral accountability.

Ethics and the Cross

If we were to conclude our discussion at this point, we would find ourselves with a message that resonates with many religious boundaries. However, our ultimate allegiance is to Jesus Christ. While we respect earthly authorities, the difference in our Faith comes into focus.
The truth is that we have all fallen short of God's standard. Yet, Jesus as our Redeemer shines brilliantly. Jesus has paid the ransom for our transgressions through His sacrificial act. He has secured our redemption, and we find ourselves liberated from condemnation. In Christ, we experience freedom—a freedom born of grace.

This freedom may call us to take a stand against unrighteous orders from our employers, distance ourselves from office gossip or make choices that prioritize our spiritual well-being over worldly success. Consider the words of Jesus:

> *"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who can harm the body but cannot touch the soul. Instead, fear the One who has the authority to throw both body and soul into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him!"* Luke 12:4-5

Peter brings this section on submitting to authority to a conclusion in light of the work of Christ. I will also conclude this thought by emphasizing the foundation upon which these principles rest: Christ's completed and redemptive work.

> *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.* 1 Peter 2:21-25

This article is an abbreviated version of the original by **Michael Franco Smit** - Elder in Abu Dhabi, Teacher & Author. Published on **The Gospel Network** - tgnghana.org

Among Us



To Teddy!

We wish you Gods blessings in this new chapter in your life and as you start seminary. We pray the Lord will guide and provide for all your needs.

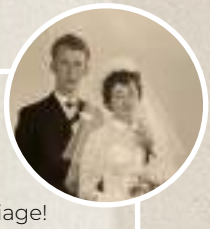
> "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6 (ESV)



Farewell Trees!

It's hard to believe it's already time to say goodbye,
Five years have flown, like days passing by.
You came when the world was at a standstill,
Found your place in Dubai, with tennis skill.
May your journey back be filled with grace,
And know that here, you'll always have a place.

Your lunch-after-church friends!



Congratulations!

On May 22nd, our dear grandparents van Wezel, celebrate 65 years of marriage! We thank God for your lives and the beautiful example you've shown us of selfless love! We're praying for many more joyful, blessed years ahead!

With much love, your grandchildren.

Send your well wishes!

Looking to congratulate someone, share your prayers and wishes or express a heartfelt 'thank you'? Reach out to us at

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include your message, a photo, your name and contact details.

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Word Search

Find all the words in the below list. Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other. Once you have crossed all the words, write down the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the Solution to reveal the hidden message.

C T H E S U F F A F F L I C T I O N E N
R O F R I N S G S D I S C I P L I N E O
O E M A E F T A Y H I S P R E S E N T I
E C C P I W T I N T M E A R E N O T W T
C N A A A T A O R C N T H C O J O B M A
N A P D R S H R E N T G A R P A U L I R
E R N J V G S F D C O I I T G W I T H O
I E P E T E S I U H N I F E E E G L O T
C V E R C R R T O L Y E T I R S T H A S
S I R E T N I S E N N S D P C E T T O E
I L S M B E E R I A G E E I M A V I V R
N E E I E A L T E T D N S D V E T O N T
M D C A O U D S O Z Y F I S P O D I S G
O C U H O H I C H P L D A N K H R E O D
O E T H C O V O U A I E G S I G H P R N
N H I H M K A F K G I N W Y T F L D B G
U Z O I B L D M B V M A M H K N E M B O
E R N U C R E Y A R P Q S O Y A E R F J
X L Z X B P E A C E J A S I S B H S U R
I A E C N A R U D N E O X H O P E B S R

↑ ↓ ← → ↖ ↗ ↙ ↘

Affliction
Compassion
Deliverance
Discipline
Endurance
Faithfulness
Foreknowledge
Grace
Hope
Jeremiah
Job
Mercy
Paul
Peace
Persecution
Prayer
Providence
Redemption
Refining
Restoration
Sanctification
Sovereignty
Steadfastness
Submission
Testing

SOLUTION

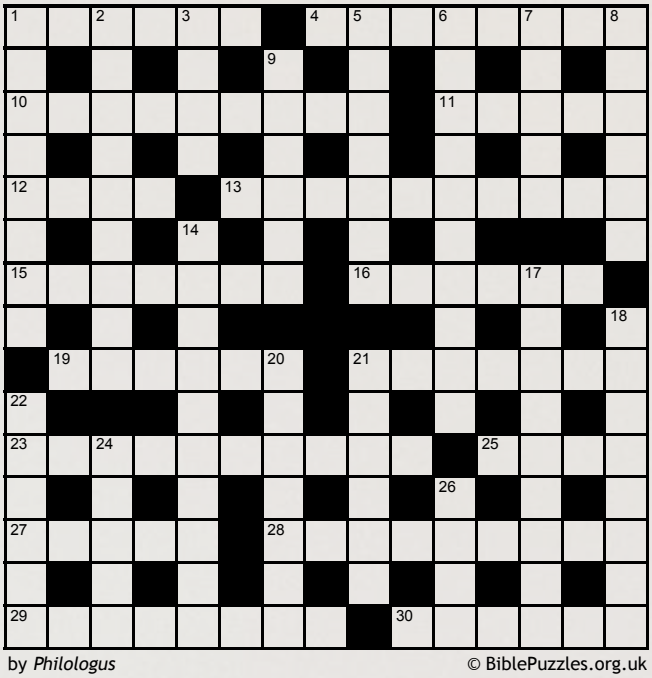
Are you able to find the Bible book and chapter of this verse?

