

SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL LIVING

STUDIES 1 - 10

STUDENT MANUAL

Stephen Nemeth Lectures

Secrets of Successful Living

Studies 1 - 10
Student Manual

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Stephen Nemeth Lectures

HOW TO FIND THE TRUE GOD

STUDY 1

Scripture Portion: 2 Chronicles 15:1-19

In this series we are to consider some of the Secrets of Successful Living. Of course, no one can begin to live successfully without knowing God. First of all, we must understand how we can come to know Him for ourselves.

The subject is brought before us in **2 Chronicles 15:1-19**.

It is pin-pointed in the key verses -

2 Chronicles 15:3-4 -

There is only one true God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ -

2 Corinthians 1:3 -

The greatest blessing which anyone can experience in this life is to find the true God. The greatest tragedy is to pass through life without ever finding Him.

In our key verses, we have a brief description of one phase of Israel's history, but it also describes thousands of people throughout the world today. Notice how this brief portion of scripture unfolds to give us a sequence of teaching.

THEY WERE WITHOUT THE TRUE GOD.

Verse 3 tells us that this had been true of them *for a long season*. They were Godless, less God -

Ephesians 2:12 -

This is a perfect description of multitudes of people today; they are living without God. He does not enter into their thoughts, except in times of emergency. He has not been welcomed into their lives.

The Israelites still believed in the existence of God. They experienced and benefited from His providences, but for all that, they were without the true God. We are not told they were without *a* god, for everyone worships a god of some kind - the god of self, money, pleasure or ambition.

These words in **verse 3**, therefore, are descriptive of many people - *for a long season**without the true God*.

2. THEY WERE WITHOUT A TEACHING PRIEST.

A teaching priest was one whose duty it was to teach the people the truth of God. Who are the teaching priests today? Every faithful preacher and teacher of the Word of God is one of God's teaching priests.

But the majority of people are outside the influence of these teachers and preachers. They do not attend church or listen to an exposition of the scripture. They do not read the Bible or the kind of literature which would inform them about the truths of God. In consequence of this, there is an appalling ignorance of the things of God. The average person knows nothing of God's way of salvation. Look at -

Ephesians 2:8-10 -

Many have experienced a taste of *churchianity* or *religiosity*, but very few know the way of salvation as it is revealed in the person of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Compare -

John 14:6 -

Acts 4:12 -

Romans 1:16 -

1. THEY WERE WITHOUT LAW.

Verse 3 tells us this. The priests were the guardians of the law. To be without a priest meant, therefore, to be without the law.

If anyone wanted to know the law in those days, he had to go to a priest. Today, thank God!, we have His law, His Word in the Bible. However, the majority of people do not

read the Bible. Therefore they are *without (the) law*.

The law is God's standard of what is right and wrong. The vast majority of people take their standard from the media:

1. the newspaper,
2. the radio,
3. the television, and
4. the cinema.

Therefore, because God's standard has been rejected and the world's, or man's or the devil's standard has been substituted, our civilization has become increasingly corrupted.

The great need today is to get back to the Bible, the true standard, the only book which contains the authentic revelation of God, of His love, of His grace, of His Son, and of His way of saving men and women.

4. WHEN TROUBLE CAME THEY TURNED TO THE LORD.

2 Chronicles 15:4 -

tells us this.

From **2 Chronicles 15:5-6 -**

We find that the trouble came because they had left God out of their reckoning and out of their lives. Trouble will always come to nations and to individuals if they reject the Lord.

Notice that it was the Lord who sent the trouble. It was His judgment on sin and His loving method of causing them to turn back to Him. See what it says at the end of -

2 Chronicles 15:6 -

Does God work like this today? He does! He often sends trouble into a man's life in order that that man, who for many years has lived only for himself, might turn back to the Lord and find Him.

The Prodigal had to come to himself before he was ready to come to his father - **Luke 15:11-24.**

For a further illustration of this truth, read **Psalm 106**, where we see that when these people had been severely chastened they turned to the Lord. Then what happened?

2. THEY FOUND THE TRUE GOD.

In

2 Chronicles 15:4 -

there are three words which tell us how to find God, or, more correctly, how to be found of Him. We must:

1. TURN from sin and from self -

1 Thessalonians 1:9 -

SEEK the Lord and His pardon -

Isaiah 55:6-7 -

2. FIND the true God -

2 Chronicles 15:2 -

2 Chronicles 15:4 -

2 Chronicles 15:15 -

How wonderfully this little bit of ancient history ends - *He was found of them.*

2 Chronicles 15:4 -

2 Chronicles 15:15 -

Have you found Him? Read -

Proverbs 8:17 -

NOTES

THE BENEFITS OF KNOWING GOD

STUDY 2

Scripture Portion: Job 22:21-29

In the key verse -

Job 22:21 -

we are told of the good, the blessing, the benefits which will come to us if we really know God. Of course, there is a great difference between knowing God and simply knowing about Him. Millions of people know about Him who do not really know Him.

There is a theoretical and an experiential knowledge of God. It is the experiential knowledge of Him which is so vital.

How do we know God? The words *return* and *receive* in -

Job 22:22-23 -

give us the answer. Notice that we return once - that is a crisis; but we go on receiving continually - that is a process.

(1) ***RETURN*** -

Job 22:23 -

We have wandered from Him.

Isaiah 53:6 -

Luke 15:13 -

and by nature we are *far off*; therefore our first need is to return and be reconciled to Him, to be *made nigh*-

Ephesians 2:13 -

1 Peter 2:25 -

There is only one way back to God. Look up -

Isaiah 55:6-7 -

(2) **RECEIVE -**

Job 22:22 -

Having returned to the Lord, we must then receive Him and trust Him as our personal Saviour -

John 14:6 -

Hebrews 7:25 -

Revelation 3:20 -

Then we must receive His law and obey His commandments.

Joshua 1:8 -

John 14:15 -

John 14:21 -

Only thus shall we really get to know Him, not only as our Saviour but also as -

our Friend -

John 15:14-15 -

our Sanctifier -

1 Corinthians 1:30 -

our Supplier -

Philippians 4:19 -

and our Keeper -

Jude 24 -

That is, we shall get to know Him as our all in all -

Colossians 3:11 -

There are degrees of knowing God.

