



A bi-monthly periodical for young men

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EDITORIAL

Hello! I trust that this edition finds you all well, praising the Lord, and serving Him. May you continue to seek Him *first*.

I include these selections trusting that they will be a blessing to you. I would like to thank those who have passed on quotes or articles. I continue to encourage each of you to either write an article, or just pass on something you have enjoyed reading – I am sure it will be a blessing to others also.

*“Let all things be done without murmurings and disputings.”*

*Philippians 2.14*

GET OUT!

*“He left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”* Gen. 34:12.

In contending with certain sins there remains no mode of victory but by flight. The ancient naturalists wrote much of basilisks, whose eyes fascinated their victims and rendered them easy victims; so the mere gaze of wickedness puts us in solemn danger. He who would be safe from acts of evil must haste away from occasions of it. A covenant must be made with our eyes not even to look upon the cause of temptation, for such sins only need a spark to begin with and a blaze follows in an instant. Who would wantonly enter the leper's prison and sleep amid its horrible corruption? He only who desires to be leprous himself would thus court contagion. If the mariner knew how to avoid a

storm, he would do anything rather than run the risk of weathering it. Cautious pilots have no desire to try how near the quicksand they can sail, or how often they may touch a rock without springing a leak; their aim is to keep as nearly as possible in the midst of a safe channel.

This day I may be exposed to great peril, let me have the serpent's wisdom to keep out of it and avoid it. The wings of a dove may be of more use to me to-day than the jaws of a lion. It is true I may be an apparent loser by declining evil company, but I had better leave my cloak than lose my character; it is not needful that I should be rich, but it is imperative upon me to be pure. No ties of friendship, no chains of beauty, no flashings of talent, no shafts of ridicule must turn me from the wise resolve to flee from sin. The devil I am to resist and he will flee from me, but the lusts of the flesh, I must flee, or they will surely overcome me. O God of holiness preserve thy Josephs, that Madam Bubble bewitch them not with her vile suggestions. May the horrible trinity of the world, the flesh, and the devil, never overcome us!

By C.H. Spurgeon – from "Morning by Morning" – July 25

STEWARD OR OWNER

George Muller wrote the following about a man who decided to use his money for the Lord. The Lord then blessed him with more, and it too was used for His glory.

*“...He used his money for God, and God soon trusted him with another large sum, which he again used for the Lord. This did not surprise me at all.*

In whatever way God makes us His stewards, whether in temporal or spiritual things..., if we act as *stewards*, and not as *owners*, He will make us stewards over *more*.”

By George Muller – Page 200 from his autobiography

VALUE

What happens when you value something?

You think about it daily. You use it daily. You use it more than the things you value less. You treat it as a new thing – (new things always seem somehow more exciting). You treat it as the best.

Do you value the Word of God? Do you think about it daily, read it daily, and read it more than the paper, or other books? Do you read it as though it were a new book, and thus exciting? Do you treat it as the best thing you have – remember it is the inspired Word of God, and every word may be accepted as absolutely true!

J. McPherson

PEACE

*“I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that have set themselves against me round about.”* Ps. 3.6

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the light of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ...though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.”* Ps. 27.1,3

During the terrible days of the Boxer uprising in China, as one report followed another of...missionaries massacred, Hudson Taylor sat quietly at his desk singing the hymn:

*“Jesus I am resting, resting  
In the joy of what Thou art,  
I am finding out the greatness  
Of Thy loving heart.”*

When our confidence is in God we may be superior to circumstances. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” when our confidence is in God, we may with ‘wings as eagles’ rise above our circumstances, we may run and not be weary, and we may walk and not faint. “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Devotional passed on by D Crampin

## SING TO THE LORD

Have you ever stopped to think about the value of the songs we sing? Do the words mean anything to you? Of course we choose songs that sound nice as melody/harmony, but what about the words?

I personally feel that a song should always be chosen based not only upon its musical merit, but that the words must be taken into consideration. Do the words bring out a message that is accurate scripturally? The words are the priority. Think for a moment about Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16. Both teach us to *sing in our heart*. To sing requires words – otherwise you are humming, not singing. God wants us to sing, but why?

There is a direct relationship in both these verses between the teaching of the Word (i.e. preaching), and in singing. That is because we learn what we sing. Theology is often learned from music. That is why music is such a powerful tool in the hand of Satan. That is why every advert must have music in the background – so you remember what was taught every time you hear the music. That is why so frequently the big businesses (such as Woolworths/Safeway) have a little ditty that they *SING*.

As Christians we should make a conscious effort to memorize the words of songs we sing, so we can sing them in our hearts to the Lord. Why memorize the words? Simply because we do not carry hymnbooks into the shower – it is not practical. We do carry our brain in thought, and we can sing there, or wherever we are *if we know the words*.

I would encourage you, if you have not already done so, to begin learning the words of hymns that mean something, and will be of benefit to you.

By the way, the reason I specifically mention hymns here is because they are so much more valuable to us spiritually. I do not have a problem with choruses, provided the music is sound. In fact, a chorus/refrain is part of many hymns, because

it is designed to take one idea, and fix it in your mind by repetition. Therefore choruses, by virtue of what they are, cannot teach you much. Or to put it differently, you need to learn a lot of choruses to learn much.

On the contrary, hymns are jam packed with truth. Almost every line will bring out a new truth, and often more than one truth will show itself.

Let's look for a moment at the hymn *Higher Ground*. I apologise for writing so compactly, but space is getting short! Verse 1: *I'm pressing* – indicates this requires dedication and work – *on the upward way* – this way is not easy – *new heights* – never been here before – *I'm gaining* – forward motion – *every day* – must daily take up our cross – *still praying* – communicate with leader – *as I'm onward bound* – focus on heavenly things – *Lord plant my feet on Higher Ground* – we need God to plant us there

lest we fall.

I hope this helps you see how much you can glean from just one verse of a hymn! May God bless you as you sing in your heart to the Lord!

J. McPherson

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

The editor of *Higher Ground* is Joshua McPherson. He is a young man who desires to walk closer to the Lord each day, and encourages others to do the same.

## DISCLAIMER

Please be aware that while articles by many authors are included in this paper, this does not mean that we necessarily agree with everything that author may believe or teach.

## SUBSCRIPTION

Send name and address to:  
Higher Ground  
P.O. Box 151,  
Strathalbyn, SA 5255  
Or [sixmacs@chariot.net.au](mailto:sixmacs@chariot.net.au)

# Higher Ground

Johnson Oatman Charles H. Gabriel

I'm press-ing on the up-ward way, New heights I'm  
My heart has no de-sire to stay Where doubts a-  
I want to live a-bove the world Tho' sat-an's  
I want to scale the ut-most height And catch a

3  
gain-ing ev-ery day; Still pray-ing as I'm on-ward  
rise and fears dis-may Tho' some may dwell where these a-  
darts at me are hurled For faith has caught the joy-ful  
gleam of glor-y bright But still I'll pray till heav'n I've

6  
bound, Lord plant my feet on high-er ground Lord lift me  
bound My pray'r my aim is high-er ground  
sound The song of saints on high-er ground  
found Lord lead me on to high-er ground

9  
up and let me stand By faith on heav-en's ta-ble-land A high-er

13  
plane than I have found Lord plant my feet on high-er ground