PUZZLE

Did you manage to solve both puzzles and answer all the trivia questions? Share your results with us at contact@dewarabia.com

Crossword

Read the horizontal and vertical clues and identify the words they describe. Fill in the answers based on intersecting letters and word length. Are you able to find the solution as well?



by *Philologus* © BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ACROSS

1 An ancient weight (6)
4 Seemed (8)
10 New Testament book (9)
11 Unit of length (5)
12 '..it is a ___ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
13 Contemplation (10)
15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
16 A son of King David (6)
19 Concurred (6)
21 Light sources (7)
23 Propitiations (10)
25 A false god (4)
27 Gather (5)
28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
29 Instructors (8)
30 Hastily (6)

DOWN

1 Skilled animal workers (8)
2 Inspiring (9)
3 Compass point (4)
5 Intense emotion (7)
6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
7 Jewish leader (5)
8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
9 Bread makers (6)
14 In this year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
18 Stringed instrument (8)
20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
21 Tiny amount (6)
22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

SOLUTION

What can you tell about....

30 6 8 24 18 10 29

Trivia Quiz

Look through the Bible together to discover the answers to these trivia questions!

1. Which missionary was mentioned as having known the holy scriptures from a young age?
2. What excuse did David ask Jonathan to give his father if he asked why David wasn't at the king's table for the New Moon feast?
3. What did Melchizedek give to Abram?
4. Which two tribes of Israel were not named after Jacob's sons?

The solutions and answers will be in the next edition!



THE THREE MEN IN THE FIRE

THE KING'S STATUE

1 King Nebuchadnezzar caused his workers to make a
gold statue. It was 30 metres high and 3 metres wide. He
built it on the flat land called Dura, in the Babylon region.
2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent a message to all his
government officers. He told them to meet together in
the place where the statue was. He wanted them to see
that he had built a great statue. 3 So all the officers came.
Those were the rulers, the judges, the wise people, and all
the leaders in the different regions of the Babylon nation.
They all came together to give honour to the statue that
King Nebuchadnezzar had built.

4 Then an officer shouted aloud, 'Listen to me, you people
from every country and nation, who speak different
languages! The king makes this command: 5 Listen for
the sound of music from trumpets, flutes, lyres, harps
or any other kind of music. When you hear the music,
you must bend down low towards the ground. You must
worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has
built. 6 The king will punish anyone who does not do that.
His soldiers will throw them immediately into a very hot
fire.'

7 So, when all the people heard the different kinds of
music, they obeyed. The people from every country
and nation, who spoke different languages all bent
down low. They worshipped the gold statue that King
Nebuchadnezzar had built.

8 Then some wise men went to the king. They told him
bad things against the Jews. 9 They said to the king, 'King,
live for ever! 10 You made a rule. You said that everyone
must listen for the sound of the special music. When they
hear it, they must bend down and they must worship the
gold statue. 11 You said that you would punish everyone
who does not obey you. You said you would throw them
into the middle of a very hot fire. 12 But there are some
Jewish men who do not obey you. They are Shadrach,
Meshach and Abednego. You gave them authority to take
care of everything in Babylon region. Those men do not
respect your authority. They do not give honour to your
gods. They do not worship your gold statue.'
13 When King Nebuchadnezzar heard this, he was very
angry. He told his servants to bring Shadrach, Meshach
and Abednego to him. So they brought those men to
stand in front of the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them,
'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, is it true that you do
not give honour to my gods? And you do not worship the
gold statue that I have built? 15 Next time you hear the
sound of the special music, you must obey my rule. You
must bend down and you must worship the statue that I
have built. If you do not worship the statue, my servants
will throw you immediately into the middle of a very hot
fire. There is no god who can save you from my power.'

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered the king,
'King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to say anything
to show you that we are not guilty. 17 We serve a great
God. If you throw us into the very hot fire, He is able to
keep us safe. Yes, sir, He will keep us safe from your power
too. 18 But even if He does not save us, we still would not
serve your gods. And we will not worship the gold statue
that you have built. We want you to understand that very
clearly, sir.'