Compare -

John 14:9 -

with what Paul said thirty years later. Look up -

Acts 9:4-6 -

Philippians 3:10 -

The measure in which we know God is determined by the measure we receive from Him.
The more we receive (hear, obey, live out) His Word, the more we shall know Him.

What then is the good that comes by knowing God? What are the benefits of knowing God?

3. WE SHALL BE BUILT UP.

Job 22:23 -

tells us this. In other words, by knowing Him we become spiritually strong, virile, robust men and women.

Ephesians 6:10 -

Have you returned to God by *receiving* Christ as your own personal Saviour?

Turn to -

Colossians 2:6-7 -

2 Peter 3:18 -

There is no need to be a weak, anaemic Christian. Be the Daniel kind -

Daniel 2:32 -

4. WE SHALL DEAL DRASTICALLY WITH SIN.

Job 22:23 -

tells us this. Our bodies are the temples (tabernacles) of God -

1 Corinthians 6:19 -

When and as we really know God, we shall share His hatred of sin. We will deal with it.

2 Corinthians 7:1 -

A Christian who has light views of sin certainly does not know God very intimately.

But, *thy tabernacles* may not refer only to the body but to the home and the business. Have we dealt drastically with all sin and every doubtful thing in these *tabernacles*?

2 Chronicles 29:16-17 -

Compare with -

Psalms 51:6 -

5. WE SHALL BE GREATLY ENRICHED.

Job 22:24-25 -

The word *defence* may be translated *treasure*, so to know Him is to become enriched indeed - gold and silver in abundance -

Colossians 2:9-10 -

If you are a true believer, you are an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 -

Possess your possessions -

Obadiah 17 -

and you will experience perfect peace -

John 14:27 -

fulness of joy -

John 15:11 -

power to witness -

Acts 1:8 -

and grace sufficient -

2 Corinthians 12:9 -

6. WE SHALL DELIGHT IN THE LORD HIMSELF.

Job 22:26 -

This means that we shall be weaned away from earthly and temporal things, for which we may be very grateful but which will always disappoint. We shall find our true satisfaction

in the Lord Himself, who never changes and who will never disappoint -

Hebrews 13:8 -

As we get to know God, our delight increases in His gifts, His service, His house, but most of all in Himself! Also, we begin to find a new desire for the things which give Him pleasure.

Psalm 37:4 -

5. WE SHALL RECEIVE ANSWERS TO PRAYER.

Job 22:27 -

Prayer is the great privilege of every Christian, even the youngest. But the testimony of the whole Bible and of experience proves that it is the people who really know God intimately who receive answers to their prayers.

1 John 3:22 -

1 John 5:14-15 -

7. WE SHALL HAVE A FRUITFUL TESTIMONY.

Job 22:28-29 -

The people who are effective witnesses for the Lord, by life or by lip, are the people who really know Him.

3. Job 22:28 -

If we really know God and are working according to His gracious will, none of our work will be lost.

Mark 14:8-9 -

1 Corinthians 15:58 -

Galatians 6:9 -

4. Job 22:29 -

What a glorious promise of *results* in our work!

Psalm 107:2 -

John 3:14-15 -

8. WE SHALL HAVE GOD'S SMILE UPON OUR LIFE.

Job 22:28 -

The light shall shine upon thy ways. That speaks of His good pleasure, of His guidance, of His blessing.

Numbers 6:24-26 -

Psalm 90:17 -

Proverbs 4:18 -

Proverbs 10:22 -

NOTES

Making It Our Ambition To Please Him

STUDY 3

Scripture Portion: 2 Corinthians 5:9

A literal translation of

2 Corinthians 5:9 -

is *We make it our ambition to please Him.*

The constant aim of everyone who really knows the Lord should be to be well-pleasing to Him. Compare -

John 8:29 -

John 13:16 -

Could anyone, anywhere, have a greater ambition than this? Is it your ambition to please Him? - for here, surely, is the secret of successful living.

In this series we are considering ten of these *secrets*, but it could rightly be said that all ten are summed up in the theme of this study. There is nothing greater than living day by day a life which is well-pleasing to the Lord.

See what the Holy Spirit has recorded about Enoch -

Genesis 5:22-24 -

Hebrews 11:5 -

All down the ages there have been men and women whose supreme ambition it has been to please God. Most people today are bent upon pleasing themselves.

Compare -

Judges 17:6 -

1 Corinthians 10:5 -

2 Timothy 3:4 -

But, there are those who are seeking to fulfil God's conditions of a life that is well-pleasing to Him.

9. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR PLEASING GOD?

a. *We must be born again.*

Compare -

Romans 8:8 -

John 3:5 -

Every man and woman is by nature *in the flesh*. While we are *in the flesh*, we can never please God. The first need, therefore, is to be born again so that we are not *in the flesh but in the Spirit*.

Romans 8:9 -

a. *We must separate ourselves from all sinful and doubtful things.*

When we are born again we become children of God.

1 John 3:1 -

But the Christian life is a warfare, and we are soldiers.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 -

The lives of worldly Christians are full of sinful and hindering things, but those who wish to please Him disentangle themselves from the things which hinder them in their Christian life.

c. *We must dedicate our lives to Him.*

Romans 12:1 -

(The word *acceptable* means *well-pleasing*.) Separation from sinful and doubtful things is negative, but the dedication of ourselves to the Lord is positive.

Have you handed over to Him the *members* of your body?

Romans 6:13 -

- your hands, feet, eyes, ears, lips.....in other words - yourself?

5. We must be good witnesses.

God has put us in trust with the gospel, and what a sacred trust it is! The gospel is for everybody. Our whole business is to make it known.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 -

Notice that Paul says, *even so we speak*..... Do we speak? Perhaps we need to pray the prayer of the psalmist in order to please Him.

Psalms 51:15 -

Believers who witness to the Lord's grace and power, by lives which are consistent and by lips which are ready to speak for Him, are well-pleasing to the Lord.

6. We must be obedient.

Colossians 3:20 -

If it is well-pleasing to earthly parents when their children obey them, how much more must it please the Lord when His children obey Him? Obedience is very important.

1 Samuel 15:22 -

John 2:5 -

John 14:15 -

Acts 9:6 -

f. We must have faith in God.

Hebrews 11:6 -

We are told here that unless we have confidence in God we cannot please Him. Thank God, we can trust Him -

Not only for forgiveness -

1 John 1:9 -

but for food -

Psalms 34:10 -

Not only for salvation -

Acts 4:12 -

but for the supply of our every need -

Philippians 4:19 -

7. We must be large-hearted.

Hebrews 13:16 -

One translation renders this: *Don't forget to be kind and liberal*- full of love, sympathy, understanding, readiness to help, encouragement, unselfishness.

