



A bi-monthly periodical for young men

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EDITORIAL

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! May I remind you of Isaiah 45:19 where God says *"I said not...seek ye me in vain"*. Is it not a comfort to know that God does not do things in vain – he does what is right, with a divine purpose, and he has never yet made a mistake – and never will!

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.

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ..." *Philippians 1:27*

STANDING IN SAND

Matthew 7:27

And the rain descended and the floods came, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Let us look briefly at the principle taught here by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I suggest that we can apply the principle taught here to our lives as Christians. We may well know Christ as our personal Saviour, but what of our lives? What are we building upon as Christians?

In this well-known passage we find an interesting comparison between two individuals.

Let us first look at the similarities between the two. Both men hear the sayings of Christ. Both men build a house. I think we can reasonably say that both houses were appropriate, useful houses (except for their foundation).

Both houses were subjected to the same trial – "the rain descended and the floods came, and beat upon that house" (v25/27) – yet there were far different results.

The first man, when he heard the sayings of Christ, obeyed – he did them. He built his house upon a rock. His house 'fell not' because of its foundation.

The second man, when he heard the sayings of Christ, did not obey – he did not do them. He thus built his house upon the sand. His house 'fell' because of its lack of a solid foundation.

What can we learn from this? Remember – *it is much easier to know and understand what we should be doing, than to put it into our practical everyday life.*

It is easy to talk about doing the things that are appropriate and fitting for us to do as Christians – distinct from the world; it is quite another thing to actually *do* those things.

If we do the things we know we should, then Christ likens us to the man who builds his house on a solid foundation.

If we do not, then Christ likens us to the man who effectively wastes his time building a lovely house: one that looks nice, that seems to work for a time, but it is only standing in sand – until testing comes!

How important obedience is in our Christian walk! Obedience proves our love for God.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" I John 5:4

By J. McPherson

IS CHRIST SEEN IN YOU?

As one missionary lady was in a home in India, a number of ladies gathered around her, and she began to tell them of the wonderful salvation God has provided for us, that He can 'wholly sanctify', and make us "more than conquerors" here and now.

An old woman in the group was listening intently. Presently she broke in on the speaker and said, "That is very wonderful and very beautiful, but is it *true?* *Has your God done that for you?*"

Is it true? Has our God done all that for you and for me? Our missionary passed on to another home, and told once again how Christ can transform lives and make them pure and holy and loving and gentle. As she spoke, a woman in the company got up and went out of the room. When she returned, the missionary asked her why she had gone away. The woman replied,

"I went to ask your servant if that is the sort of life you live in your home".

Is that the sort of life we live in our homes? Can the people we live with testify to it? We read, "More than conquerors through Him that loved us" – "the God of peace sanctify you wholly"; and on our knees we ask, "Is it true? Does it mean just *all* it says?" We read on, "Faithful is he that calleth you, *who also will do it.*"

We had thought we had to do it, and we had tried and failed. But when others ask us concerning these promises, "Are they true? Has God done this for you?" what shall we say?

Unknown Author

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

The Bible is full of ordinary people who went to impossible places and did wondrous things simply because they decided to obey God, even when others said,

"You can't do that". They weren't more qualified for their tasks than we are. But they trusted God to open the doors and give them the power they needed in their particular situations.

Joseph go to Egypt as a slave boy and rise to the rank of second in the kingdom?

"You can't do that."

Moses part the waters of the Red Sea?

"You can't do that."

David the shepherd boy defeat Goliath with nothing but a sling and a few pebbles?

"You can't do that."

Jonah travel to the decadent city of Nineveh, and with one sermon bring the entire population to repentance?

"You can't do that."

Maybe not, but with God's help, they did it anyway.

And so can we, wherever we are, or wherever God leads us. The door may seem closed, but it's only closed the way a supermarket door is closed. It stays shut when you remain at a distance, but as you deliberately move toward it, a secret eye above it sees you coming, and the door opens. God is waiting for us to walk forward in obedience so he can open the door for us to serve him.

From The Calling: A challenge to walk the Narrow Road by Brother Andrew

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every week.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 30,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time..."

This started a controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know

this...they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..." Jeremiah 15:16

GIDEON – A LEADER

Judges 7:15

...Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

A leader is someone who influences another, especially towards Christ. Consequently, we are all leaders in a sense. We all influence people every day. Whether we influence them for good or otherwise remains to be seen.

Notice the way in which Gideon was used by God as a leader to influence the people of Israel to go and defeat the Midianites. May we influence others for good in the same way!

Look first at the preparation for victory. This was a reduction in the number of men Gideon would take into battle. Gideon had too many men! The application here is that we fail to lean upon God for little things, and we tend to think, therefore, "Look what I have done!" Judges 7:2 reminds us that God does not want this attitude in his people.

It is interesting also to note that the only ones that God kept to do his work were the ones that
1) were not afraid (v3), and
2) were ready for anything (v5-7). 9,700 men were so keen to get a drink for themselves that they got down on their knees, put their face in the water, and satisfied their need. But they were not able to be completely ready for what may happen around them at any moment.

Those who squatted beside the water, and took water in their hands, lapping like a dog, were ready and able to jump instantly to action. These are the people God uses.

We see also the promise of Victory. How wonderful to go into battle knowing we will win!

We are led by God's Spirit day by day (Romans 8:14). We have God's promises in His Word. We have Christian friends to encourage and remind us to look to the Lord. Most of all, we have the assurance that we can live in the victory Christ won for us on the Cross of Calvary.

Finally, we notice the tools given to fight the battle with. The trumpet can be likened to our testimony, which is seen and heard by all, and speaks louder than our words. The lamp is our witness before men. The empty pitcher represents the emptying out of ourselves.

The victory was won when every man was in his place; he blew out his testimony, and broke his self-interest and desire, allowing his witness to shine before men. Are we willing to do the same?

From a message by Ps. L. Dawson

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author of *Higher Ground* is Joshua McPherson. He is a young man who desires to walk closer to the Lord each day, and wishes to encourage other young men in the same pursuit.

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