THE KING PUNISHES DANIEL'S THREE FRIENDS

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was even more angry with
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. His face became red.
He said to his servants, 'Make the fire in thve oven seven
times hotter than usual.' 20 He told the strongest men in
his army, 'Tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Then
throw them into the very hot fire!'

21 So the soldiers tied up Shadrach, Meshach and
Abednego with ropes. They were still wearing their coats,
their hats and their other clothes when the soldiers took
hold of them. The soldiers threw them into the middle
of the hot fire with all their clothes on. 22 The soldiers
needed to obey the king in a hurry. The fire was very
hot. As a result, flames from the fire killed the men who
threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into it. 23 So the
three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fell into
the middle of the hot fire. The ropes still held them very
strongly.

24 What King Nebuchadnezzar saw next surprised him
very much. He jumped up and he shouted to his officers,
'We tied up three men and we threw them into the fire.
Isn't that right?' The officers answered the king, 'Yes, sir,
we certainly did that.' 25 The king said, 'But I see four men
walking about in the fire! No ropes are holding them and
the fire has not hurt them. The fourth man seems like a
son of the gods.'

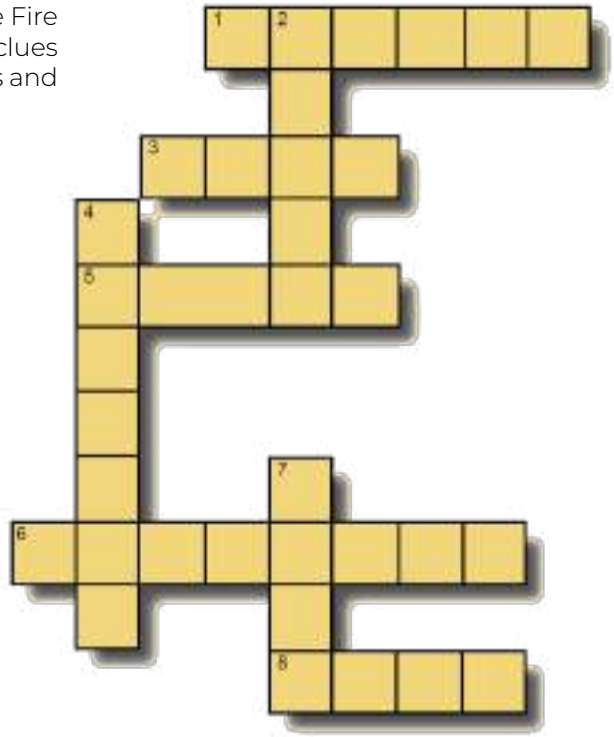
26 King Nebuchadnezzar went near to the door of the
oven where the very hot fire was. He shouted aloud to
the men inside, 'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, I see
that you are servants of the powerful God Who rules over
everything. Now come out here!'

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the
fire. 27 Then the king's officers, his wise men and the
government rulers and leaders came near to the three
men. They saw that the fire had not hurt Shadrach,
Meshach or Abednego. The fire had not even burnt their
hair or their clothes. They did not even have any smell
from the fire.

28 Then King Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Praise the God that
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego serve! He sent His
angel to keep his servants safe. They continued to trust in
their God. So they did not obey the command that I had
made as king. They would not agree to serve any other
god except their own God. They would rather have died
than worship any other god. 29 No other god can save
people like their God has done for them ... ' (Daniel 3:1-29, EASY)

Crossword

Have you read the story of the Three Men in the Fire on page 43? Try solving the across and down clues to find the right words! Use the letters that cross and the word lengths to help you.



ACROSS

1 Another name for sculpture, carving or art figure
3 A match can start this.
5 Who was the fourth being in with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
6 Another name for army persons.
8 Not silver but ____

DOWN

2 Number after two and before four
4 Country where the story takes place
7 Not a queen but a ____



Word Search

Can you find the words in the below list? And can you write down the meaning of each of these words?

M	B	Y	F	A	I	T	H	N	J	D	W
I	A	S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	A	O
R	B	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	B	N	R
A	Y	F	D	J	B	D	W	P	F	I	S
C	L	O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E	H
L	O	A	N	G	E	L	Z	R	O	L	I
E	N	G	O	D	F	I	R	E	W	Y	P
P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N	V	E

→ ↓ Meaning?

Angel _____
Babylon _____
Courage _____
Daniel _____
Faith _____
Fire _____
God _____
Miracle _____
Obedience _____
Protection _____
Soldiers _____
Worship _____

Questions

1. The story of the Three Men in the Fire on the previous page has an image above it that shows not three men but four men in the fire! Who is this extra person? _____
2. Why did the King throw the three in the fire? _____
3. Did the three friends love God? In what way did they show this? _____
4. Do you love God too? In what way do you show this? _____

Find the Differences

Are you able to find the 6 differences between the two pictures?





‘God is great!
He lives in the
highest place
above.
He will bless the
people on earth
who please him.
They will have
peace in their
minds.’

- The angles