Romans 12:13 -

Galatians 6:6 -

This is the successful Christian life in action!

10. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF PLEASING GOD?

The most wonderful result is that, if we make it our ambition to please Him, *we shall have*

His smile upon our life.

John 8:29 -

Matthew 3:17 -

The Lord Jesus is the Son of God in an unique sense; but every Christian is a son of God through faith in Him.

Galatians 3:26 -

How wonderful to have God's smile upon our life!

There are three practical results of pleasing God.

8. Answers to Prayer.

1 John 3:21-22 -

Notice why we are so sure that God will hear and answer our prayer. Notice also the word *whatsoever*, for this covers all our needs. This promise is very challenging, for it not only tells us the way to get our prayer answered, but it explains why some of our prayers are not answered!

9. Enemies at peace.

There is a wonderful promise in -

Proverbs 16:7 -

Note again that the blessing promised is conditional upon our being well-pleasing in His sight.

Romans 12:17-21 -

It may well be that in the matter of human relationships you need to prove the Lord on these verses!

c. Special overcoming power.

A special temptation is referred to in -

Ecclesiastes 7:26 -

If deliverance is promised from this evil, surely it is promised from every evil.

1 Corinthians 10:13 -

2 Timothy 4:18 -

11. WHAT ARE THE MOTIVES WHICH SHOULD CONSTRAIN US TO
 PLEASE HIM?

10. Even the Lord did not please Himself.

Romans 15:3 -

11. Only thus can we glorify Him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 -

c. The Judgment Seat of Christ.

Romans 14:10 -

1 Corinthians 3:13 -

But be sure to note this: We cannot please Him in our own strength.

Philippians 2:13 -

NOTES

FINDING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES

STUDY 4

Scripture Portion: Acts 9:6

Acts 9:6 -

We shall base this study upon the question asked by Saul of Tarsus at the very moment of his new birth: *Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?* Did Saul's conversion just happen? Was it by chance that he was suddenly converted on the Damascus road, or was it according to a divine plan and purpose?

Acts 9:15 -

tells us that it certainly was according to plan - God's plan. But has God a plan for my life? If so, how may I know it and what is involved in finding it? These and many other questions demand an answer.

12. THE LORD HAS A DEFINITE PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR THE
LIFE OF EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN

There are three strong reasons for believing this.

12. It is reasonable to expect it.

God is a God of order and method. If we are building a house or designing a dress, we work according to a plan, a pattern. God does the same.

b. It is according to experience.

Think of Abraham -

Hebrews 11:8-10 -

Moses -

Hebrews 11:24-27 -

David -

1 Chronicles 17:7 -

Isaiah -

Isaiah 6:8 -

Jeremiah -

Jeremiah 1:5-8 -

Paul -

Acts 9:15 -

c. God's Word teaches it.

Ephesians 2:10 -

Compare with -

Psalm 27:11 -

Psalm 37:23 -

Psalm 73:24 -

Psalm 148:8 -

Proverbs 3:6 -

Proverbs 15:19 -

Proverbs 16:3 -

Isaiah 6:8-9 -

Isaiah 30:21 -

James 1:5 -

13. Notice the following three characteristics of God's plan for our lives.

13. It is a personal plan.

Notice the personal pronouns - *thou* and *me* in -

Acts 9:4 -

and the same two words in -

Acts 9:6 -

There is no one else in the world like you, therefore God's plan for you is unique and personal - just for you! He has a purpose to fulfil in and with your life which cannot be fulfilled in and with the life of any other person.

14. It is a perfect plan.

In Romans 12:2 -

which should only be read in conjunction with -

Romans 12:1 -

we are told that the will of God, or God's plan and purpose in the lives of His children, is *good, and acceptable, and perfect.*

c. *It is a practical plan.*

It is workable and it is thoroughly related to everyday living and service. It is not a plan which only sounds *good, and acceptable, and perfect* in a theoretical sense, but it proves to be so in experience!

14. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE, THEREFORE, IS
TO DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE.

This is obvious, but it is sadly true that some Christians fail to discover God's plan and purpose for their life, and, in consequence, their whole life is filled with disappointment and defeat, frustration and failure.

How wonderful to feel that we are achieving something really worthwhile and to know that we are doing it, not for ourselves, but in accordance with the will of our loving heavenly Father!

Every unconverted person is living a self-planned life, as Saul was up until the time of his conversion.

Acts 9:5 -

It is also sadly true that many Christians plan their own lives. We make decisions and choices which afterwards prove to be so wrong -

John 21:3 -

There is nothing greater or more comforting than to know we are in the center of God's will. Every one of us can know just that.

15. WE ENTER GOD'S PLAN WHEN WE ACCEPT AND
ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.

Saul entered the plan of God when he said -

Acts 9:6 -

The Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Saul, saying, *I am Jesus.....*- that is, Saviour.

Matthew 1:21 -

This is not to say that God was not interested in Saul and watching over him prior to his conversion, but it is true to say that Saul only really entered into the plan of God when he bowed at the feet of Jesus Christ and accepted Him as his Saviour and Lord.

**5. WE GO ON TO DISCOVER, AND WE CONTINUE IN
GOD'S PLAN, BY A DAILY SUBMISSION TO HIM
AND TO HIS REVEALED WILL.**

He has the whole plan of our life in front of Him, but He only reveals it a bit at a time.

Psalm 37:23 -

He knows the end from the beginning -

Isaiah 46:9-10 -

But the human condition which has to be met, if we are to know and to do God's will, is complete submission to Him and a strong desire to obey Him.

Acts 9:6 -

This enquiry as to what God's will is involves four things.

15. Communion with Him in prayer.

A suitable prayer is recorded in -

Psalm 27:11 -

It is when we know what it is to go regularly into the secret place that the Lord graciously reveals His plan to us step by step.

16. Studying and searching His Word.

How wonderfully all the saints of God have been led as they have read and submitted their lives to the commands and guidance of the Word of God!

Psalm 119:105 -

c. Prompt and unquestioning obedience.

God reveals His will as we obey Him.

1 Samuel 15:22 -

He only does it a step at a time. Saul had to go into the city before the Lord told him the next step He wanted him to take.

Acts 9:6 -

17. Complete and implicit trust.

We can rarely trace God's working in our lives, for we are living by faith and not by sight. This means that we have to trust Him.

The Lord chose Saul to be *a chosen vessel*, and Saul had to trust Him in all that He permitted in his life - sufferings, privations, stonings, imprisonments.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 -

We must remember that God's plan includes His permission of life's testings.

1 Peter 4:12-13 -

1 Peter 4:19 -

6. GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES IS AN ETERNAL ONE.

Perhaps, as you have reached this last point in our study, you are saying, *What a thrilling theme for young people who have the whole of life before them!*

But it is an equally thrilling theme for the most aged Christian, for all of us who belong to the Lord have a glorious eternity before us. God's plan has an earthly and a heavenly part.

The earthly part is like the foundation of the building. The heavenly part can be likened to the structure of the building.

We are apt to have a very limited conception of God's plan.

When a Christian dies at the age of 30 or 40, we say, *What a tragedy!* - which it is from earth's limited view- point; but God's loving plan for His children is an eternal plan.

Ephesians 2:10 -

1 John 2:17 -

2 Timothy 4:7-8 -

NOTES

HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERFECT PEACE

STUDY 5

Scripture Portion: Isaiah 26:3

Isaiah 26:3 -

This wonderful promise was given in the darkest period of Israel's history, so it may well prove to be a special help to us today, when we are surrounded by much gloom and depression, when we are constantly threatened with the three great enemies of doubt, fear and worry.

When all is going well and the skies are bright, it is easy to read our key text in a very superficial way. But, when clouds of trial, disappointment, fear and alarm drift across our sky and the sun is hidden, then how precious these words become to us!

There is no promise anywhere in the Bible which encourages us to believe that, while we are in our earthly bodies we shall experience freedom from trouble. But, there is something far better - there is the promise of peace in the midst of trouble.

Of what value would freedom from trouble be if we had no inward peace? Yet how wonderful it is that, in the midst of the fiercest battle, and while the storm is at its height, the trusting soul may experience inward peace, a deep down calm and a quiet confidence!

16. WHAT IS THIS GREAT BLESSING THAT IS OFFERED TO
 US?

It is described as *perfect peace*.

But what is perfect peace? Can we define it? Yes. It is a condition of freedom from disturbance within the soul. It is perfect harmony reigning within.

The Hebrew word *shalom* has in it the idea of soundness of health, so that to be filled with perfect peace is to be spiritually healthy and free from all discord within the soul.

There can be no room for jealousy, envy, discontent, uncontrolled temper, selfishness, pride or intolerance in the soul which is filled with peace. All these things are disturbing factors in the heart. They are discordant notes.

The peace which God offers, and which we, by His grace, may experience, is very practical. It is none other than a great calm which He commands.

Mark 4:39 -

God calls the peace which He gives, *perfect peace*.

In what sense is it perfect?

a. It is perfect in QUALITY.

That is to say, it is perfect in the kind of peace it is. There is imperfect peace, e.g., the *peace of ignorance*, when we imagine that all is going well whereas, in fact, if our eyes were open to see the truth, we would know that all is not well.

Jeremiah 6:14 -

There is also the imperfect *peace of stagnation*. The pool of water may be calm and peaceful, but underneath it is foul and green with slime.

Many men and women know only a peace like that. One day the shock of God's judgment will stir up their pool and they will find that they have no real peace at all.

There is also the imperfect *peace of dependence* which is a peace which is dependent upon some thing or person. How unsatisfactory this is, for the *thing* may fail and the *person* may die! Then, where is their peace?

In contrast with these three kinds of imperfect peace, God's peace is perfect.

It is perfect in QUANTITY.

That is to say, the supply of it is sufficient and it exactly meets our need.

The marginal rendering of *perfect peace* is *peace, peace*, in other words, ***double peace***.

This is very significant when we turn to -

Philippians 4:7 -

There we are told that this double peace is peace of heart and mind, and that is the kind of peace we need - a peace which garrisons our mind and calms our heart.

This double peace is also double in the sense that it is:

(1) *peace with God.*

Romans 5:1 -

and

(2) *the peace of God.*

Philippians 4:7 -

It is perfect in CONSTANCY.

That is to say, it is permanent and not intermittent. The promise says, *Thou wilt keep*”.

Compare -

Psalm 121:4 -

17. HOW DOES THIS PERFECT PEACE COME TO US?

18. By Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 -

Notice that the Lord Jesus Christ is the channel through whom the peace of God flows into our souls. This peace within is the possession of the Christian alone.

There is no peace for anyone who does not possess Christ and who is not resting on the finished work of Christ for salvation. It is the *blood of Jesus (which) whispers peace within*.

Colossians 1:20 -

19. By the Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ procured peace for us upon the cross of Calvary. That peace is offered to us through Him as the channel, but it is conveyed to our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 -

As the Holy Spirit fills and floods our lives, so He produces this wonderful fruit within us.

c. By His Word.

See the great promise which is made in -

Psalm 119:165 -

A better rendering of the word *offend* is *disturb*. Things and people so often disturb us, but here is a promise of perfect peace to those people who love and meditate in and obey the Word of God.

20. By our obedience.

Leviticus 26:3-6 -

Be sure to notice that most important word *if*. God guarantees to us that if we will walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, He will keep our hearts in perfect peace. If we will do our part, then God will surely do His part.

21. By plenty of praise and prayer.

The promise of -

Philippians 4:7 -

is preceded by the conditions in -

Philippians 4:6 -

18. TWO CONDITIONS ARE MENTIONED IN ORDER THAT WE MAY
HAVE PERFECT PEACE.

Who is it that God will keep in perfect peace? It is the one -

22. whose mind is stayed on Thee, and

23. who trusteth in Thee.

Both these expressions denote faith, but whereas one is a head word, the other is a heart word. What is the difference?

With our head we believe, with our heart we trust.

With our head we believe that God is the Author of peace, the Giver of peace, with the heart we trust Him to bestow what He promises.

One concluding word: notice that

Isaiah 26:3 -

begins with God and ends with God. It begins with *Thou* and it ends with *Thee*.

The trusting soul goes in between.

Perfect peace is, by faith, to get between these two words *Thou* and *Thee* and to stay there.

Perfect peace is the Lord Himself within us, not an experience, a doctrine, an *it*, but the Lord Himself.

Then, when we are stayed upon Jehovah, our hearts will be fully blessed. Then and only then shall we find that He has promised - *Perfect peace and rest*.

NOTES

THE SECRET OF ABIDING JOY

STUDY 6

Scripture Portion: John 15:11

John 15:11 -

These words were spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is most important for us to notice when He uttered them. It was a very strange time to talk of joy and gladness for, in a little while, He would be in dark Gethsemane. Shortly after that, He would be facing His accusers, hearing the taunts and mockings of those who hated Him.

Yes, it was just prior to facing the agonies of Calvary that He spoke of *My joy*....

It is very significant that, so far as the scripture records are concerned, this is the only time He did speak of His joy. How unique the Lord's joy must have been if it still remained with Him in the time of such great trial and testing!

His desire and provision for us, that is, for every believer, is that His joy, which is so different from that of the world, should be our joy -.....*that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

19. CHRISTIAN JOY SHOULD BE THE PREVAILING CHARACTERISTIC OF THE LIFE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN.

Too often we are sad, gloomy and dejected: but as Christians we ought to be joyful in everything.

Phiippians 4:4 -

1 Thessalonians 5:16 -

The Christian experience from beginning to end (A to Z) should be marked by joy:

joy at conversion -

Luke 19:6 -

Acts 8:39 -

joy when reading God's Holy Word -

Jeremiah 15:16 -

joy in prayer -

John 16:24 -

joy in the midst of trials -

James 1:2 -

joy when suffering -

Acts 5:41 -

joy when serving -

2 Corinthians 1:24 -

joy at the journey's end -

Acts 20:24 -

If we love and belong to the Lord, we should always be rejoicing.

20. WHAT, THEN, IS CHRISTIAN JOY, THE JOY WHICH WE AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD EXPERIENCE?

24. It is Christ's Joy.

John 15:11 -

My joy.....in you..... The Christian life is the life of the Lord Jesus Christ in a man or a woman.

Galatians 2:20 -

Colossians 3:4 -

Christian joy is Christ's joy in a Christian. This means that this deep-down, abiding joy is not found anywhere else except in Him. There are other kinds of joy found in other places, but His joy is found in Him alone.

25. It is Fulness of Joy.

John 15:11 -

There is a great difference between joy and fulness of joy. The vessel may be partly filled or completely filled. Our Lord's desire for us is that we should experience fulness of joy continually.

Psalm 16:11 -

John 17:13 -

1 Peter 1:8 -

c. It is Abiding Joy.

John 15:11 -

This word *remain* indicates that the Christian's joy is not an intermittent experience, but a permanent one. It is a joy which is unaffected by circumstances. See what the Lord said to His disciples in -

John 16:22 -

These first followers of our Lord were to pass through many trials and testings, but He told them that nothing could rob them of their joy - His joy in them.

Consider the following three illustrations of the abiding nature of Christian joy, and the fact that Christ's joy in us is unaffected by outward circumstances and conditions.

(1) **John 15:11 -**

As we have seen, our Lord experienced this joy in the shadow of the cross.

Compare -

John 17:13 -

(2) **Luke 10:20 -**

Surely our Lord meant by this: *Do not let your joy depend upon anything earthly or temporal, but let it depend upon that which abides.....in Heaven.*

(3) **Acts 16:25 -**

Paul and Silas, though in great trouble, were filled with Christ's own joy which enabled them to sing praises at midnight.

Compare -

Isaiah 61:3 -

2 Corinthians 8:2 -

Hebrews 10:34 -

It is a remarkable and a wonderful thing that true Christian joy is not only unaffected by adverse circumstances, but it is actually promoted by such trials and testings.

James 1:2 -

3. HOW MAY WE HAVE THIS JOY?

a. By having Him.

If this deep-down, abiding joy is Christ's joy, we can only have it by having Him.

In **Acts 8:8**, we read that - *There was great joy in that city.* Why was this?

Acts 8:5 -

In **Acts 8:39 -**

we read that the eunuch *went on his way rejoicing.* Why was this?

Acts 8:35 -

If we would possess His joy, we must possess Him.

John 17:13 -

b. By reading His Word.

When we read the Bible and receive the truth, we experience great joy.

1 John 1:4 -

This is akin to having a *burning heart* as the result of fellowship with the Lord as He speaks to us.

Luke 24:32 -

26. By submission to Him.

Notice **Luke 10:21** -

We are told two things: first, that *Jesus rejoiced.....*, and second, that He was completely submissive to His Father's will. His joy was the joy of complete and continual submission to the will of His Father in Heaven.

It was Madame Guyon who said, *Oh, the blessedness of an accepted sorrow!*

When we accept suffering from His hand, sorrows as well as pleasures, then our joy will be full indeed.

d. By the Holy Spirit.

The literal rendering of -

Luke 10:21 -

is: *Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit,*

and one translation reads: *In that hour Jesus was filled by the Holy Spirit with rapturous joy.*

Compare with -

Romans 15:13 -

At this very moment, the Lord Jesus is exalted, the perfect Man in a perfect human body, in Heaven. His desire is that His joy should remain in us.

How can this be, for He is there and we are here? He is in Heaven and we are on earth!

The answer is - by the Holy Spirit. *The fruit of the Spirit isjoy.....*

Galatians 5:22 -

Acts 13:52 -

Ephesians 5:18 -

NOTES

WHAT TO DO WHEN TROUBLE COMES

STUDY 7

Scripture Portion: 1 Samuel 30:1-6

Key Verse - 1 Samuel 30:6 -

In this study, which is based on -

1 Samuel 30:1-6 -

we are to consider a period in David's life when he was plunged into great distress and trouble. We shall see what he did in his time of trouble and how wonderfully the Lord undertook for him. Trouble is no respecter of persons.

Job 5:7 -

Job 14:1 -

Maybe you are passing through a time of trouble now? If so, there is help in this study for you.

If you are not in the midst of trouble today, here is ministry in advance which will prepare you for some future day. For trouble comes to us all and it is a good thing when we know what to do in a time of trouble.

Notice, from **1 Samuel 30:1-6**, that:

21. DAVID'S TROUBLE WAS VERY REAL.

There was nothing imaginary about it, as we learn from these verses. How does your trouble compare with him? Does yours have to do with some great loss in your life?

1 Samuel 30:1 -

Is it connected with your loved ones?

1 Samuel 30:3 -

Is it so great that you have wept until you have had no more power to weep?

1 Samuel 30:4 -

How real are our troubles! There is nothing imaginary about them. It is not wrong to weep and to find relief in this way when we are overwhelmed.

John 11:35 -

2. DAVID WAS IN TROUBLE ALTHOUGH HE WAS A CHILD OF GOD.

It is very important for us to notice this. The Lord loved David.

Acts 13:22 -

Yet David found himself in the midst of these very distressing circumstances.

We must not expect immunity from trouble because we are Christians. Think how much -

the Lord suffered -

Hebrews 13:12 -

the apostle Paul endured -

2 Corinthians 11:23-30 -

Indeed, can you think of one true child of God who has not experienced something of the bitterness of trial and testing? We are not to think that God does not love us when trouble comes across our path.

1 Peter 4:12 -

22. THE LORD PERMITTED DAVID'S TROUBLE.

He allowed it to happen. He permitted distress to come into the life of His child, just as He did with

Joseph -

Genesis 39:20 -

Jeremiah -

Jeremiah 37:15 -

Peter -

Acts 12:5-6 -

and John Bunyan - just as He has with many of His servants today.

When Job was overwhelmed with distress, his faith was so firmly established in the Lord and in the fact that God is sovereign, and that nothing had happened in his life, or would happen, without God's gracious permission, that he was able to say -

Job 13:15 -

The Lord could have prevented Job's trouble. He could prevent all our troubles; but He does not do so.

The biggest lesson that He wants us to learn is to trust Him where we cannot understand the *whys* and the *wherefores* of His dealings with us.

Romans 8:28 -

is true, and it always will be true.

23. DAVID'S TROUBLE WAS IN A VERY REAL SENSE HIS OWN FAULT.

This is very solemn, for David had backslidden. No child of God can do that and escape God's chastening. It seems clear that the Lord allowed trouble to come into David's life in order that he might be corrected.

Compare -

Psalm 55:19 -

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 -

Hebrews 12:6 -

Saul, whose story is told in this same First Book of Samuel, threw off the authority of God, as David did, but in the two cases, we see the difference between judgment and chastening.

In the case of Saul, his life and career were terminated as the punishment for his offences.

In the case of David, however, the rod was lifted

- to correct - not to destroy;
- to bring him back, not to drive him away for ever;
- to fit him for service, not to cut him asunder.

It may be that your trouble is your own fault? Notice the word *therefore* in -

Genesis 42:21 -

God only permits the testings and trials of life for His glory and always for our good.

24. DAVID'S TROUBLE WAS REALLY A BLESSING IN
 DISGUISE.

You say, *How can this be, with wife, home and friends gone?* It was a blessing in disguise because in -

1 Samuel 30:8 -

we are told that David enquired of the Lord. Any experience which drives us to the Lord is worthwhile.

Psalm 119:67 -

Hebrews 12:11 -

The one thing that God is seeking in your life and mine is a complete surrender of ourselves to Him. He wants us to love Him and His will, and to trust Him completely.

What did David do in his time of trouble?

1 Samuel 30:6 -

tells us he *encouraged (or strengthened) himself in the Lord his God.*

It is good to encourage others, but sometimes we need to encourage ourselves in the Lord. How can we do this?

Remind yourself that you belong to Him.

David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. Rest upon the assurance of this personal relationship.

b. Recall His past mercies.

Remember the wonderful way in which He has undertaken for you, led you, blessed you, provided for you and used you in the past.

1 Samuel 7:12 -

27. Turn to Him -

in confession -

1 John 1:9 -

in petition -

Psalm 34:6 -

Humble yourself before Him and look to Him alone for deliverance -

Psalm 69:17 -

d. Enquire of Him -

1 Samuel 30:8 -

Ask Him what you should do in your trying situation.

28. Obey Him.

1 Samuel 30:9 -

Notice how this verse begins - *So David went....*

29. Trust Him.

At the end of **verse 8** we read that the Lord promised David a complete victory. He went forth -

1 Samuel 30:9 -

He trusted the Lord to fulfill His word.

All God's promises are made to us in order that we may take Him at His word and trust Him to fulfill in us and for us that which He has promised.

Psalm 37:5 -

Proverbs 3:5-6 -

Matthew 11:28 -

Romans 8:28 -

Philippians 4:19 -

g. Acknowledge His goodness.

1 Samuel 30:23 -

Psalm 9:9 -

Psalm 27:5 -

Psalm 46:1 -

Psalm 143:11 -

Nahum 1:7 -

NOTES

BEING CONCERNED FOR OTHERS

STUDY 8

Scripture Portion: Matthew 14:35-36

Matthew 14:35-36 -

No Christian can live successfully who does not constantly and systematically seek to share the love of the Lord Jesus Christ with those who do not know Him.

No Christian will ever begin to do this until he or she feels a real concern, a burden for the salvation of the multitudes of men and women who are lost -

Luke 19:10 -

condemned already -

John 3:18 -

and are under the wrath of God -

John 3:36 -

Do you feel any concern for the lost? Have you any passion for souls? Are you burdened as you think of your loved ones, and friends, and of the thousands of others who are not saved?

How long do folk have to be in our company before, with the help of God, we tell them of our wonderful Saviour?

Or are we unconcerned?

Could those of our unconverted loved ones and friends say -

Psalms 142:4 -

Notice the following in **Matthew 14:35-36** -

25. WE HAVE A DESCRIPTION OF THE MANY PEOPLE AROUND US FOR WHOSE SALVATION WE NEED TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED.

If we ask the question: What is the real need of the lost? - how does this portion of scripture answer it?

It tells us three things about the people of that day which are true of people today.

They were Diseased.

Matthew 14:35 -

Many people today may be religious, respectable and living morally decent and upright lives, but every unsaved soul is gripped by the disease of sin.

Luke 5:12 -

Unless they are cured, their prospect is indeed solemn.

Romans 6:23 -

Man's first need is to be made perfectly whole through faith in the Lord Jesus. Multitudes of people live and die in a diseased condition, without God and without hope.

Ephesians 2:12 -

b. They were at a Distance - Matthew 14:35.

The men of that place.....sent out....., which indicates distance. They were at a distance from the Lord in a geographical sense. What was true of them in that sense is true of multitudes today in a spiritual sense.

The young people of our day and generation are, to a very large extent, growing up without any knowledge of God and of the gospel of His grace. There is an appalling ignorance of the Bible and of the gospel. How concerned we need to be for the multitudes!

Matthew 9:36 -

30. They were Disabled - Matthew 14:35.

They had to be brought into the presence of the Lord. It is true that every sinner is disabled by sin -

Romans 5:6 -

It is also true that, beneath the outward cloak of respectability, many are disabled by the sins of falsehood, drink, lust, drugs, immorality, etc.

It is for these we need to feel and show a deep concern.

26. WHEN IS IT THAT WE REALLY BEGIN TO GET CONCERNED
ABOUT THE SOULS OF OTHERS?

The answer to this question is found in -

Matthew 14:35 -

It was *when the men of that place had knowledge of Him that they sent out into all that country.....*

It is easy to see what happened. These men found the Lord for themselves. They immediately became concerned that others might find Him too.

That is what always happens; *knowing* and *going* go together. When we really know Him, we shall go for Him. The measure in which we know Him determines the measure in which we go.

John 14:9 -

Philippians 3:10 -

and compare

Psalms 126:6 -

Daniel 11:32 -

Here, then, is the qualification as well as the incentive to seek the lost. It is knowing the Lord personally and intimately.

John 1:41 -

John 1:49 -

27. WHEN DOES THIS CONCERN SHOW ITSELF?

If we really have a passion for souls and have a concern for their salvation, how shall we act?

Matthew 14:35 and 36 tell us that *when the men of that place had knowledge of Him, they did three things.*

31. They sought.

Matthew 14:35 -

They went out into all the surrounding country in search of those who needed the healing and saving touch of the Lord Jesus Christ. They scoured the district for needy souls. This is the Lord's commission to us.

Mark 16:15 -

It was C. T. Studd who gave the following advice to the missionaries in Central Africa:
Get the simple gospel out into the whole of your vast district, see that every soul knows the way of salvation and has a fair chance of being saved.

b. They brought.

Matthew 14:35 -

The word ***brought*** is the most important word in this study. It indicates an emphasis which we must regain if we are to be successful in winning others to Christ. It is important to go to them. But, rescue work involves more than simply going to those who are lost.

Souls must be brought to Christ. A fisherman is not content simply to fish. He is only satisfied when he catches fish.

You and I must not be content just to tell others of the Saviour's love; we must seek His grace to bring them to Him.

32. They Besought.

Matthew 14:36 -

They pleaded with Him that those whom they had brought might be healed. In other words, they prayed. A true passion for souls will quickly show itself in persistent prayer for their salvation.

In prayer, God shows us those whom He would have us seek to win for Him. In prayer, we become channels through whom the Holy Spirit effects His work of winning them.

28. WHERE DOES THIS CONCERN FOR OTHERS BEGIN TO OPERATE?

Matthew 14:35 again gives the answer. It tells us that *.....the men of that place.....sent out into all that country round about.* They became evangelists to their own people!

And when we get a passion for souls, we shall begin to be burdened and concerned for the salvation of those with whom and amongst whom we live.

We shall begin ***in Jerusalem - Acts 1:8 -***

NOTES

OUR BEST FOR THE LORD JESUS

STUDY 9

Scripture Portion: Mark 14:3-9

Mark 14:3 -

This incident is a very touching one. Simon had provided a feast in his house out of gratitude to the Saviour for the blessings he had received. Jesus, His disciples, Mary, Martha and Lazarus were all there.

Mary moved towards the Lord. She was holding in her hands a beautiful alabaster box which contained very precious delicately perfumed ointment. To the surprise of everyone there, she broke the box and poured its contents over the head -

Mark 14:3 -

and the feet -

John 12:3 -

of our Lord and anointed Him.

The alabaster box and the ointment were worth a considerable amount of money. But what did Mary's act signify? It signified that she was giving her very best to the Lord Jesus - indeed her all, for, as she broke the alabaster box and poured out the precious nard, she was saying, in effect:

*Take my love: my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

In those days, every young woman would prepare a box of precious perfume. This she would keep until the time came when the man she loved would ask her to marry him. If she were willing and could give him her love and devotion, she would break the precious box of ointment and pour it at his feet. No matter what she paid for the box, it was counted as her best, and this is what she gave to him.

That is what Mary did with her Lord, the One who loved her so much that soon He would die for her upon the cross. Mary wanted to be spiritually betrothed to Him.

Isaiah 62:5 -

Hosea 2:19 -

Therefore, she gave her very best, her all, to Him.

29. WHAT CAN WE GIVE TO THE LORD JESUS?

We have no alabaster box of precious ointment. So what can we give? There are at least three gifts which all of us can bring to Him.

We can give Him the best of our Love.

This, supremely, is what Mary did. Though the ointment was costly and the box was of great value, the real gift she brought to Him was that of her love.

We can all give Him our love. It is this above everything else which He most desires. Have you given to Him the very best of your love? Compare -

Matthew 10:37 -

with

John 21:15-17

We can give Him the best of our years.

What a privilege it is for anyone to give to the Lord his or her whole life in all its freshness and vigour! Is He not worthy of our best - the best of our strength, our manhood or womanhood?

It is possible to know that we belong to the Lord and yet to keep the best of our strength, time and gifts for ourselves instead of giving them to Him.

c. We can give Him the best of our talents.

Every one has some talent. What is yours? Whatever it is, the Lord wants to use it. If you will only place it at His feet and yield it wholly to Him, He will use it in a most wonderful way.

Have you ever read through Frances Ridley Havergal's Consecration Hymn, *Take My Life and Let It Be*, and really given over to the Lord your moments, days, hands, feet, voice, lips, silver, gold intellect, will?

30. BUT WHY SHOULD WE GIVE OUR BEST TO THE LORD
JESUS?

Here again, there are three answers to this question.

33. Because He is worthy of our best.

Who is He? He is the eternal Son of God.

John 1:1 -

John 1:14 -

He is the Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 2:8 -

He is the Saviour of men.

1 Timothy 1:15 -

He is our Saviour.

Galatians 2:20 -

Is He not worthy of the very best that we can give to Him? - worthy of our all?

34. Because He has given His best for us.

He has given His all for us and has shed His precious blood for us in order that we might be redeemed.

1 Peter 1:18-19 -

It was when Mary realised all that her Lord had given and would give for her that she was constrained to give her best, her all, to Him. From -

Mark 14:8 -

we learn that it was Calvary that constrained her.

2 Corinthians 5:14 -

c. Because only by giving Him our best shall we enjoy His best.

This moment of dedication was for Mary the happiest moment of her life. From now onwards she would know deep joy -

John 15:11 -

and abiding peace -

John 16:33 -

for she had given her very best, her all, to the Lord.

If we give Him little, we shall only have the capacity to enjoy a little (of Him). But if we give Him our very best, our all, He will become to us unspeakably precious.

1 Peter 2:7 -

31. WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF GIVING OUR BEST TO THE LORD JESUS?

If we give Him our very best, our all, three things will follow.

35. Some people will object.

Immediately Mary gave her best to the Lord, there was indignation, murmuring, criticism and misunderstanding.

John 12:5 -

Judas was very quick to speak of Mary's act of dedication as *waste*. This is how the world often assesses the dedication of a life wholly given to the Lord.

Matthew 26:8 -

36. The Lord Jesus will be pleased.

The greatest thing in the world is to have His commendation.

Mark 14:6 -

Does it matter what the world thinks, so long as He is pleased with us?

c. Others will be helped.

What a marvelous result there was from Mary's simple act of devotion and dedication!

Mark 14:9 -

Who can estimate the far-reaching influence of one life which is utterly given to the Lord?
Is your life completely given over to Him?

NOTES

LIFE ON THE HIGHEST PLANE

STUDY 10

Scripture Portion: Isaiah 40:31

Isaiah 40:31 -

The object of this series of studies has been to share some of the biblical secrets of radiant Christian living. The verse before us tells us that that might well be called the over-all secret.

If we are honest with ourselves, we have to admit that there is very much failure in our Christian living and service.

(1) The Word of God convinces us of our failure.

Do we not oftentimes *faint* and have *no might* -

Isaiah 40:29 -

Are we not often weary and do we not frequently fall -

Isaiah 40:30 -

This is God's description of the failure which so often characterizes the lives of His children. But -

(2) Observation also convinces us of our failure.

We know it is true that we fail because our eyes tell us so as we look at ourselves. Our own heart tells us that it is true. How faint and weary we become. How slow we are to learn the way of victory and power!

Proverbs 14:10 -

1. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF OUR FAILURE?

37. The primary cause is Ignorance of the Resources which are at our Disposal.

Yes, ignorance! Look at -

Hosea 4:6 -

and compare with -

Matthew 22:29 -

Then see what is said in -

Isaiah 40:28-

Know ye not.....? What are the resources at our disposal?

Isaiah 40:28-29 -

We read that *the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator....* is offering to give us power and strength.

So, against the sad background of our failure is the promise of God to turn our failure into glorious triumph.

This God, this mighty Lord, is placing all His unlimited resources of strength and power at our disposal. We must tap these resources. This indicates the second cause of failure.

38. The secondary cause is Failure to Tap those Resources.

That is, failure to appropriate them.

Isaiah 40:29 -

He giveth..... In response to His giving we must receive.

How does this giving and receiving take place? How can this mighty enabling become mine? What is God's method of transferring His power to Me.?

The answer is found in -

Isaiah 40:31 -

They that wait upon the Lord..... But what does it mean to *wait upon the Lord*? Does it mean to pray, worship, attend services, read the Bible? Yes, but not primarily.

We learn from

Isaiah 41:1 -

that it means to *keep silence before God*.

Compare with -

Psalms 62:1 -

where the word *waiteth* means *be silent*.

Waiting upon God means to be cast upon Him in utter dependence, ready to hear His voice and do His bidding, having our whole expectation from Him. It implies complete confidence in the Lord, and absolutely no confidence in self or in human help.

32. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THUS WAITING UPON THE LORD?

There is a four-fold result as indicated in -

Isaiah 40:31 -

and as emphasized by the repetition of the four *shalls* in this verse. This is *life on the highest plane*, the truly successful Christian life.

39. We shall have God's strength in place of our weakness.

The word *renew* may be translated *change* or *exchange*. Have you realized that your greatest weakness is your own strength? If you will go before the Lord in utter weakness, He will exchange your weakness for His strength.

What kind of strength does He give?

(1) *Physical strength?*

Yes. Certainly He can and does renew our physical strength when we wait upon Him.

Romans 8:11 -

(2) *Mental strength?*

Yes. He is the fountain of all wisdom. He certainly quickens our minds when we wait before Him.

Romans 12:2 -

Ephesians 4:23 -

2 Timothy 1:7 -

(3) *Moral strength?*

Most certainly He gives this. How we need this, living as we do in a world which is full of tempting voices and sights!

Ephesians 6:10 -

2 Timothy 2:1 -

(4) *Spiritual strength?*

Yes.

Luke 24:49 -

Acts 1:8 -

1 Corinthians 1:25 -

Isaiah 30:15 -

40. We shall enjoy life above the average.

We shall *mount up with wings as eagles*, far above earth's level, where, *the things of earth.....grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace*. The eagle is the only bird which flies so high that it is lost to sight. That is where we belong. We belong to Heaven now -

Philippians 3:20 -

Here and now we are *raised up together in Christ* -

Ephesians 2:6 -

Colossians 3:1-2 -

Yet how many Christians are earth-bound, hopping on the ground like a bird with a broken wing, instead of flying in the heavenly heights like an eagle. We have been made to fly, not to hop!

41. We shall do supernatural things.

We shall *run and not be weary*. It is not natural to keep running and not to feel weary. God promises supernatural power for the accomplishing of supernatural tasks. We are a supernatural people because we are linked to a supernatural God!

John 7:38 -

John 14:12 -

Are the *rivers* flowing through us and are the *greater works* being accomplished through us?

d. *We shall live victoriously in the hardest place of all - in the daily routine of life.*

We shall *walk and not faint*. Notice, it does not say that we shall *run and not faint*. Sometimes it is much easier to run than to walk! The most testing place for each one of us is that place where we engage in the *trivial round and common task*.

Genesis 5:24 -

Psalm 37:23 -

Dr. A. B. Simpson used to frequently get alone in the presence of the Lord and say, *I'm a failure. I have no strength and no life. But Thou art my Life. Thou art my Strength. Thou art my Victory!* Then, by faith, he would take in the life of his risen Lord for body, mind and spirit.

Surely this is what it means to *wait upon the Lord!*

And the result?

Life on the highest plane - true spiritual success.

NOTES
